

CIRCULAR N.º 51**PORTUGUESE MARITIME ADMINISTRATION**

SUBJECT | Ships and seafarers electronic certificates issued by the Portuguese Maritime Administration

To | All Maritime Administrations

DISCLAIMER | This document is for information only and is not intended to interpret or replace the legal referenced documents published by official sources

From 1st June 2018 the Government of Portugal issue ship certificates in electronic format. These certificates correspond in form to the models given in SOLAS, MARPOL, STCW and other relevant Conventions, including the FAL.5/Circ.39 (Guidelines for the use of electronic certificates).

The certificates must at all times be considered as valid in accordance with applicable regulations.

For the purpose of checking the validity and authenticity of the ship or the seafarers certificates, all of them have a unique tracking number with 22 randomly generated characters.

To verify this unique tracking number and the certificate in general, please visit the webpage of the Portuguese Maritime Administration: www.portuguese-flag-control.pt. Alternatively, please contact us by the following email: dgrm@dgrm.mm.gov.pt.

The certificates are transmitted electronically and they are protected by encryption and digital file signature from alteration or tampering, and can be presented either electronically on a computer screen or in a printed colour version. This circular is to be kept on board and made available to Port State Control, Class inspectors and auditors.

Lisbon, 16 October 2018

The General Director of Natural Resources, Safety, and Maritime Services

For further information please contact:

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(Annex I)

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Circular Letter No.3822
6 March 2018

To: All IMO Member States
Intergovernmental organizations
Non-governmental organizations in consultative status

Subject: **Communication from the Government of Portugal regarding its acceptance of the use of electronic certificates on board ships flying the Portuguese flag**

1 The Secretary-General of the International Maritime Organization has the honour to transmit herewith the text of a communication from the Government of Portugal in respect of the acceptance of the use of electronic certificates on board ships flying the Portuguese flag.

2 The Secretary-General would be grateful if steps could be taken to bring this information to the attention of the appropriate authorities.

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His Excellency
Secretary General
International Maritime Organisation
Mr. Kitack Lim
4 Albert Embankment
London SE1 7SR
UNITED KINGDOM

DGRM - Saúde - 4853/2018 - 02 - 16

Sua referência N.º: Proc.:	Sua data	Nossa referência/Data N.º: 715/2018/DNC/14-01-2018 Proc.:
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ASSUNTO: Use of electronic certificates by ships flying the Portuguese Flag

Dear Excellency,

The Government of Portugal, through Direção Geral de Recursos Naturais, Segurança e Serviços Marítimos (DGRM) with powers delegated by the Ministry of Sea, presents its compliments to the Secretary General of the International Maritime Organisation and would like to inform all concerned of its acceptance of the use of electronic certificates on board ships flying the Portuguese Flag.

In this regard, please kindly take note that the Portuguese Maritime Administration will accept electronic documents and certificates compliant with the recently adopted "Guidelines for the use of electronic certificates" (FAL.5/Circ.39/Rev.2) by IMO, as an equivalent to paper documents, as from 1st April 2018 on a testing base. Full implementation is expected to begin on the 1st June.

It is to be noted that statutory certificates issued by Recognised Organisations on behalf of the Portuguese flag Administration may either be presented in an electronic format in accordance with FAL.5/Circ.39 or still be presented in paper format.

DGRM, on behalf of the Government of Portugal avails itself of this opportunity to renew to the Secretary General of the International Maritime Organisation the assurances of its highest consideration and esteem and request him to bring the content of this letter to the attention of all Member States

Yours faithfully,

The General Director,

(José Carlos Simão)