



REPUBLIC OF TURKEY
Ministry of Transport and Infrastructure
Directorate General for Maritime Affairs

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Circular 2020/015
Use of Electronic Certificates on Board Turkish Flagged Vessels

1. PURPOSE

The Facilitation Committee (FAL) of the International Maritime Organization (IMO), at its 40th session approved the Guidelines for the use of electronic certificates (FAL.5/Circ.39/Rev.2) that provides guidance to facilitate the use and acceptance of electronic certificates.

The purpose of this Circular is to bring to the attention of all stakeholders on the use of electronic certificates on board ships flying Turkish flag, with the aim to reduce the administrative burden on Administrations, port State control officials, ships' crew and other stakeholders.

2. SCOPE

This is applicable for all Turkish flagged vessels classed with one of the following recognized organizations:

- American Bureau of Shipping (ABS)
- DNV GL AS
- Korean Register of Shipping (KR)
- Lloyd's Register Group Ltd (LR),
- Nippon Kaiji Kyokai (ClassNK),
- RINA Services S.p.A.
- Türk Loydu Uygunluk Değerlendirme Hizmetleri A.Ş. (TL)

3. INTRODUCTION

Considering that signed paper certificates issued by Recognized Organizations authorized to act on our behalf have been the traditional means of documenting compliance with International Maritime Organization requirements, as well as ships have experienced instances of Port State Control actions because a traditional paper certificate has been issued but has not arrived on the ship, or the traditional paper certificate has been damaged or lost.



REPUBLIC OF TURKEY
Ministry of Transport and Infrastructure
Directorate General for Maritime Affairs

As per FAL.5/Circ.39/Rev.2 certificate means a document issued by the Administration or its representatives that is used to show compliance with IMO requirements and used to describe operating conditions, crewing requirements, and ship equipment carriage requirements. The term "certificate" does not include publications, manuals, instructions or ships' logs used to record ongoing operations; electronic certificate means a certificate issued in an electronic format.

4. APPROVAL OF E-CERTIFICATES ISSUED BY RECOGNIZED ORGANIZATIONS

Directorate General for Maritime Affairs of The Republic of Turkey hereby informs all concerned parties (shipowners and managing companies, Port State Control officials, ships' crews and all other stakeholders)

That the Recognized Organizations are authorized to issue statutory and class certificates under the authority of the Republic of Turkey for the Turkish flagged vessels electronically as of 01/11/2020.

These recognized organizations stated in section 2 are authorized to issue following electronic certificates on behalf of The Republic of Turkey. The updated list can be displayed through IMO GISIS website when required.

SOLAS - Cargo Ship Safety Construction Certificate

SOLAS - Cargo Ship Safety Equipment Certificate

SOLAS - Record of Equipment for the Cargo Ship Safety Equipment Certificate (Form E)

SOLAS - Cargo Ship Safety Radio Certificate

SOLAS - Record of Equipment for the Cargo Ship Safety Radio Certificate (Form R)

SOLAS - Document of Compliance with The Special Requirements for Ships Carrying Dangerous Goods

LL 1966 and LL PROT 1988 - International Load Line Certificate

MARPOL - International Oil Pollution Prevention Certificate

MARPOL - Supplement to the International Oil Pollution Prevention Certificate (Form A)

MARPOL - Supplement to the International Oil Pollution Prevention Certificate (Form B)

MARPOL - International Pollution Prevention Certificate for the Carriage of Noxious Liquid Substances in Bulk

MARPOL - International Sewage Pollution Prevention Certificate



REPUBLIC OF TURKEY
Ministry of Transport and Infrastructure
Directorate General for Maritime Affairs

MARPOL - International Air Pollution Prevention Certificate

MARPOL - Supplement to International Air Pollution Prevention Certificate

MARPOL - International Energy Efficiency Certificate

MARPOL - Supplement to International Energy Efficiency Certificate

AFS 2001 - International Anti-fouling System Certificate

AFS 2001 - Declaration on Anti-fouling System

BWM 2004 - International Ballast Water Management Certificate

NOx Code - Engine International Air Pollution Prevention Certificate

NOx Code - Supplement to Engine International Air Pollution Prevention Certificate

IBC Code - International Certificate of Fitness for the Carriage of Dangerous Chemicals in Bulk

BCH Code - Certificate of Fitness for the Carriage of Dangerous Chemicals in Bulk

IGC Code - International Certificate of Fitness for the Carriage of Liquefied Gases in Bulk

Grain Code - Document of Authorization for The Carriage of Grain and Grain Loading Manual

ISM Code - Safety Management Certificate

ISM Code - Interim Safety Management Certificate

ISPS Code - International Ship Security Certificate (ISSC)

ISPS Code - Interim International Ship Security Certificate

1983/2008 SPS Code - Special Purpose Ship Safety Certificate

TONNAGE 69 – International Tonnage Certificate

POLAR Code– Polar Ship Safety Certificate

DoC- Document of Compliance

PSSC – Passenger Ship Safety Certificate



REPUBLIC OF TURKEY
Ministry of Transport and Infrastructure
Directorate General for Maritime Affairs

In case of a different recognized organization which is not stated in section 2 is authorized by Republic of Turkey for above mentioned certificates or other than these certificates, necessary notifications will be made through the relevant module of IMO GISIS system by Turkish Maritime Administration without any need to make changes in this circular.

The electronic certificates issued by one of the above mentioned recognized organizations to Turkish flagged vessels must be in compliance with the requirements of FAL.5/Circ.39/Rev.2 "Guidelines for the Use of Electronic Certificates" which identifies the following features:

1. Validity and consistency with the format and content required by the relevant international convention or instrument, as applicable;
2. Protected from edits, modifications or other revisions other than those authorized by the issuer;
3. A unique tracking number used for verifications as defined in the corresponding paragraphs of these guidelines
4. A printable and visible symbol that confirms the source of issuance
5. Reliably and securely verifiable through a conveniently accessible and continuously available platform

Verification instructions for the statutory electronic certificates have been given through the web services provided by each recognised organisation. Furthermore, verification for website links of each organizations for authenticity can be displayed through IMO GISIS website.

Instructions for verifying the information contained in the electronic certificate, including confirmation of periodic endorsement, when necessary, must be available on board the ship. Shipowners, managing companies and crews on ships that carry and use electronic certificates must ensure that the valid certificates, including all endorsements, can be presented on board whenever requested for. This can be done for example by ensuring that an internet connection is available at all times, or by keeping a local electronic copy of the certificates on board.

The management of these certificates must be controlled through the Safety Management System, as described in section 11 of the International Safety Management Code. For vessels which are not subject to the requirements of the ISM Code, the same principles of a controlled document system have to be applied for the use of the electronic certificates. Ship owners are reminded that ships flying the Turkish flag must comply at all times with the local requirements of each specific port.

The content of this Circular must be well known by the responsible crew of the vessels provided with electronic certificates. The crew must be able to present this Circular whenever necessary or requested by any interested party.



REPUBLIC OF TURKEY
Ministry of Transport and Infrastructure
Directorate General for Maritime Affairs

Shipowners of Turkish flagged ships who wish to be issued with electronic certificates should approach their recognized organization to enquire if they were ready to issue the electronic certificates and to confirm the suitability of ship to replace the traditional paper certificates with electronic versions.

The Directorate General for Maritime Affairs urges all concerned parties to accept these electronic certificates as genuine and on the same level as paper certificates.

Ünal BAYLAN
Director General