



INFORMATION BULLETIN No. 175

Electronic Statutory Certificates

Guidance and Instructions for Bahamas Recognised Organisations, Bahamas Approved Nautical Inspectors, Ship Owners, Managers and Masters

1. Purpose

- 1.1. This purpose of this Bulletin is to advise that the Bahamas Maritime Authority (BMA) has authorised the issue of electronic statutory certificates (e-certificates) to Bahamian ships by certain Recognised Organisations.
- 1.2. This Bulletin provides a list of Recognised Organisations that have been authorised to issue electronic statutory certificates to Bahamian ships.

2. Application

- 2.1. This Bulletin applies to all ships classed with one of the Recognised Organisations listed in the Annex.

3. Introduction

- 3.1. The BMA supports efforts to reduce administrative burdens and increase operational efficiency on ships and recognises the use of e-certificates in lieu of traditional paper certificates.
- 3.2. Compliance with statutory requirements has historically been demonstrated by means of a paper certificate in the format specified in the relevant international Convention, Code or other legislation. Paper certificates are verified by means of a signature by an authorised person.

- 3.3. Occasionally, paper certificates are damaged or lost, or a valid certificate has been issued but has not reached the ship, leading to action by Port State Control (PSC).
- 3.4. The use of e-certificates is accepted by the BMA, provided that the provisions of [FAL.5/Circ.39/Rev.2](#)¹ are followed.
- 3.5. Several Recognised Organisations are now able to issue e-certificates to ships in lieu of traditional paper certificates.

4. Recognised Organisations Authorised to Issue Electronic Statutory Certificates

- 4.1. Recognised Organisations shall apply to the BMA Inspections & Surveys department for authorisation to issue electronic statutory certificates when they are in a position to do so.
- 4.2. The application is to include:
 - i. a description of the electronic certificate system;
 - ii. details of how the system complies with FAL.5/Circ.39/Rev.2;
 - iii. details of how certificates are endorsed when there is no internet connection;
 - iv. the web address for verification of the certificates;
 - v. specimen copies of the certificates.
- 4.3. The BMA will review the application and, if satisfied that the system meets the requirements of FAL.5/Circ.39/Rev.2, will add the appropriate details to the "Survey and Certification" module in the IMO Global Integrated Shipping Information System (GISIS)² and add the Recognised Organisation to the Annex to this Bulletin.

5. BMA Issued Documents

- 5.1. Documents issued by the BMA are issued as paper documents at this time.
- 5.2. Paper documents may have either a manual signature or a scanned signature printed on the document. Paper documents are generally printed on BMA headed paper (with the exception of Carving and Marking

¹ [http://www.imo.org/en/OurWork/Facilitation/Electronic%20Business/Documents/FAL.5-Circ.39-Rev.2%20-%20Guidelines%20For%20The%20Use%20Of%20Electronic%20Certificates%20\(Secretariat\).pdf](http://www.imo.org/en/OurWork/Facilitation/Electronic%20Business/Documents/FAL.5-Circ.39-Rev.2%20-%20Guidelines%20For%20The%20Use%20Of%20Electronic%20Certificates%20(Secretariat).pdf)

² <https://gisis.imo.org>

Note, MLC Statement of Interpretation, MLC Statement of Acceptance of Financial Security, Certificate of Inspection and Certificate of Special Inspection). Radio licences are printed on Utilities Regulation and Competition Authority (URCA) headed paper.

- 5.3. The BMA is currently developing an e-certificate solution with its IT providers, which will be implemented during 2018. This Bulletin will be updated with details of the BMA's e-certificate solution in due course.

6. Revision History

Rev.1 (24 April 2018) – Addition of CCS and ABS to table in the Annex

Rev.0 (05 February 2018) – First issue

Recognised Organisations authorised to issue electronic statutory certificates to Bahamian ships, in accordance with FAL.5/Circ.39/Rev.2

Recognised Organisation	Certificate Verification Website
DNV GL	https://trust.dnvgl.com/DocumentVerification
Indian Register of Shipping (IRS)	http://www.irclass.org/marine/e-certificates-verification/
Nippon Kaiji Kyokai (Class NK)	https://e-certificate.classnk.or.jp/CERF00010.aspx
Bureau Veritas (BV)	https://ecertificates-marine.bureauveritas.com/
China Classification Society (CCS)	http://www.ccs.org.cn/electrocert/veryfication!index.do
American Bureau of Shipping (ABS)	https://www.eagle.org/safenet/certificate/certificate_lookup