PANAMA
MARITIME AUTHORITY

Merchant Marine Circular

Panama Maritime Authority
General Directorate of Merchant Marine
Control and Compliance Department

MERCHANT MARINE CIRCULAR MMC-355

To: Ship-owners/operators, Legal Representatives of Panamanian Flagged Vessels, Panamanian Merchant Marine Consulates, Recognized Organizations (ROs) and Port State Control Administrations.

Subject: Use of Electronic Certificates onboard.

Reference: Resolution No. 106-57-DGMM dated March 25th., 2020.
Merchant Marine Circular MMC-193 - Optional and Voluntary System for Electronic Books on board of Panamanian Flagged Vessels.
FAL.5/Circ.39/Rev.2 - Guidelines for the use of electronic certificates, of April 20, 2016. **(Only as Recommendation)**

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1. Purpose

1.1. This Merchant Marine Supersedes **MMC-347**.

1.2. The purpose of this Merchant Marine Circular is to inform that the Republic of Panama has welcomed the use of the Guidelines for the use of electronic certificates, adopted by the International Maritime Organization by the Facilitation Committee for the use of electronic certificates through the FAL.5/Circ.39/Rev.2 of April 20, 2016, in order to facilitate the use and acceptance of electronic certificates on board.

1.3. Furthermore, to inform the stakeholder on the List of Certificates that has been already issued by this Administration as Electronic Certificates, as well as to inform the list of Recognized Organizations authorized on the issuance of Electronic Certificates a per the delegation of authority approved by the Republic of Panama.

2. Introduction

2.1. Considering that signed paper certificates issued by our Administration and 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.

2.2. The use and acceptance of electronic statutory certificates, including printed versions of electronic certificates is an initiative well supported by the Panama Maritime Authority, in order to reduce the instances of Port State Control authorities denying the validity of these certificates, resulting in a burden to the master and crew, ship owner or operator, Port State Control authorities, Administration, and other stakeholders.

2.3. As per FAL.5/Circ.39/Rev.2 of April 20, 2016:

2.3.1. 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; (for the use of electronic books please see our MMC-193).

2.3.2. Electronic certificate means a certificate issued in an electronic format.

2.3.3. Electronic signature means data in electronic form which is attached to or logically associated with other electronic data to serve as a method of authentication of the issuer and contents of the electronic data.

2.3.4. Printed version of electronic certificate means a paper printout produced from the electronic certificate.

2.3.5. Unique tracking number (UTN) means a string of numbers, letters or symbols used as an identifier to distinguish an electronic certificate issued by an Administration or its representative from any other electronic certificate issued by the same Administration or its representative; and

2.3.6. Verifying means a reliable, secure and continuously available process to confirm the authenticity and validity of an electronic certificate using the unique tracking number.

2.4. The use electronic certificates should include the following features:

2.4.1. Validity and consistency with the format and content required by the relevant international convention or instrument, as applicable.

2.4.2. Protected from edits, modifications or revisions other than those authorized by the issuer or the Administration.

2.4.3. A unique tracking number used for verification as defined in 2.3.5 and 2.3.6 and

2.4.4. A printable and visible symbol that confirms the source of issuance.

2.4.5. Instructions for verifying the information contained in the certificate, including confirmation of periodic endorsements, when necessary, should be available on board the ship.

3. E-Certificates issued by the Republic of Panama

3.1. Following the initiative of the International Maritime Organization and being aware of the technology advantages, the Panama Maritime Authority has implemented among the Certificates issued as prerogative of this Administration the following Electronic Certificates:

3.1.1. Ballast Water Management Plan (BWMP).
3.1.2. Certificate of Insurance or other Financial Security In Respect of Civil Liability for Oil Pollution Damage (CLC).
3.1.3. Certificate of Insurance or other financial security in respect of civil liability for bunker oil pollution damage (BCC).
3.1.4. Certificate of Insurance or other Financial Security in respect of Liability for the Death of and Personal Injury to Passengers (PAL).
3.1.5. Certificate of Insurance or other Financial Security in respect of Liability for the Removal of Wrecks (WRC).
3.1.6. Certificate of Registry (Patente) (in all its forms).
3.1.7. Declaration of Maritime Labour Compliance (DMLC Part I).
3.1.8. International Ballast Water Management Certificate (IBWMC).
3.1.9. International Tonnage Convention (ITC69) (duplicates).
3.1.10. Minimum Safe Manning Certificate (MSM) - for Cargo and Passenger ships only.
3.1.11. National Tonnage Certificates (NTC).
3.1.12. Radio License (in all its forms).
3.1.13. Deletion Certificate.
3.1.14. Statement of Compliance on Inventory of Hazardous Materials (SoC-IHM).
3.1.15. International Ship Security Certificate (ISSC).
3.1.16. Continuous Synopsis Record (CSR).

3.2. Certificates listed above may be verified by using any of the following methods:

3.2.1. QR Code: by scanning the QR Code in your Mobile Device, your certificate is immediately verified. Method applicable to all the above listed certificates.

3.2.2. Verification System: though the following link http://certificates.amp.gob.pa/certificates the selecting the option "Verification System" and inserting the UNT displayed at the bottom of the Electronic Certificate. Method applicable for all E-Segumar Certificates except for the Radio License (in all its forms), Deletion Certificate and Certificate of Registry (Patente) (in all its forms).

3.2.3. Certificates Query: verification instructions for using the option "Certificates Query" through the following link http://certificates.amp.gob.pa/certificates is annexed to this Merchant Marine Circular. Method applicable for all E-Segumar Certificates except for the Radio License (in all its forms), Deletion Certificate and Certificate of Registry (Patente) (in all its forms).

3.3. A user-friendly manual has been prepared that as well is annexed to this Merchant Marine Circular.

4. Recognized Organizations Approved for Statutory E-certificates issuance

4.1. Recognized Organizations interested to be approved to issue electronic certificates on behalf of this Administration should apply directly to the General Directorate of Merchant Marine, through the RO-RSO Monitoring Department ro-monitoring@segumar.com by submitting the following information:

4.1.1 Procedure/Guide of Electronic Certificates issuance.

4.1.2 Model of Electronic Certificates issued according to the requirements of FAL.5/Circ.39/Rev.2.

4.1.3 RO Website / Link to validate Electronic Certificates

4.2. After been presented the above requested information to this Administration and as per delegation of authority, the following Recognized Organizations has been approved for the issuance of electronic Statutory Certificates to Panama registered ships:

4.2.1. DNV
4.2.2. Nippon Kaiji Kyokai
4.2.3. Bureau Veritas
4.2.4. Indian Register of Shipping
4.2.5. Isthmus Bureau of Shipping
4.2.6. American Bureau of Shipping

4.2.7. China Classification Society
4.2.8. Korean Register
4.2.9. RINA Services S.p.A.
4.2.10. Lloyd's Register
4.2.11. Overseas Marine Certification Services
4.2.12. International Register of Shipping (Panama) Inc.
4.2.13. Dromon Bureau of Shipping
4.2.14. CR Classification Society
4.2.15. Intermaritime Certification Services, S.A.
4.2.16. Polski Rejestr Statków S.A.
4.2.17. Panama Maritime Documentation Services, Inc.
4.2.18. Panama Shipping Registrar Inc.
4.2.19. Croatian Register of Shipping
4.2.20. Phoenix Register of Shipping
4.2.21. MACOSNAR Corporation
4.2.22. Qualitas Register of Shipping
4.2.23. National Shipping Adjusters
4.2.24. Emirates Classification Society (TASNEEF) L.L.C.

4.3. Every Recognized Organization shall be responsible for providing verification instructions for the Statutory Electronic Certificates through their web services so that they can be quickly validated.

5. Instruction for Flag State Inspectors

5.1. Flag state inspectors (FSI) should accept electronic certificates containing the features identified in paragraphs 2.3 and 2.4. The FSI may request the master to demonstrate the validity of the electronic certificate following the instructions available on board the ship or by using the QR Code or the Verification System.

5.2. If the master does not succeed to demonstrate to the satisfaction of the FSI that an electronic certificate is meeting the requirements, the FSI is advised to consult with this Administration, in order to review any inconvenience with the system or the Class/RO system.

August 2024 - *Paragraph 4.1 amended, email changed to ro-monitoring@segumar.com / Paragraph 4.2.24 newly added "Emirates Classification Society (TASNEEF) L.L.C". / Paragraph 4.3 amended / Contact information on the bottom page updated.*

July 2023 – *Paragraph 4.2.8 amended, "Korean Register of Shipping" changed to "Korean Register" / New Paragraph 4.2.22, "Overseas Marine Certification Services" included / New Paragraph 4.2.23, "National Shipping Adjusters" included.*

November, 2022 – *New paragraph 4.2.21 included, "MACOSNAR Corporation".*

March 2022 – *New paragraph 4.2.20 added. Inclusion of Phoenix Register of Shipping*

February 2022 – *New paragraph 4.2.19 added. Inclusion of Croatian Register ofShipping.*

January 2022 - *Paragraph 3.2.1, 3.2.2 and 3.2.3 amended.*

December 2021 – *New paragraph 4.2.18 added. Inclusion of Panama Shipping RegistrarInc.*

July 2021 – *References were updated and Inclusion of items 1.1 and 3.3.*

March 2021 – *Inclusion of Panama Maritime Documentation Services, Inc. in 4.1.17, inclusion of item 3.1.15, 3.1.16, and paragraph 5.1 was amended.*

February 2021 – *DNV GL change of name to DNV.*

December 2020 – *Inclusion of Polski Rejestr Statków S.A. in paragraph 4.1.16.*

October 2020 – *Inclusion of Intermaritime Certification Services, S.A. in paragraph 4.1.15.*

September 2020 *- New sub-paragraph 3.1.14 included, Statement of Compliance on Inventory of Hazardous Materials (HKC) and reference made to Resolution No. 106-57- DGMM of March 25th., 2020.*

June 2020 *- Inclusion of CR Classification Society in paragraph 4.1.14*

May 2020 *- Inclusion of Dromon Bureau of Shipping in paragraph 4.1 and DeletionCertificate in paragraph 3.1.*

April 2020 *- Inclusion of International Register of Shipping (Panama) Inc.*

March 2020 *- Inclusion of the Certificate of Registry (Patente) (in all its forms) and the Ships Radio License (in all its forms) in paragraph 3.1 (documents in alphabetical order), and minor correction in paragraph 3.2.4.*

January 2020 *- Inclusion of Overseas Marine Certification Services.*

November 2019 *- Inclusion of Lloyd's Register, paragraph 4.*

July 2019 *- Inclusion of RINA Services S.p.A., paragraph 4.*

December 2018 *- Inclusion of MSM, ITC69 duplicates, NTC, BCC, PAL and WRC due toelectronic version available.*

October 2018 *- Inclusion of Korean Register of Shipping in paragraph 4.*

May 2018 *- Inclusion of American Bureau of Shipping and China Classification Society inparagraph 4.*

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March 2018 *- Inclusion of Isthmus Bureau of Shipping and Indian Register of Shipping inparagraph 4.*
February 2018 *- Inclusion of Bureau Veritas in paragraph 4.*
August 2017*.*

Inquiries concerning the subject of this Merchant Marine Circular or any other request should be forward to:

SEGUMAR Offices / RO-RSO Monitoring Department
General Directorate of Merchant Marine
Panama Maritime Authority

Phone: (507) 501-5353 / 5350 / 5348 / 5351
E-mail: segumar.headoffice@segumar.com / ro-monitoring@segumar.com
Website:
https://www.panamashipregistry.com/segumar/merchant-marine-circulars/

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USER-FRIENDLY MANUAL

QR Code Verification

By scanning the QR Code in your Mobile, your certificate will be inmediately verified…

Electronic Certificate

This certificate is valid until August 01, 2018

N.B. Any change or early termination of the above-mentioned insurance cover or other financial security will invalidate this certificater. The flag state administration must be notified of any changes.

Issued : August 08, 2017 (Date of issue) at SEGUMAR - PANAMA (Place of issue of certificate)

UTN:CLC-000221

SENIOR OFFICER

- Certificates may be verified through the QR Code
- Using the Unique tracking Number (UTN), or
- Using the option “Certificates Query”.

PanCanal Building
Albrook, Panama City
Republic of Panama

Panama Ship Registry
@ShipPanama

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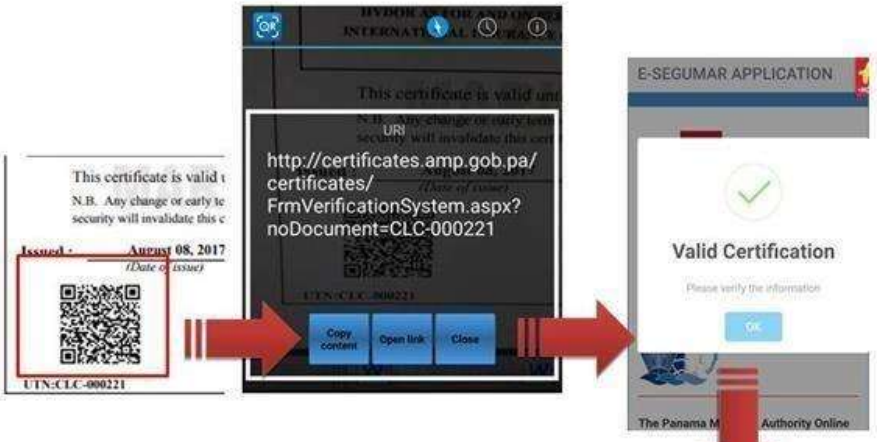
QR Code Verification



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Verification System

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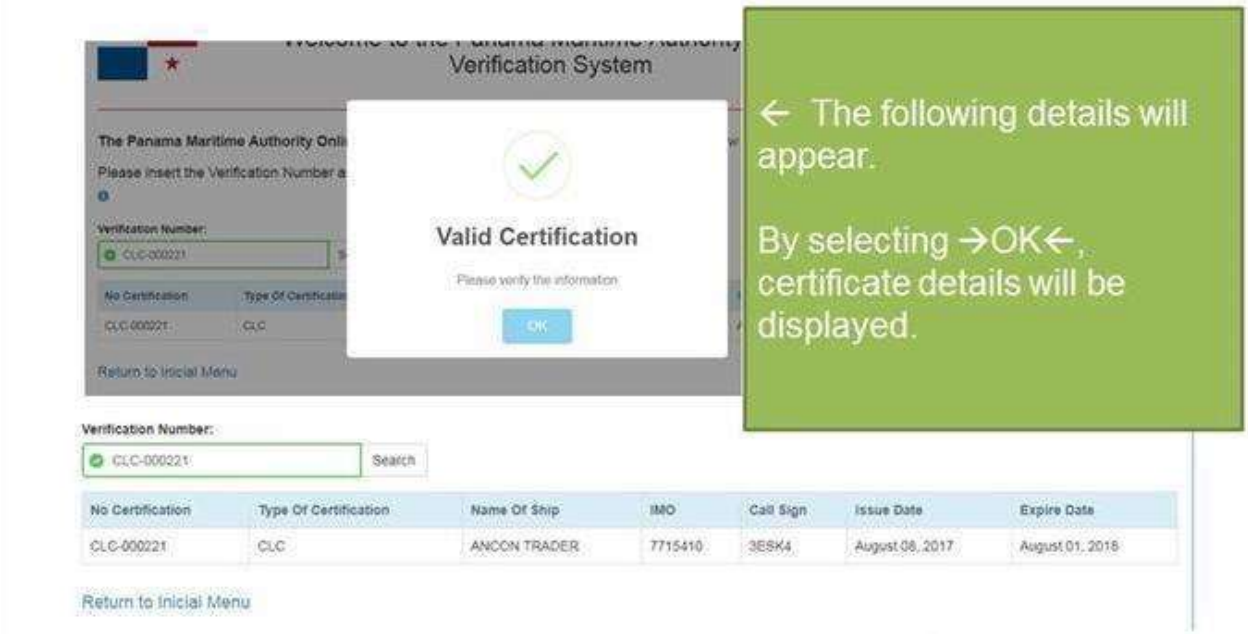

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1. Selecting the Certificate to be verified…

2. Writing the Ship's Name or IMO number…

Certificate validity date is displayed on the screen

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