

Circular: Reg. use and acceptance of the electronic certificates issued by IMSAG

Date: 28.06.2021

**To: RECOGNIZED ORGANIZATIONS, SHIPOWNERS, MANAGERS, OPERATORS, MASTERS,
DEPUTY REGISTRARS, PORT STATE INSPECTORS AND FLAG STATE SURVEYORS**

**Subject: USE AND ACCEPTANCE OF ELECTRONIC CERTIFICATES BY ALL THE RELEVANT
PERSONNEL AND AUTHORITIES**

1. Reference

- 1.1 Marine Notice 101.1 Requirements on Carriage of Publications on Board Ships
- 1.2 IMO Circular FAL.5/Circ.39/Rev.2 Guidelines for the Use of Electronic Certificates

2. Purpose

- 2.1 The purpose of this Merchant Marine Circular is to inform that the International Maritime Safety Agency of Guyana (IMSAG) supports and advocates 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 20 April 2016, in order to facilitate the use and acceptance of electronic certificates.
- 2.2 In this regard, ROs issuing statutory certificates to Guyana Flagged ships on behalf of the International Maritime Safety Agency of Guyana (IMSAG) are authorized and encouraged to develop capabilities to issue electronic version of the statutory certificates, to replace the traditional paper statutory certificates.

3. Background

- 3.1 The International Maritime Organization (IMO) guidelines, as contained in IMO Circular FAL.5/Circ.39/Rev.2, set out the features for electronic certificates to enable stakeholders to verify their authenticity. The guidelines are intended to alleviate the problems inherent in paper documentation and facilitate the maritime sector's move toward the use and acceptance of electronic certificates

4. Information

4.1 The electronic statutory certificates issued by ROs to the International Maritime Safety Agency of Guyana (IMSAG) registered ships shall comply with FAL.5/Circ.39/Rev.2 which, inter alia, identifies the following features:

- i) validity and consistency with the format and content required by the relevant international convention or instrument;
- ii) Protected from edits, modifications or revisions;
- iii) a unique tracking number for verification;
- iv) reliably and securely verifiable through a conveniently accessible and continuously available platform; and
- v) a printable and visible symbol that confirms the source of issuance.

4.1 The electronic statutory certificates issued by ROs in accordance to FAL.5/Circ.39/Rev.2 shall be deemed valid in accordance with all applicable international instruments. In addition, the ROs must provide clear and simple instructions for any party who may wish to verify the validity and authenticity of the electronic statutory certificates.

4.2 Notwithstanding the compliance with requirements under the International Maritime Safety Agency of Guyana (IMSAG) , owners of Guyana Flag ships should still continue to exercise the necessary due diligence to address any entry and clearance requirements that are specific to foreign ports that the ship calls at.

4.3 Owners of Guyana Flag ships who wish to be provided with electronic certificates should approach the RO to enquire same and to confirm the suitability of the ship to replace the traditional paper certificates with electronic versions.

5 Contact

5.1 For further questions, please do not hesitate to contact the Technical Department of International Maritime Safety Agency of Guyana (IMSAG)
tech@imsag.org , registrations@imsag.org

For online verification of the certificates pls log on to : www.imsag.org