



**DEMOCRATIC SOCIALIST REPUBLIC OF SRI LANKA**  
**MERCHANT SHIPPING SECRETARIAT**  
**MINISTRY OF PORTS AND SHIPPING**

**1<sup>st</sup> Floor, Bristol Building, 43-89, York Street, Colombo 01, Sri Lanka.**

Telephone: +94(0)112435127, Fax: +94(0)112435160, E-mail: [dmsmos@sltnet.lk](mailto:dmsmos@sltnet.lk)

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**Notice to All Ship-Owners, Operators, Masters of Sri Lankan Flagged Ships, and Recognized Organizations.**

**Use of Electronic Certificates on Board Sri Lankan Ships**

This notice brings to the attention of all concerned parties on the use of electronic certificates on board Sri Lankan flagged ships.

1. With the aim of reducing the administrative burden on Administrations, port State control officials, ships' crew and other stakeholders caused by, amongst other reasons, the reliance on traditional paper certificates, the Facilitation Committee (FAL) of the International Maritime Organization (IMO), at its fortieth session approved the Guidelines for the use of electronic certificates (FAL.5/Circ.39/Rev.2) that provide guidance to facilitate the use and acceptance of electronic certificates.

2. Approved Recognized Organizations (ROs) acting on behalf of Sri Lanka to conduct survey and certification of Sri Lankan flagged ships are encouraged to develop such capabilities that align with our objective to bring about greater efficiency for the multiple stakeholders. In this regard, ROs issuing statutory certificates to Sri Lankan ships on behalf of Sri Lanka are authorized and encouraged to develop capabilities to issue electronic version of the statutory certificates to replace the traditional paper statutory certificates.

3. The electronic statutory certificates issued by ROs to Sri Lanka-registered ships shall comply with FAL.5/Circ.39/Rev.2 which contains 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 of printable and visible symbol that confirms the source issuance.

4. The electronic statutory certificates issued by ROs in accordance with the FAL.5/Circ.39/Rev.2 for Sri Lankan ships shall be deemed valid in accordance with all applicable international instruments that Sri Lanka is a party to. In addition, the RO must provide clear and simple instructions for any party who may wish to verify the validity and authenticity of the electronic statutory certificates. Notwithstanding the compliance with requirements under Sri Lanka, owners should still continue to exercise the necessary due diligence to address any entry and clearance requirements that are specific to each foreign ports that the ship calls at.

5. Owners who wish to be issued with electronic certificates should approach the RO to enquire if they are ready to issue the electronic certificates and to confirm the suitability of ship to replace the traditional paper certificates with electronic versions. Upon confirmation by the RO, a letter on the use of electronic certificates will be issued by the Merchant Shipping Secretariat to the ship stating approval for the ship to be issued with electronic certificates in-lieu of traditional paper certificates. This approval letter is to be placed on board the ship as an additional measure to facilitate acceptance by other port authorities.

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Director General of Merchant Shipping  
Merchant Shipping Secretariat  
Ministry of Ports and Shipping  
Tel : +94-11-2435127 / +94-11-2430305  
Fax : +94-11-2435160  
E-mail : [dmsmos@sltnet.lk](mailto:dmsmos@sltnet.lk)  
Web : [www.dgshipping.gov.lk](http://www.dgshipping.gov.lk)