



REPUBLIC OF ESTONIA  
TRANSPORT ADMINISTRATION

CIRCULAR No 13

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### Usage of electronic certificates on ships flying the Estonian flag

To recognized classification societies and security organizations for guidance and to shipowners, ship managers and masters for information and guidance.

With this circular, the Estonian Transport Administration brings to the attention of all parties concerned the use of electronic certificates on board ships flying the Estonian flag to ensure compliance with Maritime Safety Act §1 section 7<sup>1</sup>.

Recognized classification societies and security organizations issuing original maritime safety certificates required by international conventions in electronic format must ensure that the certificates correspond to the format and content required by the relevant international convention and that the electronic certificates are in compliance with the International Maritime Organization (IMO) Facilitation Committee (FAL) 40th session approved guidelines (FAL.5/Circ.39/Rev.2).

In addition, clear and simple instructions for verifying the information contained in the electronic certificate, including confirmation of periodic surveys, should be available on board the ship by the issuer of the relevant certificate.

Electronic certificates issued by the Estonian Transport Administration are valid and in accordance with the circular (FAL.5/Circ.39/Rev.2) format and content requirements if:

- 1) they correspond to the format and content required by the relevant international convention or instrument;
- 2) they contain information regarding the issuer together with the logo of the Republic of Estonia;
- 3) they are electronically signed and numbered with a unique tracking number and QR-code;
- 4) the certificate is authentic, reliable and complete, and means for paper printout of the relevant certificate should be available.

To verify an electronic certificate issued by the Estonian Transport Administration:

- scan the QR-code with a mobile device  
or
- use the website link (in the footnote of the certificate) and insert the unique tracking number UTN (in the footnote of the certificate).

The electronic ship certificates are protected from edits, modifications or revisions by other than the competent authority who issued the certificate.

Shipowners and ship managers on ships that carry and use electronic certificates should ensure that these certificates are controlled through the safety management system and that masters are able and have the necessary means to demonstrate the authenticity and validity of electronic certificates to all appropriate supervisory officials in ports.

(signed digitally)

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