



**CIRCULAR  
IMM-133 (26)**

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**Title:** Implementation of electronic certificates (e-certificates)

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**To:** Port State Control (PSC); Shipping Agents, Ship Owners/Operators, Flag-State Inspectors; Deputy Registrars (DRs); Recognized Organization (ROs); International Safety Management (ISM) Operators

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**Issuance Date:** 20-May-2026      **Effective Date:** 21-May-2026

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### 1.0 Purpose

- 1.1 The purpose of this circular is to formally notify all relevant stakeholders of IMMARBE's intent to implement Electronic Certificates (e-certificates) and to provide guidance on their use, acceptance, and verification.

### 2.0 Effective Date

- 2.1 Effective 21 May 2026, IMMARBE will commence the issuance of Flag-State related certificates in electronic format for vessels flying the Belize flag.

### 3.0 Reference

- 3.1 IMO Guidelines for the Use of Electronic Certificates (FAL.5/Circ.39/Rev.2)  
3.2 IMO Guidelines on the Use of Electronic Certificates of Seafarers (MSC.1/Circ.1665)

### 4.0 Key Features of e-certificates

- 4.1 Each e-certificate includes:
- (i) Official IMMARBE branding
  - (ii) Unique Tracking Number (UTN) and certificate number;
  - (iii) Embedded QR code for validation;
  - (iv) digital signature in the form of IMMARBE seal;
  - (v) Standardized formatting for ease of recognition and verification
- 4.2 Electronic certificates are not required to be maintained in printed form. The electronic version shall be considered the official certificate, and vessels may rely solely on e-certificates, provided they are readily accessible onboard and can be presented for inspection and verification at all times in accordance with applicable requirements.

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Inquiries concerning the subject of this Circular should be directed to: **IMMARBE**, [immarbe@immarbe.com](mailto:immarbe@immarbe.com)

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## 5.0 Verification of e-certificates

- 5.1 Verification of certificates may be conducted through:
  - (i) QR code;
  - (ii) Online verification (search using UTN or certificate number):  
<https://immarbe.com/v2/verification/app/search.php>;
  - (iii) Verification support email: **verify@immarbe.com**;
- 5.2 Verification of electronic signature may be conducted by opening the e-certificate in Adobe Acrobat Reader (or another trusted PDF reader). Valid e-certificates will clearly be indicated as “valid and trusted” in the signature panel.
- 5.3 Additionally, specimen certificate can be referenced on IMO GISIS.

## 6.0 List of Electronic Certificates

- 6.1 A comprehensive list of all e-certificates is included in Annex 1.

## 7.0 Transitional Arrangements

- 7.1 To ensure a smooth transition:
  - (i) Paper-based certificates (including those with digital features) remain valid until 31 December 2026;
  - (ii) Parallel acceptance of paper and electronic certificates will be maintained during this period.

## 8.0 Further information & Inquiries

- 8.1 Any questions or requests for clarification regarding this circular or the implementation of electronic certificates should be directed to IMMARBE Head Office at [immarbe@immarbe.com](mailto:immarbe@immarbe.com)
- 8.2 IMMARBE remains available to provide guidance and support to ensure the effective implementation and use of electronic certification.

## 9.0 Conclusion

- 9.1 The introduction of e-Certificates represents a key advancement in IMMARBE’s commitment to digital modernization, enhanced compliance, and efficient service delivery.
- 9.2 All stakeholders are requested to take the necessary steps to prepare for implementation and ensure full cooperation in supporting this transition.



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## ANNEX

<u>Registration Documentation</u>	<u>Technical Certificate</u>	<u>Seafarer Certificates</u>
- Certificate of Registration	- Exemption Certificate	- Certificate of Competency
- Ship Station License	- Dispensation Certificate	- Certificate of Proficiency
- Deletion of Certificate	- Attestation Letter	- Dispensation Certificate
- Permission to Delete	- Permit to Proceed Certificate	- Minimum Safe Manning Certificate
- Registration of Ownership Title	- Regulatory Determination	- Officer Endorsement Certificate
- Transcript of Register	- Wavier of Requirements	- Statement of Extension - SEA
- Report on a Ship Search	- Statement of Extension	- Certificate of Receipt of Application
- Certificate of Cancellation of Mortgage	- Statement of Authorization (Fleet Service Provider)	- Endorsement Training Certificate for Special Training
- Certificate of Insurance or Other Financial Security	- State of Authorization (Change of Status)	- Certificate of Receipt of Application Tanker
- Certificate of Transfer or Mortgage	- Statement of Authorization (Armed Personnel)	- Minimum Safe Manning Certificate – Yacht
- Certificate of Liens & Encumbrances	- Authorization To Carry Industrial Personnel	- Minimum Safe Manning Certificate – Non-STCW
- Registration of Amendment or Addendum of a Ship's Mortgage	- Statement of Authorization (Lifesaving and Launching Appliances)	
- Certificate of Registration of Mortgage	- Declaration of Maritime Labor Compliance – Part 1	-
- Bareboat Charter in Termination	- Fitness to Proceed Under Tow Certificate	-
- Approval of Dual Registration	- Equivalent Arrangement Certificate	-
- Statement of Authorization	- Certificate of Compliance	
- Continuous Synopsis Record	- Certificate of Tonnage Measurement	-
	- Flag State Inspector ID Card	

This list reflects the certificates currently designated for electronic issuance. The Flag Administration may amend or expand this list as part of ongoing digitalization initiatives