USE OF ELECTRONIC CERTIFICATES

Application: All ship-owners, operators, masters and officers of merchant ships and authorised Classification societies

This Bulletin presents advice on the use of electronic certificates on board Barbados registered vessels. The Facilitation Committee (FAL) of the International Maritime Organization (IMO), at its 40th session approved the Guidelines for the use and acceptance of electronic certificates (FAL.5/Circ.39/Rev.2)/

Recognized Organizations issuing statutory certificates to Barbados registered ships are authorised to issue electronic versions of the statutory certificates. Electronic certificates issued by the Recognized Organizations should contain the features as stated in FAL.5/Circ.39/Rev.2, (as may be amended). They may also contain additional security features as deemed appropriate. In addition, clear and simple instructions should be provided on board for any relevant party who may wish to verify the validity and authenticity of the electronic certificates.

The electronic statutory certificates, inter alia, identifies the following features:

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

As stated by FAL.5/Circ.39/Rev.2, electronic statutory certificates issued by the Recognized Organizations should be valid in accordance with all applicable international instruments. Notwithstanding the recognition of electronic certificates by this Administration, all parties are reminded that ships should comply at all times with the local requirements of each specific port. This Bulletin should be kept on board for consultation by Port State Control, Classification Society surveyors/auditors or any other interested party.