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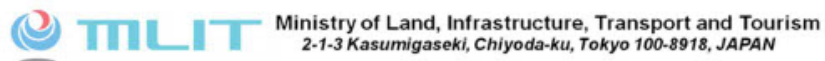
Circular Letter No.4542  
25 March 2022

To: All IMO Member States  
Intergovernmental organizations  
Non-governmental organizations in consultative status

Subject: **Communication from Japan on the issuance of electronic ship certificates**

1 The Secretary-General has the honour to transmit herewith the text of a communication by Japan in respect of the issuance of electronic ship certificates.

2 The Secretary-General would be grateful if steps could be taken to bring this information to the attention of the appropriate authorities.



22<sup>nd</sup> March 2022

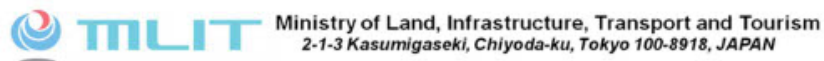
**RE: Certificates issued by Japan under International Conventions**

Japan hereby wishes to provide information on certificates issued by the Ministry of Land, Infrastructure, Transport and Tourism under various international conventions and instruments, including the FAL.5/Circ.39/Rev.2.

For the purpose of verifying the validity and authenticity of the electronic certificates, all certificates have a unique identification number (ID) of 20 digits. The ID is located on the bottom of every page of the certificate. The electronic certificates can be authenticated by checking the URL or scanning the QR code on the certificate.

Alternatively the verification can be done by contacting the Japan Flag State administration.

Ministry of Land, Infrastructure, Transport and Tourism.  
For e-mail : [hqt-umi\\_denshi\\_shousho@gxb.mlit.go.jp](mailto:hqt-umi_denshi_shousho@gxb.mlit.go.jp)



To further simplify the verification process, certificates contain a quick response code (QR-Code) at the bottom of the page that includes an URL and the ID of the certificate.

The certificates are protected from alteration or tampering by write protection. They are transmitted electronically and can be presented either electronically on a device screen (ex. PC, smartphone, tablet) or as a printed version. The electronic certificates must be kept on board and must be made available to Port State Control Officers, class inspectors, auditors and other representatives of the flag state administrations.

From 1<sup>st</sup> April 2022 onwards, the Ministry of Land, Infrastructure, Transport and Tourism will begin issuing the electronic certificates listed in Annex.

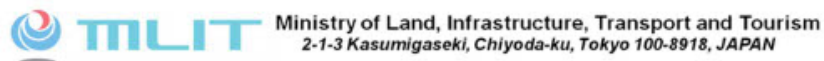
The specimens of these certificates will be published in the IMO GISIS database in the entry for " Surveys and Certification" in due course.

Attached is copy of our formal information letter, which contains the same information as provided above and which is intended to be carried on board ships to facilitate Port State Control.

Please note that certificates will be issued electronically as described above with the QR-Code, ID and URL, and in classical paper format in parallel without the QR-Code, ID and URL.

Existing certificates issued by the Ministry of Land, Infrastructure, Transport and Tourism prior to this notification will still be valid without the QR-Code, ID and URL at the bottom of page.

Also, the conventional certificate without the QR-Code, ID and URL at the bottom of page issued by Ministry of Land, Infrastructure, Transport and Tourism will still be valid after this notification.



#### Covering Letter

To whom it may concern:

Electronic certificates issued by Japan

Japan (Ministry of Land, Infrastructure, Transport and Tourism) will begin to issue the electronic certificates in 2022.

These certificates correspond to the models attached to several international conventions, as well as the IMO Circular FAL.5/Circ.39/Rev.2. (Guidelines for the use of electronic certificates).

These electronic certificates must be considered valid at all times.

The certificates contain an electronic seal of Director-General of District Transport Bureau, Japan, additionally a unique identification number, as well as a quick response code (QR-Code). And a signature by the official is added depending on the certificates.

Existing certificates issued by Ministry of Land, Infrastructure, Transport and Tourism prior to this notification will be still valid without QR-Code, ID and URL at the bottom of page.

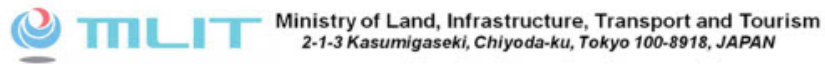
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To further simplify the verification process, certificates contain a quick response code (QR-Code) at the bottom of the page that includes an URL and the ID of the certificate.

For the purpose of verifying the validity and authenticity of the electronic certificates, all certificates have a unique identification number (ID) of 20 digits. This ID is located in the bottom on every page of the certificate.

The electronic certificates can be authenticated by checking the URL or scanning the QR code on the certificate.

Alternatively the verification can be done by contacting the Japan flag state administration:

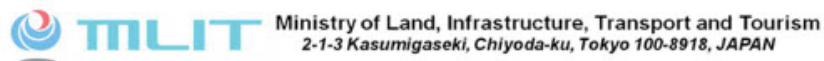


Ministry of Land, Infrastructure, Transport and Tourism.  
For e-mail : [hqt-umi\\_denshi\\_shousho@gxb.mlit.go.jp](mailto:hqt-umi_denshi_shousho@gxb.mlit.go.jp)

The certificates are protected from alteration or tampering through write protection.

They are transmitted electronically and can be presented either electronically on a device screen (ex.PC, smartphone, tablet) or as a printed version.

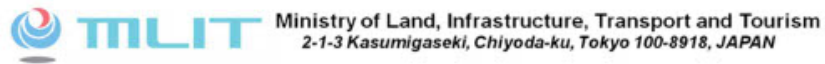
Please note that certificates will be issued electronically as described above with the QR-Code, ID and URL, and in classical paper format in parallel without the QR-Code, ID and URL.



#### Annex

The electronic certificates issued by Japan under International Convention are as follows.

- Certificate of Insurance or other Financial Security in Respect of Civil Liability for Oil Pollution Damage
- Certificate of Insurance or other Financial Security in Respect of Civil Liability for Bunker Oil Pollution Damage
- Certificate of Insurance or other Financial Security in Respect of Liability for the Removal of Wrecks
- International Tonnage Certificate (1969)
- Continuous Synopsis Record
- International Load Line Certificate
- International Load Line Exemption Certificate
- Passenger Ship Safety Certificate
- Nuclear Passenger Ship Safety Certificate
- Cargo Ship Safety Construction Certificate
- Cargo Ship Safety Equipment Certificate
- Cargo Ship Safety Radio Certificate
- Cargo Ship Safety Certificate
- Exemption Certificate
- International Certificate of Fitness for the Carriage of INF Cargo
- Certificate of Fitness for the Carriage of Liquefied Gases in Bulk
- International Certificate of Fitness for the Carriage of Liquefied Gases in Bulk
- Certificate of Fitness for the Carriage of Dangerous Chemicals in Bulk
- International Certificate of Fitness for the Carriage of Dangerous Chemicals in Bulk
- High-Speed Craft Safety Certificate
- Permit to Operate High-Speed Craft
- Polar Ship Certificate
- International Anti-Fouling System Certificate
- Special Purpose Ship Safety Certificate
- Mobile Offshore Drilling Unit Safety Certificate
- Document of Approval for The Stability Instrument
- Certificate of Fitness for Ship Carrying Dangerous Goods
- International Ship Security Certificate
- Interim International Ship Security Certificate
- Safety Management Certificate



- Interim Safety Management Certificate
- Statement of Compliance – Fuel Oil Consumption Reporting
- Engine International Air Pollution Prevention Certificate
- International Energy Efficiency Certificate
- International Oil Pollution Prevention Certificate
- International Pollution Prevention Certificate for the Carriage of Noxious Liquid Substances in Bulk
- International Sewage Pollution Prevention Certificate
- International Ballast Water Management Certificate
- International Air Pollution Prevention Certificate
- Confirmation of Compliance – SEEMP PART II
- Condition Assessment Scheme (CAS) Statement of Compliance
- Minimum Safe Manning Document