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Circular Letter No.4841  
22 February 2024

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

Subject: **Communication from the Government of Georgia regarding the issuance of electronic ship certificates**

1 The Secretary-General of the International Maritime Organization has the honour to transmit herewith the text of a communication by Georgia 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.

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**ANNEX**



**LEPL MARITIME TRANSPORT  
AGENCY OF GEORGIA**

50 Baku Street  
6000 Batumi, Georgia  
Tel: +995 422 27 49 25/26  
info@mta.gov.ge

2024 / 02 /16



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№ 5/CIRC/FSI

To: All Owners, Managers and Representatives of Ships flying  
Georgia Flag, Masters and Officers, Recognized Organizations,  
Flag State Inspectors, Recognized Agents and all other  
stakeholders

**Subject: Use of Electronic certificates on board for Ships Flying Georgian Flag**

**Note: This Circular replaces circular No: 3/CIRC/FSI DATED 1 FEB 2024 use of Electronic certificates on board for Ships Flying Georgian Flag**

**Reference**

Maritime Code of Georgia;  
Georgian law "On Electronic Documents and Electronic Trust Services"  
IMO Circular FAL.5/Circ.39/Rev.2, Guidelines for the use of electronic certificates, adopted 20 April 2016;

**1. Purpose**

The purpose of this circular is to inform all concerned parties (shipowners and managing companies, Port State Control officials, ships' crews and all other stakeholders) that according to new amendments in Maritime Code of Georgia from **1<sup>st</sup> of February, 2024** use of electronic Certificates with electronic signature on flag certificates on board of all ships except ships less than 100 GT engaged in domestic navigation flying Georgian flag has been approved.

**2. Background**

The International Maritime Organization (IMO) guidelines, as contained in IMO Circular FAL.5/Circ.39/Rev.2 and Maritime Code of Georgia Article 32 and article 39 set out the features for electronic certificates to enable stakeholders to verify their authenticity. The guidelines are intended to alleviate the problems inherent in paper documentation and facilitate the maritime sector's move toward the use and acceptance of electronic certificates.

**3. Application**

3.1 The requirements apply to all ships except ships less than 100 GT engaged in domestic navigation registered in the State Ships Registry of Georgia.

3.2 Present circular takes effect from the **1<sup>st</sup> of February 2024**.

#### 4. Statutory Certificates issued by Recognized Organizations (ROs)

4.1 A classification society recognized by the Agency in accordance with Chapter II<sup>1</sup> of the Maritime Code of Georgia are allowed to issue electronic statutory and class certificate and survey reports.

4.2 Electronic certificates/documents issued by the RO must conform to IMO Circular FAL.5/Circ.39/Rev2.

#### 5. E-Certificates /documents issued by the MTA

MTA shall issue the following Electronic Certificates/documents:

- Certificate of Registry (in all its forms)
- Endorsement to Certificate of Registry
- Radio station Certificate
- Minimum Safe Manning Certificate
- Continuous Synopsis Record
- Flag state Inspection Statement
- Interim International Ship Security Certificate
- International Ship Security Certificate
- Temporary Deletion Certificate
- Deletion Certificate
- Non encumbrance certificate
- Certificate of Insurance or Other Financial Security in Respect of Civil Liability for Oil Pollution Damage (CLC)
- Certificate of Insurance or other financial security in respect of Civil Liability for Bunker Oil Pollution Damage (BCC)
- Certificate of Insurance or other financial security in respect of Civil Liability for the death of and personal Injury to passengers (PAL)
- Any other Certificate regulated by law.

The above mentioned electronic certificates/documents are valid from **1<sup>st</sup> of February 2024**, the specimens must be posted by MTA to the IMO Global Integrated Shipping Information System (GISIS).

#### 6. E-Certificates/E-documents requirements

6.1 All copies of a signed electronic certificate/document shall be considered as originals in accordance with the regulations under international and national legislation. An electronic document/certificate shall not have an electronic copy.

6.2 MTA electronic certificates/documents are issued via State Ships Electronic registry. The shipowner will receive mentioned certificates by E-mail from [srg@mta.gov.ge](mailto:srg@mta.gov.ge).

6.3 All E-certificates/documents shall be kept on board the ship and available for inspections/Surveys at all reasonable times.

6.4 The control of electronic certificates/documents must be managed through the Safety Management System (SMS), as described by International Safety Management Code (ISM CODE).

6.5 For the Ships which are not subject to the requirements of the ISM Code, the same principles of a controlled document system have to be applied for the use of the certificates/documents.

#### 7. Electronic Documents and Certificates Issued by the MTA – Verification

7.1 MTA electronic documents and certificates with an electronic signature shall be considered valid originals.

7.2 Electronic documents and certificates either in printed or electronic form may be verified online in two (2) ways:

- QR Code: by scanning the QR Code in your Mobile Device, and
- Verification System: through the link [http://www.mta.gov.ge/index.php?m=98&parent\\_id=56&lng=eng](http://www.mta.gov.ge/index.php?m=98&parent_id=56&lng=eng) by indicating all requested information from certificate.
- Electronic Certificates or documents issued to Georgian flagged vessels have a Quick Response (QR) Code in the lower right corner and a Unique Tracking Number (UTN – MTAcertID-000000), and may be verified By \*Document/Certificate **Unique Tracking Number (UTN MTAcertID-000000)** or \* **Ship IMO number** and **Issue Date**.

7.3 If there is any question regarding the authenticity of an electronic document or certificate, a request for verification may be addressed to the MTA via e-mail or phone:

[fsi@mta.gov.ge](mailto:fsi@mta.gov.ge)

[info@mta.gov.ge](mailto:info@mta.gov.ge)

Tel: +995 (422) 274925

Hotline/AOH: +995 (577) 221622

#### **8. Transitional Provisions**

8.1 Transitional period for replacing signed paper certificates/documents issued for Georgian flagged ships by Maritime Transport Agency of Georgia into electronic certificates/documents is considered during next annual renewal of registration of current ship.

8.2 Permanently issued Paper certificates/documents should be replaced by electronic Certificates/documents.

#### **9. Contact Details**

Recognized Organizations, Shipowner, ship operator or Management Company of a ship flying the Georgian flag, may contact for additional consultations and assistance –regarding above information.

**LEPL – Maritime Transport Agency of Georgia**

**Ships Registry and Flag Control Department**

**Tel: +995 (422) 274925**

**E-mail: [fsi@mta.gov.ge](mailto:fsi@mta.gov.ge)**

**Hotline/AOH: +995 (577) 221622**

Sincerely,

Agency Director

SIGNED/SEALED  
ELECTRONICALLY 

Aleksi Akhvediani