



Luxembourg, 22 November 2017

**Circular CAM 07/2017**

O/Ref. : AH/108688

Subject: **Use of Electronic Certificates – FAL/Circ.39/Rev.2**

To : All ROs, RSOs, Accredited Shipping Managers, ship owners, ship operators and Designated Persons Ashore of Luxembourg flagged ships.

The Commissariat aux affaires maritimes (CAM) supports and encourages the use and the acceptance of electronic certificates, including printed versions of electronic certificates.

CAM therefore encourages and authorizes the Recognized Organizations (ROs) acting under the authority of Luxembourg to develop the necessary capabilities to issue electronic versions of statutory certificates in order to replace the traditional paper certificates.

In this regard, CAM relates to the IMO Guidelines for the use of Electronic Certificates ([FAL.5/Circ.39/Rev.2](#)) which provide guidance to facilitate the use and acceptance of electronic certificates with the *“aim to reduce the administrative burden on Administrations, port State control officers, ships’ crew and other stakeholders caused by, amongst other reasons, the reliance on traditional paper certificates”*.

The electronic statutory certificates issued by ROs to Luxembourg flagged ships have to comply with the above mentioned FAL circular which identifies i.a. the following features (§4.1 of the circular):

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

The electronic statutory certificates issued by authorized ROs in accordance the FAL circular shall be deemed valid in accordance with their related international instruments.

ROs must provide instructions on how the validity and authenticity of electronic certificates may be verified.

Even if CAM recognizes the validity of electronic certificates, ship owners are reminded that ships flying the Luxembourg flag must comply at all times with the local requirements of each specific port.

This circular letter shall be kept on board together with the ship’s certificates and documents and be available for consultation by the interested PSCO’s, Classification Society surveyors and auditors, if and when needed.



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for maritime affairs