



ST. VINCENT AND THE GRENADINES

MARITIME ADMINISTRATION

CIRCULAR N° SOL 067

USE OF ELECTRONIC CERTIFICATES

TO: **SHIPOWNERS, SHIPS' OPERATORS, MANAGING COMPANIES, MASTERS AND RECOGNIZED ORGANIZATIONS**

APPLICABLE TO: All ships

EFFECTIVE AS FROM: Date of this Circular

21st December 2017

This Circular brings to the attention of all parties concerned on the use of electronic certificates on board ships flying St Vincent and The Grenadines' Flag.

The Facilitation Committee (FAL) of the International Maritime Organization (IMO), at its 40th session approved the Guidelines for the use of electronic certificates (FAL.5/Circ.39/Rev.2) that provides guidance to facilitate the use and acceptance of electronic certificates.

Recognized Organizations issuing statutory certificates to St Vincent and The Grenadines' 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 Circular should be kept on board for consultation by Port State Control, Classification Society surveyors/auditors or any other interested party.