

Digitalisation and Connectivity (e-certificates)

Our Position

IACS supports the use of electronic certificates (E-Certificates).

IACS intends to contribute to development of any practical measures to amend the IMO guidelines for use of electronic certificates.

BACKGROUND

The following benefits are noted when using E-Certificates:

- E-Certificates can be produced and transmitted in very short time, saving time and moneys against the paper certificates;
- E-Certificates may provide authentication of the certificates, thereby reducing the risk of fraudulent paper certificates;
- E-Certificates lighten obviously the administrative burden of all the interested parties against the traditional paper certificates;
- E-Certificates facilitate the port clearance of vessels against the traditional paper certificates, making it possible to examine and verify the validity of certificates and documents before a ship's arrival;
- E-Certificates reduce the risk of detention of vessels in ports if paper certificates were accidentally destroyed due to fire or water or other incident on board.

IACS POSITION

1. IACS supports the use of electronic certificates (E-Certificates);
2. IACS intends to contribute to development of any practical measures to amend the IMO guidelines for use of electronic certificates, including the Procedures for port State control;
3. IACS has agreed that any procedure developed by IACS members should primarily refer to the IMO Circular FAL.5/Circ.39 /Rev.2 and that no additional detailed specification beyond the IMO Circular should be developed;
4. IACS members should individually retain the flexibility in developing their own E-certification system, within the general statutory framework and in accordance with the IMO Circular ;
5. IACS members should not endorse the E-certificates issued by a third Party.
6. IACS will collect the experiences from its members on the using of E-Certificates, and contribute to proposing practical measures to amend the IMO guidelines for use of printed versions of electronic certificates.

Please note if you're reading this paper in hard copy the most recent version is available at www.iacs.org.uk/about/iacs-position-papers/

For more information, contact IACS Permanent Secretariat on +44 (0)20 7976 0660, permsec@iacs.org.uk. This position paper was first published in March 2019.