NAOERO
MARITIME ADMINISTRATION

IMPLEMENTATION OF ELECTRONIC CERTIFICATES FOR VESSELS
(NMA_C46.2023.Rev.2)

DEFINITIONS:

The following abbreviations stand for:
1. "IMO" – International Maritime Organization
2. "ISM" – International Safety Management Code
3. "PSC" – Port State Control
4. "RO" – Recognized Organization authorized by the Administration in accordance with the IMO Code for Recognised Organizations (RO Code), as amended

The following terms shall mean:
1. "Administration" - the Naoero Maritime Administration
2. "Electronic Certificate" – a certificate issued in an electronic format established or approved by the Administration to ensure viewing compatibility for all intended verifiers.
3. "Electronic Signature" – data in electronic form which is attached to, embedded in, or logically associated with other electronic data to serve as a method of authentication of the issuer and the contents of the electronic data.
4. "Unique Tracking Number" – a unique identifier assigned to an Electronic Certificate to distinguish it from other Electronic Certificates issued by, or under the authority of, the Administration.
5. "Verification" – a reliable, secure and continuously available process to confirm the authenticity and validity of an Electronic Certificate using its Unique Tracking Number and other relevant certificate data.

PURPOSE:

This Circular informs all concerned parties of the Guidelines contained in IMO Circular FAL-LEG-MEPC-MSC.1/Circ.1 and sets out the Administration's requirements for the issuance, acceptance, verification, security and shipboard control of electronic certificates.

IMO Circular FAL-LEG-MEPC-MSC.1/Circ.1 revokes and replaces FAL.5/Circ.39/Rev.2 and MSC.1/Circ.1665.

For electronic certificates issued by the Administration to seafarers, please refer to Reference (1) below.

REFERENCE:

1. Naoero Shipping Circular NMA C4 – Implementation of Electronic Certificates for Crew Endorsements
2. IMO Circular FAL-LEG-MEPC-MSC.1/Circ.1 – Joint Guidelines for the Use of Electronic Certificates

APPLICATION:

This Shipping Circular applies to all certificates issued by this Administration, or by ROs duly authorized to issue statutory certificates on behalf of the Administration, for Naoero registered vessels.

CONTENTS:

The implementation of electronic certificates aims to reduce the administrative burden on other Administrations, PSC officers, seafarers etc, caused by the reliance on traditional paper certificates, thereby minimising delays to the operations of Naoero flagged vessels and creating a greener environment.

1. Original hardcopy certificates previously issued by this Administration prior to 01 January 2023 (or in some cases after 01 January 2023) shall remain valid and shall continue to be carried on board until they are replaced by electronic certificates.

2. To verify hardcopy certificates, please email a copy of the certificate to flag@maritimenaoero.com for authentication.

3. All electronic certificates issued by the Administration shall comply with IMO Circular FAL-LEG-MEPC-MSC.1/Circ.1 and may be carried on board in electronic or printed form.

4. The Administration shall ensure that its electronic certificate issuance and verification systems incorporate appropriate measures to protect against unauthorized alteration, fraud and security breaches, and to maintain the availability and integrity of electronic certificate data.

5. The Administration permits duly authorized ROs to issue electronic statutory certificates on its behalf, provided that such certificates comply with IMO Circular FAL-LEG-MEPC-MSC.1/Circ.1 and include appropriate instructions for verifying their authenticity and validity.

6. Shipowners, operators and shipboard personnel shall ensure that electronic certificates are readily accessible on board and are controlled through the Safety Management System in accordance with section 11 of the ISM Code, including appropriate arrangements for retrieval, protection and availability.

7. A copy of this Shipping Circular shall be kept on board to facilitate the acceptance of electronic certificates by other relevant authorities.

8. Methods for verification of Electronic Certificates issued by the Administration:

   8.1 Scanning the Quick Response (QR) Code shall result in a copy of the electronic certificate being displayed on the screen.

   WARNING: Users shall exercise caution when verifying electronic certificates. A QR Code does not, by itself, establish the authenticity of a certificate. For certificates issued by the Administration, users shall ensure that the QR Code directs to the official ***maritimenaoero.com*** domain or an authorized subdomain thereof. Where there is any doubt, confirmation shall be obtained directly from the Administration.

   8.2 For enquiries or verification difficulties, please contact the Administration at flag@maritimenaoero.com.