



## **ABS Electronic Certificates**

Be advised that ABS has made available electronic classification and statutory certificates in accordance with the attached documentation which is in compliance with FAL.5/Circ.39/Rev.2, “Guidelines for the use of electronic certificates,” to vessels so authorized by Flag Administrations.

Certificates are published on the ABS online protected Database so that all relevant parties can access the latest certificates from anywhere in the world. The electronic certificates are secured with a digital signature and a unique tracking number (UTN) which can be checked online through the ABS Validation Portal for the public, assuring their validity and authenticity.

While e-Certificates may be electronically stored locally or printed, these copies of these Certs should only be used for reference purposes. The e-Certificate in its digital form is the Vessel’s valid certificate.

Any questions concerning verification of this authorization may be addressed to the local ABS office.

### **ABS Statement of Compliance with FAL.5/Circ.39/Rev.2**

ABS advises the availability of electronic certificates and other associated documents in accordance with FAL.5/Circ.39/Rev.2, Guidelines for the use of electronic certificates. This provides that ships may be provided with electronic certificates and paper certificates.

ABS confirms compliance with FAL.5/Circ.39/Rev.2 as follows:

1. *Validity and consistency with the format and content required by the relevant international convention or instrument, as applicable*
  - ✓ ABS’ system provides electronic certificates that are completely consistent with the model certificates mandated by the conventions and codes, with the provision of electronic signatures which is the means of authentication of the electronic data by ABS.
2. *Protected from edits, modifications or revisions other than those authorized by the issuer or the Administration*

- ✓ ABS' system protects electronic certificates from unauthorized access, edits and tampering by utilizing the Adobe Approved Trust List (AATL) program. This enables ABS to digitally sign documents utilizing Adobe LiveCycle Server and visual trust verification by Adobe's approved third party trust service provider "Entrust". Visual trust indicators show recipients the sender's identity has been verified by Entrust, a trusted Certificate Authority, and that the document has not been altered during transmission. Real-time assurance verifies the authenticity when the document is initially issued and throughout its lifetime.
3. *A unique tracking number used for verification*
- ✓ ABS' system generates and assigns unique tracking numbers to all electronic certificates. Two verification portals have been established:
    1. a portal for authorized Parties associated with the ship (flag Administration and the ship's registered owners and operators) who will have access to verify the authenticity of the issued electronic certificates.
    2. a portal for the public to validate the on board certificates using the unique tracking number or other certificate information (e.g. IMO Number).
4. *A printable and visible symbol that confirms the source of issuance.*
- ✓ Authorized Parties can download electronic certificates which can then be stored in a computer file (onboard), printed or forwarded via email.
5. *The websites for online viewing or verifying electronic certificates are constructed and managed in accordance with established information security standards for access control, fraud prevention, resistance to cyberattacks, and resilience to manmade and natural disasters.*
- ✓ ABS' system and data center is maintained to follow the latest information security protocols and standards for data transmission, access control, fraud prevention and cyber-attacks. Data encryption protects sensitive data in the central repository with secured data backup, business continuity and disaster recovery processes established off-site.
6. *Electronic signatures applied to electronic certificates should meet authentication standards, as adopted by the Administration.*
- ✓ ABS' electronic certificates are digitally signed with Adobe approved Entrust Document Signing Certificates using the SHA-2 signing algorithm for browser compliance bringing greater security and state of the art authentication standards, as adopted by various Administrations.

Very truly yours,

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