



INFORMATION LETTER TO PORT STATE CONTROL OFFICERS, CLASS INSPECTORS, AUDITORS AND TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN

Electronic ship certificates issued by the Federal Republic of Germany

The Flag State administration of the Federal Republic of Germany issues electronic liability certificates and electronic ship safety certificates. Electronic liability certificates are issued by the Federal Maritime and Hydrographic Agency (*Bundesamt für Seeschifffahrt und Hydrographie, BSH*). Electronic ship safety certificates are issued by the Ship Safety Division (*Dienststelle Schiffssicherheit, BG Verkehr*).

The electronic liability certificates issued by the BSH correspond in content and form to the models provided by the International Conventions on Civil Liability for Oil Pollution Damage, 1992 (1992 Liability Convention), on Civil Liability for Bunker Oil Pollution Damage, 2001 (Bunker Oil Convention), and on the Removal of Wrecks, 2007 (Wreck Removal Convention), as well as the Regulation (EC) No 392/2009 on the liability of carriers of passengers by sea in the event of accidents. The electronic ship safety certificates issued by the BG Verkehr correspond in content and form to the models provided by the International Conventions for the Safety of Life at Sea, 1974 (SOLAS), for the Prevention of Pollution from Ships (MARPOL), on Load Lines (LOAD LINE) and other relevant international conventions. They comply with circular FAL.5/Circ.39/Rev.2 of the International Maritime Organization (Guidelines for the Use of Electronic Certificates).

The electronic ship certificates must at all times be considered as valid in accordance with circular FAL.5/Circ.39/Rev.2, including the applicable German regulations.

Electronic ship certificates issued by the Federal Republic of Germany contain:

- the coat of arms of the Federal Republic of Germany (*Bundesadler*) in the upper left corner and the logo of the German Flag State administration (*Deutsche Flagge*) in the upper right corner;
- a unique tracking identification number (TID) located in the lower left corner on every page of the electronic ship certificate, as well as a URL and a telephone number that can be used for verification;
- a QR-code located in the lower center enabling verification through the website www.deutsche-flagge.de;
- the printed name of the issuing or certifying official of the BSH or the BG Verkehr in the lower right corner.

The electronic ship certificates are protected from alteration or tampering by write protection.

For the purpose of verifying the integrity, validity and authenticity of the certificates, the QR-code or the following website may be used:

<http://www.deutsche-flagge.de/en/certificates-verification/e-certificates>

After accessing the website please enter the TID in the field provided. After pushing the button "Release Certificate" the certificate available on board will be opened as PDF.

Alternatively the verification can be done by contacting the German Flag State administration:

for electronic liability certificates:

Federal Maritime and Hydrographic Agency

Phone: +49 40 3190 7777

(Maritime Hotline 24/7)

for electronic ship safety certificates:

Ship Safety Division

Phone: +49 40 3613 7100

(available 24/7) or

psc-germany@bg-verkehr.de

The certificates are issued electronically and are valid without a written signature or stamp; they may be presented electronically on a screen or as a printed paper copy.

Upon request this letter has to be made available to Port State Control Officers, class inspectors, auditors and to whom it may concern.

Specimens of the electronic ship certificates issued by the Federal Republic of Germany are published in IMO GISIS database under "Surveys and Certification".

Federal Maritime and Hydrographic Agency / Ship Safety Division