



NAURU

MARITIME ADMINISTRATION

IMPLEMENTATION OF ELECTRONIC CERTIFICATES FOR CREW ENDORSEMENTS (NMA_C4.2023.Rev.3)

DEFINITIONS:

The following abbreviations stand for:

1. "COC" – Certificate of Competency in accordance with STCW
2. "COE" – Certificate of Endorsement (issued against an officer's COC / GOC / DCE / SSO)
3. "DCE" – Dangerous Cargo Endorsement (e.g. Advance Oil/Chemical Tanker Certificate)
4. "GOC" – General Operator Certificate (GMDSS)
5. "IMO" – International Maritime Organization
6. "PSC" – Port State Control
7. "SSO" – Ship Security Officer Certificate
8. "STCW" – International Convention on Standards of Training, Certification and Watchkeeping for Seafarers, 1978, as amended

The following terms shall mean:

1. "Administration" - the Nauru 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 Certificate of Endorsement Number" – a string of numbers, letters or symbols used as an identifier to distinguish an electronic certificate issued by, or under the authority of, the Administration from any other electronic certificate 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 the Unique Certificate of Endorsement Number and other data contained in, or embedded in, the electronic certificate.

PURPOSE:

To inform all parties on the Administration's requirements for the issuance, acceptance, carriage and verification of electronic Certificates of Endorsement (COEs) for seafarers serving on Nauru registered vessels, in accordance with IMO Circular FAL-LEG-MEPC-MSC.1/Circ.1.

REFERENCE:

1. Nauru Shipping Circular NMA C1-1 – Minimum Safe Manning on Nauru Vessels
2. Nauru Shipping Circular NMA C1-2 – Minimum Safe Manning for Fishing Vessels
3. Nauru Shipping Circular NMA C46 – Implementation of Electronic Certificates for Vessels
4. Nauru Shipping Procedure NMA P6 – Procedures for Certificates of Endorsement (COE)
5. International Convention on Standards of Training, Certification and Watchkeeping for Seafarers, 1978, as amended
6. IMO Circular FAL-LEG-MEPC-MSC.1/Circ.1 – Joint Guidelines for the Use of Electronic Certificates

APPLICATION:

This Shipping Circular applies to all officers and radio operators issued with COC / DCE / GOC / SSO by other STCW member States serving on board Nauru registered vessels.

CONTENTS:

1. STCW REQUIREMENTS

- 1.1 All officers including radio operators serving on board Nauru ships shall be required to have their COC / DCE / GOC / SSO endorsed by Nauru.
- 1.2 This Administration shall recognise the COC / DCE / GOC / SSO issued by a STCW member State through the issuance of a Nauru COE.
- 1.3 All officers and radio operators shall ensure that their COC / DCE / GOC / SSO and corresponding Nauru COE are readily available on board in their applicable original form, whether paper or electronic, and can be verified when requested.
- 1.4 All officers and radio operators shall, to the best of their ability, ensure that their COC / DCE / GOC / SSO and corresponding COE remain valid for the duration of their intended service on board a Nauru registered vessel.

2. ELECTRONIC COEs

- 2.1. With greater acceptance of electronic certificates and documents worldwide, the Administration has fully implemented the use of electronic COEs. This implies that all COEs issued by the Administration shall be in ELECTRONIC format only.
- 2.2. An authentic and valid electronic COE issued by the Administration shall be considered and treated as an original certificate on board. The electronic COE may also be printed for convenience.
- 2.3. Electronic COEs issued by the Administration contains all features in accordance to IMO Circular FAL-LEG-MEPC-MS.1/Circ.1.
- 2.4. Electronic COEs shall be protected from unauthorized alteration, contain a Unique Certificate of Endorsement Number and other data used for verification, visibly identify the source of issuance, include an electronic signature, and contain the relevant information required by Section A-I/2 of the STCW Code.
- 2.5. The seafarer shall have readily available on board the electronic COE, or at minimum the Unique Certificate of Endorsement Number and other information necessary to access the Administration's verification system,

3. METHODS FOR VERIFICATION OF ELECTRONIC COEs ISSUED BY THE ADMINISTRATION:

- 3.1. Scanning the Quick Response (QR) Code found on the electronic COE which will provide access to the Administration's verification system for confirmation of the authenticity and validity of the COE.

WARNING: Users shall exercise caution when verifying electronic certificates. A QR Code on a certificate does not, by itself, establish the authenticity of the certificate. For certificates issued by the Administration, users shall verify that any website accessed through a QR Code uses the official **naurumaritime.com** domain. Where there is any doubt as to the authenticity of a certificate or verification website, confirmation shall be obtained directly from the Administration.

- 3.2. Should there be queries or trouble with the above, please contact the Administration at seafarer@naurumaritime.com

A copy of this Shipping Circular shall be placed on board all applicable Nauru registered vessels for presentation to the relevant authorities when required.