



CIRCULAR № 08/26

SUBJECT: IMPLEMENTATION OF E-CERTIFICATES SYSTEM

DATE: 21.05.2026

PREPARED BY: TECHNICAL DEPARTMENT
APPROVED BY: EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

TO THE KIND ATTENTION OF: FLAG ADMINISTRATIONS

1. Purpose

The principal aim of this Marine Circular is to present an overview of the newly developed electronic certification system (e-Certificates System) for vessels classified under the Bulgarian Register of Shipping. Furthermore, this document seeks to obtain approval from Flag Administrations for the implementation of the system.

2. Introduction

2.1 The Bulgarian Register of Shipping is pleased to announce that beginning 25 May 2026, electronic certificates—referred to as "e-Certificates"—will be issued to all vessels classified under its authority.

2.2 As part of this transition, all existing paper-based certificates presently onboard vessels will be systematically replaced with e-Certificates, with a transition deadline set for 31 August 2026.

3. Application and Verification

3.1 E-Certificates shall contain the following distinct security and identification features:

- A Quick Response (QR) code
- A unique tracking number referred to as the Bulgarian Register of Shipping Tracking Number (BRSTN)

3.2 As stipulated by the regulations in FAL.5/Circ39/Rev.2, all e-Certificates issued after the effective dates specified in Section 2 can be authenticated via BRS's official website at <https://www.bkrclass.org>. Users can access the "E-Authentication" section or simply scan the QR code embedded in the certificates.



3.3 Certificates that do not feature a QR code but display a registered BRSTN can also be authenticated via the same online verification platform.

4. Security and Protection Measures

BRS's certification system uses advanced security protocols to safeguard e-Certificates. Each certificate is protected with PDF encryption technology, password security, and controlled access permissions, compliant with PDF Reference Version 1.3 and Section 3.5 "Encryption" from the Adobe Supplement, and as required by ISO 32000. Consequently, these certificates fully adhere to the stipulations described in Paragraph 4.1.2 of the relevant FAL Circular.

5. Certificates Issued in Electronic Format

5.1 Class and Statutory certificates will be issued electronically and shall be deemed valid when:

- Displayed on a visual display unit;
- Printed on board by the Master; or
- Presented in original printed form.

5.2 In addition to the aforementioned certificates, the following documents, when issued by this Respected Organisation, shall also be provided in electronic format:

- Safety Management Certificate (SMC);
- International Ship Security Certificate (ISSC);
- Maritime Labor Certificate (MLC).

6. Contact Information

Should you require any clarification or additional information regarding the e-Certificates System, please reach out to BRS's Classification Department using the contact details provided below.

Email: office@bkrclass.org
Website: www.bkrclass.org

Address: South Industrial Zone,
Administrative Building of "Bulport Logistics",
9000 Varna, Bulgaria

BULGARIAN REGISTER OF SHIPPING



БЪЛГАРСКИ КОРАБЕН РЕГИСТЪР



SIGNATURE

DIMITAR NOVAK
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

