



PORTUGUESE MARITIME ADMINISTRATION

- **SUBJECT** | Recognition of certificates by endorsement, under regulation I/10 of the STCW 78 Convention, as amended
- To | National and Foreigners maritime authorities, Foreigner maritime administrations, seafarers representatives and seafarers holding foreigner certificates embarked in Portuguese flagged vessels
- **DISCLAIMER** | This document is for information only and is not intended to interpret or replace the legal referenced documents published by official sources

1. TARGET

This circular it's applicable for the recognition by endorsement, of Certificates of Competency and Tankers Endorsements, issued by the Portuguese Government, its target is to promote the use and acceptance of electronic certification as well as inform all interested parties for the resulting changes.

2. NEW TEMPLATES FOR THE RECOGNITION OF CERTIFICATES BY ENDORSEMENT

The new endorsement template was developed according with the International Maritime Organization (IMO) *Guidelines for the Use of Electronic Certificates*, FAL.5/Circ.39.

The endorsements will exist as e-certificate and as a hardcopy certificate and will contain the following information elements:

- a) Holder's Identification: full name, nationality, date of birth, photo and signature;
- b) Document characteristics: number, Issuing and expiration date and signature of the responsible for the issuing entity;
- c) Holder's Certificate Characteristics: recognized certificate including issuing country
- d) Authenticity Elements: hologram, anti-copy design, rainbow effect imprint done in offset and digital signature;
- e) Security elements and traceability: QRCode e Unique Tracking Number

The application form for the Recognition of Certificates by Endorsement is submitted at the Sea Electronic Desk (Balcão Eletrónico do Mar - BMar), at www.bmar.pt, or it can be accessed through the Online Services (Serviços Online) at DGRM's website, www.dgrm.mm.gov.pt, where all the information regarding the endorsement request requirements can be found.

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The Statement of Receipt of Application and the Endorsement are always issued as an electronic document. Additionally, the Endorsement can be issued as a hardcopy in an card format.

The authenticity of the documents are granted by the security elements, highly difficult to reproduce, as identified in 2.1 e 2.2.

2.1. E-ENDORSEMENT

The electronic document serves as an original and must be kept available in accordance with regulation I/2, paragraph 11 of the STCW 78 Convention, as amended, while its holder is serving on a ship. A printout of the original can be presented to facilitate the validation process. The design and security measures are as shown below.

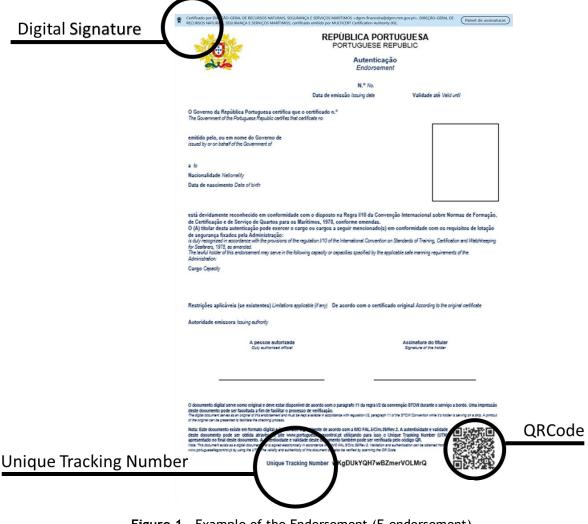


Figure 1 - Example of the Endorsement (E-endorsement)

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2.2. ENDORSEMENT

Additionally, the endorsement hardcopy can be issued with the design and security measures are shown bellow.

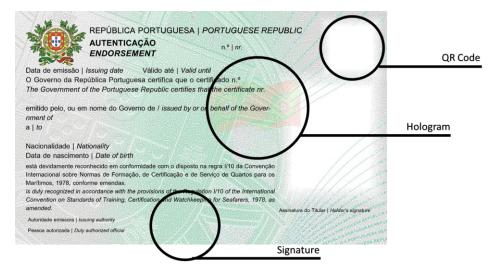


Figure 2 - Example of the Endorsement (Front)

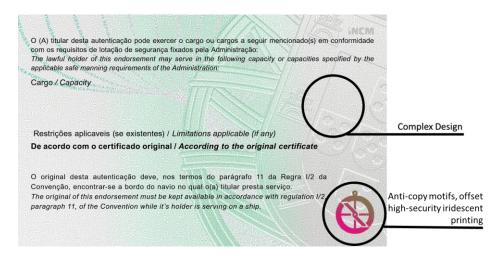


Figure 3 - Example of the Endorsement (Back)

3. TRACEABILITY, VALIDATION, SECURITY AND CONTROL

The documents can be verified on the website www.portugueseflagcontrol.pt, through QRCode Reading or Unique Tracking Number by all users which have this elements.

The digital signed document must be kept available in accordance with regulation 1/2, paragraph 11 of the STCW 78 Convention, as amended, while its holder is serving on a ship.

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4. Information and Other Questions Regarding Exclusively the Recognition of Certificates by Endorsement

The information on the endorsements applications requirements and issuing documents is available online at the DGRM website, as well as the User's Guide download.

For additional information and or clarifications, the following contacts are available:

- E-mail: ajuda.bmar@dgrm.mm.gov.pt
- Phone: +351 213 035 782, working days, from 10h00 until 12h00 and from 14h00 until 16h00

Lisbon, 16 October 2018

The Director - General of Natural Resources, Safety and Maritime Services

For further information please contact:

Direção-Geral de Recursos Naturais, Segurança e Serviços Marítimos

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