



**MARITIME AND PORT AUTHORITY OF SINGAPORE
SHIPPING CIRCULAR
NO. 08 OF 2024**

MPA Shipping Division
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Singapore 119963
<http://www.mpa.gov.sg>

30 August 2024

Applicable to: Holders of International Convention on Standards of Training, Certification and Watchkeeping (STCW) for Seafarers certificates issued by the Maritime and Port Authority of Singapore

IMPLEMENTATION AND ISSUANCE OF STCW ELECTRONIC CERTIFICATES FOR SEAFARERS

1 The International Maritime Organization's Maritime Safety Committee has approved the amendment of the International Convention on Standards of Training, Certification and Watchkeeping for Seafarers ("STCW Convention") to recognise the use of electronic certificates for seafarers, effective 1 January 2025. The Maritime and Port Authority of Singapore ("the Administration") issues various types of seafarers' certificates as prescribed under the Merchant Shipping (Training, Certification and Manning) Regulations, such as Certificate of Competency ("COC"), Certificate of Proficiency ("COP"), and endorsements to meet the STCW Convention requirements. Recognising the benefits of issuing seafarer's certificates electronically which includes enhanced reliability, efficiency, and security in seafarer certification, the Administration has begun the issuance of electronic certificates for seafarers since 1 June 2024.

2 The electronic certificates of seafarers issued by the Administration contain all features that are required by the STCW Code Section A-1/2 and in accordance with the MSC.1/Circ.1665 (Guidelines on the use of electronic certificate of seafarers). The electronic certificates are provided in portable document format ("PDF") protected with the security ribbon on top. In addition, the electronic certificates contain a Quick Response ("QR") Code to facilitate the verification process.

3 Relevant parties seeking to verify the authenticity and validity of the electronic certificates can do so online either by scanning the QR Code provided in each electronic certificate or by entering the unique tracking number at the following online verification system:

- COC, COP and endorsements - <https://digitalport-service.mpa.gov.sg/mc/cert/status>
- Certificate of endorsement attesting recognition (COE) - <https://digitalport-service.mpa.gov.sg/sr-vs>

4 The Annex illustrates the methods for verifying the electronic COC, COP, and endorsements issued by the Administration.

5 Any existing original hardcopy of seafarer's certificates issued by the Administration shall remain valid and be carried on board.

6 Notwithstanding the implementation and issuance of the electronic certificates for seafarers, the owners, managers and masters shall continue to comply with the port entry and clearance requirements specific to each port of call. A copy of this Shipping Circular should be placed on board to facilitate the acceptance of electronic certificates for seafarers by other relevant authorities.

7 Any queries regarding this Circular should be directed to coc@mpa.gov.sg (for COC and COP) or mmo@mpa.gov.sg (for COE of foreign-issued COC).

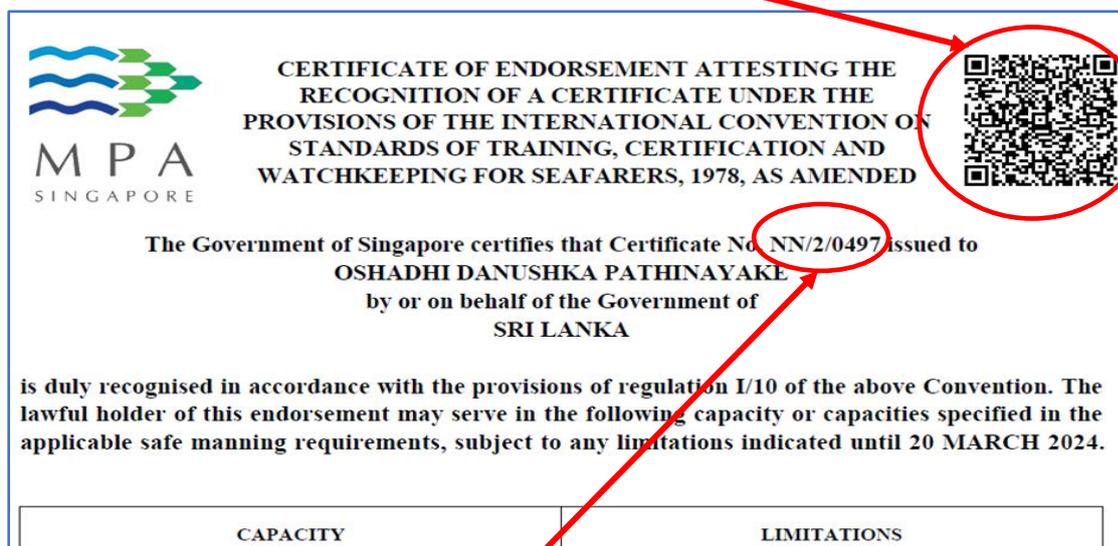
CHEAH AUN AUN
DIRECTOR OF MARINE
MARITIME AND PORT AUTHORITY OF SINGAPORE

Annex

VERIFICATION OF MPA-ISSUED ELECTRONIC CERTIFICATES OF SEAFARERS

When internet connectivity is available

(1) Verification by scanning the QR Code



(2) Verification by entering the Certificate number (unique tracking number) at the Online Verification System at <https://digitalport-service.mpa.gov.sg/mc/cert/status> or <https://digitalport-service.mpa.gov.sg/sr-vs>.

When internet connectivity is not available

(3) Ensure that the digital signature ribbon located on the top of the electronic certificate in digital format is displayed, which indicates the authenticity of the electronic certificate.

