



REPUBLIC OF VANUATU
OFFICE OF THE
MARITIME ADMINISTRATOR

VANUATU INTERNATIONAL SHIPPING REGISTRY

Circular #33

Mandatory Full Migration to Electronic Certificates and Compulsory Disposal of Hardcopy Documents

Date: March 16, 2026

From: Office of the Maritime Administrator, Vanuatu International Shipping Registry

To: All Shipowners, Masters, Managers, Special Agents, Recognized Organizations and Relevant Stakeholders

1. Introduction

Following the implementation of electronic statutory certificates and QR code validation as established in **Circular #26**, the Administration of the Vanuatu International Shipping Registry (VISR) hereby initiates the final phase of full fleet-wide digital integration. This measure is designed to ensure a uniform, secure, and verifiable documentation standard across all Vanuatu-flagged vessels.

2. Mandatory Deadline for Full Electronic Transition

The Administration hereby mandates that **all** Vanuatu-flagged vessels must complete the transition from hardcopy to electronic certification by **August 31, 2026**.

- **Invalidity of Hardcopy Documents:** Effective **September 1, 2026**, any statutory certificate issued by this Administration in hardcopy format shall be considered **null and void**.
- This requirement supersedes the previous provision in Circular #26 which allowed hardcopy certificates to remain valid until their indicated expiry date.

3. Application for Reissuance

To maintain compliance, shipowners and managers must ensure that all current hardcopy certificates are replaced with electronic versions before the deadline.

- Applications for reissuance must be submitted to the Administration at **info@register-vu.com**.
- All reissued certificates will incorporate the mandatory **QR Code** as an integral verification feature to ensure authenticity.

4. Mandatory Disposal and Evidence of Destruction

To eliminate the risk of dual-documentation and fraudulent use, the following procedures are mandatory:

- **Disposal:** Upon receipt of the new electronic certificates, all superseded or expired hardcopy documents must be immediately removed from the vessel's files and disposed of permanently.
- **Proof of Disposal:** The Administration requires confirmation of this action. Masters or Ship Managers must provide evidence of disposal (e.g., a written confirmation or photographic evidence of destruction) to the Administration via email.

5. Port State Control (PSC) and On-Board Documentation

To facilitate smooth inspections and prevent operational delays, the Administration advises the following:

- A copy of this Circular should be maintained on board, either in digital or printed format, to be presented to Port State Control officers if required.
- Electronic certificates are valid documents of the Administration and may be verified at any time by scanning the displayed QR Code.

6. Exceptional Circumstances

The issuance of hardcopy certificates after the August 31, 2026 deadline shall be strictly limited to exceptional circumstances. Any such issuance remains at the sole discretion of the Maritime Administrator and will be subject to rigorous verification requirements.

7. Compliance

All relevant parties are required to take immediate measures to align their documentation practices with this Circular. Full cooperation is expected to maintain the integrity and international credibility of the Vanuatu flag.

For the Maritime Administrator of the Republic of Vanuatu



Saade Makhoul

Maritime Administrator of the Republic of Vanuatu