



> Return address Postbus 20901 2500 EX The Hague

To Whom It May Concern

Date 17 April 2025
Subject Digital Seafarers Certificates issued by the Netherlands

Ministry of Infrastructure and
Water Management
Maritime Affairs, Shipping

The Hague
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The Netherlands

To Whom It May Concern,

From the 15th of April 2025 the Netherlands started phase 2 of a pilot issuing digital Certificates of Competence (CoC) and digital Certificates of Proficiency (CoP) for Tankers to Dutch seafarers. This pilot will run until the end of July 2025. The certificates meet the requirements of the FAL.5/Circ.39 (guidelines for the use of electronic certificates). Additionally, a set of STCW documents (e.g. basic Training, Advanced Fire Fighting, Proficiency in Survival Craft, Medical First Aid, Medical Care Training and Proficiency in Fast Rescue Boats) will be added to the scope. They will be issued by training institutes approved by the Dutch authorities.

These documents were chosen because they are official government-issued certifications, widely recognized as the "license" for seafarers. They serve as proof that the individual has met the required standards necessary for safe and efficient operation onboard a vessel.

The electronic certificates are legally recognized and hold the same value as traditional paper-based documents. They are encrypted and secured with advanced digital signatures, based on the ISO 18013-5 ensuring their authenticity and integrity. The administration has implemented a user-friendly platform that allows for easy application and retrieval of these certificates.

The certificates contain a green background on the top with the logo of the "Inspectie Leefomgeving en Transport". On the details page, a logo of the issuing party (Kiwa) and the Dutch Ministry of Infrastructure and Water Management is included.

The digital Certificate is issued to an app on a smartphone called the "Kiwa eWallet". Enforcement officers can download the same app and check the seafarer's document by scanning QR code presented by the seafarer.

This initiative not only reflects the commitment of the Netherlands to embrace digital transformation but also significantly reduces the environmental impact by minimizing paper usage. It is a testament to the country's dedication to innovation, sustainability, and providing its citizens with the best possible services. This letter is to be kept on board or kept digitally and made available to Port State Control, Class inspectors and auditors.

For any further information or assistance regarding the electronic certificates, please visit the website [Digital Seafarer Certificates issued by The Netherlands | Kiwa Register](#) or do not hesitate to contact nl.elicense-support@kiwa.com or +31 (0)88-9984886 within the administration.

Director Maritime Affairs,

Michiel van Kruiningen



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