



TECHNICAL CIRCULAR No. 549 of 07th April 2019

To:	All Surveyors/Auditors
Applicable to flag:	All Flags
Electronic Information Exchange	
Reference:	IMO, FAL Convention

Electronic Information Exchange Now Mandatory for Ports

A mandatory requirement for national governments to introduce electronic information exchange between ships and ports came into effect from April 8, 2019.

The requirement, mandatory under IMO's Convention on Facilitation of International Maritime Traffic (FAL Convention), is part of a package of amendments under the revised Annex to the FAL Convention, adopted in 2016.

The new FAL Convention requirement for all Public Authorities to establish systems for the electronic exchange of information related to maritime transport marks a significant move in the maritime industry and ports towards a digital maritime world, reducing the administrative burden and increasing the efficiency of maritime trade and transport.

The Facilitation Convention encourages use of a "single window" for data, to enable all the information required by public authorities in connection with the arrival, stay and departure of ships, persons and cargo, to be submitted via a single portal, without duplication.

The requirement for electronic data exchange comes into effect as IMO's Facilitation Committee meets for its 43rd session (April 8-12). Alongside other agenda items, the Committee will continue its ongoing work on harmonization and standardization of electronic messages. Phase one of the review of the IMO Compendium on Facilitation and Electronic business, including the data elements of the FAL Convention is expected to be completed and the revised Guidelines for

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setting up a single window system in maritime transport are set to be approved.

The Committee will also receive an update on a successful IMO maritime single window project, implemented in Antigua and Barbuda, with Norway's support. The source code developed for the system established in Antigua and Barbuda will be made available to other interested Member States.

The FAL Convention was adopted in 1965 and has 121 Contracting Governments.

The Facilitation Convention (Standard 2.1) lists the documents which public authorities can demand of a ship and recommends the maximum information and number of copies which should be required. The IMO has developed Standardized Forms for seven of these documents.

They are the:

IMO General Declaration

Cargo Declaration

Ship's Stores Declaration

Crew's Effects Declaration

Crew List· Passenger List

Dangerous Goods

Five other documents are required, on security, on wastes from ships, on advance electronic cargo information for customs risk assessment purposes, and two additional ones under the Universal Postal Convention and the International Health Regulations.

Under the requirement for electronic data exchange, all national authorities should now have provision for electronic exchange of this information.

REFERENCES:

- IMO's Convention on Facilitation of International Maritime Traffic (FAL Convention),
- ATTACHMENTS: No

Kindest Regards,

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