



Antigua and Barbuda Maritime Administration

SUBJECT: Electronic Record Books and Logbook Systems

REFERENCE:

- a) SOLAS, *International Convention for the Safety of Life at Sea, Consolidated Edition 2020, as amended.*
- b) MARPOL, *International Convention for the Prevention of Pollution from Ships, Consolidated Edition 2017, as amended.*
- c) NOx Technical Code, *Code on Control of Emission of Nitrogen Oxides from Marine Diesel Engines*
- d) [IMO Assembly Resolution A.916\(22\)](#) *Guidelines for the recording of events related to navigation, adopted 22 Jan 2002*
- e) [IMO Assembly Resolution A.1155\(32\)](#) *Procedures for port state control, 2021, adopted on 15 December 2021*
- f) [IMO Resolution MEPC.312\(74\)](#) *Guidelines for the use of Electronic Record Books under MARPOL, adopted 17 May 2019*
- g) [IMO Resolution MEPC.314\(74\)](#) *Amendments to MARPOL Annexes I, II, and V (Electronic Record Books), adopted 17 May 2019*
- h) [IMO Resolution MEPC.316\(74\)](#) *Amendments to MARPOL Annex VI Electronic Books and EEDI regulations for ice-strengthened ships, adopted 17 May 2019*
- i) [IMO Resolution MEPC.317\(74\)](#) *Amendments to the NOx Technical Code 2008 (Electronic Record Books and certification requirements for SCR systems), adopted 17 May 2019*

TO: Ship-owners, operators, masters and officers of Antigua and Barbuda flagged ships, and recognized organisations.

1. PURPOSE

This Circular provides information on the interpretation, expectations, and requirements of the Administration in respect of the use of electronic logbooks and electronic record books (ERBs), in lieu of hard copy books.

2. APPLICATION

This Circular applies to all Antigua and Barbuda flagged Ships. It consolidates and supersedes Information Notice 2018-007 and MARPOL Circular 2020-004.

3. BACKGROUND

IMO adopted amendments to MARPOL and the NOx Technical Code, allowing ERBs to be used instead of hard copy record books - IMO Resolutions MEPC.314(74), MEPC.316(74) and MEPC.317(74).

In the Industry, the need for the digitalization of processes and operations has created further demand for the digitalization of bridge and engine record bookkeeping, to enhance safety and protect the environment.

4. OBLIGATIONS AND RESPONSIBILITIES

1. Electronic logbooks are permitted to be used by this Maritime Administration and even though this Maritime Administration has not approved or developed any format, system, or layout in respect of any mandatory on-board documentation, electronic logbooks must be approved by either a Recognized Organization (RO) acting on behalf of the Administration or carry an approval by another SOLAS contracting Government.
2. ERBs may be used on board to meet the following record book and recording requirements, under the MARPOL Annexes and the NOx Technical Code:
 - 1.Oil Record Book, parts I and II (MARPOL Annex I)
 - 2.Cargo Record Book (MARPOL Annex II)
 - 3.Garbage Record Book, parts I and II (MARPOL Annex V)
 - 4.Ozone-Depleting Substances (ODS) Record Book (MARPOL Annex VI)
 - 5.Recording of the tier and on/off status of marine diesel engines (MARPOL Annex VI)
 - 6.Record of Fuel Oil Changeover (MARPOL Annex VI)
 - 7.Record Book of Engine Parameters (NOx Technical Code)
3. A set of guidelines for the use of ERBs under MARPOL has been developed by the IMO, providing standardized information on approving ERBs. This is to ensure that the obligations of MARPOL are met and that there is a consistent approach to approving such systems. The type of approval process has been delegated to our ROs and may also include on-board installation. The RO will then issue to the ship a Declaration of MARPOL Electronic Record Book.
4. Once switching over to MARPOL ERBs or other electronic logbooks, vessels must continue to preserve their existing, hard copy books for a minimum of three (3) years after the last entry is made, unless otherwise required.
5. Although ERBs have already been introduced under MARPOL, there may still be port States which are reluctant to accept ERBs and other electronic logbooks. Therefore, before going fully digital, the option of replacing the hard copy record book should be carefully considered, based on the vessel's trading area and ports of call.
6. Regardless of the type of logbook used on board a vessel, shipowners and operators must fulfil their obligations in accurately recording the operations of the ships and the actions taken by the ships' command for any type of inspection conducted under International Regulations or by the Flag State.

7. Therefore, the electronic logbooks and MARPOL ERBs must have the capability to produce a hard copy of verified records for the Master to certify as a true copy on request from any relevant authority.
8. The following documentation must be carried on board and be presented on request during a port State control boarding or other authorized vessel inspection:
 - 1.The Declaration of MARPOL Electronic Record Book issued by the RO for any MARPOL Electronic Record Book.
 - 2.For all other Electronic Logbooks, the approval by either a Recognized Organization acting on behalf of the Administration or by another SOLAS contracting Government.
 - 3.If the declaration by 1. and 2. cannot be provided, a hard copy record book must be presented for examination. Reference is made to IMO Assembly Resolution A.1155(32), Procedures for Port State Control, 2021.
 - 4.Evidence that the safekeeping of a MARPOL Electronic Record Book or any other Electronic Logbook is implemented in both the vessel and the company ISM.

Issued by

Antigua and Barbuda
Department of Marine Services and Merchant Shipping
(ADOMS) St. John's