



Kiribati Ship Registry

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MARINE CIRCULAR 1/ 2026

01 January 2026

FOR : Ship Owners, Ship Managers, Ship Operators, Ship Masters, Ship Officers, and Ratings

SUBJECT : ELECTRONIC CERTIFICATES AND UPDATED PSSR UNDER NEW STCW AMENDMENTS

REFERENCES :

- (a) IMO Resolution MSC.540(107), Amendments to the STCW Convention (electronic certification)
- (b) IMO Resolution MSC.541(107), Amendments to the STCW Code, Section A-I/2 (minimum data for electronic certification)
- (c) IMO Resolution MSC.560(108), Amendments to the STCW Code, Table A-VI/1-4 (personal safety and social responsibilities – prevention and response to violence and harassment, including sexual harassment, bullying and sexual assault)

DEFINITIONS :

The following abbreviations stand for:

- “CoC/CoP” – Certificate of Competency / Certificate of Proficiency.
- “PSSR” – Personal Safety and Social Responsibilities
- “RO” – Recognized Organization as defined by MSC.349(92) / MEPC.237(65)

The following terms shall mean:

- “Administration” – the Kiribati Ship Registry.
- “STCW” – the International Convention on Standards of Training, Certification and Watchkeeping for Seafarers, 1978, as amended.
- “STCW Code” – the Seafarers’ Training, Certification and Watchkeeping Code, as amended.
- “Basic Training (BT)” – the mandatory training in personal survival techniques, fire prevention and fire-fighting, elementary first aid, and personal safety and social responsibilities (PSSR) as per STCW Code Table A-VI/1
- “New entrants” – The seafarer who is attending the BT for the first time after 01 January 2026.
- “Existing seafarers” – The seafarer who attended the BT before 01 January 2026.
- “Certificate Verification Index” – A system that records and logs all verification attempts, even if online verification fails (e.g., poor internet access)

APPLICATION:

1. This Circular applies to:
 - 1.1. All Kiribati-flagged ships;
 - 1.2. All ROs acting on behalf of the Administration for STCW-related functions;
 - 1.3. Seafarers serving, or intending to serve, on Kiribati-flagged ships.
2. The provisions relating to “Electronic Certificates” in Section 1 of CONTENTS are applicable and effective from 01 January 2025.
3. The provisions relating to “Updated PSSR Competence” in Section 2 of CONTENTS are applicable from 01 January 2026 but not later than 31 December 2026.

PURPOSE :

This Circular informs all concerned of:

- (a) Acceptance of electronic STCW certificates and endorsements; and
- (b) Implementation of the revised PSSR competence, including prevention and response to violence and harassment.

CONTENTS :

1. Electronic Certificates (Effective from 1 January 2025):

- 1.1. Kiribati accepts original CoCs, CoPs and endorsements in electronic form, provided that they can be verified via a secure website, QR code or similar system (i.e., email, etc)
- 1.2. Ships should:
 - 1.2.1. Keep electronic certificates readily accessible on board (e.g., in a dedicated folder or system); and
 - 1.2.2. Maintain a simple Certificate Verification List for each seafarer stating name, type of certificate, number, issuing Administration, issue/expiry date and verification link/QR.
- 1.3. Paper originals remain acceptable where electronic certificates are not available.

2. Updated PSSR Competence (Effective from 1 January 2026)

- 2.1. The revised PSSR table adds specific knowledge and skills for preventing and responding to violence and harassment, including sexual harassment, bullying and sexual assault.
- 2.2. Applicability
 - 2.2.1. **New entrants** to basic training completed on or after 1 January 2026 must be trained and assessed to the updated table so far as practicable.
 - 2.2.2. **Existing seafarers** who hold valid Basic Training (BT) are deemed compliant; the Administration, however, **recommends** targeted familiarization or gap-training addressing the new elements, to be completed by the next BT revalidation or by **31 December 2026**.
 - 2.2.3. **All seafarers shall hold a BT certificate compliant with the new PSSR training requirements by 31 December 2026.**
- 2.3. Company/Shipboard measures shall:
 - 2.3.1. Integrate zero-tolerance policies and reporting into the Ship's SMS and Shipboard Familiarization.
 - 2.3.2. Ensure Master conducts onboard training of PSSR for the existing seafarers and record it for the PSC or FSI inspection.
 - 2.3.3. Provide access to confidential reporting channels and post contact information (company DPA, HR and relevant helplines) in crew common areas.

3. RO and PSC/FSI Guidance

- 3.1. ROs shall align endorsement/recognition procedures and audit checklists to accept electronic originals and to verify the presence of the Certificate Verification Index onboard.
- 3.2. Flag State Inspectors should verify:
 - 3.2.1. accessibility and verifiability of electronic certificates;
 - 3.2.2. evidence that training providers used by the company are updating BT/PSSR materials;
 - 3.2.3. SMS integration of anti-violence/harassment measures

4. Documentation Onboard

4.1. Ships shall retain the following, in hard copy or electronic form:

- 4.1.1. This marine circular;
- 4.1.2. Certificate Verification Index;
- 4.1.3. Evidence of crew briefing/familiarization on the updated PSSR elements (e.g., safety meeting minutes, training log entries);
- 4.1.4. If applicable, the training provider's letter or course completion record indicating the updated PSSR coverage.

Yours sincerely,

Deputy Registrar
Kiribati Ship Registry