New certificate verification

RCS Circular 01/2026

Date of effect	23 November 2026
To	Ship owners and managers, masters, flag Administrations, port State control officers, ports, insurers and all parties who check RCS certificates
Subject	New QR code and online verification for RCS certificates

Notice

From **23 November 2026**, every certificate issued by Royal Classification Society (RCS) carries a new QR code, a certificate number and a security code. These certificates are verified at **https://verify.rcsclass.org**, the only official place to check them.

The change applies to class and statutory certificates, endorsements and plan approvals issued on or after that date. It follows IMO FAL.5/Circ.39/Rev.2 on electronic certificates.

How to verify a certificate

1. Scan the QR code on the certificate with a phone. The result opens directly.
2. Or open https://verify.rcsclass.org and enter the certificate number and the security code printed next to the QR code.
3. The page shows the ship, the certificate and its status: valid, expired, suspended, withdrawn or cancelled.
4. If the result differs from the paper you hold, do not rely on the certificate and contact RCS.

Certificates issued before 23 November 2026

- They **remain valid** until their expiry date or until RCS reissues them.
- They are verified as before, by their own QR code at https://thercsclass.org.
- When a ship's next certificate, renewal or endorsement is issued, it carries the new QR code. No action is needed from owners in the meantime.

Contact

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Revision record

Rev	Date	Change	Reason
0	17 Nov 2026	First issue	New certificate register and verification from 23 Nov 2026