

# Isle of Man Ship Registry Technical Advisory Notice



## Digitally Signed SEAs

Ref. 009-18  
Issued 25 Sep 2018

The Maritime Labour Convention 2006 requires that all Shipowners and Seafarers hold an originally signed copy of their SEAs. The Isle of Man Ship Registry wishes to advise that certain digital signatures will now be accepted as equivalent to an originally signed SEA.

In order to be accepted as equivalent, the software used to generate the digitally signed document must produce an electronic certificate to show that the SEA has not been tampered with after it has been signed and must be in accordance with at least one of the following standards:

- X.509 PKI (Digital Certificate and Signature Technology)
- RFC 5280 – PKIX
- ISO 32000-1
- PAdES B-B
- ETSI EN 319 142
- FDA 21 CFR Part 11
- Other Equivalent Standard

It is the responsibility of the shipowner to ensure that evidence is available on board that the software used to produce the digitally signed SEA is compliant with one of the above standards.

For the avoidance of doubt, a simple scanned copy of a written signature is not an acceptable equivalence.

*Please note - The Isle of Man Ship Registry cannot give legal advice. Where this document provides guidance on the law it should not be regarded as definitive. The way the law applies to any particular case can vary according to circumstances - for example, from vessel to vessel. You should consider seeking independent legal advice if you are unsure of your own legal position.*

