

# Isle of Man Ship Registry Technical Advisory Notice



## Electronic Official Log Books – Standards and Approval Process

Ref. TAN 002-25  
Issued: 5<sup>th</sup> March '25

### **1. Introduction**

This notice sets out the Isle of Man Ship Registry's requirements for the Isle of Man Official Log Books to be accepted for use in an electronic format. Further information on the Official Log Book, including which vessels are required to maintain them, can be found in MSN 004.

In all cases, the use of an Electronic system remains optional and operators may continue to use paper-based systems should they wish. Paper log books will continue to be sold by the Ship Registry in the normal fashion, and there are no plans to withdraw this service.

### **2. Application**

This notice applies to the following documents, where an operator chooses to maintain them in an electronic format:

- Official Log Book
- Official Log Book (Passenger Ships)

Whilst the List of Crew may be maintained in an electronic format, it is not required to meet the standards in this notice.

### **3. Technical Standards**

In order to be accepted for use onboard Isle of Man ships, the generic electronic log book system must be approved by an Isle of Man RO (see [MSN 020](#)) against one of the following standards:

- ISO 21745:2019 – Electronic Record Books for Ships – Technical Specification and Operational Requirements; or
- MEPC.312(74) – Guidelines for the Use of Electronic Record Books under MARPOL

For the avoidance of doubt, this notice permits MEPC.312(74) to be applied to the log books stated in Section 2 of this notice and is not limited to record books required under MARPOL despite this being the stated application within the resolution.

In addition to the above, it will be necessary for the ship's associated hardware to comply with the following standards:

- A.813(19) – Electromagnetic Compatibility for Electrical and Electronic Ship's Equipment (as amended)
- The relevant aspects of MSC/Circular.982 – Guidelines on Ergonomic Criteria for Bridge Equipment and Layout (as amended) which may include Sections 5.5, 5.5.1, 5.5.2, 5.5.3, 5.5.4, 5.5.5, 5.6, 5.6.1, 5.6.2, 5.6.3, 5.6.4 and 5.6.5

The specific log book must, in addition, contain all the data required by the relevant Regulations. These requirements can be found as follows:



<b>Record Book</b>	<b>Content</b>
Official Log Book	MSN 004 – Chapter 2
Official Log Book (Passenger Ships)	MSN 004 – Chapter 3

In the event of updates to the above requirements, ISO 21745:2019 requires that an update to the Electronic Record Book shall be completed prior to the entry into force of the relevant amendment, and that no data shall be lost as a result of the update. IOMSR will check that the latest requirements have been applied at approval/re-approval.

#### ISO 21745:2019 – Flag State Interpretations

ISO 21745:2019 requires that the output contents of the Electronic Record Book be mandated by the Flag State. For Isle of Man registered-vessels, this shall include as a minimum the ability to output the data in PDF format and for these to be printed as hard copies. PDF print outs must be signed by the Master and certified as true copies.

Where log book records are duplicated in both electronic and paper log books, whether as a result of a temporary failure of the electronic system or otherwise, the paper log book shall take precedence as the definitive record. Where there is a failure of the electronic system, paper entries should be duplicated into the system once available in order to maintain a continuous record.

#### MEPC.312(74) – Flag State Interpretations

Please see [TAN 008-20](#) Sections 3 and 4 for Flag State Interpretations relating to electronic signatures, storage of data and offline records.

### **4. Approval Procedure**

The Isle of Man Ship Registry maintains a list of products which are approved to be used as an electronic alternative to the paper documents listed in the Appendix to MSN 004. An approval will be valid for a period of up to 5 years, after which time the system will be required to be re-approved by the Ship Registry under the procedure in 4.1.2 below. The fee charged for approval by the Ship Registry will be as stated in the current Merchant Shipping (Fees) Regulations.

In order to receive an approval, a system must undergo a two-stage approval process; consisting of a generic approval by an Isle of Man recognised RO, followed by Ship Registry approval that the content is as required by MSN 004.

#### 4.1.1 – Generic System Approval

The system must be approved by an Isle of Man Recognised Organisation against one of the standards stated in Section 3 of this notice, and issued with an approval document to confirm this.

#### 4.1.2 Ship Registry Approval

Once the system has a generic system approval, the manufacturer may apply to the Ship Registry to approve the system for use on Isle of Man registered ships by contacting [marine.survey@gov.im](mailto:marine.survey@gov.im). The system must satisfactorily demonstrate that it meets the requirements stated in MSN 004 as applicable for each document type. Additionally, the Ship Registry may review the system against any of the requirements of this notice, should it be deemed necessary.

The review may take the form of either a demonstration of the system and associated procedures by the manufacturer (which may be performed remotely), by granting the Ship Registry access to a test version of the system, or by a combination of both. The most



appropriate method of doing so shall be determined by the Ship Registry, in consultation with the manufacturer.

#### **4.2 – Installation on Board**

Once the generic system has been confirmed as meeting the standards in section 4.1.1 and 4.1.2 above, the Electronic Record Book and associated hardware can be installed onboard the vessel.

It is expected that the log book manufacturer will have procedures in place to confirm that the system has been correctly installed onboard the vessel, and that the crew are familiarised with the system. This will be confirmed during the approval process referred to in 4.1.

#### **5. Additional Considerations**

In addition to Sections 3 and 4, any operator wishing to use an Electronic Log Book shall ensure that the following requirements are complied with, prior to commencing use of the Electronic Record Book:

- Arrangements for using the Electronic Log Book should be effectively implemented under a documented system, which may be incorporated into the Safety Management System (if applicable) – this may include procedures for software updates, log in/log out discipline, training needs and user roles).
- Procedures are in place for relevant seafarers to be familiarised with the Electronic Log Book system in accordance with STCW Chapter I, Regulation 14 prior to using the system.
- The Electronic Log Book Data must be available upon request to any officer of the flag state Administration, Port State Control or any other duly authorised officer, noting that some PSC officers may request a printed PDF duly endorsed by the Master.
- Where installed on vessel required to hold a Voyage Data Recorder (VDR) meeting the standards in MSC.333(90), the electronic log book should have the capability to record data onto the VDR.

#### **6. System Failure/Malfunction**

In case of the failure of the Electronic Log Book System, and fall-back arrangements are insufficient (such as offline mode or, free text entries) and it is apparent that the electronic record book system will not recover within 24hrs, the Ship Registry shall be informed immediately and the operator shall prepare a rectification plan which may include reverting to a paper log book for the duration of the system failure.

*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.*

