



Radiocommunication Bureau (BR)

Circular Letter
CM/29

08 January 2025

To the Administrations of ITU Member States

Subject: **Enhanced digital access to ITU Maritime Service Publications**

The ITU Maritime Service Publications are issued in accordance with Article **20** of the Radio Regulations and comprise of the following publications:

- List of Coast Stations and Special Service Stations (List IV);
- List of Ship Stations and Maritime Mobile Service Identity Assignments (List V); and
- Manual for Use by the Maritime Mobile and Maritime Mobile-Satellite Services (Maritime Manual).

Since 2001, these publications have been distributed to users in CD-ROM and paper formats.

The purpose of this Circular Letter is to announce that all Maritime Service Publications will be available in a new digital format. This format enables users to download the publications from a dedicated web page to their PCs and access the content through a newly developed desktop application. The desktop application offers enhanced search capabilities and a user-friendly interface. These updates have already been implemented for the Maritime Manual 2024 edition and will be extended to all maritime publications from 2025 onwards.

To ensure accessibility for all users, the enhanced Maritime Service Publications will also be available on USB and CD-ROM. However, the downloadable format will become the primary distribution method. The Maritime Manual will continue to be distributed in paper format, in addition to the other formats. Information on how to obtain ITU maritime service publications, and a short description of the formats can be found at: <https://www.itu.int/sales/digital-publications/formats>.

The Radiocommunication Bureau has also improved the means of authenticating the Maritime Service Publication onboard ships to ensure the compliance with the requirements for ships to carry these publications, as specified in Appendix **16** to the Radio Regulations.

To this end, an updated QR-code scan feature has been implemented, facilitating the verification and authentication of the Maritime Service Publications during the inspection of ship stations carried out on behalf of Administrations. A mobile application to assist ship inspectors to verify these publications onboard ships is planned for release in 2025.

Your Administration is kindly invited to bring the information contained in this Circular Letter to the attention of the respective maritime authorities of your country.

The Radiocommunication Bureau remains at the disposal of your Administration, as well as users and subscribers to the ITU Maritime Service Publications via brmail@itu.int, for any further information and clarifications that may be needed in respect to the subjects covered in this Circular Letter.

Mario Maniewicz
Director

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