

# Abstract

Electronic logbooks have been introduced by several flag states on board. Each flag state has to approve their use in its legislation. For MARPOL electronic logbooks, specific legislation is established by MARPOL. For non-MARPOL electronic logbooks, no specific format has been established by an international organisation and the flag states themselves have to determine how it should be formulated in their legislation.

In Belgium, the use of MARPOL electronic logbooks is already approved and described in the Belgian Maritime Inspectorate (BMI) circular 2022/003. For non-MARPOL electronic logbooks, a BMI circular must be drawn up. This requires more research because there is no international legislation that defines what a non-MARPOL logbook should comply with.

After contacting a jurist from Shipping control in Belgium, it turned out that drafting a suggestion for Belgian legislation on the use of non-MARPOL electronic logbooks is of added value. An overview was made of the legislation of various international organisations on what should be kept in a logbook. After we looked at which flag states approves electronic logbooks and how this is formulated in their legislation. Finally, based on this, a suggestion is written to put the use of non-MARPOL electronic logbooks into a legal framework.