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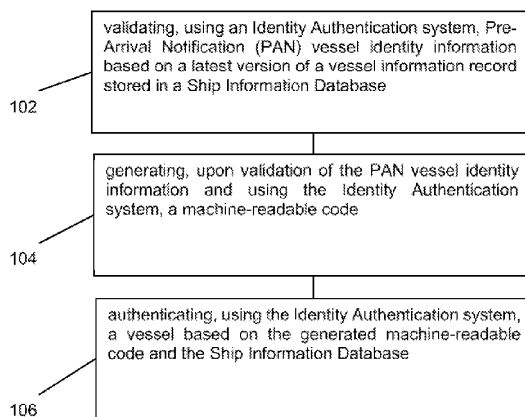


Figure 1

(57) **Abstract:** An authentication method and system for maritime operations are provided. The method includes validating, using an Identity Authentication system, Pre-Arrival Notification (PAN) vessel identity information based on a latest version of a vessel information record stored in a Ship Information Database, wherein: the vessel information record comprises validated vessel identity information; and the vessel identity information is validated based on government and/or regulatory boards databases; generating, upon validation of the PAN vessel identity information and using the Identity Authentication system, a machine-readable code, wherein: the machine-readable code embeds the latest version of the vessel information record and an authentication code; the embedded latest version of the vessel information record and authentication code are valid for a pre-determined period of time; and the authentication code comprises a random salt; and authenticating, using the Identity Authentication system, a vessel based on the generated machine-readable code and the Ship Information Database.