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# Introduction to Digital Signatures

## Strengthening the trust in your test reports

In the business world today, digital signatures are widely used in sensitive electronic documents to enable recipients to establish the trusted source of the documents in a convenient way. To further value-add, we have integrated digital signatures into your test reports to add an additional layer of trust for your business.

With this improved feature, you will be able to:

1. Verify the authenticity of the documents online in just a few clicks.
2. Reduce the hassle of verifying and filing hard-copy documents with wet ink signature.

3. Trust the document integrity of each test report and be assured that it has not been subject to tampering. Any unauthorized modifications (e.g. forgery, falsification of data) will invalidate the authenticity of the document.

At TÜV Rheinland, we work tirelessly to deliver efficiency in our service delivery to safeguard your organization's innovation. We strongly believe this initiative to modernize the last step of test report processing will add certainty to our test reports. With that, you can focus on growing your business and not worry about the credibility and validity of the reports.

To ease your transition to the new process, we have prepared some frequently asked questions for your reference.

## WHAT IS A DIGITAL SIGNATURE?

Digital signatures are electronic and encrypted information in a file. They serve to prove the authenticity and integrity of any document issued by TÜV Rheinland. Further, it assures you that the document is unchanged and corresponds to the original version created by TÜV Rheinland.

## HOW WILL THESE CHANGES AFFECT YOU?

In future, test reports sent digitally by TÜV Rheinland will contain a digital signature. The content and scope of the documents remain unchanged.

## HOW CAN YOU VERIFY THE AUTHENTICITY OF DIGITAL SIGNATURES?

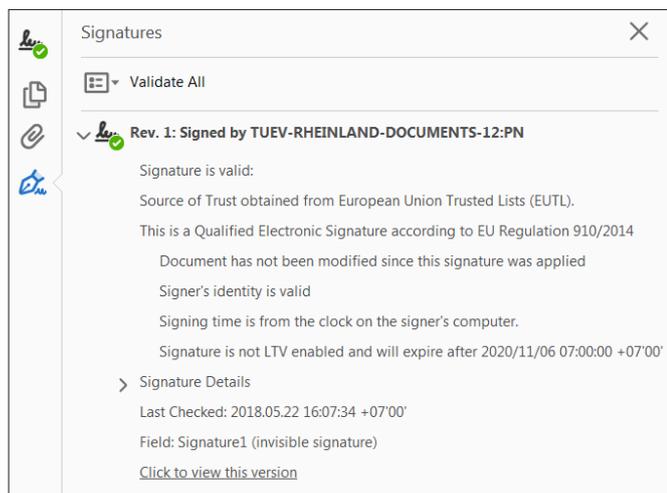
The easiest way to verify the authenticity is by leveraging on PDF readers' signature verification function.

### Example

In Adobe Acrobat Reader DC, you may verify a digitally signed PDF by viewing the toolbar on the top of the document. A valid Trust-Center certificate is indicated as "Signed and all signatures are valid".



To view the properties of the Trust-Centre certification in your test report, click on "Signature Panel," followed by 



Screenshot from Adobe Reader DC

## HOW TO TROUBLESHOOT THE ERROR MESSAGE "AT LEAST ONE SIGNATURE IS INVALID"?

If this error appears in the Trust-Center certificate section, it does not necessarily mean that the document from TÜV Rheinland is invalid overall. First, please check the scope of the remaining validity as mentioned in Method 1 above and determine whether this is sufficient for your purposes.

In most cases, this error message arises from:

- i. Usage of an older and/or trial version of PDF reader software for verification.
- ii. Existing firewall rules in your network.

## VERIFICATION OF THE AUTHENTICITY OF DIGITAL SIGNATURES

Within certain accreditation and regulatory schemes, it is the responsibility of the customer to verify authenticity of the test report and document the result. With the incorporation of digital signatures into the test reports, the verification process will become much simpler for you.

We hope to have answered your most important questions. Please do not hesitate to contact us if you have any further questions. We truly believe that your business will benefit greatly with the significant reduction in turnaround time for reports so that you can focus on growing your core business.

Do not hesitate to contact your local TÜV Rheinland if you need further clarifications.

TÜV Rheinland  
Corporate Headquarter  
Cologne, Germany  
Tel. +49 221 806 0

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