Digital Seal

Q&A

Here at BSI, we are focused on solving our client's biggest challenges by providing new methods and technology that promote deeper trust, sustainability and security. **To enhance the security of your certificates with the latest innovation, we will start applying a piece of electronic data known as a 'digital seal' to our MDR/IVDR and UKCA certificates from Q4 2024.**

What does this innovation mean for my organization?

- Certificates with **digital seals cannot be edited or copied**, and the validity of the seal can be verified hence **reducing the instances of falsification/tampering** of the certificates issued to you.

- This may bring additional benefits to you in **faster registration** of your products: a certificate issued with **a digital seal may replace the need for the certificate to be notarised** in some jurisdictions.

- We may also be able to help towards your **sustainability** goals by reducing the need for shipping associated with the notarisation of certificates.

Are there any additional costs associated with the application of a digital seal to BSI certificates?

No. BSI will not charge any additional fees for the application of a digital seal to your certificates, and you don't need to do anything special or require special software to open a certificate with a digital seal.
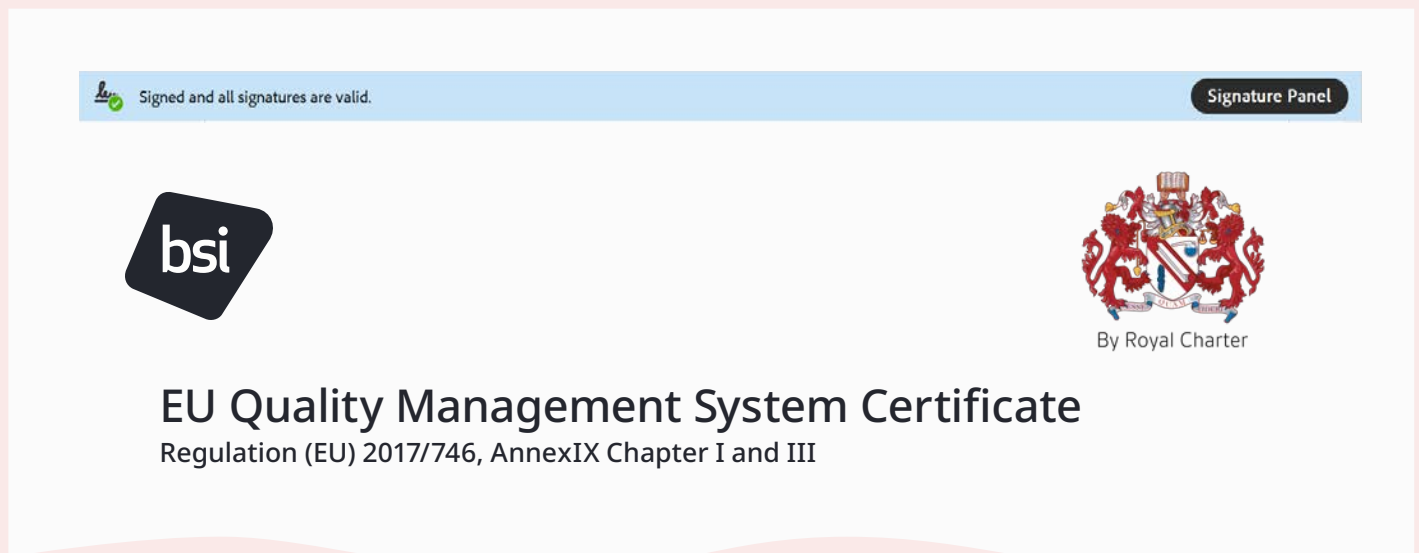

What is a digital seal?

A digital seal is a piece of electronic data which, when applied to a document, verifies the document's data origin and integrity in accordance with the EU regulation eIDAS (electronic Identification, Authentication, and Trust Services). It also carries a digital fingerprint which can be used to verify the authenticity of the document to which it is applied. The application of a digital seal enhances the security of a document by making it tamper resistant. A certificate issued with a digital seal may replace the need for the certificate to be notarised in some jurisdictions.

What is "eIDAS"?

eIDAS (electronic IDentification, Authentication and trust Services) is an EU regulation on electronic identification and trust services for electronic transactions in the European Single Market. It was established in EU Regulation (EU) 910/2014 of 23 July 2014 (**europa.eu**). It refers to a range of services that include verifying the identity of individuals and businesses online and verifying the authenticity of electronic documents. Although it is an EU based legislation, digital seals based on eIDAS are accepted in many other jurisdictions worldwide.

What does a digitally sealed certificate look like?

EU Quality Management System Certificate
Regulation (EU) 2017/746, AnnexIX Chapter I and III

How do I confirm the validity and/or authenticity of a digital seal?

To confirm the validity and/or authenticity of a digital seal:

1 Save the digitally sealed BSI certificate locally.

2 Visit the European Commission hosted **website**.

3 Click on "Validate a signature" from the sidebar menu.

4 Under "Signed file", click on "Choose File."

5 Select the saved file (i.e. the digitally sealed BSI certificate to be validated).

6 Click on Submit.

A validation report will be returned detailing the validation results. A valid digital seal will return **"Signatures status: 1 valid signature, out of 1"**

Why are the dates shown on the digital seal different to the dates shown on my BSI certificate?

BSI, in partnership with their Qualified Trust Service Provider (QTSP), possesses a renewable 5-year certificate (a licence) for digital seal application. Within the information panel of the digital seal is additional date information relating to this licence. Please note that these **"validity start"** and **"validity end"** dates are related to the digital seal itself. They are not related to and do not affect the certificate validity dates specified on the actual certificate.

What happens to MDR/IVDR/UKCA certificates already issued without the digital seal applied prior to September 2024?

Those certificates will continue to remain valid. Digital seals will be applied to those certificates when they are next re-issued or renewed (whichever comes first).

Are digital seals being applied to other certificate types such as ISO 13485 or MDSAP?

No. At this stage, digital seals are only being applied to MDR/IVDR and UKCA certificates. Other certificate types may be considered in the future for the application of digital seals.

Your partner
in progress

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