



**Electronic Signatures and Infrastructures (ESI);  
PAdES digital signatures;  
Part 1: Building blocks and PAdES baseline signatures**

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Reference

DEN/ESI-0019142-1

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## Keywords

electronic signature, PAdES, profile, security

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## Foreword

This European Standard (EN) has been produced by ETSI Technical Committee Electronic Signatures and Infrastructures (ESI).

The present document is part 1 of a multi-part deliverable covering the PDF digital signatures (PAdES), as identified below:

**Part 1: "Building blocks and PAdES baseline signatures";**

Part 2: "Additional PAdES signatures profiles".

National transposition dates	
Date of adoption of this EN:	1 April 2016
Date of latest announcement of this EN (doa):	31 July 2016
Date of latest publication of new National Standard or endorsement of this EN (dop/e):	31 January 2017
Date of withdrawal of any conflicting National Standard (dow):	31 January 2017

## Modal verbs terminology

In the present document **"shall"**, **"shall not"**, **"should"**, **"should not"**, **"may"**, **"need not"**, **"will"**, **"will not"**, **"can"** and **"cannot"** are to be interpreted as described in clause 3.2 of the [ETSI Drafting Rules](#) (Verbal forms for the expression of provisions).

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## Introduction

Electronic commerce has emerged as a frequent way of doing business between companies across local, wide area and global networks. Trust in this way of doing business is essential for the success and continued development of electronic commerce. It is therefore important that companies using this electronic means of doing business have suitable security controls and mechanisms in place to protect their transactions and to ensure trust and confidence with their business partners. In this respect digital signatures are an important security component that can be used to protect information and provide trust in electronic business.

The present document is intended to cover digital signatures supported by PKI and public key certificates, and aims to meet the general requirements of the international community to provide trust and confidence in electronic transactions, including, amongst other, applicable requirements from Regulation (EU) No 910/2014 [i.2].

The present document can be used for any transaction between an individual and a company, between two companies, between an individual and a governmental body, etc. The present document is independent of any environment. It can be applied to any environment e.g. smart cards, SIM cards, special programs for electronic signatures, etc.

The present document is part of a rationalized framework of standards (see ETSI TR 119 000 [i.3]).

ETSI TR 119 100 [i.4] provides guidance on how to use the present document within the aforementioned framework.

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# 1 Scope

The present document specifies PAdES digital signatures. PAdES signatures build on PDF signatures specified in ISO 32000-1 [1] with an alternative signature encoding to support digital signature formats equivalent to the signature format CAdES as specified in ETSI EN 319 122-1 [2], by incorporation of signed and unsigned attributes, which fulfil certain common requirements (such as the long term validity of digital signatures) in a number of use cases.

The present document specifies formats for PAdES baseline signatures, which provide the basic features necessary for a wide range of business and governmental use cases for electronic procedures and communications to be applicable to a wide range of communities when there is a clear need for interoperability of digital signatures used in electronic documents.

The present document defines four levels of PAdES baseline signatures addressing incremental requirements to maintain the validity of the signatures over the long term, in a way that a certain level always addresses all the requirements addressed at levels that are below it. Each level requires the presence of certain PAdES attributes, suitably profiled for reducing the optionality as much as possible.

Procedures for creation, augmentation, and validation of PAdES digital signatures are out of scope and specified in ETSI EN 319 102-1 [i.5]. Guidance on creation, augmentation and validation of PAdES digital signatures including the usage of the different attributes defined in the present document is provided in ETSI TR 119 100 [i.4]. The present document aims at supporting electronic signatures in different regulatory frameworks.

NOTE: Specifically but not exclusively, PAdES digital signatures specified in the present document aim at supporting electronic signatures, advanced electronic signatures, qualified electronic signatures, electronic seals, advanced electronic seals, and qualified electronic seals as per Regulation (EU) No 910/2014 [i.2].

## 2 References

### 2.1 Normative references

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Referenced documents which are not found to be publicly available in the expected location might be found at <http://docbox.etsi.org/Reference>.

NOTE: While any hyperlinks included in this clause were valid at the time of publication, ETSI cannot guarantee their long term validity.

The following referenced documents are necessary for the application of the present document.

- [1] ISO 32000-1: "Document management - Portable document format - Part 1: PDF 1.7".

NOTE: Available at [http://www.adobe.com/devnet/acrobat/pdfs/PDF32000\\_2008.pdf](http://www.adobe.com/devnet/acrobat/pdfs/PDF32000_2008.pdf).

- [2] ETSI EN 319 122-1: "Electronic Signatures and Infrastructures (ESI); CAdES digital signatures; Part 1: Building blocks and CAdES baseline signatures".
- [3] IETF RFC 5652 (2009): "Cryptographic Message Syntax (CMS)".
- [4] IETF RFC 5280 (2008): "Internet X.509 Public Key Infrastructure Certificate and Certificate Revocation List (CRL) Profile".
- [5] IETF RFC 6960 (2013): "X.509 Internet Public Key Infrastructure Online Certificate Status Protocol - OCSP".
- [6] IETF RFC 3161 (2001): "Internet X.509 Public Key Infrastructure Time-Stamp Protocol (TSP)".
- [7] W3C Recommendation (May 2008): "Canonical XML Version 1.1".
- [8] IETF RFC 5816 (2010): "ESSCertIDv2 Update for RFC 3161".

## 2.2 Informative references

References are either specific (identified by date of publication and/or edition number or version number) or non-specific. For specific references, only the cited version applies. For non-specific references, the latest version of the referenced document (including any amendments) applies.

NOTE: While any hyperlinks included in this clause were valid at the time of publication, ETSI cannot guarantee their long term validity.

The following referenced documents are not necessary for the application of the present document but they assist the user with regard to a particular subject area.

- [i.1] ETSI TS 101 533-1: "Electronic Signatures and Infrastructures (ESI); Data Preservation Systems Security; Part 1: Requirements for Implementation and Management".
- [i.2] Regulation (EU) No 910/2014 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 23 July 2014 on electronic identification and trust services for electronic transactions in the internal market and repealing Directive 1999/93/EC.
- [i.3] ETSI TR 119 000: "Electronic Signatures and Infrastructures (ESI); The framework for standardization of signatures: overview".
- [i.4] ETSI TR 119 100: "Electronic Signatures and Infrastructures (ESI); Business Driven Guidance for Signature Creation and Validation".
- [i.5] ETSI EN 319 102-1: "Electronic Signatures and Infrastructures (ESI); Procedures for Creation and Validation of AdES Digital Signatures; Part 1: Creation and Validation".
- [i.6] ETSI TS 119 312: "Electronic Signatures and Infrastructures (ESI); Cryptographic Suites".
- [i.7] Adobe® XFA: "XML Forms Architecture (XFA) Specification" version 2.5, (June 2007), Adobe Systems Incorporated".
- [i.8] ETSI TS 103 172: "Electronic Signatures and Infrastructures (ESI); PAdES Baseline Profile".
- [i.9] IETF RFC 2315 (1998): "PKCS #7: Cryptographic Message Syntax Version 1.5".
- [i.10] ETSI TS 119 612: "Electronic Signatures and Infrastructures (ESI); Trusted Lists".
- [i.11] ETSI EN 319 142-2: "Electronic Signatures and Infrastructures (ESI); PAdES digital signatures; Part 2: Additional PAdES signatures profiles".
- [i.12] ETSI TR 119 001: "Electronic Signatures and Infrastructures (ESI); The framework for standardization of signatures; Definitions and abbreviations".

## 3 Definitions and abbreviations

### 3.1 Definitions

For the purposes of the present document, the terms and definitions given in ISO 32000-1 [1], ETSI TR 119 001 [i.12] and the following apply:

**digital signature:** data appended to, or a cryptographic transformation of a data unit that allows a recipient of the data unit to prove the source and integrity of the data unit and protect against forgery e.g. by the recipient

**digital signature value:** result of the cryptographic transformation of a data unit that allows a recipient of the data unit to prove the source and integrity of the data unit and protect against forgery e.g. by the recipient

**electronic time-stamp:** data in electronic form which binds other electronic data to a particular time establishing evidence that these data existed at that time

**generator:** any party which creates, or augments a digital signature

NOTE: This can be the signer or any party that initially validates or further maintains the signature.

**Legacy PAdES baseline signature:** digital signature generated according to ETSI TS 103 172 [i.8]

**PAdES signature:** digital signature that satisfies the requirements specified within the present document or ETSI EN 319 142-2 [i.11]

**proof of existence:** evidence that proves that an object existed at a specific date/time

**signature augmentation policy:** set of rules, applicable to one or more digital signatures, that defines the technical and procedural requirements for their augmentation, in order to meet a particular business need, and under which the digital signature(s) can be determined to be conformant

**signature creation policy:** set of rules, applicable to one or more digital signatures, that defines the technical and procedural requirements for their creation, in order to meet a particular business need, and under which the digital signature(s) can be determined to be conformant

**signature handler:** software application, or part of a software application, that knows how to perform digital signature operations (e.g. signing and/or validating) in conformance with ISO 32000-1 [1] and the requirements of the appropriate profile

**signature policy:** signature creation policy, signature augmentation policy, signature validation policy or any combination thereof, applicable to the same signature or set of signatures

**signature validation policy:** set of rules, applicable to one or more digital signatures, that defines the technical and procedural requirements for their validation, in order to meet a particular business need, and under which the digital signature(s) can be determined to be valid

**trust service provider:** natural or legal person who provides one or more trust services

**validation data:** data that is used to validate a digital signature

**verifier:** entity that wants to validate or verify a digital signature

## 3.2 Abbreviations

For the purposes of the present document, the abbreviations given in ETSI TR 119 001 [i.12] and the following apply:

DSS	Document Security Store
ESS	Enhanced Security Services
TSL	Trust Status List
VRI	Validation Related Information

# 4 General syntax

## 4.1 General requirements for PAdES signatures based on PDF signatures

PAdES signatures profiled in the present document build on PDF signatures specified in ISO 32000-1 [1] with an alternative signature encoding to support digital signature formats equivalent to the signature format CAdES [2], by incorporation of signed and unsigned attributes described in clause 5.

The following requirements apply:

- A DER-encoded SignedData object as specified in CAdES [2] shall be included as the PDF signature in the entry with the key Contents of the Signature Dictionary as described in ISO 32000-1 [1], clause 12.8.1. There shall only be a single signer (i.e. one single component of SignerInfo type within signerInfos element) in any PDF Signature.
- Requirements for handling PDF Signatures specified in ISO 32000-1 [1], clause 12.8 shall apply except where overridden by the present document.



NOTE: Given that PAdES signatures are enveloped inside a PDF document and are detached in the sense of a CMS signature, the signature placement is implied by ISO 32000-1 [1].  
In ISO 32000-1 [1], section 12.8.3.3.1 reads "No data shall be encapsulated in the PKCS#7 SignedData field".

- c) Some signature attributes found in CAdES [2] have the same or similar meaning as keys in the Signature Dictionary described in ISO 32000-1 [1]. For signature attributes and keys that have the same or similar meaning only one of them should be used according to the requirements set in table defined in clause 6.3 in the present document.

## 5 Attributes syntax and semantics

### 5.1 Introduction

This clause provides details on attributes specified within ISO 32000-1 [1] and CAdES [2] and defines new attributes for building PAdES signatures.

The clause distinguishes between the following types of attributes: CMS and CAdES defined attributes, ISO 32000-1 [1] defined attributes, validation data and archive validation data attributes. The first ones are the attributes that build the DER-encoded SignedData object included as the PDF signature in the entry with the key Contents of the Signature Dictionary as described in ISO 32000-1 [1], clause 12.8.1. The second ones are the attributes that build the Signature Dictionary as described in ISO 32000-1 [1]. The other ones are the attributes where to include validation data and archive validation data that can guarantee long term validity of digital signatures.

Clause 6.3 provides the requirements concerning how to use the attributes described above.

### 5.2 CMS and CAdES defined attributes

The attributes included in the following list may be used to generate the DER-encoded SignedData object included as the PDF signature in the entry with the key Contents of the Signature Dictionary as described in ISO 32000-1 [1], clause 12.8.1. Their syntax shall be as defined in ETSI EN 319 122-1 [2], clause 5.

- content-type
- message-digest
- signing certificate reference attributes
  - ESS signing-certificate
  - ESS signing-certificate-v2
- commitment-type-indication
- signer-attributes-v2
- content-time-stamp
- signature-policy-identifier
- signature-time-stamp

### 5.3 ISO 32000-1 defined attributes

The entries of the Signature Dictionary shall be as defined in ISO 32000-1 [1], clause 12.8.1 unless specified otherwise in the present document.

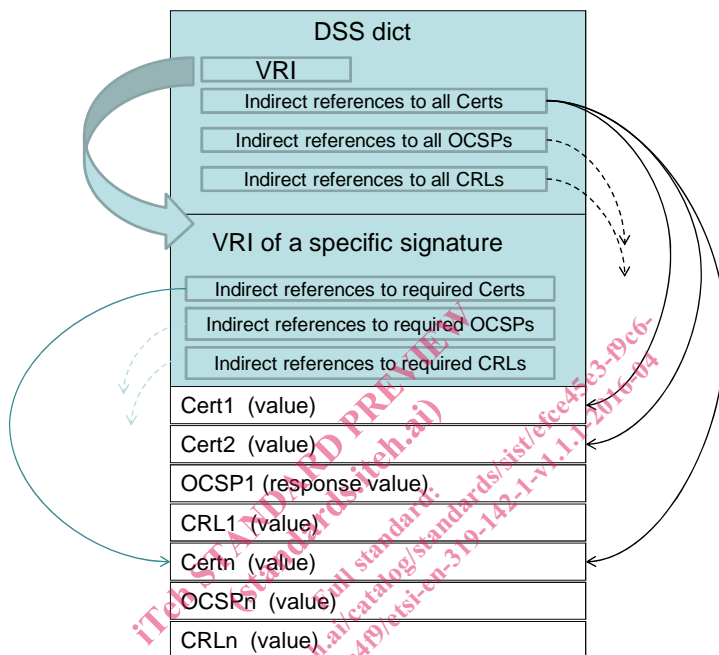
In particular, the entries with the following keys in the Signature Dictionary are directly addressed: M, Contents, Filter, SubFilter, ByteRange. Further the entries with the Location, Name, ContactInfo and Reason keys in the Signature Dictionary are inherently addressed.

## 5.4 Validation data and archive validation data attributes

### 5.4.1 Overview

Validation of a digital signature requires data to validate the signature such as CA certificates, Certificate Revocation List (CRLs) or certificate status information (OCSP) commonly provided by online services (referred to in the present document as validation data).

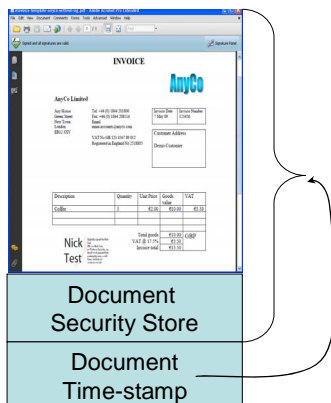
This clause describes an extension to ISO 32000-1 [1] called Document Security Store (**DSS**) to carry such validation data as necessary to validate a signature, optionally with Validation Related Information (**VRI**) which relates the validation data to a specific signature (see clause 5.4.2). The structure of **DSS** and **VRI** is illustrated in figure 1.



**Figure 1: Illustration of DSS and VRI structures**

This clause also defines another extension to ISO 32000-1 [1] called Document Time-stamp (see clause 5.4.3) to extend the life-time of protection to the document.

These extensions support Long Term Validation (LTV) of PDF Signatures. The structure of a PDF document with LTV is illustrated in figure 2.



**Figure 2: Illustration of PDF document with extended life-time protection**