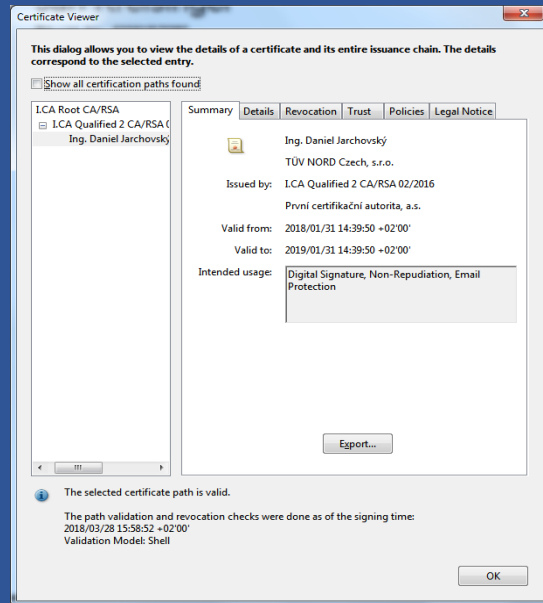


Electronic certificates And why?

Paperless solution for output documents of conformity assessment and certification



Electronic certificate is ...

Electronic certificate issued by TÜV NORD Czech, s.r.o. is in fact a data file, which is sent to the customer and contains data confirming the product conformity or fulfilling the certification requirements.

Electronic certificate data file is always in pdfA format, is provided with electronic signature of an authorized person and electronic seal of TÜV NORD Czech, s.r.o.

Such a file has a status and validity of the original and is fully legally recognizable, long-term archivable, economic, ecological and its validity is any time verifiable. A hard copy of such certificate will legally always be only an extract from the electronic original of the certificate.

Electronic certificates purpose:

1. Verifiability whenever and wherever

When archived, the certificate is provided with an electronic time stamp, assigned by so-called certification authority, proving the validity of the electronic signature at a particular time. During the whole time of archiving, due to safety reasons, the time stamps of the certificates are renewed in regular terms, which secures the permanent verifiability of their validity for the whole time of archiving.

2. Incomparably higher level of security against falsification.

All the originals of issued electronic certificates are stored in a virtual secured electronic archive. On the contrary to a "stamp in a drawer", which can be used by almost anybody.

3. Availability

Anytime on-line via the Internet for the authorized employees of the company with certain level of rights.

4. Low costs

Electronic certificate is economic and ecological. It reduces the administrative work. There is no need to handle physically the paper document any more (scan and send by post) for the electronic documents archiving and distribution.



How the electronic certificate is created?

1. As soon as all the factual content is checked, the document is transferred and saved from word format to a long-time archivable pdfA format.
2. It is electronically signed by an authorized person with his/her own, recognized employee electronic signature and at the same time it is given an electronic stamp of TÜV NORD Czech, s.r.o., archived in a secured electronic archive and provided with so called time stamp of the date of the archiving. Further, there are no other changes possible in the document.
3. The customer receives the electronic pdfA file, which contains the data on the electronic signature validity at the particular time that can be then verified.

The paperless solution of the documents is safe and reduces the administrative labour and time difficulty. For the electronic archiving and distribution of the documents, there is no need to handle physically the paper document any more (scan and send by post).

CURRENTLY: The electronic certificates of TÜV NORD Czech ... to whom they are issued?

In these days all the certificates issued by TÜV NORD Czech as output documents of the conformity assessment processes, inspections and certification of personnel, are always in the electronic document format of the Conformity Assessment Division.

In some cases (especially at the certification of personnel) where required, the Conformity Assessment Division issues together with the electronic original also its hard copy version. Still the only original is the electronic version provided with valid and verified electronic signature. The hard copy of the document (certificate), even though it looks the same, is only worth of the extract from the original. The only "hard copy" originals are so far (due to the interest on the side of the customers) the certificates of the certification body for products. Even in these cases, it is possible to issue the electronic version original, if required.

There are other documents planned to be converted to the paperless form by the Conformity Assessment Division (e.g. Order Confirmation etc.).

The documents are issued in accordance with the EU Regulation no. 910/2014 on electronic identification and trust services for electronic transactions in the internal market (eIDAS **Regulation**) adopted on July 1st, 2016.

The regulation puts the credibility of the electronically signed documents on the same level with the paper ones and opens the gate for real paperless work of commercial companies and the organisations of public administration. The paper documents are more often supplied with the electronic ones and it is the matter of time when they will be pushed away from the company processes completely.

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