



## Why did some validated signatures on electronic documents become invalid (🚫)?

### Adobe revoked multiple digital certificate chains from their Trust List

Adobe runs a trust program named AATL<sup>1</sup> (*Adobe Approved Trust List*) for validating the Trust Qualification of the certificates used in PDF document signatures / stamps.

In order for an entity to be part of this program, one must comply with a set of rules and procedures, including:

- 1) Proper Identity Validation
- 2) Cryptographic keys saved on a secure device (for example, a smartcard)

If these conditions are not met, Adobe won't include these certificate issuance entities in its AATL program.

Under these conditions, the automatic validation of signatures / stamps in PDF documents gets an "undefined" Trust result (represented by the symbol 🚫), evincing that the issuer of the digital certificate is not part of the AATL program, meaning the assumptions defined above are not guaranteed.

In these cases, it is up to the user to decide whether to trust this certificate issuance entity, which can only be done by adding this chain to the Trusted Chain Directory.

If the certificate issuing entity is part of the AATL program (with assured compliance with the defined rules and procedures), the signatures / stamps will be given a "valid" Trust result (represented by the symbol ✅).

On the same basis, Adobe recognizes all Qualified Trusted Service Providers on the European Trusted List (EUTL<sup>2</sup>), who issue Qualified Certificates, according to the Regulation 910/2014 (eIDAS).

This recognition of Trust is similar to the AATL program, meaning these certificate issuers are subject to the same rules as defined for the AATL program.

Several certificate issuance entities, who also issue certificates stored in software, were not accepted in the AATL program.

However, since they are not accredited as entities under the eIDAS Regulation, they have issued NON-QUALIFIED certificates using these same certification chains.

**This situation was detected in 2018 by both the European Union and Adobe, who initiated the necessary correction processes, which have resulted in the recent policy update by Adobe.**

This policy change marks as "invalid" (represented by the symbol 🚫) any signature / seal associated to unqualified certificates issued by EUTL "qualified" entities.

**DigitalSign was not affected by this Adobe's decision, since such unlawful practices were never carried out by this Certificate Issuance Entity, having always condemned such irregularities in the appropriate agencies.**

In that sense, DigitalSign offers all affected customers an immediate solution to address this issue, according to the European eIDAS regulation and Adobe itself.

Contact us and find out the appropriate solutions available.

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<sup>1</sup> <https://helpx.adobe.com/acrobat/kb/approved-trust-list2.html>

<sup>2</sup> <https://webgate.ec.europa.eu/tl-browser/#/>