

# Whitepaper on Signature Legality around the World.

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This whitepaper serves as a comprehensive guide to understanding the legality and types of electronic signatures across various countries worldwide. It is designed to provide a broad overview of electronic signature laws, highlighting key legal frameworks, types of signatures recognized, and examples of their usage in different jurisdictions.

## **Purpose**

The primary purpose of this whitepaper is to inform businesses, legal professionals, and individuals about the general landscape of electronic signature legality. By grouping information by continent and country, we aim to present a clear and organized view of the global electronic signature environment.

## **Important Note**

This whitepaper is for informational purposes only. While iLovePDF strives to provide accurate and up-to-date information, electronic signature laws can vary significantly by country and may change over time. It is crucial to consult with local legal experts or authorities to ensure that electronic signatures are used in compliance with current laws and regulations in your specific jurisdiction.

By using this whitepaper, you acknowledge that it does not constitute legal advice and should not be relied upon as such. Always seek the guidance of qualified legal professionals to verify that your electronic signature practices are appropriate and lawful in the countries where you operate.



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# Africa

## South Africa

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- **Law:** Electronic Communications and Transactions Act (ECTA) of 2002
- **Electronic Signature:** Any electronic method used to indicate the signatory's approval of the information contained in an electronic document.
- **Examples:** Business contracts, Financial transactions, Employment agreements
- **Advanced Electronic Signature:** An electronic signature uniquely linked to the signatory, capable of identifying the signatory, created using means under the signatory's sole control, and linked to the data in a way that any changes can be detected.
- **Examples:** Government filings, Property transfers, Long-term leases, Wills and testaments, Notarial deeds, Health records
- **More Information:** <https://www.gov.za/documents/electronic-communications-and-transactions-act>

## Kenya

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- **Law:** Business Laws (Amendment) Act of 2020
- **Electronic Signature:** Basic electronic method of signing documents which may include scanned signatures, typed names, or other digital marks.
- **Examples:** General business contracts, Consumer agreements, Purchase orders
- **Advanced Electronic Signature:** A more secure electronic signature that includes digital certificates and encryption to verify the signatory's identity and the document's integrity.
- **Examples:** Property-related transactions, Government filings, Sensitive health records
- **More Information:** <https://new.kenyalaw.org/akn/ke/act/ln/2020/130/eng@2022-12-31>

## Uganda

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- **Law:** Electronic Transactions Act of 2011
- **Electronic Signature:** Any electronic method of signing documents.
- **Examples:** Business transactions, Legal transactions
- **More Information:** <https://nita.go.ug/laws-regulations/electronic-transactions-act-2011-act-no-8-2011>

## Nigeria

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- **Law:** Evidence Act 2011
- **Electronic Signature:** Any form of electronic mark or symbol used to indicate the signatory's intent to sign.
- **Examples:** Legal documents, Transactions
- **More Information:** <https://www.nigeria-law.org>

## Morocco

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- **Law:** Law No. 53-05 on the electronic exchange of legal data
- **Electronic Signature:** An electronic method of signing that is recognized by the legal framework.
- **Examples:** Legal transactions, Commercial transactions
- **More Information:** <https://www.cg.gov.ma/en/laws?title=&tags=>

## Ghana

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- **Law:** Electronic Transactions Act, 2008 (Act 772)
- **Electronic Signature:** Any electronic process used to sign a document.
- **Examples:** Electronic transactions, Legal documents
- **More Information:** <https://judicial.gov.gh/index.php/the-laws-of-ghana>

## Rwanda

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- **Law:** Law No. 18/2010 on electronic messages, electronic signatures, and electronic transactions
- **Electronic Signature:** Data in electronic form affixed to or logically associated with other electronic data used for signing.
- **More Information:** <https://www.rlrc.gov.rw/mandate/laws-of-rwanda>

## Zimbabwe

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- **Law:** Electronic Transactions and Electronic Commerce Act
- **Electronic Signature:** Any electronic method of signing documents.
- **Examples:** Legal transactions, Business transactions
- **More Information:** <https://www.potraz.gov.zw>

## Tanzania

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- **Law:** Electronic Transactions Act, 2015
- **Electronic Signature:** Any electronic means of indicating agreement to the terms of a document.
- **Examples:** Legal transactions, Business transactions
- **More Information:** <https://tanzlii.org/legislation/>

## Egypt

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- **Law:** E-Signature Law of 2004
- **Electronic Signature:** A legally recognized electronic method of signing documents.
- **Examples:** Electronic transactions
- **More Information:** <https://sschr.gov.eg/>

## Algeria

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- **Law:** Ordinance No. 07-08 related to electronic commerce
- **Electronic Signature:** Any electronic method of signing documents used in electronic commerce.
- **Examples:** Electronic commerce
- **More Information:** <https://www.mpt.gov.dz/electronic-signature-and-certification/>

## Tunisia

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- **Law:** Electronic Exchanges and Electronic Commerce Law of 2000
- **Electronic Signature:** An electronic method of signing documents used in electronic exchanges and commerce.
- **Examples:** Electronic exchanges, Electronic commerce
- **More Information:** <http://www.tunisie.gov.tn/>

## Ivory Coast (Côte d'Ivoire)

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- **Law:** Law on Electronic Transactions of 2013
- **Electronic Signature:** Any electronic method of signing documents.
- **Examples:** Electronic transactions
- **More Information:** <https://www.artci.ci>

## Senegal

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- **Law:** Law No. 2008-08 on Electronic Transactions
- **Electronic Signature:** Any electronic means of signing documents.
- **Examples:** Electronic transactions
- **More Information:** <https://primature.sn/>



## Mali

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- **Law:** Law No. 2013-015 on Electronic Transactions
- **Electronic Signature:** Any electronic method of signing documents.
- **Examples:** Electronic transactions
- **More Information:** <https://www.amrtp.ml>

## Cameroon

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- **Law:** Law No. 2010/012 on Cybersecurity and Cybercriminality
- **Electronic Signature:** Any electronic method of signing documents.
- **Examples:** Electronic transactions
- **More Information:** [http://www.minjustice.gov.cm/index.php/en/instruments-and-laws/laws/302-law-no-2010-12\[...\]relating-to-cybersecurity-and-cybercriminality-in-cameroon](http://www.minjustice.gov.cm/index.php/en/instruments-and-laws/laws/302-law-no-2010-12[...]relating-to-cybersecurity-and-cybercriminality-in-cameroon)

## Burkina Faso

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- **Law:** Law No. 010-2004/AN on the Regulation of Electronic Transactions
- **Electronic Signature:** Any electronic method of signing documents.
- **Examples:** Electronic transactions
- **More Information:** <https://www.arcep.bf>

# Asia

## China

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- **Law:** Electronic Signature Law of 2004
- **Electronic Signature:** An electronic method for signing documents that includes data in electronic form logically associated with other electronic data.
- **Examples:** Business contracts, E-commerce transactions, Government documents
- **Digital Signature:** A type of electronic signature that uses cryptographic methods to ensure the authenticity and integrity of the document and the signatory.
- **Examples:** High-value transactions, Legal contracts, Government filings
- **More Information:** <https://www.chinalaw.gov.cn>

## India

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- **Law:** Information Technology Act of 2000
- **Electronic Signature:** Any electronic means of indicating agreement to the terms of a document.
- **Examples:** Business contracts, Employment agreements, Consumer transactions
- **Digital Signature:** An electronic signature that uses asymmetric cryptography to provide high security and verify the signatory's identity.
- **Examples:** Government filings, Legal contracts, Financial transactions
- **More Information:** <https://www.meity.gov.in>

## Japan

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- **Law:** Act on Electronic Signatures and Certification Business of 2000
- **Electronic Signature:** Data in electronic form that is logically associated with other data and used to sign documents.
- **Examples:** Business contracts, Consumer agreements, Government documents
- **Digital Signature:** A secure form of electronic signature that uses digital certificates to verify the signatory's identity.
- **Examples:** Legal contracts, High-value transactions, Government filings
- **More Information:** <https://www.soumu.go.jp>

## South Korea

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- **Law:** Electronic Signature Act of 2001
- **Electronic Signature:** Any electronic means of signing a document that indicates the signatory's intent.
- **Examples:** Business contracts, Employment agreements, E-commerce transactions
- **Digital Signature:** An advanced form of electronic signature that uses cryptographic methods for secure authentication.
- **Examples:** Government filings, Legal contracts, Financial transactions
- **More Information:** <https://www.msit.go.kr>

## Singapore

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- **Law:** Electronic Transactions Act of 2010
- **Electronic Signature:** Any electronic method used to indicate agreement to the terms of a document.
- **Examples:** Business contracts, Consumer agreements, Employment documents
- **Digital Signature:** A secure form of electronic signature using cryptographic methods to ensure the authenticity of the signatory.
- **Examples:** Government filings, High-value transactions, Legal documents
- **More Information:** <https://www.imda.gov.sg>

## Malaysia

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- **Law:** Digital Signature Act of 1997
- **Electronic Signature:** Any electronic process used to sign a document.
- **Examples:** Business contracts, Employment agreements, Consumer transactions
- **Digital Signature:** A highly secure form of electronic signature that uses digital certificates.
- **Examples:** Legal contracts, Government filings, High-value transactions
- **More Information:** <https://www.mcmc.gov.my>

## Indonesia

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- **Law:** Electronic Information and Transactions Law of 2008
- **Electronic Signature:** Any electronic means of indicating the signatory's intent to sign a document.
- **Examples:** Business contracts, Consumer agreements, Employment documents
- **Digital Signature:** A secure form of electronic signature that ensures the authenticity and integrity of the document.
- **Examples:** Government filings, High-value transactions, Legal documents
- **More Information:** <https://www.kominfo.go.id>

## Thailand

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- **Law:** Electronic Transactions Act of 2001
- **Electronic Signature:** Data in electronic form used to sign documents and indicate the signatory's intent.
- **Examples:** Business contracts, Consumer transactions, Employment agreements
- **Digital Signature:** A cryptographic signature ensuring the authenticity of the signatory and the integrity of the document.
- **Examples:** Legal contracts, Government filings, High-value transactions
- **More Information:** <https://www.eta.or.th>

## Vietnam

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- **Law:** Law on E-Transactions of 2005
- **Electronic Signature:** Any electronic method used to sign documents.
- **Examples:** Business contracts, Consumer transactions, Employment agreements
- **Digital Signature:** A secure electronic signature using cryptographic techniques to verify the signatory's identity.
- **Examples:** Government filings, Legal contracts, High-value transactions
- **More Information:** <https://www.moj.gov.vn>

## Philippines

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- **Law:** Electronic Commerce Act of 2000
- **Electronic Signature:** Any electronic method of signing documents.
- **Examples:** Business contracts, Consumer agreements, Employment documents
- **Digital Signature:** A secure electronic signature using cryptographic methods.
- **Examples:** Legal contracts, Government filings, High-value transactions
- **More Information:** <https://www.dict.gov.ph>

# Europe

## European Union

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Law: Electronic Identification, Authentication, and Trust Services Regulation (EU) No 910/2014 (eIDAS)

Purpose: eIDAS is a European Union regulation aimed at ensuring the interoperability of electronic identification and trust services across EU member states. It establishes a legal framework for electronic signatures, electronic seals, time stamps, electronic delivery services, and website authentication.

Simple Electronic Signature: Any data in electronic form attached to or logically associated with other electronic data and used by the signatory to sign.

Advanced Electronic Signature: An electronic signature that meets specific requirements ensuring it is uniquely linked to the signatory, capable of identifying the signatory, created using electronic signature creation data that the signatory can use under their sole control, and linked to the data to which it relates so that any subsequent change in the data is detectable.

Qualified Electronic Signature: An advanced electronic signature that is created by a qualified electronic signature creation device and is based on a qualified certificate for electronic signatures. It has the same legal effect as a handwritten signature in the EU.

### Benefits of eIDAS

- **Legal Certainty:** Provides a clear legal framework for electronic transactions, ensuring they are legally recognized across EU member states.
- **Interoperability:** Ensures that electronic identification and trust services are interoperable across EU member states, facilitating cross-border digital transactions.
- **Trust and Security:** Establishes high standards for trust services, enhancing the security and reliability of electronic transactions.

## Germany

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- **Law:** German Signature Act (SigG) of 2001
- **Electronic Signature:** Any electronic method used to indicate the signatory's approval of the information contained in a document.
- **Examples:** Business contracts, Consumer agreements, Employment documents
- **Qualified Electronic Signature:** An advanced electronic signature that meets the requirements set by eIDAS, ensuring a higher level of security and authenticity.
- **Examples:** Government filings, Legal contracts, High-value transactions
- **More Information:** <https://www.bundesnetzagentur.de>

## France

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- **Law:** Electronic Signature Act of 2000
- **Electronic Signature:** Data in electronic form that is logically associated with other data and used to sign documents.
- **Examples:** Business contracts, Consumer agreements, Employment documents
- **Qualified Electronic Signature:** An electronic signature that is uniquely linked to the signatory and capable of identifying them, ensuring the highest level of security.
- **Examples:** Legal contracts, Government filings, High-value transactions
- **More Information:** <https://www.cnil.fr>

## United Kingdom

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- **Law:** Electronic Communications Act of 2000
- **Electronic Signature:** Any electronic method used to indicate agreement to the terms of a document.
- **Examples:** Business contracts, Consumer agreements, Employment documents
- **Advanced Electronic Signature:** A more secure form of electronic signature that includes digital certificates and encryption.
- **Examples:** Government filings, Legal contracts, High-value transactions
- **More Information:** <https://www.gov.uk>

## Italy

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- **Law:** Codice dell'amministrazione digitale (CAD) of 2005
- **Electronic Signature:** Any electronic process used to sign a document.
- **Examples:** Business contracts, Consumer agreements, Employment documents
- **Qualified Electronic Signature:** A secure electronic signature that uses digital certificates issued by a trusted service provider.
- **Examples:** Legal contracts, Government filings, High-value transactions
- **More Information:** <https://www.agid.gov.it>

## Spain

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- **Law:** Electronic Signature Law of 2003
- **Electronic Signature:** Any electronic means used to sign a document.
- **Examples:** Business contracts, Consumer agreements, Employment documents
- **Qualified Electronic Signature:** An electronic signature that meets the highest security requirements set by eIDAS.
- **Examples:** Legal contracts, Government filings, High-value transactions
- **More Information:** <https://www.boe.es>

## Netherlands

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- **Law:** Electronic Signatures Act of 2003
- **Electronic Signature:** Any electronic process used to sign a document.
- **Examples:** Business contracts, Consumer agreements, Employment documents
- **Qualified Electronic Signature:** A secure form of electronic signature using digital certificates.
- **Examples:** Legal contracts, Government filings, High-value transactions
- **More Information:** <https://www.government.nl>



## Sweden

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- **Law:** Qualified Electronic Signatures Act of 2000
- **Electronic Signature:** Data in electronic form used to sign documents and indicate the signatory's intent.
- **Examples:** Business contracts, Consumer agreements, Employment documents
- **Qualified Electronic Signature:** A cryptographic signature ensuring the authenticity of the signatory and the integrity of the document.
- **Examples:** Legal contracts, Government filings, High-value transactions
- **More Information:** <https://www.digg.se>

## Norway

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- **Law:** Act on Electronic Signatures of 2001
- **Electronic Signature:** Any electronic method used to sign documents.
- **Examples:** Business contracts, Consumer agreements, Employment documents
- **Advanced Electronic Signature:** A secure electronic signature using digital certificates and encryption methods.
- **Examples:** Government filings, Legal contracts, High-value transactions
- **More Information:** <https://www.nkom.no>

## Denmark

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- **Law:** Act on Electronic Signatures of 2000
- **Electronic Signature:** Any electronic method used to sign documents.
- **Examples:** Business contracts, Consumer agreements, Employment documents
- **Qualified Electronic Signature:** A secure electronic signature using cryptographic techniques and digital certificates.
- **Examples:** Legal contracts, Government filings, High-value transactions
- **More Information:** <https://www.digst.dk>

## Finland

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- **Law:** Act on Strong Electronic Identification and Electronic Signatures of 2009
- **Electronic Signature:** Any electronic method used to sign documents.
- **Examples:** Business contracts, Consumer agreements, Employment documents
- **Qualified Electronic Signature:** A secure form of electronic signature using digital certificates and cryptographic methods.
- **Examples:** Legal contracts, Government filings, High-value transactions
- **More Information:** <https://www.traficom.fi>

# North America

## United States

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- **Law:** Electronic Signatures in Global and National Commerce (ESIGN) Act of 2000 and Uniform Electronic Transactions Act (UETA)
- **Electronic Signature:** Any electronic process signifying intent to sign a document.
- **Examples:** Business contracts, Consumer agreements, Employment documents
- **Digital Signature:** A type of electronic signature that uses cryptographic methods to ensure authenticity and integrity.
- **Examples:** Legal contracts, Government filings, Financial transactions
- **More Information:** <https://www.govinfo.gov/content/pkg/PLAW-106publ229/pdf/PLAW-106publ229.pdf>

## Canada

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- **Law:** Personal Information Protection and Electronic Documents Act (PIPEDA) and provincial laws
- **Electronic Signature:** Any electronic information that a person has created or adopted to sign a document.
- **Examples:** Business contracts, Consumer agreements, Employment documents
- **Secure Electronic Signature:** An electronic signature that includes additional security measures such as encryption.
- **Examples:** Legal contracts, Government filings, High-value transactions
- **More Information:** <https://www.priv.gc.ca/en/privacy-topics/privacy-laws-in-canada/the-personal-information-protection-and-electronic-documents-act-pipeda/>

## Mexico

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- **Law:** E-Commerce Law and Federal Civil Code
- **Electronic Signature:** Data in electronic form attached to or logically associated with other data and used by a signatory to sign.
- **Examples:** Business contracts, Consumer agreements, Employment documents
- **Advanced Electronic Signature:** An electronic signature that is uniquely linked to the signatory and capable of identifying the signatory.
- **Examples:** Legal contracts, Government filings, High-value transactions
- **More Information:** <https://www.gob.mx>

# Oceania

## Australia

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- **Law:** Electronic Transactions Act of 1999
- Electronic Signature
- **Description:** Any electronic method that indicates the signatory's approval of the information contained in a document.
- **Examples:** Business contracts, Consumer agreements, Employment documents
- Digital Signature
- **Description:** A type of electronic signature that uses encryption to provide authenticity and integrity.
- **Examples:** Legal contracts, Government filings, Financial transactions
- **More Information:** <https://www.legislation.gov.au/Details/C2016C00731>

## New Zealand

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- **Law:** Electronic Transactions Act of 2002
- Electronic Signature
- **Description:** Data in electronic form that is attached to or logically associated with other electronic data and used to sign.
- **Examples:** Business contracts, Consumer agreements, Employment documents
- Digital Signature
- **Description:** A secure electronic signature that uses cryptographic techniques.
- **Examples:** Legal contracts, Government filings, High-value transactions
- **More Information:** <https://www.legislation.govt.nz/act/public/2002/0035/latest/DLM154185.html>

## Fiji

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- **Law:** Electronic Transactions Act of 2008
- **Electronic Signature:** Any method used to sign an electronic document and indicate the signatory's intent.
- **Examples:** Business contracts, Consumer agreements, Employment documents
- **Digital Signature:** An advanced form of electronic signature using digital certificates for verification.
- **Examples:** Legal contracts, Government filings, High-value transactions
- **More Information:** <https://www.fiji.gov.fj>

## Papua New Guinea

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- **Law:** Electronic Transactions Act of 2011
- **Electronic Signature:** Any electronic method indicating the signatory's approval of the document's content.
- **Examples:** Business contracts, Consumer agreements, Employment documents
- **Digital Signature:** A secure electronic signature ensuring the authenticity of the signatory.
- **Examples:** Legal contracts, Government filings, High-value transactions
- **More Information:** <https://www.ict.gov.pg>

## Samoa

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- **Law:** Electronic Transactions Act of 2008
- **Electronic Signature:** Any electronic method used to sign a document and signify the signatory's intent.
- **Examples:** Business contracts, Consumer agreements, Employment documents
- **Digital Signature:** An advanced electronic signature using encryption for security.
- **Examples:** Legal contracts, Government filings, High-value transactions
- **More Information:** <https://www.mcil.gov.ws>

# South America

## Brazil

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- **Law:** Provisional Measure No. 2,200-2 of 2001
- **Electronic Signature:** Any data in electronic form attached to or logically associated with other electronic data used by a signatory to sign.
- **Examples:** Business contracts, Consumer agreements, Employment documents
- **Digital Signature:** An electronic signature that uses digital certificates issued by the Brazilian Public Key Infrastructure (ICP-Brasil) to ensure the authenticity and integrity.
- **Examples:** Legal contracts, Government filings, High-value transactions
- **More Information:** <https://ciberseguranca.igarape.org.br/en/provisional-measure-mp-2200-2-2001/>

## Argentina

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- **Law:** Digital Signature Law No. 25,506 of 2001
- **Electronic Signature:** Any electronic process used to sign a document, not necessarily meeting the criteria for a digital signature.
- **Examples:** Business contracts, Consumer agreements, Employment documents
- **Digital Signature:** A type of electronic signature that uses a digital certificate to ensure the signatory's identity and the integrity of the document.
- **Examples:** Legal contracts, Government filings, High-value transactions
- **More Information:** <https://www.argentina.gob.ar/normativa/nacional/ley-25506-56156/texto>

## Chile

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- **Law:** Law No. 19,799 on Electronic Documents, Electronic Signature, and Certification Services of 2002
- **Electronic Signature:** Any electronic means that indicates the signatory's intent to sign a document.
- **Examples:** Business contracts, Consumer agreements, Employment documents
- **Advanced Electronic Signature:** An electronic signature that meets specific legal requirements, ensuring a higher level of security and authenticity.
- **Examples:** Legal contracts, Government filings, High-value transactions
- **More Information:** <https://www.bcn.cl/leychile/navegar?idNorma=204755>

## Colombia

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- **Law:** Law No. 527 of 1999
- **Electronic Signature:** Data in electronic form used to sign documents and indicate the signatory's approval.
- **Examples:** Business contracts, Consumer agreements, Employment documents
- **Digital Signature:** An electronic signature that uses cryptographic methods to provide security and verify the signatory's identity.
- **Examples:** Legal contracts, Government filings, High-value transactions
- **More Information:** <https://www.funcionpublica.gov.co/eva/gestornormativo/norma.php?i=4276>

## Peru

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- **Law:** Law No. 27269 on Digital Signatures and Certificates
- **Electronic Signature:** Any electronic method used to sign a document.
- **Examples:** Business contracts, Consumer agreements, Employment documents
- **Digital Signature:** A secure form of electronic signature using digital certificates issued by a trusted service provider.
- **Examples:** Legal contracts, Government filings, High-value transactions
- **More Information:** <https://www.gob.pe/institucion/pcc/normas-legales/242532-27269>



## Uruguay

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- **Law:** Law No. 18,600 on Electronic Documents and Electronic Signatures
- **Electronic Signature:** Any electronic method that indicates the signatory's approval of the information contained in a document.
- **Examples:** Business contracts, Consumer agreements, Employment documents
- **Advanced Electronic Signature:** An electronic signature that meets specific legal standards, providing a higher level of security and authenticity.
- **Examples:** Legal contracts, Government filings, High-value transactions
- **More Information:** <https://parlamento.gub.uy/documentosyleyes/leyes/ley/18600>

