How to validate a signature on a digitally signed document

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1. About digital signatures on ECO approved licences issued via SPIRE

You will be receiving PDF licences and letters through SPIRE which will be digitally signed. The **first one** you receive will probably have the following image where you would normally expect to see a signature.

Validity unknown

Digitally signed by Licensing Casework Group Date: 2009.11.16 12.34.23 GMT Reason: On behalf of the Secretary of State Location: Department of Business, Innovation and Skills

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2. How to validate the signature

In order to validate the signature, you should **press the right hand mouse button whilst you are hovering over the image** and select the 'Validate **signature**' option. If you select '**Properties**', don't worry as you will get to a screen shown below so pick up the instructions from there. A popup will appear as follows:



Click on either the 'Legal Notice' or the 'Signature Properties' button. If you click on the 'Signature Properties' button the following popup will appear, but the tabs along the top are the same if you click on 'Legal Notice'.

ignature Properti			2	
	ocument Si		egal	
Signed by:		asework Group <spir< td=""><td></td><td>Show Certificate</td></spir<>		Show Certificate
<u>R</u> eason:	On behalf (of the Secretary of Sta	te	
Date:	2009/11/16	12:34:23 Z	Location:	Department for Business,
Validity Su				
🥢 The	e Document I	has not been modified	d since this signature v	was applied.
			use it has not been in nt certificates are trust	
🔔 Sig	nature date/t	ime are from the cloc	k on the signer's com	puter.
Signature w	as created us	ing Adobe Acrobat.		
			Valio	date Signature

Next select the '**Signer'** tab along the top, and the following screen will be shown:

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nature Pr	operties
≈ s	ignature validity is UNKNOWN.
-	
Summa	ry Document Signer Date/Time Legal
R	The signer's identity is unknown because it has not been included in your list of trusted identities and none of its parent certificates are trusted identities.
<u>S</u> igne	d by: Licensing Casework Group <spire@berr.gsi.gov.uk> Show Certificate</spire@berr.gsi.gov.uk>
	Click Show Certificate for more information about the signer's certificate and its validity details, or to change the trust settings for the certificate or an issuer certificate.
Vali	dity Details
h	The signer's certificate has not been issued by a certificate authority that you have trusted.
A	The path from the signer's certificate to an issuer's certificate was successfully built.
b	Revocation checking was not performed.
1:	
Signe	r's Contact Information: Not available
	When you directly trust a signer's certificate that is not issued by a root certificate authority that you trust, you should contact the signer to verify the certificate. Once you are confident that the signer is who he/she reports to be, then verify that the certificate is from the signer. For example, you can confirm the certificate's MD5 digest with the signer. (Use the Certificate Viewer to view the MD5 digest, and to import and directly trust the certificate.)
	Validate Signature Close

Click on 'Show Certificate' and you will see the following:

Certificate Viewer		▶	×
This dialog allows you to view t the selected entry.	he details of a certific	cate and its entire issuance chain. The d	etails correspond to
Show all certification paths fo	und		
GlobalSign GlobalSign GCC R3 Pe Export Control Or	Summary Details	Revocation Trust Folicies Legal No Export Control Organisation Department for International Trade GlobalSign GCC R3 PersonalSign 2 CA 2 GlobalSign mv-sa 2021/07/27 16:50:51 + 01'00' 2022/09/14 12:32:46 + 01'00' Digital Signature, Encrypt Keys, Client A Email Protection Export	020
 The selected certificate participation The path validation check 2022/07/05 17:04:17 +01'0 Validation Model: Shell 	s were done as of the	signing time:	
			ОК

Click on the '**Trust**' tab within this screen. The text on the right hand side of the screen will change to show the Trust Settings as below.

Certificate Viewer		×
This dialog allows you to view t the selected entry.	the details of a certificate and its entire issuance chain. The details correspor	ıd to
Show all certification paths for	bund	
GlobalSign GlobalSign GCC R3 Pe Export Control Or	ks were done as of the signing time:	
	ОК	

Click on the 'Add to Trusted Certificates' button and you will see the following message:

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Acrobat	Security
	If you change the trust settings, you will need to revalidate any signatures to see the change.
	Trusting certificates directly from a document is usually unwise. Are you sure you want to do this?
0	OK Cancel

Click 'OK', then at the next screen (shown below), click 'OK'.

Import Contact Settings	×
Certificate Details	
Subject: Export Control Organisation <exportcontrol.help@trade.gov.uk></exportcontrol.help@trade.gov.uk>	
Issuer: GlobalSign GCC R3 PersonalSign 2 CA 2020	
Usage: Digital Signature, Encrypt Keys	
Expiration: 14/09/2022 12:32:46	
Trust	
A certificate used to sign a document must either be designated as a trust anchor or chain up to a trust anchor in order for signature validation to succeed. Revocation checking is not performed on or above a trust anchor.	
Use this certificate as a trusted root	
If signature validation succeeds, trust this certificate for:	
Signed documents or data	
Certified documents	
Dynamic content	
Embedded high privilege JavaScript	
Privileged system operations (networking, printing, file access, etc.)	
Help OK Cancel	

You will now be back at the **'Trust Settings'** screen where you should click **'OK'** again. Once you have done that, you will be back at the **'Signer'** screen and you should click on **'Validate Signature'** and then click on **'Close'**.

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When you look again at your pdf document, you should see the following image where you would normally expect to see a signature:



From that point on, all PDF documents sent by us should show the above image.

Export Control Organisation Last Updated: December 2012

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