

Report of the Subcommittee for Electronic Signatures

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Recommendation

The Subcommittee on electronic signatures endorses following the guidance of the E-Sign Act (Public Law No. 106-229), which defines an electronic signature as:

" 15 USC 7006 106 (5) E ELECTRONIC SIGNATURE .—The term “electronic signature” means an electronic sound, symbol, or process, attached to or logically associated with a contract or other record and executed or adopted by a person with the intent to sign the record."

The Subcommittee further recommends that the NRC accepts as compliant electronic signatures that satisfy this specification, including, as an example, approving a document with a password or PIN or an digitized signature but not excluding other possibilities.

Discussion

There have been US Government standards for electronic signatures since 1999. The standards follow international protocols. The Public Law cited above follows the NIST standard. This includes approving a document with a password or PIN or any digitized signature such as common at a supermarket checkout. Actually, any mark made with the intention of signing a record is legitimate.