STATE OF CALIFORNIA
DMV
Department of Motor Vehicles

Vehicle Industry News
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Digital Signature Acceptance Program (DSAP)

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New Information

The Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV) has established a Digital Signature Acceptance Program (DSAP) for the acceptance of digital signatures. This allows First Line Service Providers (FLSPs) to submit approved documents electronically with digital signatures and authentication.

NOTE: Although electronic and digital signatures are both used to sign documents, they are **not** legally the same and each has unique features.

An electronic signature:

- Refers to any signature that is applied electronically to a document as opposed to physically (also known as a "wet" signature).
- May be used to confirm information and content within a document.
- May include a digitized image of a handwritten signature or name typed into a signature block on a form or document. Examples:

Jonathan Jones

Jonathan Jones

Jonathan Jones



A digital signature:

- Uses cryptography to bind a digital certification and date signed into a unique signature, with security features making it difficult to replicate or alter. This is accomplished using a trusted third party who is responsible for verifying and authenticating the signer's identity according to standards set by the California Secretary of State and federal regulations, including *Government Code* §16.5.

Jonathan Jones e-signed 08/28/2022 8:40 AM MI 123-4567 **or**
Jonathan Jones e-signed 08/28/2022 8:40 AM MI 123-4567

Documents Accepted with Electronic Signature

A majority of DMV forms may be submitted with an **electronic signature**, with the following exceptions:

- Any original printed form that releases or transfers interest in a vehicle or vessel (for example, reports of sale **must** have physical "wet" signatures).
- The following original titling documents, which **must** be submitted to DMV to finalize the transactions (transactions may be initiated using a copy of the form):
  —California Certificate of Title (REG 17.30)
  —Certificate of Ownership Vessel (REG 17.31)
  —California Salvage Certificate (REG 489)
  —Nonrepairable Vehicle Certificate (REG 490)

New Information, *continued*

- Forms that are authorized to be reproduced electronically, including forms that transfer ownership such as the Vehicle/Vessel Transfer Reassignment Form (REG 262), may be signed electronically or digitally in the buyer's and seller's sections, but the power of attorney section must be digitally signed. Signature authority for odometer statements may be conveyed through power of attorney.

- Electronic forms with odometer disclosure statements **must** have digital signatures in accordance with federal regulations.
- Forms that require a Notary Public **must** be notarized in accordance with the following:
  - Notarizations may be done electronically, however, the notary's signature must be a digitized version of their genuine signature. A signature is one that is not keyed or produced from an available computer font but is in the likeness of the signatory's actual signature such as a digitized impression. The signatures of the signers witnessed by the notary can be electronic or digital. Examples of forms requiring notarized signatures include:
    - Application for Replacement or Transfer of Title (REG 227), Section 5.
    - Lien Satisfied/Legal Owner/Title Holder Released (REG 166).
    - Registered Owner Notarized Certification (REG 5065).

Documents Accepted with Digital Signature

The forms listed below may be submitted electronically using a **digital signature**. Physical reproductions of digitally signed forms are acceptable for processing. All forms with digital signatures **must** also be submitted through an FLSP participating in the DSAP, which documents the required digital signature certification.

- Bill of Sale (REG 135)
- Unobtainable Title Certification for Issuance of Salvage/Nonrepairable Certificate (REG 492)
- Vehicle/Vessel Transfer Reassignment Form (REG 262)
- Additionally, the following Report of Sale forms may be submitted by FLSPs with digital signatures through the Electronic Report of Sale/Temporary License Plate (eROS/TLP) Programs:
  - Application for Registration of Multiple New Vehicles (REG 397A). The digital signature is required at the bottom of page 1, beneath the list of vehicles.
  - Application for Registration of New Vehicle (REG 397).
  - Report of Sale - Used Vehicle (REG 51).
  - Vehicle Auction Wholesale Report of Sale (REG 398).
  - Wholesale Report of Sale (REG 396).

Background

DMV developed this electronic signature process after the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) updated its regulations to allow digital signatures for odometer disclosures in September 2019.

References

Vehicle Code §§1801, 1801.1, and 23300
VIN 2019–01 Electronic ROS/TLP Procedures

Distribution

Notification of this memo (available at **dmv.ca.gov** under Vehicle Industry Services) was made via the California DMV Automated Email Alert System in August 2024 to:

- Dealers
- Registration Services

Contact

Direct questions related to this memo as follows:

- BPA program participants should contact their FLSP.
- All other inquiries should contact DMV Help Desk at (916) 657-6567.