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EESSI Conformity Assessment Guidance - Part 4: Signature-creation applications and general guidelines for electronic signature verification

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Foreword

Successful implementation of European Directive 1999/93/EC on a Community framework for electronic signatures (Directive 1999/93/EC) requires standards for services, processes, systems and products related to electronic signatures as well as guidance for conformity assessment of such services, processes, systems and products.

In 1999 the European ICT Standards Board, with the support of the European Commission, undertook an initiative bringing together industry and public authorities, experts and other market players, to create the European Electronic Signature Standardisation Initiative (EESSI).

Within this framework the Comité Européen de Normalisation / Information Society Standardisation System (CEN/ISSS) and the European Telecommunications Standards Institute / Electronic Signatures and Infrastructures (ETSI/ESI) were entrusted with the execution of a work programme to develop generally recognised standards to support the implementation of Directive 1999/93/EC and development of a European electronic signature infrastructure.

The CEN/ISSS Workshop on electronic signatures (WS/E-SIGN) resulted in a set of deliverables, CEN Workshop Agreements (CWA), which contributed towards those generally recognised standards. The present document is one such CWA.

The purpose of this CWA is to provide guidance with a view to harmonise the application of the standards for services, processes, systems and products for Electronic Signatures. The CWA is intended for use by certification-service-providers, manufacturers, operators, independent bodies, assessors, evaluators and testing laboratories involved in assessing conformance to the related EESSI deliverables.

This CWA is provided as a series of discrete documents, each a part of the overall CWA, the present part being Part 4, Signature creation applications and general guidelines for electronic signature verification, providing guidance on conformity assessment of signature creation/verification applications.

Details of all applicable parts can be found in Part 1.

This version of this CWA Part was published in 2004-03.

A list of the individuals and organizations which supported the technical consensus represented by this CEN Workshop Agreement is available to purchasers from the CEN Central Secretariat.

1 Scope

This document provides guidance on conformity assessment of products, systems and applications against the specifications CWA 14170 "Security Requirements for Signature Creation Applications" and CWA 14171 "General Guidelines for Electronic Signature Verification". The guidance is intended for use by manufacturers and operators.