

Weyerhaeuser Digitally Signed and Sealed Engineering Documents

Frequently Asked Questions

With an increasing number of states permitting engineers to electronically seal documents, Weyerhaeuser is now issuing signed and sealed plans, calculations, and reports electronically. Below are answers to frequently asked questions regarding this process.

Q: How is an electronically sealed document different than a physically signed and sealed paper document?

A: A digital signature and seal has the same weight, authority, and effect as a handwritten signature and seal. Whereas the originally handwritten signed and sealed document is considered the legal document, the electronically signed document is considered the legal document.

The electronic file should be submitted to the authority requesting seals.

Q: Is the printed version of the electronically sealed document considered to be equivalent to the electronic?

A: No. Printed copies of the electronic document would be considered working copies, much like physical or scanned copies of an original hand signed document would also be considered copies.

Q: Are there state guidelines in regard to how a document can be electronically signed?

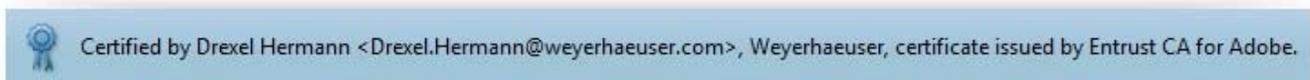
A: While specific guidelines can vary, many states require that the signing of documents conform to FIPS PUB 186-4 Digital Signing Standard (DSS) and the digital signature and seal must be:

1. Unique to the licensee
2. Verifiable by a trusted third party or some other approved process as belonging to the licensee
3. Under the licensee's direct and exclusive control,; and
4. Linked to the document in such a manner that after the digital signature and seal are applied to the document, the document shall be available in read-only format id digitally transmitted.

Q: How are Weyerhaeuser's engineers signatures verified?

A: Weyerhaeuser uses Entrust Inc. as its third party signature verification authority. Verification of signature can be done by viewing the Certificate under the Signature Properties within the PDF document. Additionally the documents are saved in a read-only version to prevent changes. In the unlikely event the document is altered the signature would be invalidated, and indicated within the banner of the document that the signature requires validating.

Valid Banner Examples:



Invalid Banner Example:

