

Technical Specifications on the rules and conditions regulating the certification and the approval of qualified signatures creation devices and qualified seal creation devices, adopted pursuant to Article (43) and Article (44) of CSP Regulation

Version 1.0

25 February 2024

CHAPTER 1 – DEFINITIONS

1. ARTICLE 1 – Definitions and interpretation

1.1. The terms, words, and phrases used in these technical specifications shall have the same meaning as are ascribed to them in the Electronic Commerce and Transactions Law promulgated by Decree Law No. 16 of 2010 as amended or repealed and the Regulation of Certification Service Providers issued under the Communications Regulatory Authority Presidents Decision No. [X] of 2024, unless these specifications expressly provide for otherwise. For the purposes of these technical specifications, the following terms and words shall have the meanings ascribed to them below:

1.2. The terms listed below have the corresponding meanings:

State	State of Qatar.
The Authority	The Communications Regulatory Authority (CRA).
Committee	Grievance and Disputes Resolution Committee set out in Article (64) of the Law.
Law	The Electronic Commerce and Transactions Law promulgated pursuant to Decree Law No. (16) of 2010, or any amendment or law which repeals and replaces such Law;
“CSPs Regulation”	Regulation on the Licensing and the Work of Certification Service Providers of 2024
Trust Service Provider (TSP)	A Certification Service Provider licensed to provide a trust service.
Trust Service (TS)	A service listed in paragraph 1 of Article (2) of the “CSPs Regulation”, which is provided in accordance with the applicable requirements laid down in the “CSPs Regulation”.
Qualified Trust Service Provider (QTSP)	A Certification Service Provider licensed to provide a qualified trust service, and which is granted a qualified status by the Authority.
Qualified Trust Service (QTS)	A service listed in paragraph 2 of Article (2) of the “CSPs Regulation”, which is provided in accordance with the applicable requirements laid down in the “CSPs Regulation”
Electronic signature creation device	Configured software or hardware used to create an electronic signature.
Qualified signature creation device	An electronic signature creation device that provides a high level of protection for the electronic signature creation data and meets the requirements laid down in Article (43) of the “CSPs Regulation”.

Remote qualified electronic signature creation device	A qualified electronic signature creation device managed by a qualified trust service provider in accordance with Article (45) of the “CSPs Regulation” on behalf of a signatory.
Electronic seal creation device	Configured software or hardware used to create an electronic seal.
Qualified seal creation device	An electronic seal creation device that provides a high level of protection for the electronic seal creation data and meets the requirements laid down in Article (43) of the “CSPs Regulation”.
Remote qualified electronic seal creation device	A qualified electronic seal creation device managed by a qualified trust service provider in accordance with Article (45) of the “CSPs Regulation” on behalf of a creator of a seal.
Certification body	The body that conducts a certification of a qualified signature creation device or qualified seal creation device based on the controls and conditions set by the Authority and fulfils the requirements of Article (3) of these technical specifications;
Certification Report	the report resulting from the certification of a qualified signature creation device or qualified seal creation device and issued by a certification body;
Place of business	A non-transitory facility or installation used to carry out the business of an entity.

1.3. The Annexures to these technical specifications form part of the technical specifications.

1.4. Unless otherwise expressly stated to the contrary in these technical specifications, any requirement for something to be communicated ‘in writing’ includes communication by email or any electronic process that the Authority introduces.

CHAPTER 2 – REQUIREMENTS FOR THE CERTIFICATION OF QUALIFIED SIGNATURE CREATION DEVICES AND QUALIFIED SEAL CREATION DEVICES

2. ARTICLE 2 – Requirements for the certification of qualified signature creation devices and qualified seal creation devices

2.1. The standards for the security assessment of information technology products that apply to the certification of qualified signature creation devices and qualified seal creation devices, where the electronic signature or

electronic seal creation data is held in an entirely but not necessarily exclusively user-managed environment (“Type I QSCD”) are listed in Annex I.

- 2.2. The standards for the security assessment of information technology products that apply to the certification of qualified signature creation devices and qualified seal creation devices, where a QTSP manages the electronic signature or electronic seal creation data on behalf of a Signatory (“Type II QSCD”) are listed in Annex II.
- 2.3. As a transitional measure until 01 January 2030, [FIPS PUB 140-2] Level 3 evaluated devices shall be assimilated to qualified signature creation devices and qualified seal creation devices until the expiration of their evaluation certificate or the end date of the transitional measure whichever occurs first, only for use by qualified trust service providers when they electronically sign or seal in their name outputs or evidences as part of the provision of the qualified trust service for which they have been granted a license and a qualified status in accordance with the Law, the “CSPs Regulation”, and the applicable technical specifications of the Authority.

CHAPTER 3 – CERTIFICATION BODIES

3. ARTICLE 3 – Requirements for certification bodies

- 3.1. With regards to the evaluation, assessment and certification of the conformity of a qualified signature creation device or qualified seal creation device with the requirements of the Law, the “CSPs Regulation”, this technical specifications, and all other relevant technical specifications issued by the Authority in implementation thereof, and requirements of concerned authorities, certification bodies shall be accredited under an appropriate scheme demonstrating their capability, skills, competence, and resources to evaluate, assess and certify qualified

signature creation devices and qualified seal creation devices in accordance with the requirements of Article 2 and the associated annexes.

3.2. Without prejudice of the certification bodies approval process established by these technical specifications, the Authority shall be empowered to verify and validate the conformity of a certification body with the requirements of the first paragraph of this Article.

4. ARTICLE 4 – Requirements for the approval of certification bodies

4.1. The Authority shall publish, on its website or by any other mean deemed suitable, all required information about the procedures and forms for the purposes of the approval of the certification bodies.

4.2. The approval application shall contain all information requested by the Authority. All information shall be submitted by the means determined by the Authority.

4.3. The certification body applying for an approval (the applicant) shall follow procedures and use application forms approved by the Authority.

4.4. The Authority defines the documents and data that should be provided as part of the application referred to in paragraph 4.3, including at least:

4.4.1. A copy of the trade-license allowing the applicant to conduct business in the country in which it is established, or any equivalent extract of a trade register as in official records or registers of that country.

4.4.2. The business location, name, and where applicable the registration number of the applicant, as stated in the official records of the country in which it is established, together with identification data of those official records.

4.4.3. Financial reports for the last 3 years, that are issued by an authorized auditor in the country of establishment of the applicant, and that show financial capabilities of the applicant.

4.4.4. Evidences that the applicant fulfils the requirements referred to in Article 3.

4.5. The Authority may request additional documents and data, which are necessary to process the application.

4.6. The Authority shall review the application and validate the submitted information and documents within a month from the submission date. In cases where more time is needed for the review, the Authority informs the applicant of the additional time.

4.7. The applicant shall inform the Authority within one week in case of any change to the submitted information and documents with reasons for the change, or in case the applicant wants to withdraw its application. The

applicant shall bear the cost of approval application and any additional expenses during the review of the application.

4.8. Following its validation of the application, the Authority shall issue a final decision wherein it will either:

4.8.1. Approve the application if it concludes that the applicant complies with the requirements laid down in the Law, in the “CSPs Regulation”, in these technical specifications, and in all other relevant technical specifications issued by the Authority in implementation thereof, and with requirements of concerned authorities; or

4.8.2. Reject the application if it concludes that the applicant does not comply with the requirements laid down in the Law, in the “CSPs Regulation”, in these technical specifications, and in all other relevant technical specifications issued by the Authority in implementation thereof, and with requirements of concerned authorities.

4.9. If the Authority approves the application:

4.9.1. It shall grant an approval to the applicant for the scope indicated in the approval decision; and

4.9.2. It shall update the register of approved certification bodies in accordance with the approval decision, indicating the scope of approval as mentioned in the approval decision.

4.10. The approval is valid up to revocation by the Authority, conditioned to the fact that the approved certification body continues to meet the requirements of the Law, of the “CSPs Regulation”, of these technical specifications,

of concerned authorities, and of all other relevant technical specifications issued by the Authority in implementation thereof.

4.11. The Authority may approve a certification body at its own discretion, and the decision shall determine the scope of approval, the conditions, and criteria to be applied by the certification body, the categories of fees due for the approval and the cases of fees exemption.

5. Article 5 – Suspension or revocation of the approval of certification bodies

5.1. The Authority may suspend the approval granted to a certification body when that body infringes one or more requirements of the Law of the “CSPs Regulation”, of these technical specifications, of concerned authorities, and of all other relevant technical specifications issued by the Authority in implementation thereof.

5.2. Where justified by the severity of the infringement(s) referred to in paragraph 5.1, or where those infringements are not remedied within three months of the suspension, the Authority shall revoke, without undue delay, the approval granted to a certification body.

5.3. In case of suspension of the approval granted to a certification body, the certifications of qualified signature creation devices and of qualified seal creation devices issued by the concerned certification body after the date of suspension shall no longer be considered as eligible for the approval of the corresponding qualified signature creation devices and qualified seal creation devices by the Authority. The qualified signature creation devices and qualified seal creation devices certified before the date of suspension of the certification body shall not lose their approval because of the suspension decision.

5.4. In case of revocation of the approval granted to a conformity assessment body, or of its termination at the request by that body, the certifications of qualified signature creation devices and of qualified seal creation devices issued by the concerned certification body after the date of revocation or termination shall no longer be considered as eligible for the approval of the corresponding qualified signature creation devices and qualified seal creation devices by the Authority and the qualified signature creation devices and qualified seal creation devices certified before such date shall lose their approval within a timeframe indicated by the Authority in the revocation decision. The determination of this timeframe shall consider to which extent the concerned devices

are used by the qualified trust service providers established and licensed in the State and the reasons underlying the revocation decision.

5.5. In case of suspension or revocation of the approval granted to a certification body in accordance with these technical specifications, the Authority shall update the register of approved certification bodies accordingly.

6. ARTICLE 6 – Requirements for amending the approval of a certification body

6.1. The certification body shall inform the Authority of changes to the information that was submitted during the application for approval, to the information appearing in the decision for granting an approval, including to its scope, within 14 calendar days from the occurrence of those changes.

6.2. Without prejudice to paragraph 6.1, the certification body shall communicate at least the following to the Authority:

6.2.1. Information about any change regarding the entity, ownership, and location of business of the certification body within its country of establishment.

6.2.2. Changes in the technical, financial, or management capability to operate and provide the services defined in the application or in the approval decision and the scope of the approval.

6.2.3. Any changes to the evidences of fulfilling the requirements referred to in Article 3 of this Technical specifications or with regards to the compliance with the requirements referred to in that Article 3.

6.2.4. A request for amending the scope of an existing approval granted to the certification body.

6.3 Any changes to an approval decision and its scope following the verification by the Authority of the relevant notified or requested changes shall be reflected in the register of approved certification bodies if the changes so require upon a decision from the Authority.

6.4 The Authority shall publish, on its website or by any other means deemed suitable, all required information about the procedures and forms for the purposes of the notification of changes related to the approval of certification bodies and the requests for their amendments.

CHAPTER 5 – APPROVAL OF QUALIFIED SIGNATURE CREATION DEVICES AND OF QUALIFIED SEAL CREATION DEVICES

7. ARTICLE 7 – Requirements for the approval of qualified signature creation devices and of qualified seal creation devices

7.1. The Authority shall publish, on its website or by any other mean deemed suitable, all required information about the procedures and forms for the purposes of the approval of a QSCD and for the purposes of its renewal.

- 7.2. The approval application shall contain all information requested by the Authority. All information shall be submitted by the means determined by the Authority.
- 7.3. The applicant applying for an approval of a qualified signature creation devices or a qualified seal creation devices (the QSCD applicant) shall follow procedures and use application forms approved by the Authority.
- 7.4. The Authority defines the documents and data that should be provided together with the application, including at least:
- 7.4.1. A copy of the trade-license allowing the QSCD applicant to conduct business in the country in which it is established, or any equivalent extract of a trade register as in official records or registers of that country.
- 7.4.2. The business location, name, and where applicable the registration number of the QSCD applicant, as stated in the official records of the country in which it is established, together with identification data of those official records.
- 7.4.3. Financial reports for the last 3 years, that are issued by an authorized auditor in the country of establishment of the QSCD applicant, and that show financial capabilities of the applicant.
- 7.4.4. Evidences that the qualified signature creation device or qualified seal creation device being proposed for approval by the Authority fulfils the requirements referred to in Article 2.
- 7.5. The Authority shall review the application and validate the submitted information and documents within a month from the submission date. In cases where more time is needed for the review, the Authority informs the QSCD applicant of the additional time.
- 7.6. The QSCD applicant shall inform the Authority within one week in case of any change to the submitted information and documents with reasons for the change, or in case the QSCD applicant wants to withdraw its application.
- 7.7. Following its validation of the application, the Authority shall issue a final decision wherein it will either:
- 7.7.1. Approve the application if it concludes that the QSCD applicant and the qualified signature creation device or qualified seal creation device proposed for approval comply with the requirements laid down in the Law, the “CSPs Regulation”, these technical specifications, and all other relevant technical specifications issued by the Authority in implementation thereof, and requirements of concerned authorities.
- 7.7.2. Reject the application if the Authority concluded that the QSCD applicant or the qualified signature creation device or qualified seal creation device proposed for approval does not comply with the requirements laid down in the Law, the “CSPs Regulation”, these technical specifications, and all other

relevant technical specifications issued by the Authority in implementation thereof, and requirements of concerned authorities.

7.8. If the Authority approves the application:

7.8.1. The Authority shall grant an approval to the qualified signature creation device or qualified seal creation device proposed by the QSCD applicant for the scope indicated in the approval decision.

7.8.2. The Authority shall update the list of approved qualified signature creation devices and approved qualified seal creation devices in accordance with the approval decision, including the scope of approval mentioned in the approval decision.

7.9. The duration of the approval is [5] years starting from date of approval decision conditioned to the fact that the approved qualified signature creation device or qualified seal creation device continues to meet the requirements of Article 2 of this technical specifications.

7.10. The Authority may take a decision to approve a qualified signature creation device or a qualified seal creation device at its own discretion, and the decision shall determine the scope of approval, the conditions, and criteria to be applied to the qualified signature creation device or qualified seal creation device.

8. ARTICLE 8 – Requirements for the renewal of the approval of qualified signature creation devices and of qualified seal creation devices

8.1. The QSCD applicant of an approved qualified signature creation device or a qualified seal creation device shall take all actions required to renew its approval at least 3 months before expiration of the approval. The renewal application shall include all data and documents listed in paragraph 4 of this Article, in addition to any additional data or documents determined by the Authority.

8.2. The QSCD applicant of an approved qualified signature creation device or a qualified seal creation device whose approval is expiring shall notify, 3 months before the expiry date, the Authority of its intention to renew its approval. In this period, the status of the approved device in the list of approved qualified signature creation devices and approved qualified seal creation devices shall be “expiring”, until it notifies the Authority of its intention to renew. Once the Authority is notified of its intention to renew its approval, the status of the approved device in the list of approved qualified signature creation devices and approved qualified seal creation devices shall be updated to “under renewal”. Approved qualified signature creation devices and approved qualified seal

creation devices will their approval status set to “expired” in the list of approved qualified signature creation devices and approved qualified seal creation devices 30 days after by the approval expiry date.

- 8.3. The Authority shall review the submitted data and documents for the application for the renewal of the approval of an approved qualified signature creation device or a qualified seal creation device, in accordance with the procedures applicable to the initial approval application.
- 8.4. Following its verification of the application for the renewal of an approved qualified signature creation device or a qualified seal creation device, the Authority shall issue a final Decision wherein it will either:
- 8.5. Approve the application for the renewal if the Authority concludes that the QSCD applicant and the qualified signature creation device or a qualified seal creation device comply with the requirements laid down in the Law, the “CSPs Regulation”, these technical specifications, and all other relevant technical specifications issued by the Authority in implementation thereof, and requirements of concerned authorities, and accordingly:
- 8.5.1. The Authority shall renew the approval of the concerned qualified signature creation device or qualified seal creation device.
- 8.5.2. The Authority shall update the list of approved qualified signature creations devices and qualified seal creation devices in accordance with the decision to renew the approval.
- 8.6. Reject the application for the renewal of the approval of the qualified signature creation device or qualified seal creation device if the Authority concludes that the QSCD applicant or the device does not comply with the requirements laid down in the Law, the “CSPs Regulation”, these technical specifications, and all other relevant technical specifications issued by the Authority in implementation thereof, and requirements of concerned authorities. In this case the Authority has the right to take any of the following actions:
- 8.6.1. Provide the QSCD applicant with a period of time to address non-conformities and after that, decide to confirm the rejection of the renewal of the approval or revisit its decision.
- 8.6.2. Update the list of approved qualified signature creations devices and qualified seal creation devices in accordance with the decision to reject the renewal of the approval, in which case the approval status of the device shall be set to “revoked”.
- 8.7. The Authority may take a decision to approve the renewal of the approval of a qualified signature creation device or qualified seal creation device at its own discretion, and the decision shall determine the scope of such

approval, the conditions, and criteria to be applied to the qualified signature creation device or qualified seal creation device.

9. ARTICLE 9 – REVOCATION OF THE APPROVAL OF QUALIFIED SIGNATURE CREATION DEVICES AND OF QUALIFIED SEAL CREATION DEVICES

9.1. The Authority shall take a decision to revoke the approval of a qualified signature creation device or qualified seal creation device at its own discretion or when the QSCD applicant or the approved device no longer meets the requirements laid down in the Law, the “CSPs Regulation”, these technical specifications, and all other relevant technical specifications issued by the Authority in implementation thereof, and requirements of concerned authorities.

9.2. The decision from the Authority to revoke the approval of a qualified signature creation device or qualified seal creation device shall be motivated and may indicate a timeframe at the expiration of which the revocation shall be effective. The determination of this timeframe shall consider to which extent the concerned device is used by qualified trust service providers established and licensed in the State and the reasons underlying the revocation decision.

9.3. In case of revocation or request for termination by the QSCD applicant of the approval granted to a qualified signature creation device or qualified seal creation device in accordance with these technical specifications:

9.3.1. The corresponding device shall no longer be considered as a valid qualified signature creation device or qualified seal creation device in accordance with the Law.

9.3.2. The Authority shall update the list of approved qualified signature creation devices and qualified seal creation devices in accordance.

10. ARTICLE 10 – Requirements for amending the approval of qualified signature creation devices and of qualified seal creation devices

10.1. The QSCD applicant who has been granted an approval for a qualified signature creation device or qualified seal creation device shall inform the Authority, within 14 days in case of changes to the information that was

submitted during the application for approval or the application for approval renewal, as well in case of a request for amending a granted approval or its scope.

10.2. Without prejudice to the first paragraph of this Article, the QSCD applicant shall communicate at least the following to the Authority:

10.2.1. Information about any change regarding the QSCD applicant, ownership, and location of business for the applying entity within its country of establishment.

10.2.2. Changes in the technical, financial, or management capability to manage and operate the services defined in the approval decision and the scope of the approval.

10.2.3. Any changes to the evidences that the qualified signature creation device or the qualified seal creation device fulfils the requirements referred to in Article 2.

10.2.4. A request for amending the scope of an existing approval granted to the QSCD applicant.

10.3. Any changes to a decision approving a qualified signature creation device or qualified seal creation device, including to its scope, following the verification by the Authority of the relevant notified or requested changes

shall be reflected in the list of approved qualified signature creation devices and qualified seal creation devices if the changes so require upon a decision from the Authority.

10.4. The Authority shall publish, on its website or by any other means deemed suitable, all required information about the procedures and forms for the purposes of the notification of changes related to the approval of a qualified signature creation device or qualified seal creation device and the requests for amendments.

11. ANNEX I – List of standards referred to for Type I QSCD

ISO/IEC 15408 — Information technology — Security techniques — Evaluation criteria for IT security, Parts 1 to 3 as listed below:

- ISO/IEC 15408-1:2009 — Information technology — Security techniques — Evaluation criteria for IT security — Part 1. ISO, 2009.
- ISO/IEC 15408-2:2008 — Information technology — Security techniques — Evaluation criteria for IT security — Part 2. ISO, 2008.
- ISO/IEC 15408-3:2008 — Information technology — Security techniques — Evaluation criteria for IT security — Part 3. ISO, 2008,

and

ISO/IEC 18045:2008: Information technology — Security techniques — Methodology for IT security evaluation,

and,

either

CEN EN 419 211 — Protection profiles for secure signature creation device, Parts 1 to 6

— as appropriate — as listed below:

- CEN EN 419 211-1:2014 — Protection profiles for secure signature creation device — Part 1: Overview
- CEN EN 419 211-2:2013 — Protection profiles for secure signature creation device — Part 2: Device with key generation
- CEN EN 419 211-3:2013 — Protection profiles for secure signature creation device — Part 3: Device with key import
- CEN EN 419 211-4:2013 — Protection profiles for secure signature creation device — Part 4: Extension for device with key generation and trusted channel to certificate generation application
- CEN EN 419 211-5:2013 — Protection profiles for secure signature creation device — Part 5: Extension for device with key generation and trusted channel to signature creation application
- CEN EN 419 211-6:2014 — Protection profiles for secure signature creation device — Part 6: Extension for device with key import and trusted channel to signature creation application

or

CEN EN 419 221-5 — Protection profiles for TSP Cryptographic modules — Part 5: Cryptographic Module for Trust Services

12. 11. ANNEX II – List of standards referred to for Type II QSCD

12.1. ISO/IEC 15408 — Information technology — Security techniques — Evaluation criteria for IT security, Parts 1 to 3 as listed below:

- ISO/IEC 15408-1:2009 — Information technology — Security techniques — Evaluation criteria for IT security — Part 1. ISO, 2009.
- ISO/IEC 15408-2:2008 — Information technology — Security techniques — Evaluation criteria for IT security — Part 2. ISO, 2008.
- ISO/IEC 15408-3:2008 — Information technology — Security techniques — Evaluation criteria for IT security — Part 3. ISO, 2008,

and

- ISO/IEC 18045:2008: Information technology — Security techniques — Methodology for IT security evaluation,

and

- CEN EN 419 241-2: Trustworthy Systems Supporting Server Signing Part 2: Protection Profile for QSCD for Server Signing.

12.2. Alternatively, the certification referred to in paragraph 2 of Article (2) shall be based on a security evaluation process that uses comparable security levels than those referred to in paragraph 1 of Annex II (clause 12.1), and based on equivalent standards, technical specifications, or protection profiles than those referred to in paragraph 1 of Annex II (clause 12.1).