

Technical Specifications pursuant to Article  
51.4 of the CSP Regulations  
*for qualified trust service providers  
providing the qualified validation service of  
qualified electronic signatures and for the  
qualified validation service of qualified  
electronic seals*

February 25, 2024

## Article 1: Definitions

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ascribed to them in the Electronic Commerce and Transactions Law promulgated by Decree Law No. 16 of 2010 as amended or repealed and the Regulation of Certification Service Providers issued under the Communications Regulatory Authority President Decision No. [X] of 2024 ("CSPs Regulation"), unless these specifications expressly provides for otherwise. For the purposes of these technical specifications, the following terms and words shall have the meanings ascribed to them below:

<b>"The Authority"</b>	the Communications Regulatory Authority ("the CRA");
<b>"Law"</b>	the Electronic Commerce and Transactions Law promulgated by Decree Law No. 16 of 2010 or any amendment or law which repeals and replaces such Law;
<b>"CSPs Regulation"</b>	Regulation on the Licensing and activities performed by Certification Service Providers issued under CRA President Decision No[X] of 2024,“
<b>"Conformity Assessment"</b>	an audit conducted to determine the extent of conformity of a License applicant and Licensees with the conditions, controls and standards adopted under the Law, "CSPs Regulation" and the decisions issued in implementation thereof;
<b>"Conformity Assessment Body" (CAB)</b>	the body that conducts a Conformity Assessment based on the controls and conditions set by the Authority and fulfils the requirements of Article (18) of the "CSPs Regulation";
<b>"Conformity Assessment Report" (CAR)</b>	the report resulting from a Conformity Assessment and issued by a Conformity Assessment Body;
<b>"Trust Service Provider" (TSP)</b>	A Certification Service Provider licensed to provide a trust service.
<b>"Trust Service" (TS)</b>	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".
<b>"Qualified Trust Service Provider (QTSP)"</b>	A Certification Service Provider licensed to provide a qualified trust service, and which is granted a qualified status by the Authority.
<b>"Qualified Trust Service (QTS)"</b>	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"

“License”	an authorization issued pursuant to the provisions of the Law and its “CSPs Regulation”, according to which a Licensee is allowed to carry out any of the Trust Services or Qualified Trust Services;
“Licensee”	a legal person who is licensed by the Authority in accordance with the provisions of the Law and its “CSPs Regulation”;
“National Accreditation Body” (NAB)	the sole body in the State or in a foreign country that performs accreditation with authority derived from the State or the foreign country.
“Qatar Trusted List”	The trusted list published by the Communications Regulatory Authority.

## Article 2: Qualified validation of qualified electronic signatures

1. Pursuant to Article 51.4. of the “CSPs Regulation”, qualified trust service providers providing the qualified validation of qualified electronic signatures shall comply with the requirements laid down in Annex I of these Technical Specifications.

## Article 3: Qualified validation of qualified electronic seals

1. Pursuant to Article 51.4. of the “CSPs Regulation”, qualified trust service providers providing the qualified validation of qualified electronic seals shall comply mutatis mutandis with the requirements laid down in Annex I of these Technical Specifications.

# Annex I: Technical requirements for qualified trust service providers providing the qualified validation service of qualified electronic signatures

## I.1 General requirements

1. The qualified trust service provider providing qualified validation services for qualified electronic signatures shall conform to [ETSI TS 119 441], excluding its Annex B, and [ETSI TS 119 442] with the amendments provided in the subsequent clauses of the present Annex, which have precedence on specifications from [ETSI TS 119 441] and [ETSI TS 119 442].
2. All references to [ETSI EN 319 401] made directly or indirectly in [ETSI TS 119 441] and [ETSI TS 119 442] shall be understood as referring to the version of that standard amended according to [TSP-GEN] Technical Specifications.
3. All mentions of “trust service provider” in [ETSI TS 119 441] and [ETSI TS 119 442] shall be understood as “qualified trust service provider as defined in the [“CSPs Regulation”]”, including all mentions present in the amendments provided in the present annex.
4. All mentions of “trust service” in [ETSI TS 119 441] and [ETSI TS 119 442] shall be understood as “qualified trust service as defined in the [“CSPs Regulation”]”, including all mentions present in the amendments provided in the present annex.
5. All mention of "EU qualified certificates" in [ETSI TS 119 441] and [ETSI TS 119 442] shall read "Qatar qualified certificates".
6. All mention of "Regulation (EU) No 910/2014" in [ETSI TS 119 441] and [ETSI TS 119 442] shall read "[“CSPs Regulation”]".
7. All mention of “(EU) advanced electronic signatures” and “(EU) advanced electronic seal” in [ETSI TS 119 441] and [ETSI TS 119 442] shall read respectively as “Qatar advanced electronic signatures” and to “Qatar advanced electronic seals” as defined in the [“CSPs Regulation”].
8. All mention of “(EU) qualified electronic signatures” and “(EU) qualified electronic seal” in [ETSI TS 119 441] and [ETSI TS 119 442] shall read respectively as “Qatar qualified

electronic signatures” and to “Qatar qualified electronic seals” as defined in the [“ CSPs Regulation”].

9. All mention of “EUMS trusted list” in [ETSI TS 119 441] shall read as “Qatar trusted list” as defined in the [“CSPs Regulation”].

## **I.2 Validation service policy and validation service practice statement**

1. The qualified trust service provider's validation service policies and validation service practice statements shall be structured in accordance with [ETSI TS 119 441] and in particular with its Annex A.
2. The qualified trust service provider's validation service policies and validation service practice statements shall be identified by means of unique object identifiers of the form required in ITU-T Recommendation [X.509].
3. The qualified trust service provider shall publicly disclose its validation service policies, its validation service practice statements, and their revisions through an online means that is available on a 24x7 basis.
4. The qualified trust service provider shall publish validation service disclosure statement(s) that summarize key points of its validation service policy(ies) for the benefit of subscribers and relying parties.
5. The qualified trust service provider shall publish an English translation of its validation service practice statements, validation service policies and validation service disclosure statement(s).

## **I.3 Validation service technical requirements**

1. The validation service provided as a qualified trust service by the qualified trust service provider shall conform to [TL-GUID] document.
2. The qualified trust service provider shall test its service to demonstrate the compliance to paragraph 1 of the present section and shall describe such tests in its practice statements.
3. The tests referred to in paragraph 2 of the present section shall check different use-cases, positive and negative ones and be sufficient in quantity and quality to provide significant evidence of the conformance of the service.

4. The validation service provided as a qualified trust service by the qualified trust service provider shall permit relying parties to receive validation result of the qualified electronic signature in an automated, reliable and efficient manner that can be processed by a machine. Complying with [ETSI TS 119 442] and with [ETSI TS 119 102-2] will provide a presumption of compliance with this requirement.
5. When the validation report is presented through a webpage, the website and the qualified trust service provider shall be authenticated within a TLS session.
6. When an [RFC 3161] time stamp is present in the validated qualified electronic signature, the validation report shall report if the [RFC 3161] time stamp is a qualified electronic time stamp as per the Law, the “CSPs Regulation” and the applicable technical controls of the Law and the “CSPs Regulation”.
7. The validation report shall conform to [ETSI TS 119 102-2].
8. The information requested by SVR-8.4-08 and SVR-8.4-09 of [ETSI TS 119 441] shall be under the form of a certificate that bears the name of the qualified trust service provider such as indicated in the official reports.
9. The qualified trust service provider shall control the hash computation (either perform the computation on the server side or control the client if it is allowed on the client side).
10. The validation service policy shall clearly be identified as a validation policy for validating that a signature is a qualified electronic signature or seal as per the Law, the “CSPs Regulation” and the applicable technical controls of the Law and the “CSPs Regulation”.
11. The validation report shall indicate whether the electronic signature is a Qatar qualified electronic signature or a Qatar qualified electronic seal.
12. The validation report shall allow the relying party to detect any security relevant issues.
13. The trustworthy systems used by the qualified trust service provider to provide qualified validation services should be certified against an appropriate standard or protection profile.
14. [RFC 3161] time stamps added by the qualified trust service provider within the validation report shall be qualified electronic time stamps.

15. The validation report shall bear the qualified electronic signature or qualified electronic seal of the qualified trust service provider.

#### **I.4 Provisions related to the inclusion of the qualified validation of qualified electronic signatures qualified trust service in the Qatar trusted list**

1. A qualified trust service consisting in the provisioning of qualified validation service for qualified electronic signatures is identified in the Qatar trusted list by means of:
  - a. an electronic certificate of the qualified trust service provider, corresponding to the private key used to create qualified electronic signatures or qualified electronic seals on validation service evidences (reports), or
  - b. a certificate of an issuing certificate authority, operated by the qualified trust service provider, only for its own use, issuing only certificates for electronic signatures or for electronic seals that shall only be used for creating qualified electronic signatures or qualified electronic seals on qualified validation service evidences (reports) issued by the qualified trust service provider.
2. In case of paragraph 1.a of the present section, as many services shall be included in the Qatar trusted list as there are private/public key pairs used by the qualified trust service provider.
3. In case of paragraph 1.b of the present section, the confirmation by an accredited conformity assessment body and the verification by the Authority of the conformity of the qualified trust service provider and the qualified trust service it provides with the requirements of the “CSPs Regulation” and of the applicable technical controls of the Law and the “CSPs Regulation” must demonstrate that the issuing certificate authority meets these requirements.
4. The qualified trust service provider shall not issue any validation report that might be interpreted as being the result of a process for the qualified validation of qualified electronic signature or seal when those validation reports are not the result of a validation process that meets the requirements for the qualified validation for electronic signature or seal laid down in the [“CSPs Regulation”].

## References

Reference	Title
[Law]	the Electronic Commerce and Transactions Law promulgated by Decree Law No. 16 of 2010 or any amendment or law which repeals and replaces such Law;
[CSPs Regulation]	The Regulation on the Licensing and the Work of Certification Service Providers of 2024
[TSP-GEN]	Technical Specifications on the General Requirements issued pursuant to Certified Service Providers Regulations on technical controls applicable to trust service providers or qualified trust service providers and the trust services or qualified trust services provided
[TL-GUID]	Guidelines on the interpretation of the content of Qatar trusted list
[X.509]	ISO/IEC 9594-8/Recommendation ITU-T X.509: Information technology - Open Systems Interconnection - The Directory - Part 8: Public-key and attribute certificate frameworks.
[RFC 3161]	IETF RFC 3161: "Internet X.509 Public Key Infrastructure Time-Stamp Protocol (TSP)" <a href="https://datatracker.ietf.org/doc/rfc3161/">https://datatracker.ietf.org/doc/rfc3161/</a>
[ETSI TS 119 102-2]	ETSI TS 119 102-2 V1.4.1 (2023-06): Electronic Signatures and Infrastructures (ESI); Procedures for Creation and Validation of AdES Digital Signatures; Part 2: Signature Validation Report
[ETSI EN 319 401]	ETSI EN 319 401 v2.3.1 (2021-05): Electronic Signatures and Infrastructures (ESI); General Policy Requirements for Trust Service Providers



[ETSI TS 119 441]	ETSI TS 119 441 V1.2.1 (2023-10): Electronic Signatures and Infrastructures (ESI); Policy requirements for TSP providing signature validation services
[ETSI TS 119 442]	ETSI TS 119 442 v1.1.1 (2019-02): Electronic Signatures and Infrastructures (ESI); Protocol profiles for trust service providers providing AdES digital signature validation services