# BCIA Digital Signature

Articling Agrologist, Articling Technologist in Agrology, Professional Agrologist and Registered Technologist in Agrology are increasingly using new technologies in their daily work. The documents they produce remain subject to high standards of reliability. Articling Agrologist, Articling Technologist in Agrology, Professional Agrologist or Registered Technologist in Agrology who wish to produce legally reliable digital documents in compliance with the BCIA requirements can now accomplish this task with CertifiO for Professionals – The British Columbia Institute of Agrologists' Digital Signature. Digital Signatures are not to be confused with an electronic impression (scanned image) of an ink stamp.

After evaluation of the digital signature market, BCIA has selected Notarius to provide the BCIA Digital Signature to Articling Agrologist, Articling Technologist in Agrology, Professional Agrologist and Registered Technologist in Agrology.

Here are what BCIA Registrants need to know about digital signatures?

### What is an electronic document?

An electronic document is a document carried by electronic, logical and visual media.

### What is a digital signature?

It is the affixing of a digital signature certificate that cryptographically secures an electronic file, thus proving the origin, the authenticity of the signer, and confirm the integrity of the signed document.

### What is a digital signature certificate?

It is a computer artifact issued and cryptographically protected by a Certificate Authority (Notarius) attesting to the veracity of the information declared in the certificate. This information may include:

- Full name;
- Email address;
- Professional title;
- Registration number;
- Public key;
- Validity period and the serial number of their certificate.

## Presentation of the Partnership between the British Columbia Institute of Agrologists and Notarius

Notarius provides the framework and platform to allow its 40+ partners to issue Trusted Digital Signatures to their members, without the trouble of managing the technological infrastructure related to such complex solutions. In the same way the BCIA controls in BC whom can represent themselves as holding the title Articling Agrologist, Articling Technologist in Agrology, Professional Agrologist or Registered Technologist in Agrology and issuance of the professional stamp for Professional Agrologist or Registered Technologist in Agrology , this partnership allows BCIA to be the exclusive issuer of a Digital Signature in which the professional designation is confirmed.

Like EGBC, ASTTBC, AIBC, BCSLA, ABCFP, CAB and OAQ (Quebec Agrologists), BCIA Registrants who wish to avail themselves of the BCIA Digital Signature will begin the process of creating electronic originals and authenticate final documents using proven technology solutions that meet the BCIA guidelines for use of a signature and stamp, government standards and archiving best practices for electronic documents.

BCIA is aware of Adobe programs which enable security settings; however these programs do not meet the security requirements for digital certificates which would be required for electronic transmission of a signature or seal.

## Features and Benefits

A certificate-based digital signature applies a digital signature to a document with a unique digital certificate obtained from a Certificate Authority (CA). The set-up of a certificate based digital signature would require authentication (ID verification) with the CA and with the professional organization – BCIA. The signatures issued from the CA are regularly audited and certified.

Notarius would act as the CA. The Notarius standards based system uses X.509 Digital Certificate Standard, PDF/A and PAdES/LTV international standards (LTV: Long-Term Validation). This system enables the user (the registrant) to produce documents in PDF/A format that can be opened in all Adobe products and other PDF readers.

The BCIA Digital Signature affixed to a document by Registrants:

- ✓ Guarantees the **identity** of the document. The origin of the document includes proof of the signer's identity, the Registrant professional category, the BCIA professional affiliation (at the time of the signature) as well as the date and time of the document's finalization;

- ✓ Ensures the **integrity** of the document (as well as its data contents), so that the document has not been altered since its completion;

- ✓ Establishes the **authenticity** of the document. The authenticity implies that everything necessary to prove its origin and integrity is embedded in the document;

**The BCIA Digital Signature must remain under the sole control of its holder, it cannot be shared nor delegated under any circumstances.**

## How to Obtain the BCIA Digital Signature

To obtain your BCIA digital signature, please visit the following:

www.notarius.com/BCIA

*Additional Resources:*

- ✓ For support documentation, visit [www.notarius.com/resources](www.notarius.com/resources). You will find white papers and other sources of information to help undertake your digital transformation.
- ✓ Sign Up information:
  [https://notarius.com/signup/certifioforprofessionals](https://notarius.com/signup/certifioforprofessionals)
- ✓ ConsignO Desktop Product brochure:
  [https://notarius.com/info/consignodesktop](https://notarius.com/info/consignodesktop)
- ✓ Weekly free training webinar:
  [www.notarius.com/webinar](www.notarius.com/webinar)
- ✓ A summary of the [20 most common](20 most common) questions related to digital signatures.

## Verify the validity of Signed Electronic PDF Documents

- ✓ This step by step [document](document) explains how to verify and validate digitally signed document.
- ✓ Also visit the interactive verification tool: [www.verifio.com](www.verifio.com)
- ✓ [Video that explains how to sign, verify, annotate and approve digital drawings](#)
- ✓ FAQ article that explains how to configure Adobe to [validate digital signature](#) ([in PDF](#))

## Questions about the BCIA Digital Signature?

- • **Please contact at BCIA**: Laurena Olsen, Deputy Registrar at [Laurena@bcia.com](mailto:Laurena@bcia.com), 1-877-855-9291 (toll free)

## You're a BCIA Registrant, an Authority having jurisdiction or have questions about digital signatures and the reception of digitally signed documents?

- • **Please contact:** Olivier Jaar, **Business Solutions Director** [olivier.jaar@notarius.com](mailto:olivier.jaar@notarius.com)

## For Technical Assistance

- • **Please contact:** [Notarius Customer support](#)
  by phone: [1-855-505-7272](tel:1-855-505-7272) or by email: [support@notarius.com](mailto:support@notarius.com)