

Electronic Signatures

**Can I use an electronic signature, such as DocuSign, on EPO assignment documents?
No, but here are some options below...**

Here's what you can do:

- If you are acting before the EPO (European Patent Office), you will not be able to do this. A "wet ink" signature is needed. But you can file a scanned in copy of the document. The actual original document is not needed.
- Electronic signatures on documents filed electronically in proceedings before the EPO are only accepted with regard to procedural acts, which require a signature in order to verify the authenticity of the person acting – i.e. a professional representative signing an electronic letter or web filing. (For those who want chapter and verse - Rule 2(2) EPC in conjunction with Article 10 of the Decision of the President of the EPO dated 9 May 2018 concerning electronic filing of documents (OJ EPO 2018, A45) and the Decision of the President dated 12 July 2007 concerning the electronic signatures, (...), Special Edition No. 3, OJ EPO 2007, A.5.).
- However, these provisions are not applicable to **assignment** documents within the meaning of Article 72 EPC. The EPO view is that examination of legal and technical requirements with regard to electronic signatures pursuant to worldwide national provisions is not only extremely burdensome for the EPO to undertake but also runs counter to the intention of Article 72 EPC, which is to be understood as a uniform and autonomous provision of substantial law on the formal requirements of assignments of European patent applications.

More information

If you would like more information about this, you can visit <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/PDF/?uri=CELEX:32014R0910&from=EN>

