

Are electronic signatures acceptable?

With more people working remotely, a digital signature is the simplest way to execute documents.

It is useful to know whether electronic signatures are acceptable on documentary evidence/POAs or whether a real 'wet ink' signature must be provided.

The European Patent Office (EPO) accepts electronic signatures on some documents, including assignments, but the conditions are so strict that we normally recommend using real ink signatures. See our [Electronic signatures at the EPO](#) handout for more details.

At the UK Intellectual Property Office, electronic signatures are widely accepted. A complication is a Power of Attorney – as these are executed as deeds, an electronic signature is fine, but a witness must physically be present to witness the signing (so cannot witness via a Zoom call, for example). Therefore, a 'wet ink' signature may be easier overall.

See overleaf for the information we have received from local attorneys regarding digital (E.g., DocuSign) signatures and handwritten ink signatures.

What next?

If you would like more information, then please get in touch.

You can email us info@barkerbrettell.co.uk or call us on **+44 (0)121 456 0000**.

Where mentioned, and unless otherwise specified, costs exclude VAT and include any official fees and costs and timescales are approximate.

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