Translation of

the Electronic Signature Law No. 15 of 2004

ترجمة قانون التوقيع الإلكتروني رقم ١٥ لسنة ٢٠٠٤

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16 October 2025

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Law No. 15 of 2004 Concerning the Regulation of Electronic Signature and the Establishment of the Information Technology Industry Development Authority

In the name of the people President of the republic

Preamble

The People's Assembly has enacted the following Law, and we have hereby promulgated it:

Article (1):

For the purposes of applying the provisions of this Law, the following terms shall bear the meanings set forth opposite each of them:

Electronic Writing: All letters, numbers, symbols, or any other signs affixed on an electronic, digital, optical, or any similar medium that conveys a perceptible meaning.

Electronic Document: A data message containing information that is created, integrated, stored, sent, or received, in whole or in part, by electronic, digital, optical, or any other similar means.

Electronic Signature: Any marks, letters, numbers, symbols, or other signs affixed to an electronic document that possess a unique character allowing for the identification of the signatory and distinguishing him from others.

Electronic Device: Any tool, equipment, or system used to create an electronic signature.

Signatory: A person possessing the data for creating the electronic signature, who signs on his own behalf or on behalf of another whom he represents legally.

Certificate of Authentication (Electronic Certification): A certificate issued by an authorized certifying entity establishing the linkage between the signatory and the data used to create the signature.

The Authority: The Information Technology Industry Development Authority.

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The Competent Ministry: The Ministry responsible for communications and information affairs.

The Competent Minister: The Minister responsible for communications and information affairs.

Article (2):

A public authority shall be established under the name "Information Technology Industry Development Authority", having public legal personality and affiliated with the competent minister. Its principal office shall be located in Giza Governorate, and it may establish branches throughout the Arab Republic of Egypt.

Article (3):

The Authority shall aim to achieve the following objectives:

- Encouraging and developing the information and communications technology industry.
- Transferring advanced information technology and ensuring its effective utilization.
- Increasing opportunities for exporting information and communications technology services and products.
- Contributing to the development and growth of entities operating in the field of information and communications technology.
- Directing, encouraging, and fostering investment in the information and communications technology industry.
- Protecting the common interests of information technology activities.
- Supporting research and studies in the field of information and communications technology and encouraging the use of their results.
- Promoting and supporting small and medium-sized enterprises engaged in the use and application of electronic transaction mechanisms.

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- Regulating electronic signature services and other activities related to electronic transactions and the information technology industry.

Article (4):

The Authority shall exercise the powers necessary to achieve its objectives, and in particular shall have the following functions:

- Issuing and renewing licenses required for the conduct of electronic signature services and other activities in the field of electronic transactions and information technology, in accordance with applicable laws and regulations.

- Defining the standards of the electronic signature system to ensure the regulation of its technical specifications.

- Receiving complaints related to electronic signature, electronic transactions, and information technology activities, and taking the necessary measures thereon.

- Evaluating entities operating in the information technology sector and determining their technical levels based on the results of such evaluation.

- Providing technical advice concerning disputes arising among parties involved in electronic signature, electronic transactions, or information technology activities.

- Providing technical advice and training to entities engaged in information technology activities.

- Organizing exhibitions, conferences, and specialized seminars in the field of information and communications technology domestically and abroad.

- Establishing or participating in companies that contribute to the development of the information and communications technology industry.

- Depositing, registering, and recording original copies of computer programs and databases submitted by publishing, printing, or producing entities or individuals, in order to preserve intellectual property and other rights.

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Article (5):

A fee of one percent (1%) of the revenues from services and activities provided by establishments operating in the information and communications technology field shall be imposed in favor of the Authority.

Such establishments shall be obligated to pay the fee, which shall be deposited in a special account dedicated to supporting the development of the information and communications technology industry.

A resolution of the Board of Directors of the Authority shall determine the specified services and activities.

The issuance and renewal of licenses referred to in Article (4)(a) of this Law shall be subject to fees determined by a resolution of the Board of Directors of the Authority, which shall also prescribe the applicable categories, rules, and procedures for their collection.

Article (6):

The financial resources of the Authority shall consist of the following:

- Allocations provided by the State.
- The fee stipulated in the first paragraph of Article (5) of this Law.
- The proceeds referred to in the second paragraph of Article (5), item (c) of Article (9), and Articles (19) and (22) of this Law.
- Fees for other services rendered by the Authority.
- Donations, grants, and contributions accepted by the Board of Directors.
- Loans and grants contracted in favor of the Authority.
- Returns on the Authority's investments.

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Article (7):

The Authority shall have an independent budget prepared in accordance with the rules governing the budgets of economic authorities.

The Authority's fiscal year shall commence with the State's fiscal year and end therewith.

The Authority shall have a special account at the Central Bank of Egypt for depositing its resources.

Subject to the approval of the Minister of Finance, an additional account may be opened for the Authority at another bank.

The surplus of the Authority's budget shall be carried forward from year to year.

The Prime Minister may, upon the proposal of the competent minister and after consultation with the Minister of Finance, decide to transfer a portion of such surplus to the State Treasury.

Article (8):

The Authority shall be managed by a Board of Directors formed by a decree of the Prime Minister under the chairmanship of the competent minister and comprising the following members:

- The Chief Executive Officer of the Authority.
- A counselor from the State Council nominated by the President of the State Council.
- A representative of the Ministry of Defense nominated by the Minister of Defense.
- A representative of the Ministry of Interior nominated by the Minister of Interior.
- A representative of the Ministry of Finance nominated by the Minister of Finance.
- A representative of the Presidency of the Republic nominated by the Chief of the Presidential Diwan.
- A representative of the General Intelligence Service nominated by the Head of the Service.

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- Seven (7) members of expertise appointed by the competent minister.

The term of the Board of Directors shall be three years, renewable.

The remuneration of the Board members shall be determined by a resolution of the Prime Minister.

The Board may form one or more committees from among its members to be temporarily entrusted with specific tasks.

It may also delegate the Chairman or the Chief Executive Officer with some of its powers.

Article (9):

The Board of Directors of the Authority shall be the body responsible for its affairs and for the conduct of its business.

It shall exercise its powers as set forth in this Law and may take all decisions necessary to achieve the purposes for which the Authority was established, including in particular:

- Establishing systems and rules governing electronic signatures and electronic transactions in accordance with applicable laws and regulations.

- Establishing the technical, administrative, financial, and security rules related to the issuance of licenses for the conduct of electronic signature services and other related activities.

- Determining the services provided by the Authority to third parties in the field of information and communications technology, and setting the fees for such services.

- Establishing rules ensuring adherence to professional standards in the field of electronic transactions and information and communications technology.

- Adopting internal regulations related to technical, financial, and administrative affairs, procurement, storage, and other organizational matters, without being bound by government procedures.

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- Approving the Authority's annual draft budget.

- Adopting the personnel regulations governing appointment, remuneration, allowances, bonuses, promotion, discipline, termination, and other employment matters, taking into account productivity standards and the economic balance of the Authority, and after consultation with the relevant labor organization, without being bound by the State Civil Service regulations.

- Developing plans and programs for training and capacity building in the information technology industry.

The regulations and systems referred to in this Article shall be issued by a decision of the competent minister.

Article (10):

The Board of Directors shall meet at the invitation of its Chairman at least once a month or whenever necessary.

A meeting shall be valid only with the attendance of the majority of members, and its resolutions shall be adopted by the majority of votes of those present.

In the event of a tie, the side on which the Chairman has voted shall prevail.

The Board may invite experts to attend its sessions for consultation, without voting rights.

Article (11):

The Authority shall have a Chief Executive Officer, appointed and remunerated by a decree of the Prime Minister upon the proposal of the competent minister.

The Chief Executive Officer shall represent the Authority before the courts and in its relations with third parties.

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He shall be accountable to the Board of Directors for the technical, administrative, and financial management of the Authority and shall have the following powers:

- Implementing the resolutions of the Board of Directors.
- Managing and supervising the operation and administration of the Authority.
- Presenting periodic reports to the Board of Directors on the Authority's activities, progress of work, achievements in line with approved plans and programs, identifying performance obstacles, and proposing solutions.
- Performing any tasks or duties assigned by the Board of Directors.
- Exercising any other powers specified by the internal regulations of the Authority.

Article (12):

The Chief Executive Officer shall act in place of the Chairman of the Board of Directors of the Authority in case of the latter's absence.

Article (13):

All entities and companies operating in the field of electronic transactions and information technology shall provide the Authority with any reports, statistics, or information it requests that relate to its activities.

Article (14):

Within the scope of civil, commercial, and administrative transactions, an electronic signature shall have the same evidentiary authority as signatures under the provisions of the Law of Evidence in Civil and Commercial Matters, provided that its creation and completion comply with the conditions stipulated in this Law and the technical and procedural standards established by its Executive Regulations.

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Article (15):

Within the scope of civil, commercial, and administrative transactions, electronic writing and electronic documents shall have the same evidentiary authority as writing and official or private documents under the provisions of the Law of Evidence in Civil and Commercial Matters, provided that they meet the conditions stipulated in this Law and the technical and procedural standards determined by its Executive Regulations.

Article (16):

A paper copy of an official electronic document shall be admissible against all parties to the extent that it conforms to the original document, so long as the official electronic document and the electronic signature remain preserved on the electronic medium.

Article (17):

In matters not specifically addressed by this Law or its Executive Regulations, the provisions of the Law of Evidence in Civil and Commercial Matters shall apply to the verification of the authenticity of official and private electronic documents, electronic signatures, and electronic writings.

Article (18):

An electronic signature, electronic writing, and electronic document shall be deemed valid and admissible in evidence if the following conditions are met:

- The electronic signature is uniquely linked to the signatory.
- The signatory has sole control over the electronic device used for creating the signature.
- Any alteration or modification to the data of the electronic document or the electronic signature can be detected.

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The technical and procedural requirements necessary for fulfilling these conditions shall be specified by the Executive Regulations of this Law.

Article (19):

No person may engage in the activity of issuing electronic authentication certificates without obtaining a license from the Authority, in return for a fee determined by the Board of Directors in accordance with the procedures, rules, and safeguards established by the Executive Regulations of this Law, and without being subject to the provisions of Law No. 129 of 1947 on Public Utility Concessions.

In granting such licenses, the following shall be observed:

- The licensee shall be selected through open and competitive procedures.
- The duration of the license shall be determined by the Board of Directors of the Authority and shall not exceed ninety-nine (99) years.
- Appropriate technical and financial supervision and monitoring mechanisms shall be established to ensure the regular and continuous operation of the service.

The licensee may not cease the licensed activity, merge with another entity, or transfer the license to another party without obtaining the prior written approval of the Authority.

Article (20):

The Executive Regulations of this Law shall specify the data and particulars that must be included in the electronic authentication certificate.

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Article (21):

The data related to electronic signatures, electronic media, and the information provided to an entity licensed to issue electronic authentication certificates shall be confidential.

No person who has access to such data or information by virtue of his work may disclose it to third parties or use it for any purpose other than that for which it was provided.

Article (22):

The Authority shall have the power to accredit foreign entities authorized to issue electronic authentication certificates, in return for a fee determined by the Board of Directors of the Authority.

In such cases, the certificates issued by those foreign entities shall have the same evidentiary value as certificates issued by their domestic counterparts, all in accordance with the rules, procedures, and safeguards prescribed by the Executive Regulations of this Law.

Article (23):

Without prejudice to any more severe penalty prescribed by the Penal Code or any other law, any person shall be punishable by imprisonment and a fine not less than ten thousand pounds (EGP 10,000) and not exceeding one hundred thousand pounds (EGP 100,000), or by either of these two penalties, if he:

- Issues an electronic authentication certificate without obtaining a license from the Authority to engage in such activity.
- Destroys, damages, falsifies, or alters an electronic signature, electronic device, or electronic document by fabrication, modification, alteration, or any other means.
- Knowingly uses a defective or falsified electronic signature, device, or document.
- Violates any of the provisions of Articles (19) or (21) of this Law.
- Obtains, by any means, without authorization, an electronic signature, device, or document, or intercepts or obstructs such a device from performing its function.

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Violation of Article (13) of this Law shall be punishable by a fine not less than five thousand pounds (EGP 5,000) and not exceeding fifty thousand pounds (EGP 50,000).

In the event of recurrence, the prescribed penalty shall be doubled in both its minimum and maximum limits.

In all cases, the judgment of conviction shall be published in two widely circulated daily newspapers and on open electronic information networks, at the expense of the convicted person.

Article (24):

The person responsible for the actual management of a legal entity that commits any violation under this Law shall be subject to the same penalties prescribed for such violations if it is proven that his failure to fulfill his management duties contributed to the occurrence of the offense with his knowledge thereof.

The legal entity shall be jointly liable for payment of any financial penalties and compensations adjudged if the violation was committed by one of its employees in the name and for the benefit of that entity.

Article (25):

Employees of the Authority designated by a decision of the Minister of Justice, in coordination with the competent minister, shall have the capacity of judicial enforcement officers (officers of the court) with respect to offenses committed within their jurisdiction in violation of the provisions of this Law.

Article (26):

Without prejudice to the penalties stipulated in Article (23) of this Law, the Authority may revoke the license or suspend its validity until the causes of violation are removed, if the licensee for the issuance of electronic authentication certificates violates the terms of the license or any of the provisions of Article (19) of this Law.

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Such measures shall be taken in accordance with the procedures and rules set out in the Executive Regulations of this Law.

Article (27):

Any person engaged in the activity of issuing electronic authentication certificates prior to the effective date of this Law shall adjust his status in accordance with its provisions within a period not exceeding six (6) months from the date of issuance of its Executive Regulations, and in accordance with the procedures and rules set forth therein.

Article (28):

The provisions of Article (13) of this Law shall not apply to the Presidency of the Republic, the Armed Forces, the Ministry of Interior, the General Intelligence Service, and the Administrative Control Authority.

Article (29):

The competent minister shall issue the Executive Regulations of this Law within six (6) months from the date of its publication.

Article (30):

This Law shall be published in the Official Gazette and shall come into force on the day following the date of its publication. This Law shall be sealed with the Seal of the State and shall be enforced as one of its laws.

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Translation of

the Executive Regulations of the Electronic Signature Law No. 109 of 2005

ترجمة اللائحة التنفيذية
لقانون التوقيع الإلكتروني
رقم ١٠٩ لسنة ٢٠٠٥

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16 October 2025

ANDERSEN

Decree of the Minister of Communications and Information Technology No. 109 of 2005

Concerning the Issuance of the Executive Regulations of the Law on Electronic Signature and the Establishment of the Information Technology Industry Development Authority

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Preamble

Having reviewed the Constitution;

And the Civil Code;

And the Commercial Code;

And Law No. 13 of 1968 concerning Civil and Commercial Procedures;

And Law No. 25 of 1968 concerning Evidence in Civil and Commercial Matters;

And Law No. 82 of 2002 concerning the Protection of Intellectual Property Rights;

And Law No. 10 of 2003 concerning the Regulation of Communications;

And Law No. 15 of 2004 concerning the Regulation of Electronic Signature and the Establishment of the Information Technology Industry Development Authority;

And Presidential Decree No. 201 of 2004 concerning the formation of the Ministry;

Has decreed as follows:

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Article (1):

The provisions of the Executive Regulations of Law No. 15 of 2004 on the Regulation of Electronic Signature and the Establishment of the Information Technology Industry Development Authority, attached hereto, shall be applied.

Article (2):

This Decree shall be published in the Egyptian Gazette (Al-Waqa'i' Al-Masriyyah) and shall come into force on the day following the date of its publication.

Executive Regulation

Article (1):

For the purposes of applying the provisions of these Regulations, the following terms shall bear the meanings set forth opposite each of them:

Electronic Signature: A mark affixed to an electronic document in the form of letters, numbers, symbols, signals, or any other form, having a unique character that enables identification of the signatory and distinguishes him from others.

Electronic Writing: All letters, numbers, symbols, or any other signs recorded on an electronic, digital, or optical medium, or any similar means, conveying a perceptible meaning.

Electronic Document: A data message containing information that is created, integrated, stored, sent, or received, wholly or partially, by electronic, digital, optical, or any other similar means.

Electronic Device: An instrument, tool, or system used to create an electronic signature.

Signatory: A person possessing the data for creating an electronic signature who signs on his own behalf or on behalf of another whom he represents legally.

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Electronic Certification Entities: Entities licensed to issue electronic authentication certificates and provide services related to electronic signatures.

Electronic Authentication Certificate: A certificate issued by a licensed certifying entity establishing the linkage between the signatory and the data used to create the signature.

Electronic Signature Creation Data: Unique elements specific to the signatory, distinguishing him from others, including, in particular, his cryptographic keys, which are used to create the electronic signature.

Encryption: A technical computational system that uses special keys to process and transform electronically readable data and information in a manner that prevents their extraction except by using decryption key(s).

Public and Private Key Encryption Technique (known as Public Key Cryptography): A system allowing every natural or legal person to possess two distinct keys — one public, available electronically, and one private, retained by the person and kept in strict confidentiality.

Public Cryptographic Key: An electronic tool made publicly available, generated through a specific computational process, used to verify the identity of the signatory on an electronic platform and to ensure the integrity and authenticity of the original electronic document.

Private Cryptographic Key: An electronic tool unique to its owner, generated through a specific computational process, used to place an electronic signature on electronic documents, and securely stored on a protected smart card.

Root Cryptographic Key: An electronic tool generated through a specific computational process, used by electronic certification entities to issue electronic authentication certificates and electronic signature creation data.

Electronic Medium: A physical medium for storing and transmitting electronic writing, including compact discs (CDs), optical discs, magnetic disks, electronic memory, or any other similar medium.

Smart Card: A secured electronic medium used in the process of creating and affixing an electronic signature to an electronic document. It contains an electronic chip with a processor, storage components, and operating software.

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This definition includes smart cards, separate electronic tokens (smart tokens), and any equivalent medium capable of performing the required functions according to the technical and procedural standards defined in these Regulations.

Computer: An electronic device capable of storing, processing, analyzing, and retrieving data and information electronically.

Computer Program: A set of instructions or commands expressed in any language, code, or symbol, in any form, that can be used directly or indirectly by a computer to perform a function or produce a result, whether such instructions appear in their original form or in any other form perceivable by the computer.

Electronic Signature Data Generation System: An integrated and interconnected set of components comprising electronic media and computer programs used to generate electronic signature creation data utilizing the root cryptographic key.

Electronic Signature Creation System: An integrated and interconnected set of components comprising electronic media and computer programs used to electronically sign an electronic document through the use of electronic signature creation data and the electronic authentication certificate, and to affix and store the signed electronic document on an electronic medium.

Electronic Signature Data Verification Certificate: A certificate issued by the Authority confirming the result of examination and verification of the validity of electronic signature creation data.

Electronic Signature Verification Certificate: A certificate issued by the Authority confirming the result of examination and verification of the validity and integrity of an electronic signature.

Accreditation Certificate for Foreign Electronic Certification Entities: A certificate issued by the Authority accrediting foreign entities authorized to issue electronic authentication certificates and recognizing such certificates as equivalent to those issued within the Arab Republic of Egypt.

The Authority: The Information Technology Industry Development Authority (ITIDA).

The Competent Ministry: The ministry responsible for communications and information technology affairs.

The Competent Minister: The Minister responsible for communications and information technology affairs.

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The Law: Law No. 15 of 2004 on the Regulation of Electronic Signature and the Establishment of the Information Technology Industry Development Authority.

Fingerprint of the Root Certification Authority Certificate: A unique identifier composed of letters, numbers, and symbols produced through a one-way computational process performed on the contents of the self-signed root certification authority certificate.

It serves as a reference and verification mark for that certificate and does not allow retrieval of its contents separately.

Article (2):

The system for generating signature-creation data shall be deemed secure where it satisfies the following:

- The unique character of the signature-creation data.
- The confidentiality of the signature-creation data.
- The non-inferability or non-deducibility of the signature-creation data.
- Protection of the electronic signature from forgery, imitation, alteration, fabrication or other forms of manipulation, or from being created by anyone other than the signer.
- No damage is caused to the content or substance of the electronic instrument to be signed.
- The system shall not prevent the signer from having full knowledge of the content of the electronic instrument prior to signing it.

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Article (3):

A secure system for generating signature-creation data shall include the necessary technical and technological controls, in particular:

- Reliance on public/private key cryptography and on the root cryptographic key specific to the licensed entity and issued to it by the Authority, all in accordance with the technical standards referred to in paragraph (a) of the technical annex to these Regulations.

- Use of techniques for generating root cryptographic keys for certification service providers employing encryption keys of lengths not less than 248 electronic bits.

- Use of approved hardware security modules in accordance with the standards referred to in paragraph (b) of the technical annex to these Regulations.

- Use of non-duplicable smart cards protected by a personal identification code, containing the signer's unique elements—namely the signature-creation data and the certification certificate—whose specifications and systems shall be determined in accordance with the standards set out in paragraph (c) of the technical annex to these Regulations.

- Provision to all parties of access to the data required to verify the validity of an electronic signature and its association with the signer to the exclusion of others, together with immediate insertion and real-time availability of lists of suspended or revoked certificates upon verification of grounds warranting suspension, provided such verification occurs within a specific period known to users pursuant to rules issued by the Authority's Board of Directors.

Article (4):

The Authority's Board of Directors may adopt additional systems and rules for generating signature-creation data to keep pace with technical and technological developments.

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Article (5):

The Authority is the supreme electronic certification authority in the Arab Republic of Egypt and shall issue root cryptographic keys to entities licensed to issue electronic certification certificates.

Prior to granting a license to issue certification certificates, the Authority shall verify that the licensee's system for generating signature-creation data is secure pursuant to Article (2) and includes the technical standards, systems and rules set out in Articles (3) and (4).

Upon the grant of the license and throughout its validity, the system shall be deemed secure and effective unless proven otherwise.

Article (6):

Upon the request of any interested party, the Authority shall provide the service of examining and verifying the validity of signature-creation data for a fee determined by the Authority's Board of Directors. The Authority may entrust third parties to provide this service under its supervision, and in all cases the Authority shall issue a Signature-Creation Data Examination Certificate.

Article (7):

Upon the request of any interested party, the Authority shall provide the service of examining electronic signatures for a fee determined by the Authority's Board of Directors. For this purpose, the Authority shall verify:

- The integrity of the certification certificate and its conformity with the signature-creation data.
- The ability to determine precisely the content of the signed electronic instrument.
- The ease of identifying the signer, whether the original name, a pseudonym or a trade name is used.

The Authority may entrust third parties to provide this service under its supervision, and in all cases the Authority shall issue an Electronic Signature Examination Certificate.

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Article (8):

Without prejudice to the conditions set out in the Law, the probative force accorded to electronic writing and official or private electronic instruments shall be established for their maker where the following technical requirements are met:

- It is technically possible to determine the time and date of creation of the electronic writing or the official or private electronic instruments, through an electronic archiving system independent of and not controlled by the maker of such writing or instruments or by the concerned party.

- It is technically possible to determine the source of creation of the electronic writing or the official or private electronic instruments, and the extent of the maker's control over that source and over the media used in their creation.

- Where electronic writing or official or private electronic instruments are created and issued without human intervention, in whole or in part, their probative force shall be established where it is possible to verify the time and date of creation and the absence of tampering with such writing or instruments.

Article (9):

From a technical standpoint, the association of an electronic signature with the signer alone, to the exclusion of others, shall be established where the signature is based on a secure system for generating signature-creation data as provided in Articles (2), (3) and (4) of these Regulations, and either of the following conditions is met:

- The signature is linked to a valid, accredited electronic certification certificate issued by a licensed or accredited certification service provider; or

- The validity of the electronic signature is verified in accordance with Article (7) of these Regulations.

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Article (10):

From a technical standpoint, the signer's exclusive control over the electronic medium used to embed the electronic signature is established by the signer's possession of the private cryptographic key storage tool, including the secured smart card and its associated personal identification code.

Article (11):

Without prejudice to Articles (2), (3) and (4) of these Regulations, any modification or alteration in the data of an electronically signed instrument shall be detectable, using public/private key cryptography and by comparing the certification certificate and the signature-creation data with their originals, or by any similar means.

Article (12):

An applicant for a license to issue certification certificates shall have the following:

- An information security and data protection system ensuring a level of protection not less than that specified in the standards and rules referenced in paragraph (d) of the technical annex to these Regulations.

- An operational manual including: (1) issuance of certification certificates; (2) cryptographic key management; (3) internal business management; and (4) security and disaster management, all in accordance with the standards referenced in paragraph (e) of the technical annex.

- A secure system for generating signature-creation data in accordance with the technical requirements in Articles (2), (3) and (4).

- A system for determining the date and time of issuing, suspending, placing on hold, reactivating and revoking certificates.

- A system for verifying certificate subjects and their distinguishing attributes.

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- Specialists possessing the qualifications and experience necessary to perform the licensed services.

- A system for retaining signature-creation data and certification certificates for the period specified by the Authority in the license, according to the type of certificate issued; provided that private cryptographic keys issued to signers shall not be retained except at the signer's request under a separate contract between the licensee and the signer, and in accordance with technical rules for key escrow set by the Authority's Board.

- A system to maintain complete confidentiality of operations related to the licensed services and of client data.

- A system for suspending a certificate upon verification of any of the following:

  - Tampering with certificate data or expiry of its validity period;

  - Theft or loss of the private cryptographic key or the smart card, or upon suspicion thereof;

  - Non-compliance by the certificate subject with the terms of the contract concluded with the licensee.

  - The suspension system shall comply with rules issued by the Authority's Board of Directors.

- A system that enables and facilitates the Authority's verification of the validity of signature-creation data, in particular within the Authority's examination and verification activities.

Article (13):

In all cases, the licensee shall not conclude any contract with clients except after the model form of such contract has been approved by the Authority, in accordance with rules issued by the Authority's Board of Directors to safeguard the rights of interested parties.

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Article (14):

An applicant for a licence to issue Electronic Certification Certificates shall furnish the guarantees and insurances determined by the Authority's Board of Directors to cover any damages or risks relating to interested parties, in the event of termination of the licence for any reason, or to cover any breach by the licensee of the obligations set out in the licence.

Article (15):

The following procedures shall be followed to obtain a licence to issue Electronic Certification Certificates:

- Submission of an application on the forms prepared by the Authority for this purpose, accompanied by the data and documents evidencing satisfaction of the conditions and provisions set out in Articles (3), (4), (12) and (14) of these Regulations.

- Upon receipt of all required documents and data under item (a), the Authority shall examine them and verify their soundness. The Authority shall decide on the licence application within a period not exceeding sixty (60) days from the date on which the applicant has satisfied all requirements requested by the Authority, unless the Authority notifies the applicant of an extension of this period. If this period elapses without the licence being issued, the application shall be deemed rejected.

- The Authority's Board of Directors shall determine the consideration (fees) for issuing and renewing the licence and the rules and procedures for its collection, and the licensee shall pay such consideration upon the grant of the licence.

- The Authority shall grant the licence in accordance with the procedures, rules and safeguards set out in the Law and these Regulations, and such further rules as may be approved by the Authority's Board of Directors in this regard.

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Article (15 bis):

The Authority may grant a special licence to a Governmental Electronic Certification Authority to issue Electronic Certification Certificates limited to facilitating internal operations within governmental entities and among them, subject to the same conditions provided in the Law and these Regulations, with due regard to the following:

- The Authority may approve the use of a national alternative technology for encryption devices or systems to provide electronic signature services, and consequently exempt such devices and systems from the requirement to obtain international standards certifications referred to in paragraphs (b) and (c) of the Technical Annex to these Regulations, provided that such devices or systems comply with all requirements and specifications mentioned in those standards.

- The root cryptographic keys of the Governmental Electronic Certification Authority shall be certified by the Authority.

Article (16):

The Authority shall conduct inspections of licensed entities to verify their compliance with the terms of the licence.

Article (17):

The licence shall specify the obligations of the licensee in accordance with the Law, these Regulations, and the decisions issued by the Authority's Board of Directors in this regard.

Article (18):

A special register shall be established at the Authority in which licensed entities are recorded. Each entity shall be assigned a serial number, and the type of licence granted to it shall be specified. The register shall include data concerning the entity, its capital, members of its board of directors, its managers, its branches and offices, and such other data as the Authority's Board of Directors may determine.

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Article (19):

The Authority shall be the competent body to provide technical advice and expert services with respect to disputes arising among parties concerned with electronic signature activities, electronic transactions and information technology, provided that coordination shall be made with the relevant authorities in relation to expert work.

Article (20):

The models of Electronic Certification Certificates issued by the licensee shall contain the following data, in a manner consistent with the standards specified in paragraph (a) of the Technical Annex:

- An indication that the certificate is valid for use in electronic signatures.
- The subject-matter of the licence granted to the licensee, indicating its scope, number, date of issuance, and period of validity.
- The name and address of the issuing entity, its head office, legal form, and, where applicable, the state to which it belongs.
- The signer's original name or pseudonym or trade name, where any is used.
- The signer's capacity.
- The public cryptographic key of the certificate holder corresponding to his/her private cryptographic key.
- The start and expiry dates of the certificate's validity.
- A serial number for the certificate.
- The electronic signature of the issuing entity.

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The website address dedicated to the list of suspended or revoked certificates.
The certificate may, where needed, include any of the following additional data:

- An indication of the signer's authority and the purpose for which the certificate is used.
- A limit on the value of transactions permitted under the certificate.
- The fields of use of the certificate.

Article (20 bis):

The primary and backup versions of the fingerprints (hashes) of the two self-signed root Electronic Certification Certificates shall be those letters, numbers and symbols shown in Figures (1) and (2) of the Fingerprint Annex. The fingerprint shall be used by all to ascertain and verify the validity and integrity of the self-signed root Electronic Certification Certificate made available via the global information network.

Article (21):

The Authority may accredit foreign entities competent to issue Electronic Certification Certificates in any of the following cases:

- The foreign entity maintains rules and requirements equivalent to those set out in these Regulations for entities licensed by the Authority to carry on the activity of issuing Electronic Certification Certificates.
- The foreign entity has an agent in the Arab Republic of Egypt licensed by the Authority to issue Electronic Certification Certificates, who possesses all capabilities required to deal in such certificates and guarantees the foreign entity with respect to the certificates it issues and the requisite conditions and safeguards.
- The foreign entity is among those which the Arab Republic of Egypt has agreed to accredit pursuant to an international treaty in force therein as a foreign entity competent to issue Electronic Certification Certificates.

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- The foreign entity is among those accredited or licensed to issue Electronic Certification Certificates by the licensing authority in its home country, provided that there is an agreement to that effect between the foreign licensing authority and the Authority. Accreditation of such foreign entities shall be effected upon an application submitted by the entity or by interested parties on the forms prepared by the Authority; and, in the cases referred to in items (c) and (d), the Authority may accredit such entities on its own initiative.

  Where an application for accreditation is submitted, the Authority, upon receipt of the required documents and data, shall examine them and verify their soundness, and the Authority's Board of Directors shall decide on the application within a period not exceeding sixty (60) days from the date on which the foreign entity has satisfied all requirements requested by the Authority. If this period elapses without accreditation being issued, the application shall be deemed rejected unless the Authority notifies the applicant in writing of an extension of this period.

  The accreditation decision shall be issued by the Authority's Board of Directors after payment of the consideration set by the Board for accreditation, and the decision shall specify the accreditation term and the conditions for its renewal. The Authority may at any time, by a reasoned decision, cancel or suspend the accreditation.

Article (22):

Accredited foreign entities may request the Authority to accredit the types or classes of Electronic Certification Certificates they issue, in accordance with the rules and controls set by the Authority's Board of Directors in this regard, including the determination of the consideration for accrediting such certificates. When accrediting types and classes of foreign certificates, the Board shall specify the corresponding types of Electronic Certification Certificates issued by entities licensed in the Arab Republic of Egypt.

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Article (23):

Without prejudice to the penalties provided in Article (23) of the Law, the licensee shall comply with all provisions of the licence issued by the Authority. In the event the licensee violates any of them, or ceases to carry on the licensed activity, or its establishment merges into another entity, or it assigns the licence to a third party without obtaining the Authority's prior written approval for any of the foregoing acts, the Authority may, by a reasoned decision, cancel the licence or suspend it pending remediation or rectification.

In the event of cancellation or suspension, the Authority may take appropriate measures to protect the rights of interested parties.

Article (24):

Without prejudice to the provisions of the Law, any person engaged in the activity of Electronic Certification Certificates prior to the Law's entry into force shall regulate his status in accordance with the Law by submitting, within two (2) months from the date of issuance of these Regulations, an application on the model prepared by the Authority for this purpose, accompanied by such documents as the Authority may require. The Authority shall decide on the application within three (3) months from the date on which the applicant has satisfied all requirements requested by the Authority.

Anyone who refrains from regulating his status as aforesaid shall be deemed to be engaging in this activity without a licence, and the Authority shall have the right in such case to take the necessary measures to halt the activity.

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