
GATEKEEPER ABN-DSC SUBSCRIBER AGREEMENT

INSTRUCTIONS

Before an Australian Business Number Digital Signature Certificate (ABN-DSC) will be issued to an Applicant, the following criteria must be met:

1. This agreement must be signed by a representative with **delegated authority** to bind the Organisation e.g. a Director, Company Secretary or equivalent for other business entities.
2. Nominate at least one person in the Authorised Officer section of the form below. The person's **full name** and **full residential address** is required.
3. Retain a copy of this agreement to present to Australia Post for the Authorised Officer Identification Check.
4. Post this original Agreement (completed and signed) with any accompanying documentation: **VeriSign Australia, PO Box 3092, South Melbourne, VIC 3205.**

_____ ('**Organisation's Representative**') of
Insert name of person signing this Agreement

_____ ABN: _____ ('**Organisation**')
Insert Organisation's Entity Name *Insert ABN for this Organisation*

hereby authorises those people named below ('**Nominated Authorised Officers**') to be issued with an ABN-DSC Gatekeeper certificate on behalf of the Organisation on the terms and conditions of this Agreement.

1 _____
Print full given name

Print full residential address

2 _____
Print full given name

Print full residential address

3 _____
Print full given name

Print full residential address

4 _____
Print full given name

Print full residential address

5 _____
Print full given name

Print full residential address

1. Background

- 1.1 The Chief Executive Officer for the National Office for the Information Economy (“**NOIE**”) has accredited VeriSign Australia Pty Ltd trading as eSign Gatekeeper Services (“**eSign**”) to provide certain Gatekeeper services to, or for the purposes of, Government Agencies.
- 1.2 The organisation (the “**Organisation**”) wishes to obtain a VeriSign Gatekeeper Certificate of the Certificate Type and Certificate Grade set out above for Applicants (including the Nominated Authorised Officers) who will be acting on behalf of the Organisation. The Certificate (“**Certificate**”) identifies both the Organisation and the Applicant. Once the Relevant RA has Verified the identity of each Nominated Authorised Officer, each Nominated Authorised Officer may perform the functions of an Authorised Officer under the VeriSign ABN-DSC CP.
- 1.3 VeriSign’s Public Gatekeeper Certification Services, and the use of the ABN-DSC Certificate, are governed by the VeriSign ABN-DSC CP as amended from time to time, which is incorporated in its entirety into this Agreement. This Agreement contains some important matters dealt with in the VeriSign ABN-DSC CP. For full details of the obligations of the VeriSign CA, the VeriSign RA, Subscribers, Relying Parties, and all other PKI Entities, please refer to the VeriSign ABN-DSC CP.
- 1.4 All documents referred to in this Agreement are published in the Repository (<https://www.verisign.com.au/repository/gatekeeper>) on the VeriSign Gatekeeper Website <http://www.verisign.com.au/gatekeeper>.

2. Interpretation

Expressions used in this Agreement have the same meanings as they have under the VeriSign Gatekeeper CPS and the VeriSign ABN-DSC CP.

3. Obligations

- 3.1 This Agreement will become effective on the date a completed copy of this Agreement is signed by the Organisation’s Representative at which point each Applicant and the Organisation become a Subscriber for the purposes of the VeriSign ABN-DSC CP.
- 3.2 By signing this Agreement the Organisation:
 - (a) requests that the VeriSign CA issues each Authorised Officer with a Certificate identifying the Organisation and the Authorised Officer in accordance with the VeriSign ABN-DSC CP;
 - (b) agrees that on the instructions of an Authorised Officer (which may be communicated by means of an email digitally signed with an Authorised Officer’s Private Key) the VeriSign CA may:
 - (i) Issue Certificates to those individuals nominated by the Authorised Officer identifying the Organisation and the nominated individuals; and
 - (ii) Revoke Certificates; and
 - (iii) perform such other actions as are specified in the VeriSign ABN-DSC CP;
 - (c) agrees that the VeriSign CA and the Relevant RA may treat the instructions of an Authorised Officer as the Organisation’s instructions in accordance with the VeriSign ABN-DSC CP;
 - (d) agrees to the terms of the VeriSign ABN-DSC CP; and

(e) agrees to take responsibility to ensure that it and each Applicant complies with the terms of the VeriSign ABN-DSC CP, including, without limitation, the following sections :

- section 2.1.3 (Subscriber Obligations)
- section 2.1.3.1 (Key Holder Obligations)
- section 2.1.3.2 (Organisation Obligations)
- section 2.1.4 (Relying Party Obligations)
- section 2.1.4.1 (Validating Digital Signatures)
- section 2.2 (Liability)
- section 2.4.1 (Governing Law)
- section 2.4.2.1 (Severability)
- section 2.4.2.2 (Survival)
- section 2.4.2.4 (Precedence)

Signed for and on behalf of Organisation by an officer having the authority to bind the business entity

.....
Signature

.....
Print Name

.....
Title

.....
Date

The obligations of a Subscriber are shared between the Organisation and the individual Key Holder who acts on behalf of the organisation as set out in this **Section 2.1.3**

2.1.3.1 Key Holder Obligations

1. Each Applicant must securely generate his, her, or its own Private Key(s), using a Trustworthy System, and take necessary precautions to prevent their Compromise, loss, disclosure, modification, or unauthorised use. Applicants must comply with **section 6** of this CP.

EACH CERTIFICATE APPLICANT AND EACH SUBSCRIBER ACKNOWLEDGES THAT THEY, AND NOT VERISIGN, ARE EXCLUSIVELY RESPONSIBLE FOR PROTECTING THEIR PRIVATE KEY(S) FROM COMPROMISE, LOSS, DISCLOSURE, MODIFICATION, OR UNAUTHORIZED USE.

2. An Applicant becomes a Key Holder when a Certificate is Issued to and Accepted by them.
3. A Key Holder may not delegate his or her responsibilities for the generation, use, retention, or proper destruction of his or her Private Keys except that a Key Holder may delegate his or her responsibilities for the storage of keys for archival purposes and destruction of their Private Keys to a person authorised to perform that act on behalf of the Organisation.
4. Key Holders must:
 - (a) ensure that their Private Keys are not Compromised;
 - (b) immediately notify the Organisation if they become aware that their Private Key has been Compromised, or there is a substantial risk of Compromise;
 - (c) ensure that all information provided to the Relevant RA in relation to Issue and use of their Key Pairs and Certificates is to the best of their knowledge, true and complete;
 - (d) immediately notify the VeriSign CA or the Relevant RA if:
 - (i) they cease to be an employee or agent of their Organisation;
 - (ii) they cease to be authorised to hold Keys and Certificates on behalf of their Organisation;
 - (iii) their Organisation ceases to belong to the Community of Interest; or
 - (iv) there is any other change to their Registration Information, or any other information provided to the VeriSign CA or the Relevant RA in relation to Issue and use of their Keys and Certificates;
 - (e) use Keys and Certificates only for the purposes for which they were Issued and within the usage and reliance limitations, as specified in this CP, the Certificate Profile and the Certificate;
 - (f) check the details set out in a Certificate on receipt, and promptly notify the VeriSign CA if faulty or improper Registration or Certificate Issuance has occurred;
 - (g) if requested by the Relevant RA, provide complete and accurate information in relation to their Registration Information or anything else relating to issue or use of their Keys and Certificates; and
 - (h) use Keys and Certificates only for purposes for which they have the actual authority of the Organisation.

2.1.3.2 Organisation Obligations*

Organisations must through an Authorised Officer:

- (a) ensure that their Key Holders comply with their obligations under this CP and the CPS;
- (b) provide measures to avoid Compromise of their Key Holder's Private Keys;
- (c) immediately notify the VeriSign CA when the Organisation becomes aware that a Key Holder's Private Key has been Compromised, or there is a substantial risk of Compromise;
- (d) ensure that all information provided to the VeriSign CA or the Relevant RA in relation to Issue and use of their Key Holder's Key Pairs and Certificates is to the best of their knowledge, true and complete;
- (e) immediately notify the VeriSign CA or the Relevant RA if:
 - (i) any of their Key Holders cease to be an employee or agent of the Organisation;
 - (ii) any of their Key Holders cease to be authorised to hold Keys and Certificates on behalf of the Organisation;

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- (iii) the Organisation ceases to belong to the Community of Interest; or
 - (iv) there is any other change to the Registration Information, or any other information provided to the Relevant RA in relation to issue and use of their Key Holder's Keys and Certificates.
- (f) if requested by the Relevant RA, provide complete and accurate Registration Information or anything else relating to issue or use of the Keys and Certificates; and
- (g) where they generate Key Pairs for Key Holders, comply with **section 6**.

2.1.4 *Relying Party obligations*

1. Before relying on a Certificate or a Digital Signature, Relying Parties must:
 - (a) Validate the Certificate and Digital Signature (including by checking whether or not it has been Revoked, Expired or Suspended) in accordance with **section 2.1.4.1**; and
 - (b) ascertain and comply with the purposes for which the Certificate was issued and any other limitations on reliance or use of the Certificate which are specified in the Certificate, the CPS or this CP.
2. If a Relying Party relies on a Digital Signature or Certificate in circumstances where it has not been Validated in accordance with **paragraph 2.1.4.1** it assumes all risks with regard to it (except those that would have arisen had the Relying Party Validated the Certificate) and is not entitled to any presumption that the Digital Signature is effective as the signature of the Subscriber or that the Certificate is valid.
3. Relying Parties must also comply with any other relevant obligations specified in this CP including those imposed on the entity when it is acting as a Subscriber.

2.1.4.1 Validating Digital Signatures*

1. Validation of a Digital Signature is undertaken to determine that:
 - (a) the Digital Signature was created by the Private Key Corresponding to the Public Key listed in the Certificate of the person affixing their Digital Signature to the information (the '**Signer**'); and
 - (b) that the associated information has not been altered since the Digital Signature was created.
2. Validation of a Digital Signature is performed by applications following this process:
 - (a) **Establishing a Certificate Chain for the Certificate used to sign the information** – In the case of a Public Hierarchy this involves confirming that the CA who Issued the Certificate is a Subordinate CA of the VGR. In the case of a Private Hierarchy it involves confirming that the CA who issued the Certificate is trusted by the Relying Party;
 - (b) **Checking the Repository for Revocation of Certificates in this Chain** – The Relying Party must determine if any of the Certificates along the chain from the Signer to an acceptable root within the VeriSign Gatekeeper PKI have been Revoked, because a Revocation has the effect of prematurely terminating the Operational Period during which verifiable Digital Signatures can be created. This may be ascertained by querying the CRL or OCSP responder (if available) to determine whether any Certificates in the Certificate Chain have been Revoked;
 - (c) **Applying the hash function to the signed data** – Apply the same hash function as was originally applied by the Signer;
 - (d) **Decrypting the original hash** – Using the Public Key contained in the Certificate decrypt the original hash value; and
 - (e) **Compare the hash functions** – If the value created by step 2(c) is the same as the value recovered by step 2(d), then the information is Validated.
3. A PKI Entity agrees that a Digital Signature may be relied upon against the Signer if:
 - (a) it was created during the Operational Period of a valid Certificate (ie before the Certificate Expired or was Revoked);
 - (b) the Digital Certificate used for Signing has the digital Signature Bit asserted in the Key Usage extension;
 - (c) such Digital Signature can be properly Validated by confirmation of its Certificate Chain;
 - (d) the Relying Party has no knowledge or notice of a breach of the requirements of the CPS or this CP by the Signer;

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- (e) the purpose for which it was relied on was within the purposes or limitations referred to in the Certificate or the relevant Certificate Policy;
 - (f) the Relying Party has no knowledge of a reason why the Digital Signature should not be relied upon in the circumstances; and
 - (g) the Relying Party has complied with all relevant requirements of this CP.

THE USE OF CERTIFICATES DOES NOT NECESSARILY CONVEY EVIDENCE OF **AUTHORITY** ON THE PART OF ANY USER TO ACT ON BEHALF OF ANY PERSON OR TO UNDERTAKE ANY PARTICULAR ACT. RELYING PARTIES SEEKING TO VALIDATE DIGITALLY SIGNED MESSAGES ARE SOLELY RESPONSIBLE FOR EXERCISING DUE DILIGENCE AND REASONABLE JUDGMENT BEFORE RELYING ON CERTIFICATES AND DIGITAL SIGNATURES. A CERTIFICATE IS NOT A GRANT FROM VERISIGN OF ANY RIGHTS OR PRIVILEGES, EXCEPT AS SPECIFICALLY PROVIDED IN THE CPs OR THIS CP.

YOU ARE HEREBY NOTIFIED OF THE POSSIBILITY OF THEFT OR OTHER FORM OF COMPROMISE OF A PRIVATE KEY CORRESPONDING TO A PUBLIC KEY CONTAINED IN A CERTIFICATE, WHICH MAY OR MAY NOT BE DETECTED, AND OF THE POSSIBILITY OF USE OF A STOLEN OR COMPROMISED KEY TO FORGE A DIGITAL SIGNATURE TO A DOCUMENT. FOR INFORMATION REGARDING PRIVATE KEY PROTECTION, SEE THE VERISIGN GATEKEEPER WEBSITE <http://www.verisign.com.au/gatekeeper>

- 4. Additionally, the Relying Party should consider the Certificate Grade. The final decision concerning whether or not to rely on a verified Digital Signature is exclusively that of the Relying Party.

2.2 Liability¹

2.2.1 *Liability Generally**

- 1. The liability of an entity referred to in this CP for breach of a contract to which the entity is a party, or for any other common law or statutory cause of action, shall be determined under the relevant law in Australia that is recognised, and would be applied, by the High Court of Australia.
- 2. Where a PKI Entity is legally liable to compensate another party, the liability of the first mentioned PKI Entity will be reduced proportionally to the extent that any act or omission on the part of the other PKI Entity contributed to the relevant liability, loss, damage, cost or expense.
- 3. The PKI Entities acknowledge that one of the factors that affects their ability to limit their liability is the extent to which they effectively notify the PKI Entity suffering the loss or damage of any limits or limitations on which the entity intends to rely.
- 4. The provisions set out in this **section 2.2** survive the termination of the relevant contract.
- 5. Apart from **section 2.2.2**, the liability regime applicable to activities conducted under this CP by the VeriSign CA or the VeriSign RA is not evaluated by NOIE evaluators (Australian Government Solicitor) or accredited by the Competent Authority.

2.2.2 *Liability of the Commonwealth**

- 1. The Competent Authority is only responsible for performing the accreditation process with due care, in adherence to published Gatekeeper Criteria and Policies. The Competent Authority is not liable for any errors and/or omissions in the final Approved Documents, which remain the responsibility of the accredited Certification or Registration Authority as the case may be.
- 2. Notwithstanding any other provisions of this CP:
 - (a) the Commonwealth makes no representations, and offers no warranties or conditions, express or implied, in relation to:
 - (i) the activities or performance of any of the PKI Service Providers which are carried out under, or in relation to, this CP; or
 - (ii) if relevant, the services or products of a particular PKI Service Providers; and
 - (b) the PKI Entities acknowledge and agree that except to the extent that a Commonwealth Agency is carrying out the role of a PKI Entity (in which case the liability of the Commonwealth will be determined in accordance with the provisions set out in this **section 2.2**), the Commonwealth is not liable in any manner whatsoever whether the Keys or Certificates are used in a transaction with an

¹ The sections of heading 2.2 have been significantly expanded from RFC2527.

Agency or not, for any loss or damage caused to, or suffered by any person, including a PKI Entity as a result of:

- (i) an entity described in this CP carrying out, or omitting to carry out, any activity described in, or contemplated by, the Approved Documents;
- (ii) the Commonwealth carrying out, or omitting to carry out, any activity related to the Gatekeeper accreditation process; or
- (iii) a negligent act or omission of the Commonwealth.

2.2.3 *Force majeure**

1. A PKI Entity is not liable for any loss or damage arising from any delay or failure to perform its obligations described in the CPS or this CP if such delay is due to Force Majeure.
2. If a delay or failure by a PKI Service Provider to perform its obligations is due to Force Majeure, the performance of that entity's obligations is suspended.
3. If delay or failure by a PKI Service Provider to perform its obligations due to Force Majeure exceeds 30 days, the PKI Entity affected by the failure to perform the obligations may terminate the arrangement, agreement or contract it has with the non-performing PKI Service Provider on providing notice to that PKI Entity in accordance with this CP. If the arrangement, agreement or contract is terminated, then the non-performing PKI Service Provider shall refund any money (if any) paid by the terminating entity to the non-performing entity for services not provided by the non-performing PKI Service Provider.

2.2.4 *VeriSign and Relevant RA Liability**

1. VeriSign and the Relevant RA exclude all warranties, conditions and obligations of any type from the relationship between VeriSign or the Relevant RA and any other PKI Entity (including without limitation as a result of operating the VeriSign CA or the VeriSign RA or the VGR) except:
 - (a) to the extent otherwise provided in this CP; or
 - (b) where a condition or warranty is implied into an agreement by a law, and that condition or warranty cannot be excluded
2. In no event will VeriSign or the Relevant RA be liable for any indirect, special, incidental, or consequential damages or for any loss of profits or revenues, loss of data, loss of use, loss of goodwill, or other indirect, consequential, or punitive damages, whether or not reasonably foreseeable, arising from or in connection with the use, delivery, license, performance, or non-performance of Certificates, Digital Signatures, or any other transaction or services related to or offered or contemplated by the CPS or this CP, breach of contract or any express or implied warranty or indemnity under or in relation to any Certificates or the CPS or this CP or otherwise misrepresentation, negligence, strict liability or other tort, even if VeriSign or the Relevant RA has been advised of the possibility of such damages or should have been aware of such a possibility.
3. VeriSign's and the Relevant RA's aggregate liability to a non- VeriSign PKI Entity and any and all persons concerning a Certificate for the aggregate of all Digital Signatures and transactions related to that Certificate, shall be limited to AUD50,000.
4. In the event that VeriSign's or the Relevant RA's total liability exceeds the amount above, the available liability cap shall be apportioned first to the earliest claims to achieve final dispute resolution, unless otherwise ordered by a court of competent jurisdiction. In no event shall VeriSign or the Relevant RA be obligated to pay more than the aggregate liability cap for each Certificate, regardless of the method of apportionment among claimants to the amount of the liability cap.
5. In regard to section 2.2.4 VeriSign is also contracting as an agent for Australia Post. Subscribers and Relying Parties agree that they have not relied on any warranty or representation by Australia Post in entering the Subscriber Agreement or the Relying Party Agreement.

2.2.5 *Subscriber Liability**

2.2.5.1 Organisation

1. The Organisation is responsible and therefore liable for any acts of Key Holders in relation to the CPS and this CP, and in particular in relation to the use of Keys and Certificates issued under this CP.
2. The Organisation:
 - (a) is solely responsible for the contents of any transmission, message or other document signed using the Key Holder's Private Key;

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- (b) warrants to all Relying Parties that during the Operational Period of the Certificate, and until notified otherwise by the Organisation that:
- (i) no unauthorised person has ever had access to the Key Holder's Private Key;
 - (ii) the Certificate will be used exclusively for appropriate and lawful purposes;
 - (iii) at the time the Digital Signature is created, the Certificate has not Expired or been Suspended or Revoked;
 - (iv) all representations made by the Organisation, the Key Holder or authorised by the Organisation or the Key Holder to the VeriSign CA or to the Relevant RA, is true;
 - (v) all information contained in the Certificate is to the Organisation's and the Key Holder's knowledge true;
 - (vi) each Digital Signature created using the Private Key Corresponding to the Public Key listed in the Certificate is the Key Holder's Digital Signature;
 - (vii) the Organisation will not allow the Key Holder to use the Private Key Corresponding to any Public Key listed in the Certificate for purposes of signing any Digital Certificate (or any other format of certified Public Key) or Certificate Revocation List, unless expressly agreed in writing with VeriSign, and
 - (viii) when the Key Holder encrypts the hash of a document with the Key Holder's Private Key, in circumstances where the Key Holder's Certificate has not been Suspended or Revoked, others may act on that as if the Key Holder had signed the document with the Key Holder's usual signature in the normal way;
- (c) indemnifies the VeriSign CA and the Relevant RA for any loss, damage and expense of any kind, arising out of or in connection with:
- (i) the manner and extent of the use or publication of the Key Holder's Certificate except to the extent that the use or publication of the Key Holder's Certificate was caused by the VeriSign CA or the Relevant RA using or publishing the Key Holder's Certificate other than as allowed by this CP;
 - (ii) the Organisation's or the Key Holder's negligence or willful misconduct;
 - (iii) any falsehood or misrepresentation of fact by the Organisation or the Key Holder (or any person acting on the Organisation's instructions);
 - (iv) the Organisation's or the Key Holder's failure to disclose a material fact, if the misrepresentation or omission was made negligently or with the intent to deceive the VeriSign CA or the Relevant RA or any person receiving or relying on the Key Holder's Certificate; or
 - (v) any failure by the Organisation or the Key Holder to protect the Key Holder's Private Key, to use a Trustworthy System, or to otherwise take the precautions necessary to prevent the Compromise, loss, disclosure, modification, or unauthorised use of the Key Holder's Private Key,
- except to the extent that the Subscriber's Private Key or Certificate has been Compromised by VeriSign's or the Relevant RA's willfully wrongful, fraudulent or negligent conduct.

2.2.5.2 Key Holder Liability

Organisations are responsible and liable for the use made by Key Holders of Certificates and Keys as set out in **section 2.2.5.1** above. Organisations may make their own arrangements with Key Holders concerning the policies and procedures for use of the Certificates and Keys, and liability provisions.

2.2.5.3 Authorised Officer Liability

Organisations are responsible and liable for the use made by Authorised Officers of Certificates and Keys and the instructions issued to the VeriSign CA and PKI Entities by the Authorised Officer. Organisations may make their own arrangements with Authorised Officers concerning the policies and procedures for use of the Certificates and Keys and providing Issuing and Revocation instructions to the VeriSign CA and PKI Entities, and liability provisions.

2.2.6 Relying Party Liability

No stipulation.

2.4 Interpretation and Enforcement

2.4.1 *Governing law*

1. This CP and the CPS are governed by, and are to be construed in accordance with, the laws from time to time in force in the Australian Capital Territory, Australia.
2. The PKI Entities agree to submit to the jurisdiction of the courts having jurisdiction within the Australian Capital Territory, Australia.

2.4.2 *Severability, survival, merger, notice*

2.4.2.1 Severability*

Any reading down or severance of a particular provision does not affect the other provisions of this CP or the CPS.

2.4.2.2 Survival*

Provisions described as having an ongoing operation survive the termination or expiration of the relevant contractual relationship between any PKI Entities.

2.4.2.4 Precedence*

To the extent of any conflict between the following documents the first mentioned document shall govern :

- (a) this CP;
- (b) the CPS;
- (c) the ABN-DSC Subscriber Agreement;
- (d) another agreement between the parties as to the manner and provision of the services described herein;
- (e) another Approved Document; and
- (f) a document that is not an Approved Document.