



As leading trust service provider in Europe,
we enable the most innovative digital
business transaction models.

White Paper

New decision of the Federal Council
in the context of the Corona Crisis:
Approval of video identifications



Content

Introduction	3
How does Swisscom prepare for this new situation?	3
What are the options for identifying according to ZertES?	3
Where can I identify?	4



Introduction

On April 1st 2020, the Federal Council of Switzerland amended the Ordinance on the Signature Act (VZertES) in one paragraph in connection with the extraordinary situation in the context of the propagation of the Corona virus:

<https://www.admin.ch/gov/de/start/dokumentation/medienmitteilungen.msg-id-78641.html>

This means that during the period of the Corona measures it is possible for the first time that persons can avoid the face2face identification even for signatures not dedicated for contracts of financial intermediaries. You can even be identified by an eIDAS video identification service.

How does Swisscom prepare for this new situation?

Swisscom will launch the Smart Registration Service (SRS) in the next few weeks, which will take advantage of these new conditions and solve further challenges:

- We supply our partners and interested end customers (large volume customers) with the possibility to offer identifications in the EU and ZertES area for your customers, employees or partners that are not based on RA app.
- In the EU, different identification requirements apply as in Switzerland. Each identification method must be authorized for the chosen legal area. For example, video identification in Switzerland outside of the amended Ordinance may only be used in connection with financial intermediaries. Within the framework of a "catalogue", Swisscom always provides the identification methods for the legal area and the chosen signature quality, which can be used during and after time. The partner and customer using the service can check the validity for the intended purpose and choose the appropriate method before selecting an identification method.
- Organisations may use identification data not only for signature purposes but also for identification concerning the anti-money laundering. SRS enables this possibility together with the identification service provider.
- Only one offered identification method is not always sufficient. E.g. users using an insufficient camera or have limited internet bandwidth could have problems to use the video identification method or has no German eID. The choice of different identification methods which can be used in parallel could be helpful.
- Identify once – sign multiple times: Until now, an electronic signature was often always linked to the previous step of identification, i.e. three signatures within two weeks also required three identifications. Swisscom offers the link between unique identification with an authentication means: i.e. the signatory soon can sign only by use of a PIN, fingerprint, facial recognition without prior identification.

Swisscom will gradually expand this service with identification methods and starts with video identification. Here we have won a German partner (identity.tm) who takes over the identifications for the EU area and can also take over identifications for the qualified electronic signature according to ZertES in Switzerland during the transitional provisions of the Federal Council. Swisscom is for this process the responsible registration authority. Shortly thereafter, bank identification will be offered by means of a German bank account with our partner Klarna AB, Sweden/Germany for a qualified electronic signature according to eIDAS and also the German eID will be offered together with another partner in Germany. For more details please have a look in our white paper "Smart Registration Service".

What are the options for identifying according to ZertES?

The video identification of the Smart Registration Service can be used as follows for the period of the transitional provisions (maximum period of 6 months starting with April 2nd 2020) in the following way:

- RA-Master agents can be onboarded for the management of the RA app instead by direct face2face identification by Swisscom employees or partners.
- Even outside the scope of financial intermediaries, any person can be identified and perform a qualified electronic signature according to ZertES.
- Registration is possible in parallel for ZertES (Switzerland) eIDAS signatures (according to EU law).

What are the restrictions?

- Anyone wanting to sign with a qualified electronic signature after the period of the special amendment of this Ordinance must be re-identified at the latest at the end of the period. Swisscom will be informed in advance by OFCOM when the measure will expire and will submit a corresponding notification on its status under <https://trustservices.swisscom.com/service-status>. The page can be subscribed to by RSS feed e.g. in Outlook.



- The RA master agents remain. But in addition to their RA agent activity they must be re-identified in order to continue to sign with a qualified electronic signature, e.g. by another RA agent.
- At the end of the period, Swisscom will downgrade all authorisations for the creation of a qualified electronic signature to the creation of an advanced electronic signature for the Legal Area of Switzerland / ZertES. For eIDAS, the permissions remain. People can gain again the ability to sign with a qualified electronic signature according to ZertES by re-identification e.g. by a RA-App.
- Swisscom will continue to discuss with the legislator to progress with further possibilities to lower the burden of reidentification after this period. Nevertheless, the above points reflect the current state.

Since, after the end of this special Ordinance, financial intermediaries will again be forced to use a video identification approved by ZertES (before April 2nd), we would not recommend the identification by our German partner. In this case, we continue to recommend direct onboarding with our Swisscom video identification service "Digital Identification and Signing". This gives them the flexibility to use the qualified electronic signature outside the activities of the financial intermediary during this period, and it is ensured without re-identification that after the period, the identifications are only available in the in connection with a qualified electronic signature in the context of the activity as a financial intermediary.

Where can I identify?

The Smart Registration Service is initially offered to partners and end customers/large customers so that they can set up their own identification portals. These forward the person to be identified directly to an identification partner by a URL. This happens regardless of the signature which can be performed later and separately.

At the same time, at the beginning of May, we will make our own Swisscom identification page available to our business customers. They can obtain one or more individual identifications against the purchase of voucher codes, e.g. for use within the framework of SwissTrustRoom.

For further information we are at your disposal:

Swisscom (Schweiz) AG
Enterprise Customers
Identification Service

Pfingstweidstrasse 51
8005 Zürich

Switzerland

<https://trustservices.swisscom.com>