

Electronic seal in public spatial information systems

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Seals on documents originating from spatial information systems have played an important role for years. They served to confirm the origin of the documents, as well as the validity of the data contained therein. A missing seal could effectively undermine the credibility of these documents, including discrediting them as evidence in various types of administrative and court proceedings.

Until July 30, 2021, regulations were in force in Poland indicating that if a document from the official land and building register is made available in a non-electronic form, it must contain the signature of the person representing the authority or a person authorized by the authority to issue the document, as well as the official seal of the authority issuing the document . Thus, a seal was one of the two ways of securing documents. However, the value of this security has become more and more debatable. The progressive devaluation of the traditional seal means that its application does not currently guarantee high levels of security

Therefore, the new regulations, in force in Poland from July 31, 2021, abolished the obligation to use the traditional seal when issuing the above-mentioned documents. At the same time, due to the digitization of spatial information databases and the need to automate the processes of sharing data from these databases, the legislator allowed the use of a qualified electronic seal, i.e. a tool described in the EU eIDAS regulation.