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EUROPEAN STANDARD

Electronic Signatures and Trust Infrastructures (ESI);
Certificate Profiles;
Part 3: Certificate profile for certificates issued to legal persons

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Foreword

This European Standard (EN) has been produced by ETSI Technical Committee Electronic Signatures and Trust Infrastructures (ESI).

The present document is part 3 of multi-part deliverable covering the Certificate Profiles. Full details of the entire series can be found in part 1 [i.4].

National transposition dates	
Date of adoption of this EN:	9 July 2026
Date of latest announcement of this EN (doa):	31 October 2026
Date of latest publication of new National Standard or endorsement of this EN (dop/e):	30 April 2027
Date of withdrawal of any conflicting National Standard (dow):	30 April 2027

Modal verbs terminology

In the present document "**shall**", "**shall not**", "**should**", "**should not**", "**may**", "**need not**", "**will**", "**will not**", "**can**" and "**cannot**" are to be interpreted as described in clause 3.2 of the ETSI Drafting Rules (Verbal forms for the expression of provisions).

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Introduction

ITU and ISO issued standards for certification of public keys in Recommendation ITU-T X.509 | ISO/IEC 9594-8 [i.2] which are used for the security of communications and data for a wide range of electronic applications.

Regulation (EU) No 910/2014 [i.3] of the European Parliament and of the Council of 23 July 2014 on electronic identification and trust services for electronic transactions in the internal market and repealing Directive 1999/93/EC [i.1] defines requirements on specific types of certificates named "qualified certificates". Implementation of Directive 1999/93/EC [i.1] and deployment of certificate infrastructures throughout Europe as well as in countries outside of Europe, have resulted in a variety of certificate implementations for use in public and closed environments, where some are declared as qualified certificates while others are not.

Applications need support from standardized and interoperable identity certificate profiles, in particular when applications are used for digital signatures, authentication and secure electronic exchange in open environments and international trust scenarios, but also when certificates are used in local application contexts.

ETSI EN 319 412-2 [2] specifies a profile for certificates issued to natural persons, which provides the basis for this profile for certificates issued to legal persons.

The present document aims to maximize the interoperability of systems issuing and using certificates both in the European context under the Regulation (EU) No 910/2014 [i.3] and in the wider international environment.

1 Scope

The present document specifies a certificate profile for certificates issued to legal persons. The profile defined in the present document builds on requirements defined in ETSI EN 319 412-2 [2].

The present document supports the requirements of EU qualified certificates as specified in the Regulation (EU) No 910/2014 [i.3] as well as other forms of certificate.

2 References

2.1 Normative references

References are either specific (identified by date of publication and/or edition number or version number) or non-specific. For specific references, only the cited version applies. For non-specific references, the latest version of the referenced document (including any amendments) applies.

Referenced documents which are not found to be publicly available in the expected location might be found in the ETSI docbox.

NOTE: While any hyperlinks included in this clause were valid at the time of publication, ETSI cannot guarantee their long-term validity.

The following referenced documents are necessary for the application of the present document.

[1] Recommendation ITU-T X.520 (10/2019): "Information technology - Open Systems Interconnection - The Directory: Selected attribute types".

[2] ETSI EN 319 412-2: "Electronic Signatures and Trust Infrastructures (ESI); Certificate Profiles; Part 2: Certificate Profile for certificates issued to natural persons".

[3] IETF RFC 5280: "Internet X.509 Public Key Infrastructure Certificate and Certificate Revocation List (CRL) Profile".

2.2 Informative references

References are either specific (identified by date of publication and/or edition number or version number) or non-specific. For specific references, only the cited version applies. For non-specific references, the latest version of the referenced document (including any amendments) applies.

NOTE: While any hyperlinks included in this clause were valid at the time of publication, ETSI cannot guarantee their long-term validity.

The following referenced documents may be useful in implementing an ETSI deliverable or add to the reader's understanding, but are not required for conformance to the present document.

[i.1] Directive 1999/93/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 13 December 1999 on a Community framework for electronic signatures.

[i.2] Recommendation ITU-T X.509 | ISO/IEC 9594-8: "Information technology - Open Systems Interconnection - The Directory: Public-key and attribute certificate frameworks".

[i.3] Regulation (EU) No 910/2014 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 23 July 2014 on electronic identification and trust services for electronic transactions in the internal market and repealing Directive 1999/93/EC.

[i.4] ETSI EN 319 412-1: "Electronic Signatures and Trust Infrastructures (ESI); Certificate Profiles; Part 1: Overview and common data structures".

3 Definition of terms, symbols, abbreviations and notations

3.1 Terms

For the purposes of the present document, the terms given in ETSI EN 319 412-1 [i.4] apply.

3.2 Symbols

Void.

3.3 Abbreviations

For the purposes of the present document, the abbreviations given in ETSI EN 319 412-2 [2] apply.

3.4 Notations

For the purposes of the present document, the notations given in ETSI EN 319 412-1 [i.4] apply.

4 Profile requirements

4.1 Generic requirements

LEG-4.1-1: All certificate fields and extensions shall comply with ETSI EN 319 412-2 [2] with the amendments specified in the present document.

4.2 Basic certificate fields

4.2.1 Subject

LEG-4.2.1-1: Clause 4.2.4 of ETSI EN 319 412-2 [2] shall not apply.

LEG-4.2.1-2: The subject field shall include at least the following attributes as specified in Recommendation ITU-T X.520 [1]:

- `countryName`;
- `organizationName`;
- `organizationIdentifier`; and
- `commonName`.

LEG-4.2.1-3: Only one instance of each of these attributes shall be present. Additional attributes may be present.

LEG-4.2.1-4: The `countryName` attribute shall specify the country in which the subject (legal person) is established.

LEG-4.2.1-5: The `organizationName` attribute shall contain the full registered name of the subject (legal person).

LEG-4.2.1-6: The `organizationIdentifier` attribute shall contain an identification of the subject organization different from the organization name.

LEG-4.2.1-7: Certificates may include one or more semantics identifiers as specified in clause 5 of ETSI EN 319 412-1 [i.4].

LEG-4.2.1-8: The `commonName` attribute value shall contain a name commonly used by the subject to represent itself. This name needs not be an exact match of the fully registered organization name.

LEG-4.2.1-9: If present, the size of `organizationName`, `organizationalUnitName` and `commonName` may be longer than the limit as stated in IETF RFC 5280 [3].

NOTE: If other limits are applied it is expected that this is stated in the TSP's published certification practice statement or terms and conditions.

4.3 Standard certificate extensions

4.3.1 Key usage

LEG-4.3.1-1: Clause 4.3.2 of ETSI EN 319 412-2 [2] shall not apply, except those parts which are referenced below.

LEG-4.3.1-2: Clause 4.3.2 of ETSI EN 319 412-2 [2], paragraph 1 and subsequent table 1 shall apply.

LEG-4.3.1-3: Certificates used to validate digital signatures over content (e.g. documents, agreements and/or transactions) that provide evidence of origin and integrity of the content shall be limited to type A, B or F.

LEG-4.3.1-4: Of these alternatives, type A should be used (see the security note 2 below).

EXAMPLE: Digital signatures which are aimed to be used as advanced electronic seals as defined in Regulation (EU) No 910/2014 [i.3] are considered to provide evidence of origin and integrity of the content.

NOTE 1: See note 1 in clause 4.3.2 of ETSI EN 319 412-2 [2].

NOTE 2: See note 2 in clause 4.3.2 of ETSI EN 319 412-2 [2].

Annex A (informative): Change history

Date	Version	Information about changes
February 2020	V1.1.2	Implemented Change Requests: • on key usage as in ESI(18)63_051r1 • on IETF RFC 5280 size limits not applying to naming attributes as in ESI(19)000170r2
April 2020	V1.1.3	ESI(20)000025: Change Request to Clarify keyUsage in certificates for e-seals ESI(20)000026: Change Request to enhance unrestricted size fields in Subject
April 2023	V1.2.2	Updated to allocate reference number to each requirement in line with EN 319 411-1
March 2026	V1.4.0	Update obsolete references

History

Version	Date	Status
V1.0.1	July 2015	Publication as ETSI TS 119 412-3 (Withdrawn)
V1.1.1	February 2016	Publication
V1.2.1	July 2020	Publication
V1.3.1	September 2023	Publication
V1.4.0	April 2026	ENAP Process AP 20260709: 2026-04-10 to 2026-07-09
V1.4.1	July 2026	Publication