Factsheet

Legal information

The eCMR software from the Open Logistics Foundation meets all criteria of the 2008 eCMR Protocol, which states that an electronic consignment note (eCMR) has the same legal effect as its paper-based counterpart (CMR).

The eCMR software is based on procedures that comply with the requirements of the eCMR Protocol. The data model contains all legally required information necessary for an eCMR. The involved parties can interact with the eCMR in the same way

as with the paper-based CMR: they can create, transmit, and present it to third parties, as well as amend or supplement it after initial creation. A switch to paper format is also possible.

The electronic seals used in the eCMR software comply with current regulations regarding the authenticity and integrity of eCMR documents, as defined in the eCMR Protocol. Electronic signatures are recognised as a reliable method of authentication if they are

- clearly linked to the signer, suitable for identifying the signer,
- created using means that are under the sole control of the signer, and
- linked to the data in such a way that any subsequent alteration of the data is detectable.

The advanced electronic seals used in the eCMR software comply with both the eCMR Protocol and the eIDAS Regulation. They ensure the integrity of the eCMR by cryptographically linking the seal to the eCMR data to be signed. Any unauthorised or subsequent modification of the eCMR is immediately detected. This makes electronic CMRs significantly more secure than paper-based ones.

A key advantage of electronic seals over electronic signatures is that identification takes place at company level. This means that a seal can be used by any authorised employee, making it considerably easier to use, as not every employee needs their own electronic signature. For the signature solution, the Open Logistics Foundation worked closely with recognised experts in information security and identity management.

By using the eCMR software, all parties involved in the fulfilment of the transport contract express their agreement to these procedures. The eCMR software is published in accordance with the eCMR

Protocol on the relevant websites of the Open Logistics Foundation, along with the user manuals – namely, the Technical and Legal FAQ. Each eCMR issued using the service contains a reference to this website.



Further information

Detailed information about the eCMR project and the eCMR software can be found at www.openlogisticsfoundation.org/ecmr.

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