

ALBERTA SECURITIES COMMISSION
BLANKET ORDER 13-503

Citation: Re Temporary Exemption from Requirements to Manually Sign Documents,
2020 ABASC 53 **Date: 20200427**

Definitions

1. Terms defined in the *Securities Act* (Alberta) (the **Act**) and the *Alberta Securities Commission Rules* (General) (the **Rules**) have the same meaning in this Order.
2. In this Order, "electronic signature" means electronic information that a person creates or adopts in order to sign a document and that is in, attached to or associated with the document.

Background

3. As a result of the coronavirus disease 2019 (**COVID-19**) outbreak, which was declared a pandemic by the World Health Organization on March 11, 2020 and led to the declaration of a "public health emergency" under the *Public Health Act* (Alberta) by the Lieutenant Governor of Alberta on March 17, 2020, the Alberta Securities Commission (the **Commission**) acknowledges that this pandemic may present challenges for market participants in the meeting of certain obligations under Alberta securities laws.
4. Specifically, as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic, it may be challenging for certain persons or companies to comply with the requirements in sections 28(1)(a), (b) and (c) of the Rules, which, except as otherwise provided under Alberta securities laws, require every document that is required or permitted to be filed with the Commission or the Executive Director and that must be signed or certified to be manually signed (the **Manual Signature Requirement**).
5. This Order serves as the Commission's explicit consent, subject to the conditions contained herein, to the use of an electronic signature in lieu of a manual signature.
6. Under section 213 of the Act, the Commission may by order exempt any class or classes of persons or companies from all or any provision of Alberta securities laws.

Order

7. Considering that it would not be prejudicial to the public interest, the Commission orders that any person or company required to comply with the Manual Signature Requirement is exempted from that requirement for the period from April 27, 2020 to April 30, 2021, provided that the document is signed using an electronic signature that:
 - (a) together with any accompanying information, is capable of identifying the signatory;
 - (b) is unique to the signatory; and

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(Amendments to ASC Rules (General))

(c) is created using means that the signatory can maintain under the signatory's sole control.

8. This Order comes into effect on April 27, 2020.

For the Commission:

“original signed by”

Tom Cotter
Vice-Chair

“original signed by”

Kari Horn
Vice-Chair

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