



Fact sheet

Datum:

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The Covid certificate

Background

On the basis of the relevant legislation (Art. 6a of the Covid-19 Act), the Swiss federal government is working to provide a technical solution to enable the issue, storage and control of forgery-proof verification documents, so-called Covid certificates, for people who have been vaccinated, recovered or tested negative.

Requirements and selection procedure

The first step was to set down the specifications of such a solution:

- No data are to be stored centrally.
- The relevant data protection and data security requirements are to be respected.
- The solution is to be compatible with the EU's digital green certificate.
- As soon as it is complete, the solution can be rolled out in Switzerland during the summer.
- The procedure for issuing, storing and controlling certificates is to be as practical and user-friendly as possible.

More than 50 different providers submitted potential technical solutions to the FDHA/the FOPH. On the basis of the requirements described above, each proposed solution was evaluated individually. As a first step the steering committee has decided to pursue two technical solutions in parallel until the middle of May. The final decision on the chosen variant will be made in mid-May. Given the ambitious deadlines for development and implementation, this dual-track approach provides fall-back until a satisfactory level of development has been reached. Another consideration is that the specifications of the EU's digital green certificate are not yet known in detail. To be able to provide a functioning, user-friendly solution by sometime in summer, the project is to remain as flexible as possible, and will not exclude possibilities too early.

Alongside a solution developed by the federal government itself on the basis of the Public Key Infrastructure (PKI) of the FOITT (Federal Office of Information Technology, Systems and Telecommunication), a solution from SICPA/ELCA is also to be driven forward until mid-May.

The IT service provider ELCA, together with SICPA, is proposing CERTUS digital seal technology to produce the Covid certificates. SICPA, a company in Western Switzerland established almost a hundred years ago, is a global leader in the field of material and digital security for public administrations

Further information:

Federal Office of Public Health, Communication and media section, www.bag.admin.ch

This publication is also available in German, French and Italian.

and industry.

Data security and safeguarding privacy are essential. For this reason internal and external specialists are to be given access to the solution architectures as the next milestone, and later into the overall solution, in order to be able to test their security.

Stakeholder involvement

Involving the various stakeholders (issuers, controllers and data protection experts) is key to the introduction of a Covid certificate. Issuers must be able to generate the certificates as easily and inexpensively as possible. It must be possible for those controlling the certificates to do so quickly. The solution will also have to be scrutinised by data protection and security experts.

These stakeholders are involved at three different levels:

- Alongside the FOPH and the General Secretariat of the FDHA, the project **steering committee** includes representatives of the Federal Office of Information Technology, Systems and Telecommunication (FOITT), the Federal Data Protection and Information Commissioner (FDPIC), the National Cyber Security Centre (NCSC), the Secretary-General of the Conference of the Cantonal Ministers of Public Health (GDK), and the Science Task Force.
- In the course of initial deliberations the project has been discussed with representatives of the issuers (FMH and pharmaSuisse), the controllers (Economiesuisse) and digitalisation specialists (ETH, CH++, digitalswitzerland). They have all expressed their willingness to make themselves available for **ad hoc hearings** depending on the need and any challenges that arise.
- **Sounding boards** are also planned where the issuers (medical practices, pharmacists, hospitals and labs) will be able to discuss the details of the solution on a technical level, and also test it. Similar sounding boards will also be offered for the controllers (e.g. representatives of the airports) to discuss and verify the practicability of the solution.

Next steps

The technical solution continues to be worked on at full speed, taking into account the requirements of the EU and data protection, as well as those of the issuers, holders and controllers.

The concrete details of the digital green certificate should be available in mid-May. To ensure compatibility with the EU's digital green certificate, both the technical solution and the terms of execution are based on the EU's legal framework. As soon as the ordinance on the Covid certificate comes into force (probably at the beginning of June), the staggered introduction of the Covid certificate for vaccinated, recovered and tested persons can be started.