Authenticated Federal Government Documents from the U.S. Government Printing Office

- Integrity of Government Documents
- Security in Government Information Online
- Reinforcing Trust and Confidence in Online Federal Documents

GPO

The Challenge

For almost 150 years, the words "United States Government Printing Office" in printed U.S. Government documents have identified the Government Printing Office (GPO) as the official disseminator of those documents and assured users of their authenticity.

In the 21st century, the increasing use of electronic documents poses special challenges in verifying authenticity, because digital technology makes such documents easy to alter or copy, leading to multiple non-identical versions that can be used in unauthorized or illegitimate ways.

GPO's Charge

To help meet the challenge of the digital age, GPO has begun implementing digital signatures to certain electronic documents on *GPO Access* (**www.gpoaccess.gov**) that not only establish GPO as the trusted information disseminator, but also provide the assurance that an electronic document has not been altered since GPO disseminated it.

The visible digital signatures on online PDF documents serve the same purpose as handwritten signatures or traditional wax seals on printed documents. A digital signature, viewed through the GPO Seal of Authenticity, verifies document integrity and authenticity on GPO online Federal documents, at no cost to the customer.

For more information on GPO's Authentication Initiative, please visit: **http://www.gpoaccess. gov/authentication/**.

What are the Benefits of Digital Signatures?

- **Congress —** A digital signature increases the level of service to the public while ensuring open public access to Federal documents.

- **Federal Agencies —** A digital signature verifies an electronic Federal document as identical to the version GPO disseminated, eliminating fraudulent or other manipulations of the content.

- **Business and Legal Sectors —** A digital signature provides tamper-proof version control for electronic Government documents used in commercial and legal transactions.

- **Libraries —** As part of GPO's commitment to permanent public access to Government information, the digital signature ensures libraries and their users that they are using authentic versions of online Government documents that provide an unchanged historical record.

- **Researchers —** A digital signature certifies the authenticity of electronic primary source materials used by students and academic researchers.

- **The Public —** A digital signature signifies that the public can trust an online Government document and the information it contains as the authentic electronic version disseminated by GPO.

AUTHENTICATED
U.S. GOVERNMENT
INFORMATION
GPO

The Seal of Authenticity enables the viewer to verify the authentic nature of a particular document, ensuring that the content has remained unchanged since GPO first authenticated it.

For Assistance Using *GPO Access*, Find GPO Self Help Tools at

www.gpoaccess.gov/help/index.html

Reach out to the GPO Customer Contact Center

Available	Monday through Friday 7:00 a.m. to 6:30 p.m. EST (except Federal holidays)
Toll-Free	866.512.1800
DC Metro	202.512.1800 (Washington, DC area)
Fax	202.512.2104
Email	ContactCenter@gpo.gov

Find a Local Federal Depository Library

www.gpoaccess.gov/libraries.html

Visit the U.S. Government Bookstore

http://bookstore.gpo.gov