

How to Validate Documents Signed with an EPA Certificate Authority (CA) Issued Certificate

Background

Documents signed and issued through EV-CIS after December 2, 2025, may **appear** to have an Untrusted/Unknown digital certificate that is not issued by a trusted Certificate Authority (CA). Please note that all documents signed and issued through EV-CIS **are trusted and issued by a trusted CA**; however, as of December 2, 2025, extra steps are required to validate this. These steps are described in two separate Validation Methods in this document.

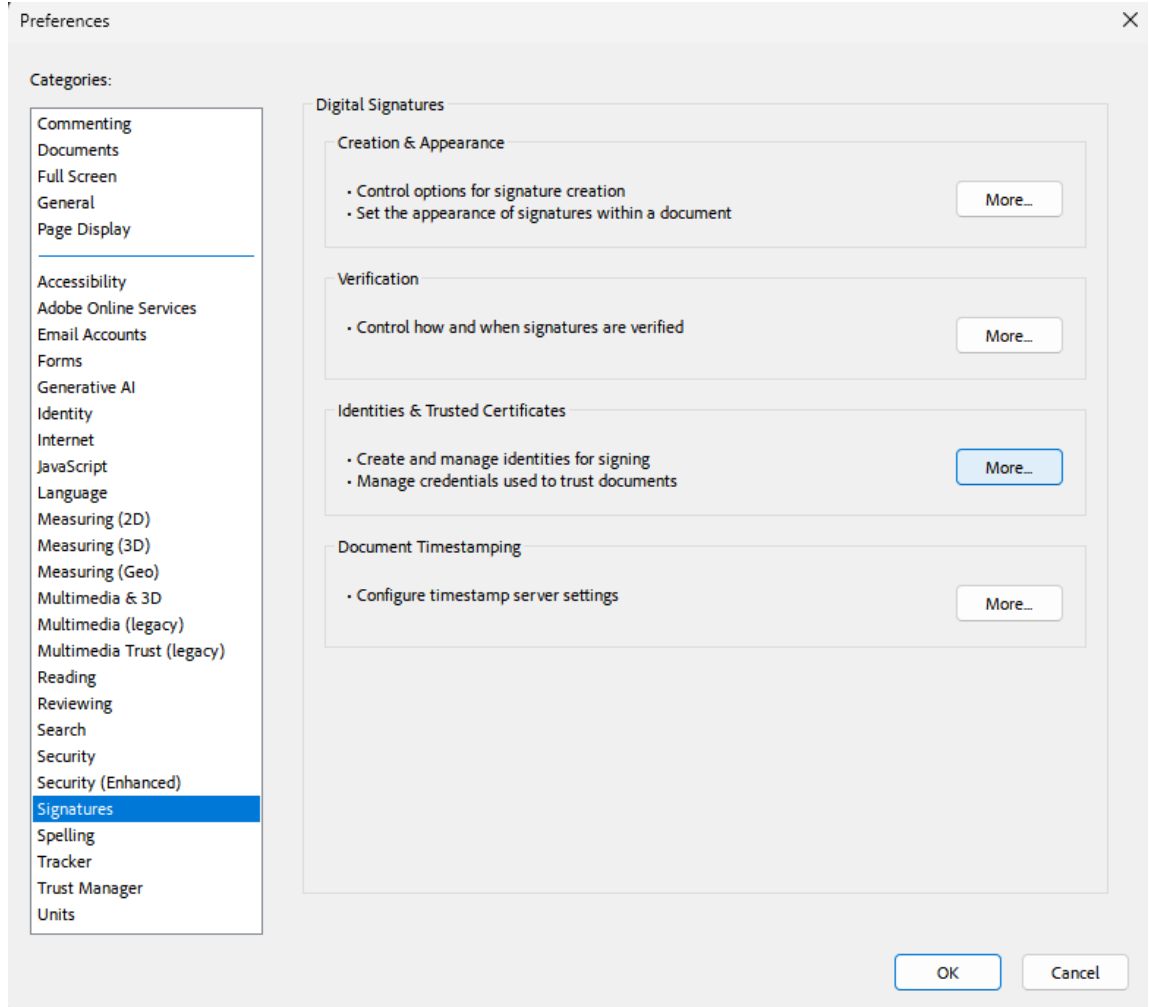
- [Validation Method #1 – Downloading Root Certificate](#)
- [Validation Method #2 – Using a Document Issued by EV-CIS](#)

Validation Method #1 - Downloading Root Certificate

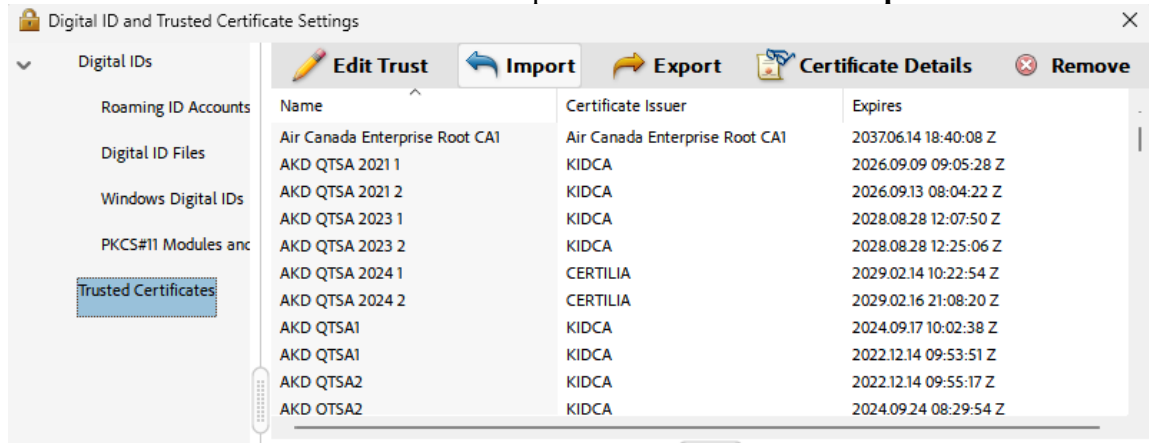
This method can be used to **preemptively** trust documents issued by EV-CIS so that any documents will be properly validated when opened.

1. Download the public EPA CA root certificate posted here: <https://www.epa.gov/ve-certification> in the “Search for Documents” box.
2. Open **Adobe Acrobat** or **Adobe Acrobat Reader**.
3. Open the Menu in the top-left and select **Preferences**.

4. Select **Signatures** from the left panel and then click the **More** button under **Identities & Trusted Certificates**.



5. Select **Trusted Certificate** from the left panel and then click the **Import** button.



6. Click the **Browse** button under the **Contacts** section.

Choose Contacts to Import

This dialog will allow you to select contacts to import into your trusted identities. You can also set the trust for any certificates associated with the contacts being imported.

Contacts

Name	Email
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Remove

Browse ...

Search ...

Certificates

This list displays the certificates associated with the currently selected contact.

Subject	Issuer	Expires
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Details ...

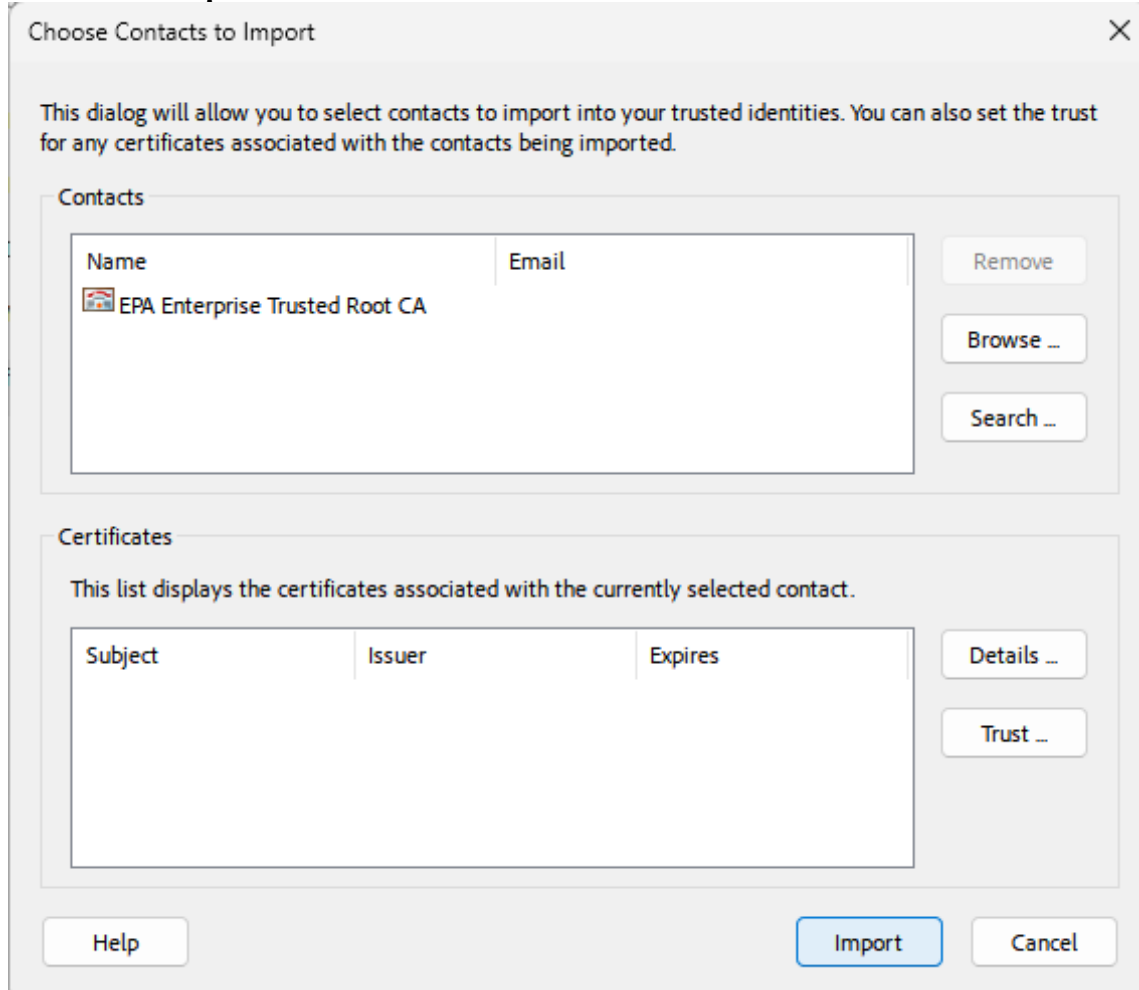
Trust ...

Help

Import

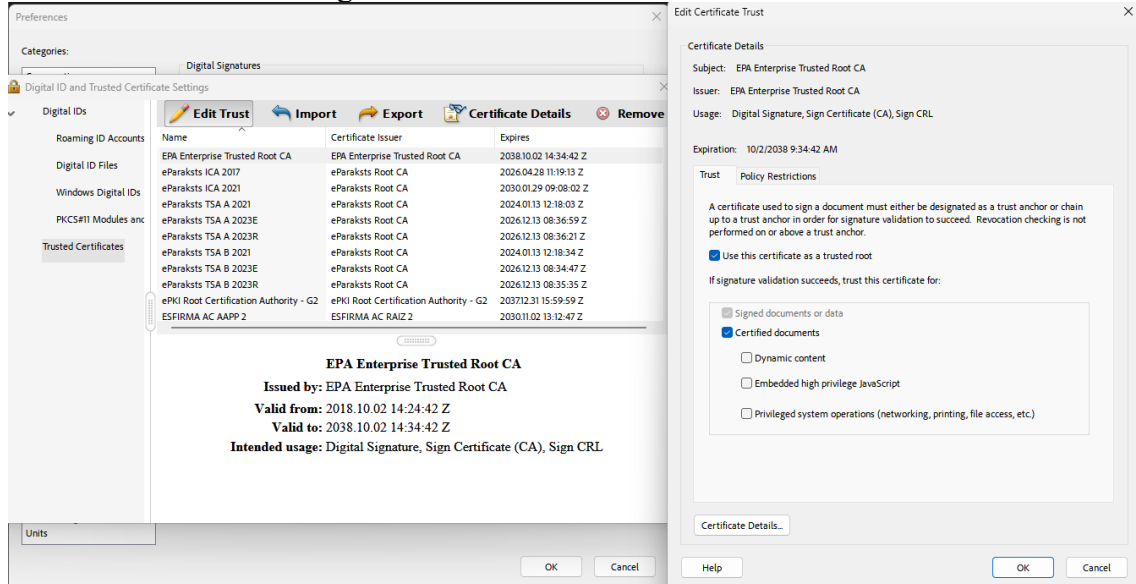
Cancel

7. Select the downloaded **epa_root.cer** file and click OK. Your screen should show the **EPA Enterprise Trusted Root CA** contact.

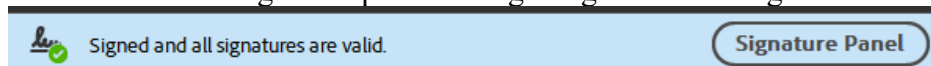


8. Click the **Import** button.

9. Find and select the **EPA Enterprise Trusted Root CA** from the table of trusted certificates. After selecting the row click the **Edit Trust** button.



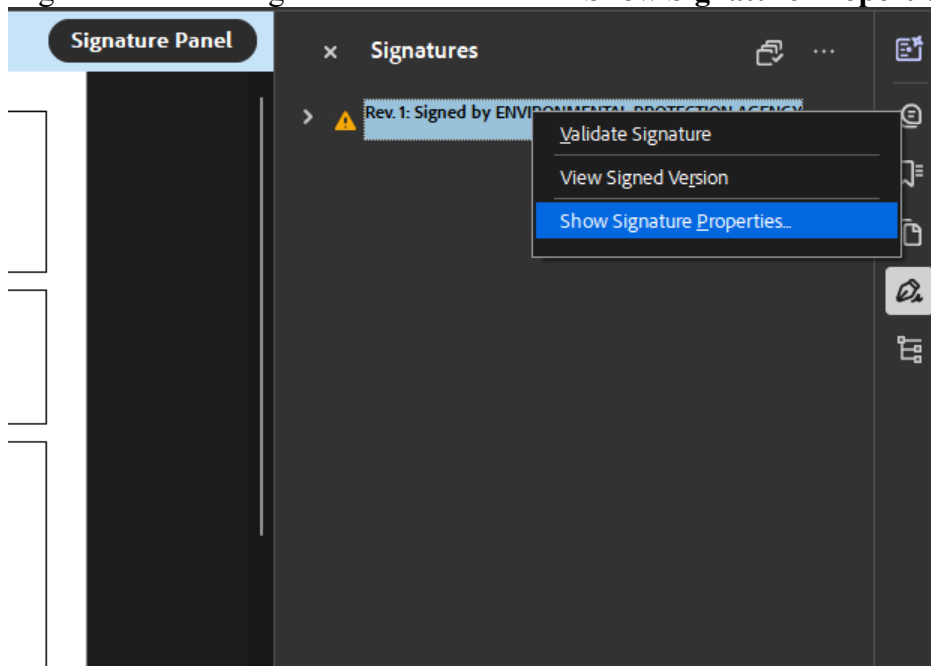
10. A new window labeled "Edit Certificate Trust" will appear. Check the boxes for the following options:
[x] **Use this certificate as a trusted root**
[x] **Certified documents**
11. Click OK on each window to close them and save your changes.
12. Any PDFs issued by EV-CIS after December 2, 2025, should now display a green checkmark in the signature panel stating: "Signed and all signatures are valid."



Validation Method #2 - Using a Document Issued by EV-CIS

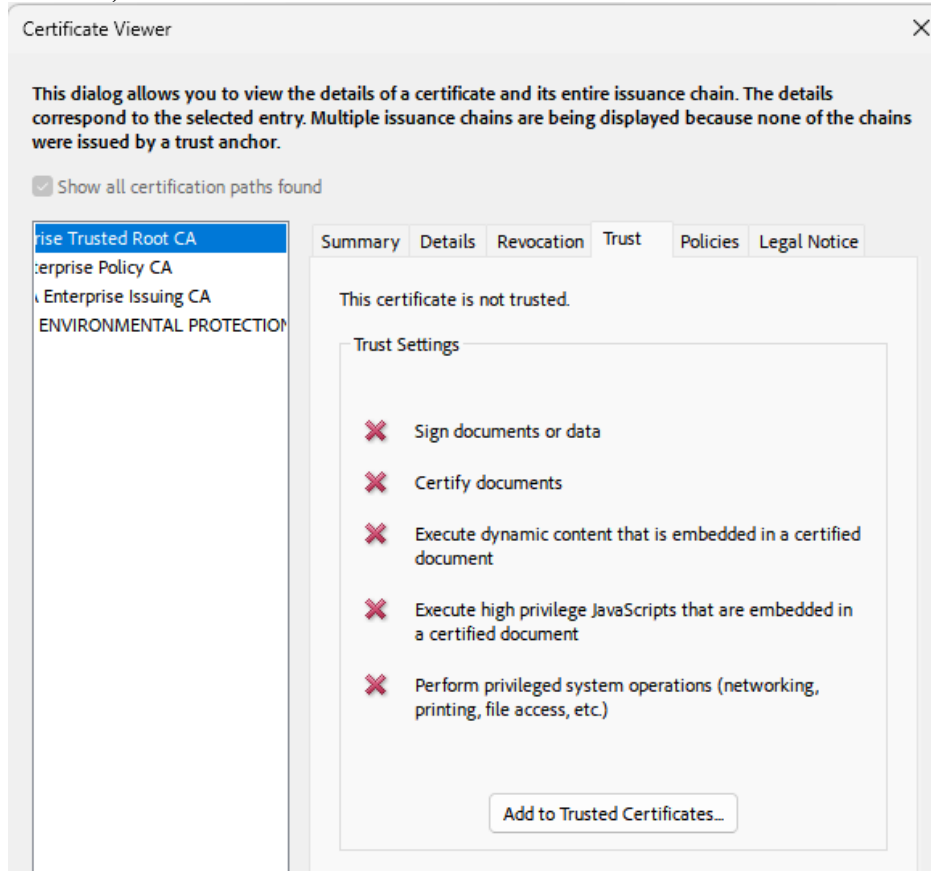
This method can be used if the user already has a signed document that was issued from EV-CIS after December 2, 2025.

1. Open the PDF in **Adobe Acrobat** or **Adobe Acrobat Reader**.
2. Locate the **Signature Panel** button in the top-right banner and click on it.
3. Right-click on the signature name and select **Show Signature Properties** from the menu.



4. In the "Signature Properties" window that appears, click the **Show Signer's Certificate** button.
5. Look at the left-hand column list. You will see a hierarchy (chain) of certificates. Select the **top-most certificate** in the list (this is the "Root CA" or the issuer).

6. With the certificate selected, click the **Trust** tab (located on the right side of the window).

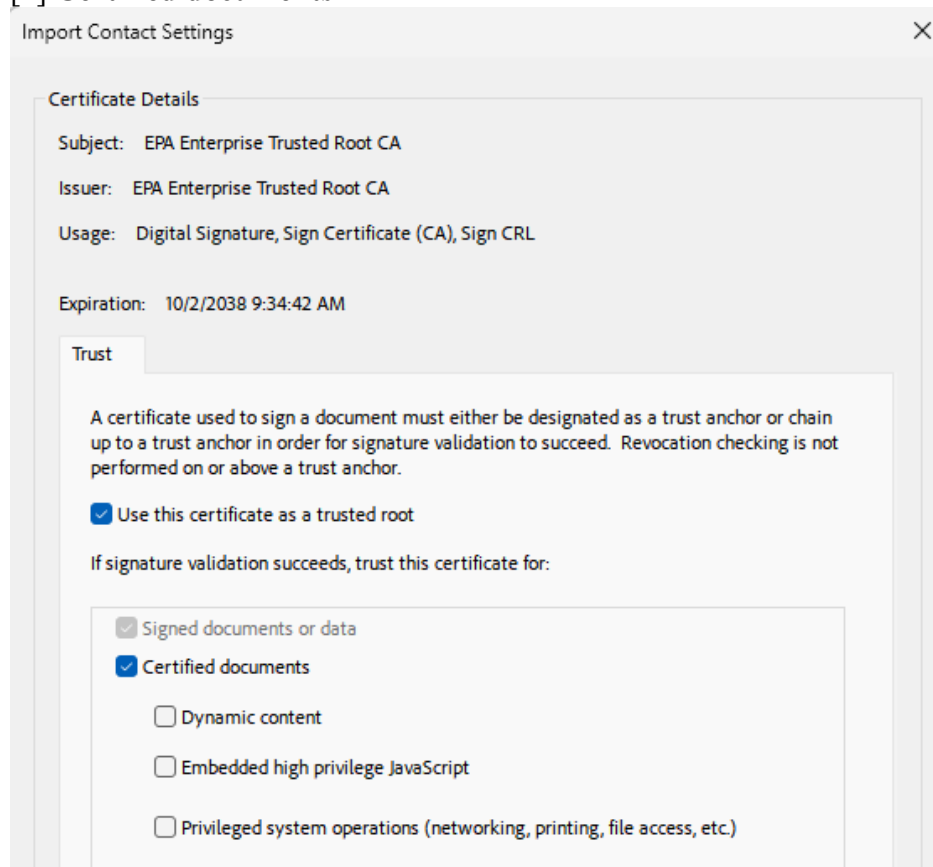


7. Click the button labeled **Add to Trusted Certificates**. Adobe will display a warning asking if you are sure you want to trust this certificate. Click **OK**.

8. A new window labeled "Import Contact Settings" will appear. Check the boxes for the following options:

[x] **Use this certificate as a trusted root**

[x] **Certified documents**



9. Click OK on each window to close them and save your changes.

10. In the Signature Panel **right-click** the signature again and select **Validate Signature**.



11. Any PDFs issued by EV-CIS after December 2, 2025, should now display a green checkmark in the signature panel stating: "Signed and all signatures are valid."

