

A signature in the reading order

This document claims PDF/UA-1 and carries a signature you can see. The field at the bottom right stands in the structure tree between these paragraphs: inside a Form element, joined to its widget annotation by an object reference, with an accessible name and a description of its own. ISO 14289-1, 7.18.1 and 7.18.4 ask that of every annotation, and a signature field is not exempt from either.

An INVISIBLE signature is exempt, and deliberately so: ISO 14289-2, 8.9.2.4.13 makes a widget annotation of zero height and width an artifact, 8.10.1 exempts an artifact from the Form element, and 8.10.3.5 repeats it for the signature field by name. So the signature of example 08.01 - the default, a rectangle of no area - stands in no element, is asked for no description, and is none the worse for it. The rectangle decides that, not the claim.

What a listener is told

Two options, answering two different questions. -tooltip writes /TU, the accessible name of the FIELD (ISO 32000-2, 14.9.3): what a reader announces in place of the field name, since "Signature1" tells nobody anything. -contents writes /Contents, the description of the WIDGET itself (ISO 14289-2, 8.10.2.3): what the mark on the page is. Part 1 asks for the first, part 2 for both, and a claim made without them is refused when the file is written.

What the picture cannot do

The frame below is a form XObject drawn by the script that wrote this document, and it is a PICTURE of a signature: no structure, no word a screen reader can reach. Everything a listener gets comes from the two options above. The hand in it is the specimen signature of the German identity card, an official work in the public domain - it is nobody's signature, it declares nothing, and the certificate under it comes from a test CA this script makes and throws away again.

Check it yourself

```
verapdf --flavour ua1 08.05-signature-accessible.pdf
pdfsig 08.05-signature-accessible.pdf
qpdf --check 08.05-signature-accessible.pdf
pdfsig -dump 08.05-signature-accessible.pdf
pdfinfo -struct-text 08.05-signature-accessible.pdf
```