AIIM research shows more than half of business executives are mistakenly wedded to signatures on paper for contracts and order forms

Confusion reigns over E-Signature requirements ahead of upcoming EU eIDAS regulations

Silver Spring, Md., March 10, 2016 — 56% of business executives are wedded to signatures on paper for contracts and order forms, according to research from information management analysts, AIIM (http://www.aiim.org/). 31% of respondents agree that most of the paper documents they retain are only there for the signatures.

With new EU eIDAS regulations set to come into force from 1 July 2016, there remains widespread confusion over the use of E-Signatures from country to country. eIDAS will end over-regulations caused by different interpretation of the directive into national laws and clearly define where and how E-Signatures can be deployed.

AIIM is launching a white paper with Kofax from Lexmark (http://www.kofax.com/) - E-Signatures in Europe: Understanding the legal requirements for proof of intent (http://info.aiim.org/e-signatures-in-europe-understanding-the-legal-requirements-for-proof-of-intent) - to bring clarity to eIDAS and what it means for organisations across the EU.

"Keeping paper files because of a mis-guided belief that signatures are required for compliance needs to be addressed, but the different legislation across the EU has been confusing for multinational organisations," said Bob Larrivee, Chief Analyst, AIIM. "eIDAS serves as the functional requirement for businesses seeking to implement E-Signature technology, with a comfort level that if the solution they choose complies with eIDAS, it complies with the regulations of any EU member country."

Every year AIIM holds World Paper Free Day (http://www.aiim.org/events/paper-free-day), an initiative that takes place on 4 November in 2016 and challenges us to take solid steps on the path to using less paper, eliminating the waste and confusion that piles of office paper can create. The AIIM research showed that a perceived need for physical signatures was one of the main reasons given for there being so much paper in business processes, although 79% of respondents also agreed that all businesses should have an e-signature mechanism.

E-Signature provides many benefits ranging from productivity to defensibility and helping organisations to achieve a much better customer experience. The key is to understand which type of E-Signature must be used for compliance reasons, and how it will be used for business benefit.

"eIDAS addresses these requirements head-on, coming with streamlining of E-Signing terminology and making it easier for businesses to identify those elements of E-Signature use relevant to their business goals and practices," said Bob Larrivee, AIIM. "E-Signatures are just one way of reducing paper in business processes, and we hope that our white paper can bring welcome clarity to eIDAS, and that World Paper Free Day 2016 can bring paper reduction to even greater prominence."

E-Signatures in Europe: Understanding the legal requirements for proof of intent, is available for download here
(http://info.aiim.org/e-signatures-in-europe-understanding-the-legal-requirements-for-proof-of-intent).

Get involved with World Paper Free Day 2016 (http://www.aiim.org/events/paper-free-day) via social media:

Twitter - https://twitter.com/worldpaperfree and #wpfd
Facebook - https://www.facebook.com/worldpaperfreeday
Google + - https://plus.google.com/u/0/b/105682915438965916441/105682915438965916441
LinkedIn - https://www.linkedin.com/company/5357252

YouTube - https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC9cPCUYf3LlGmBrVbg5QLZg

The survey was taken using a web-based tool by 430 individual members of the AIIM community between Aug 14, and Sept 02, 2015.

About AIIM
AIIM (http://www.aiim.org/) has been an advocate and supporter of information professionals for 70 years. The association's mission is to ensure that information professionals understand the current and future challenges of managing information assets in an era of social, mobile, cloud and big data. Founded in 1943, AIIM builds on a strong heritage of research and member service. Today, AIIM is a global, non-profit organization that provides independent research, education and certification programs to information professionals. AIIM represents the entire information management community, with programs and content for practitioners, technology suppliers, integrators and consultants.

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