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भारत सरकार
Government of India
इलेक्ट्रॉनिकी और सूचना प्रौद्योगिकी मंत्रालय
Ministry of Electronics & Information Technology
प्रमाणन प्राधिकारी नियंत्रक का कार्यालय
Office of Controller of Certifying Authorities

**Advisory to Application Owners on Mandatory Acceptance of Valid Digital Signature
Certificates Issued by any Licensed Certifying Authorities under IT Act 2000**

This is to clarify the legal position regarding the acceptance of Digital Signature Certificates (DSCs) issued by Certifying Authorities (CAs) licensed under the Information Technology Act, 2000.

The Root Certifying Authority of India (RCAI), operated by the Controller of Certifying Authorities (CCA), issues CA certificates to licensed Certifying Authorities after due compliance and audit. All subscriber certificates issued by these licensed CAs are legally valid, provided they form a verifiable certificate chain up to the Root certificate of CCA.

It has come to the notice of this office with serious concern that many subscribers are raising complaints stating that their valid DSCs are not being accepted in certain Application Systems. Such selective acceptance mechanisms not only cause inconvenience to end users but also undermine the very purpose of establishing a unified national Public Key Infrastructure (PKI). The broader objective of enabling seamless trust services and promoting Digital India initiatives is adversely affected by such practices.

It is therefore advised that Application Owners accept any subscriber DSC issued by any licensed CA, as long as the certificate chains up to the RCAI Root certificate. As per the IT Act, individual enrolment or separate acceptance mechanisms for each CA certificate are not required under the legal framework.

All Application Owners/CISOs ensures that applications, systems are suitably modified, wherever required, to ensure interoperability and impartial acceptance of DSCs issued by all licensed CAs and compliance with the IT Act.

Regards


(Arvind Kumar)

Controller of Certifying Authorities



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