

The E-Signature Evaluation Guide

How to properly test a signing tool in 14 days, ours or anyone's.

— Before you start: decide what you are actually buying

An e-signature tool is not a place to draw squiggles. You are buying three things:

1. Proof

When a signed document is challenged, can you show what was agreed, when, and that nothing changed?

2. Completion speed

Documents only create value once everyone has signed. Friction on the signer's side is where deals stall.

3. Fit

Does it work with your email, your team, and (if relevant) your systems?

Price matters too, but evaluate it last: a low price on a tool that fails these three is money wasted, and a high price does not guarantee any of them either.

— Day 1: send something real (30 minutes)

Do not test with a lorem-ipsum page. Pick a document you actually send: a proposal, an offer letter, an engagement letter. Then:

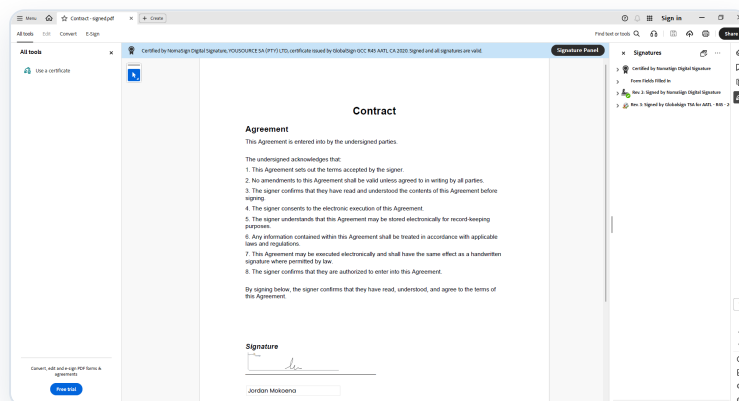
- 1 Create your account and upload the document.
- 2 Add one real colleague as the signer, place the signature and date fields.
- 3 Send it, and note what the signer receives: **which address did the invitation come from?** A third-party bulk domain is where signing invites go to die in spam filters. NomaSign sends from your own email.
- 4 Have your colleague sign on their phone. Time it, and count the hoops: **did they need to create an account or install an app?** Every extra step is a step your future clients will feel.

— Day 1, ten minutes later: the check most evaluations skip

Open the completed document in **Adobe Acrobat Reader** (free, and neutral: it applies the same rules to every provider's output).

- ✓ Is there a banner at the top confirming the document is certified and signatures are valid?
- ✓ Open the signature panel. **When was the document first protected: before the first signature, or only at the end?**
- ✓ Can you view the exact version of the document as it stood at each signature?
- ✓ Does each signature carry an embedded timestamp, and is the completion time fixed by an independent timestamp authority?
- ✓ Does validation succeed on your machine, without logging into the provider's portal?

This ten-minute check tells you more about evidence quality than any brochure. If the panel is empty, or the only proof is a PDF report the provider generated about itself, you now know what you are buying.



A NomaSign document under this exact check: certified banner, full revision history

— Days 2 to 7: run your real workflow

- ✓ **Templates:** set up your most-sent document as a template. How long until the second send takes under a minute?
- ✓ **Multiple signers:** test a two-signer document with signing order. Check the sequence is enforced and visible.
- ✓ **Reminders:** let a request sit unsigned for a day; confirm automatic reminders go out without you chasing.
- ✓ **Deliverability:** open your own sent items. **Did the invitation go out from your email address, or from a third-party bulk domain?** Then send a test to a personal Gmail or Outlook address and see whether it lands in the inbox or the spam folder.
- ✓ **The team:** invite a colleague, confirm they can send under the same subscription.

— Days 8 to 14: fit and scale

- ✓ **Bulk:** if you send one document to many people (HR packs, policy sign-offs), test bulk send with three recipients.
- ✓ **Automation (if relevant):** send a document via the API or a connector (Zapier, Make.com, Azure Logic Apps), and confirm a webhook tells you when it completes. If you have a developer, this is an afternoon. Documentation at www.nomasign.com/api, and if you are evaluating NomaSign we will help set up your integration at no additional cost: hello@nomasign.com.
- ✓ **The awkward questions:** ask support how pricing behaves at 5x your volume, what is charged per signature or per envelope, and what an advanced or qualified signature (signer certificate) would cost if regulation ever requires one.

— The scorecard

Score each provider 1 to 5 per row. Weight it however you like, but score every row: gaps hide here.

Criterion	What good looks like
Sealed from when?	Protected before the first signature, not only after the last
Evidence location	Inside the document, verifiable in Adobe on your machine
Version visibility	Each signature's exact document state viewable
Independent time	Timestamp authority fixes the completion moment
Signer friction	No account, no app, signs on a phone in under 2 minutes
Invitation deliverability	Sent from your own email address; lands in inboxes, not spam
Templates and bulk	Second send under a minute; bulk works
Automation	API and webhooks available on your plan, not a higher tier
Price honesty	Flat, published pricing; volume answers in writing

— What a NomaSign trial gives you

Free trial, no card, unlimited documents while you test. Everything in this guide can be completed inside the trial, including the Adobe verification (grab our pre-signed sample at www.nomasign.com/proof if you want to compare before sending anything).

Start your evaluation today

www.nomasign.com, or write to hello@nomasign.com and we will walk your first real document through with you.

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