



Certificates of authenticity, ownership and origin

The requirement

The importance of providing trusted proof of authenticity, ownership and origin is as paramount today as it has ever been. With the continued growth of counterfeit and alteration of vital records and motor vehicle titles, and the associated impact on government revenues and sector credibility, it is important to stay one step ahead of the criminals.

As a result, the specification for these documents needs to include a minimum number of overt and covert features. These security features need to work in conjunction with one another, using intelligent document and substrate design to develop a certificate that addresses the specific techniques used to falsify and fraudulently recreate originals.

The threats

1. The creation of a counterfeit documents using deliberately and criminally refabricated materials.
2. Alteration of a genuine document including amendments to names, dates, address details, reference numbers and/or official codes.
3. Another threat to be aware of, is the continuous use of the same generic designs or features over a large number of years without feature upgrade or design refresh. Not upgrading your documents on a sufficiently regular basis can facilitate criminals, and give them more time to enhance their replication techniques of the current series.

The solution

As security paper experts, both in North America and across the globe, Portals is the ideal partner to help you ensure your authentication, ownership and origin certificates are sufficiently robust and resilient to manage your specific security challenges.

We are experts in delivering security paper solutions that our customers trust. With more than 300 years of experience, supplying into the banknote, passport and security document industries, we certainly have the know how to help.

By truly understanding the threats being faced, we can work with you to define the optimal specification for your certificates.

Recommendations

- To mitigate against these threats, Portals recommends the use of a security focused suite of security features built around a multi-tonal VAT formed watermark.
- It is our professional opinion that tamper evident papers are also critical in the fight against attack. The right specification of chemical sensitisations and furnish blends will ensure maximum evidence in the event of attempted alteration, deliberate damage or obliteration of key data.
- A combination of easy to identify and verify features, means it is quick for users to both understand and authenticate with minimal or no training.
- A mix of overt (visible) and covert (hidden) security features will ensure multiple lines of defence, meaning that if there is a cause for concern, then the user can check more than one feature to gain reassurance.



Portals recommendations:

Multi-tonal watermarks

Description: three-dimensional multi tonal watermarks are VAT formed during the paper making process and are therefore integral to the certificate paper. With a full range of high contrast light and dark tones, they offer beautiful clarity and high image definition that cannot be matched with other watermarking techniques.

Benefits: the most secure paper feature available, immediately recognisable and easy to authenticate.

Base security: Portals can offer 'standard' watermarks e.g. AMMVA's "Screaming Eagle" design for North American motor vehicle certificates and vital records.

Enhanced security options: Portals can also offer a standard watermark combined with additional or personalised features. For greater security, we suggest adopting a completely new customised watermark design. Electrotype watermark features, which provide bright contrast elements integrated with a cylinder mould watermark, can be incorporated in both enhanced options.



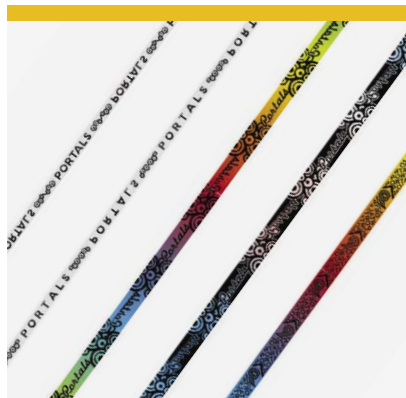
Security threads

Description: an additional security feature that is physically embedded into the paper during manufacture. Threads can be either completely embedded in the paper, or "windowed" (so elements are visible on the surface of the sheet).

Benefits: an extremely cost effective way to enhance security, easy to verify and also identify if absent or altered in any way. A windowed thread is also very effective as an anti-scan and anti-copy feature.

Base security: the use of an embedded text-based security thread with microprint text is the de-facto standard.

Enhanced security options: there are a myriad of options available when upgrading the security thread. Threads can be clear, coloured, or have colour-shifting properties, they can also be thermochromic or friction responsive. In addition, the thread can include fluorescence, patterns, numbers or text in their design. Beyond the actual thread itself, the use of a custom watermarked 'track' design in which the windowed security thread is positioned also significantly increases the complexity of the design, and therefore the security too.



Fibres & planchettes

Description: silk fibres and planchettes are combined into the paper during production and are integrated fully into the core of the paper.

Benefits: an effective deterrent against counterfeiting with overt and covert options available, with invisible inclusions easily viewed under a UV light.

Base security: the use of randomly distributed single-coloured fibres across the sheet of paper.

Enhanced security options: a 'banded fibres' option is recommended, where the security fibres are constrained within a band across the sheet. This is a cost neutral upgrade which is significantly harder for counterfeiters to replicate. A switch from a single colour mix to a combination of colours or multicoloured 'candy stripes' with visible or invisible fluorescent options further enhance the security of the document.



Talk to us to find out how we could tailor your designs and enhance your level of certificate security.

Find out more at portalsinternational.com