

# QuickCert™ on-demand certificates

## A low-cost alternative to traditional banknote certificates

Computershare's QuickCert™ on-demand certificates combine high-tech printing processes with advanced security paper to provide a low-cost, efficient, secure alternative to the traditional banknote certificate. Particularly as the securities industry moves closer to a certificateless environment, QuickCert certificates provide an easy stepping-stone on the path to dematerialization—especially relevant in light of the continuing development of direct registration services and anticipated T+ 1 (transaction plus one day) settlement.

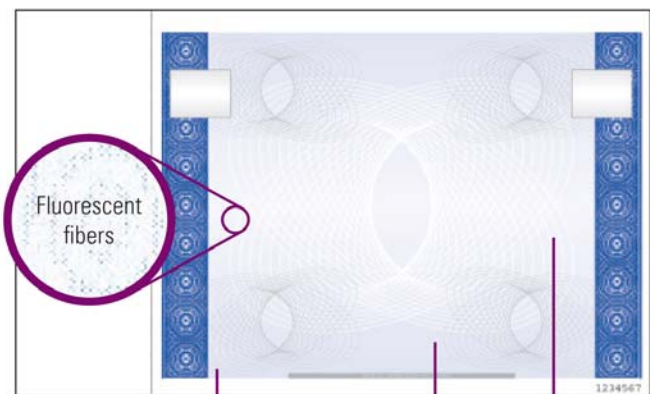
The structure and design of traditional certificates have had their roots both in regulation and a corporation's general pride. However, traditional banknote certificates have their limitations. For example, issuers must purchase a minimum quantity that is customized and pre-printed with name, company marks and other mandated features. More expense can ensue when there are company changes, such as an officer's signature, name, logo, or any effects from a corporate action—when certificates must be modified through over-silvering and, in some cases, completely redesigned. And finally, when the volume of certificates requested is low, the above factors often make the cost of each certificate very high.

### Benefits

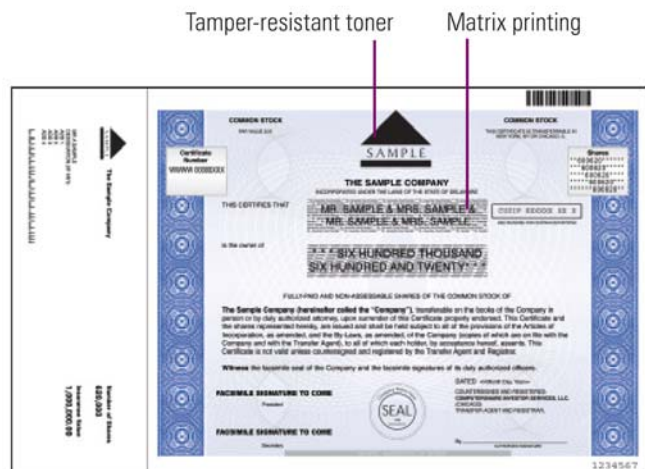
QuickCert on-demand certificates can free issuers from the limitations of dealing with traditional certificates and enable companies to:

- Have immediate access to a completely current certificate, because key company information is printed from an electronic image file. The file can be quickly changed when the information—such as an officer's signature—changes, allowing the immediate issuance of certificates reflecting the current company profile.
- Use a special logo for important shareholder issuances – such as employee launches, company anniversary or officer's issuance. Letters and other personalized documents may be customized with the logo and inserted into each shareholder package.

### Customized laser printing



### Built-in security features



- Pay only for certificates that are issued. There is no need to purchase, audit and store inventory, and there is no extra cost to modify the certificate.

We offer complete end-to-end assistance, guiding clients through every step of the process, from initial development through submission of specimen certificates to regulators, to printing and mailing.

Security is built into each element of the QuickCert certificate in multiple ways:

#### Paper composition

- Chemically reactive – The certificate paper is formulated to react to the chemicals most commonly used to alter documents.
- UV fluorescence – Fluorescent fibers, visible under ultraviolet light and invisible in photocopied duplicates, are included in the base paper.
- Watermark – A two-tone watermark that is exclusive to Computershare is embedded in the certificate paper and is identified on the sheet itself.

#### Base stock preprinting

- Guilloches – Intricate asymmetrical interlaced designs are positioned under the laser-printed bearer information, making those areas extremely difficult to alter.
- Vignette color banding – Graduated color bands in the background design also make it difficult to accurately restore the document after tampering.
- Penetrating halo ink – The stock number is printed in penetrating ink that bleeds into the paper fibers and through to the back of the certificate, significantly increasing the complexity of any duplication effort.
- Void pantograph – The preprinted base certificate includes a "void pantograph" design — an all-over background pattern that shows the words "VOID" and "FAUX" on a photocopy or other duplicate of the certificate.
- Colors – Base stock is available from a selection of four colors.

#### Tamper-proof, on-demand laser printing

- Thermal toner bonding – The heat in laser printing fuses the toner to the paper fibers, making it impossible to remove the toner without visibly damaging the paper.
- Matrix printing – The shareholder's name and the amount of shares are printed repeatedly in several rows as a background pattern, requiring alteration of an overwhelming number of occurrences.
- Microprinting – Microprinted lines are readable under magnification, but are too fine for photocopiers to reproduce.

#### Background

Computershare was the first to offer print-on-demand certificates in the industry. Our rationale was simple. By streamlining processes, companies could significantly reduce the average amount spent on materials. After successfully introducing an automated one-step printing process in Australia in the 1990s, we began working for change in other markets.

In 2001, the New York Stock Exchange was looking to modernize its rules surrounding certificates. The rules stated that stock certificates had to be pre-printed by a banknote company and personalized using line-printer technology. Computershare approached the NYSE and was invited to demonstrate the superior security features and process efficiencies of its generic certificates. The NYSE wanted third party validation of the security features and insisted on industry support.

Verification came by way of celebrated security consultant Frank Abagnale, who was popularized in Steven Spielberg's movie *Catch Me If You Can*. Industry support soon followed and Computershare was granted an exemption from NYSE rules. The result is that QuickCert on-demand certificates are now being used by a growing number of issuers in North America. It is produced by our global document delivery division, Computershare Document Services.

#### For more information

Contact your relationship manager to learn more about this innovative print on-demand stock certificate solution. In addition to speaking with you about QuickCert, your relationship manager can forward an electronic presentation for consideration at your convenience. We look forward to answering any questions you might have and are committed to ongoing innovation and trying to provide cost-effective, efficient methods for doing business together.