



## PKIoverheid and SHA256

Make sure that your digital services fulfil the latest security standard.

As from 1 January 2011, all new PKIoverheid certificates are equipped as standard with the SHA256 technology and a 2048 bit key length. For the majority of the applications, support has already been implemented for this. However, outdated software is unable to cope with this and this can have an impact on your services. We would like to draw your attention to the steps that you have to take to be able to use this new generation of security certificates.

### **What is a PKIoverheid certificate?**

Public Key Infrastructure for the government, or PKIoverheid, is the standard for safeguarding electronic government services. The use of PKIoverheid certificates ensures that the information sent by people and organisations through the Internet are secured at a high level of security.

### **Secure services through the Internet**

Recent international research has revealed that the algorithm underlying the current certificate no longer offers the guarantee that it cannot be hacked. That is the reason for developing a new algorithm that is many times more secure. In order to guarantee that both your and our digital services remain secure, Logius has decided that, as from January 2011, only PKIoverheid certificates that fulfil the latest security standards will be issued. These are based on the so-called SHA256 algorithm. This means that, in the future too, your users will be able to continue to securely log in using DigiD and exchange information through Digipoort and Digikoppeling. If you are interested in obtaining more information about PKIoverheid and the SHA256 technology, you can find this on Logius' website: [www.logius.nl/pkioverheid](http://www.logius.nl/pkioverheid).

### **What does Logius do**

The introduction of the improved certificates doesn't happen of its own accord. Below you can read what Logius has done and will be doing to ensure that the change will progress smoothly.

1. Logius has made sure that, as from January 2011, suppliers of the PKIoverheid certificates will only issue improved certificates.
2. As from this year, Logius will replace the certificates on its products and secured websites with the improved SHA256 certificate.
3. Logius has placed the latest information about this development on its website.

### **What you have to do**

Your organisation also has to take a number of precautionary measures to ensure that your electronic services are properly secured. And you have to make sure that your applications and systems are prepared for processing the new generation of PKIoverheid certificates that form part of products such as DigiD, Digipoort and

Digikoppeling. Below you will find a list of the actions that you have to take from now onwards.

1. Contact your ICT department and/or supplier to make sure that your applications and systems, that work with PKIoverheid certificates, support the SHA256 technology. This is of importance as soon as Logius replaces a certificate with a SHA256 certificate.
2. Contact your PKIoverheid supplier in order to verify when your current PKIoverheid certificates expire. When one of your certificates expires, you will only be able to purchase SHA256 certificates. Along with your ICT department and/or supplier, make sure (in plenty of time) that you can install the new certificates on your applications and systems.
3. Make sure that the operating systems and Internet browsers within your organisation fulfil the minimum requirements demanded by the SHA256 technology. The aforementioned will prepare your organisation for the latest generation of security certificates. A list of the minimum requirements is available on Logius' website: [www.logius.nl/pkioverheid](http://www.logius.nl/pkioverheid).
4. Inform the users of your digital services. Web applications that use the more secure SHA256 certificate require recent operating systems and Internet browsers. Prevent visitors to your web applications from experiencing problems and, for example, no longer being able to log in using DigiD or onto Digipoort.

### **Conclusion**

Do not wait any longer and take action now to make sure that your digital services fulfil the latest security standard.

### **Contact information**

Do you have any questions or would you like to receive more information? Please contact the Logius service centre.

Telephone : 0900 555 4555 (10 ct p/m) E-mail: [servicecentrum@logius.nl](mailto:servicecentrum@logius.nl)  
[www.logius.nl/pkioverheid](http://www.logius.nl/pkioverheid)

### **Logius**

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