

# Credentialing Methods

## *PDG Blueprint*

In an interoperable environment, it is important that trading partners have a shared understanding of the minimum threshold that must be met by a trading partner to be considered authorized and have its identity authenticated. Absent such a threshold, two trading partners may both claim to be authorized and authenticated, but a trading partner who engages with them would have no predictability of what that status actually means. Chapter 1 of the *Blueprint* defines that minimum threshold.

**Credentialing Process Required.** PDG requires the use of a credentialing process as part of tracing and verification. This process can take numerous forms; the key is that each trading partner *has a sound process* to confirm the authorized status and identify of the other trading partners with which they are interacting.

**Credentialing Method Optionality.** While digital credentials represent an efficient approach to credentialing, PDG also recognizes the practical reality that their adoption will likely be gradual, particularly given competing demands for November 27, 2023 compliance and the learning and maturation processes that will occur after that date. Therefore, PDG recognizes that trading partners may use alternate processes, including company-specific non-automated processes, to demonstrate the threshold assurances of authorized status and identity in Chapter 1 have been met. PDG is optimistic that trading partners will recognize the efficiency of digital credentials during the early period of compliance and migrate toward their use, but the accommodation of manual processes is important to ensure the PDG-defined EDDS network is inclusive of a critical mass of the industry.

*Blueprint* Chapter 1 establishes the threshold for determining whether a given trading part is “authorized” and identity-proofed



Credential: A process is required to **confirm** and **convey** that the threshold in Chapter 1 of the *Blueprint* has been met



Digital Credential Conforming to  
OCI  
(Optimal Future State)

Methods



Alternate Processes  
(e.g., contact the trading partner by phone and ask a series of question to confirm authorized status and identify)