

Under UK Company Law there is no requirement for documents to be signed under seal. Any document that may in the past have required a seal can be signed “as a deed” by two officers of the company or where there is only a sole director, a witness must also sign. A company may elect to use a seal if it prefers.

Despite these rules there may, however, be circumstances when a seal can be required. For instance, if conducting business overseas or entering into contracts with overseas customers or certain financial institutions. It is possible that foreign lawyers or local regulations may require that a company affixes an official seal to legal documents, contracts or lease agreements, or it may simply be seen as proper protocol to do so in some jurisdictions.

Many companies still use a seal for executing documents in the UK such as formal contracts and lease agreements. Use of a seal helps to prevent any question of irregularity in the execution of a document as there is usually only one seal available to the signatories and its use is closely controlled by the directors or the company secretary.