FINRA Gateway

FIRM SETTINGS

There are optional Financial Professional Gateway (FinPro) features available to and controlled by firms through a FINRA Gateway tool called Firm Settings within the Admin section of the platform. Learn more about enabling and using these features in this guide.

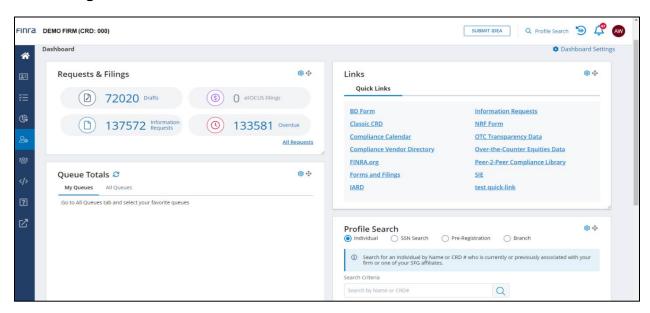
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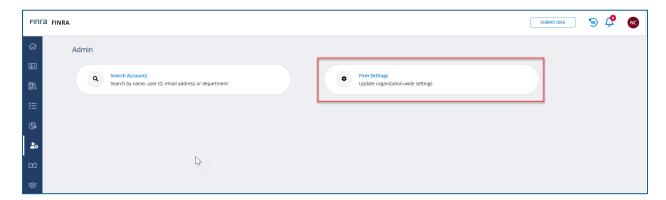
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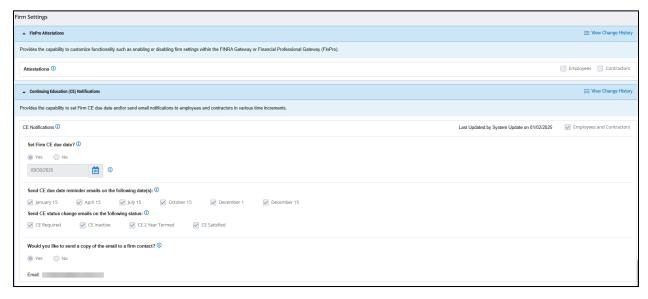
Firm Settings

Entitled users will log in to FINRA Gateway, click on the **Admin** icon on the left-hand side, then select **Firm Settings**.





Within **Firm Settings**, users can enable the optional features by first choosing **Edit Settings**, selecting the appropriate **Employee and/or Contractor** checkboxes and clicking **Save**.

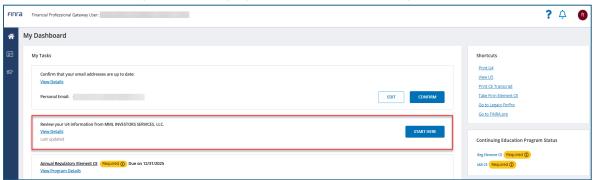




More information about using and managing each optional feature is provided in each of the dedicated sections below.

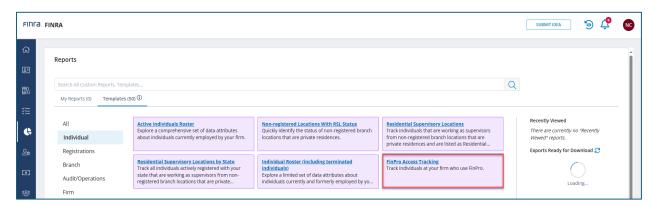
Attestation

After the firm has enabled Attestation in FINRA Gateway, FinPro users will see a task to **Review your U4 information from your firm** displayed on their dashboard **My Tasks** list.



Tracking Attestations

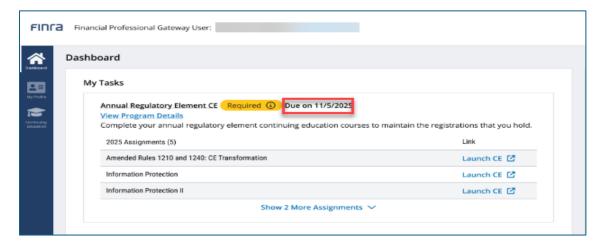
Firms can use the FinPro Access Tracking report template in FINRA Gateway Reports to track details about FinPro account activity for registered securities professionals at the firm, including attestation information. **SEE THE TRACKING FINPRO ATTESTATIONS PAGE**



Continuing Education (CE) Notifications

Setting Firm CE Due Dates

Firms have the option to set an earlier completion deadline than Dec. 31 for associated persons to complete their Regulatory Element courses. To do so, firms need to select **Yes** and set the specific date in **the Set Firm CE due date** section. Associated persons will see the firm CE due date displayed on their FinPro dashboard.



Both the firm CE due date and the SRO Regulatory Element CE due date of Dec. 31 will display in the Regulatory Element Continuing Education detail section of the Continuing Education page.

Sending CE Due Date Reminder Emails

Firms also have the option to send CE due date reminder emails. They can choose one or more of the following options: January 15, April 15, July 15, October 15, December 1, December 15. If firms have specified a firm CE due date, both the firm CE due date and the regulatory due date of Dec. 31 will be included in the reminder emails.

Additionally, firms have the option to send a copy of the CE due date reminder email to a firm contact. To do so, they need to select **Yes** and provide the firm contact email address(es) in the **Would you like to send a copy of the email to a firm contact** section.

Firms should note the auto-generated CE emails are supported by <u>FINRA's modernized system</u> notification functionality.

Tracking CE Notifications

Firms can track CE notifications with the Notifications Tracking Report in FINRA Gateway. The report includes many data points requested by firms, including email addresses, email subject, date sent, and the date an email was opened. Learn more about FINRA Gateway Reports on the <u>Tracking CE</u> <u>Obligations</u> page.



E-Signature

FINRA's E-Signature capability is an optional feature that allows firms to collect electronic signatures on Form U4 filings from registered securities professionals. The E-Signature capability will only be available for Form U4 filings created after the feature has been enabled. It cannot be used for filings that were initiated or submitted before the feature is enabled.

FINRA is not currently able to act as a record retention location for Form U4 filings that require a registered person's signature (see the <u>SEC's 2008 no action letter</u>). As such, firms should ensure that their procedures and practices include printing (to hardcopy or PDF) the filing after submission and storing it in a compliant record retention location. FINRA hopes to obtain no action relief for these filing types in the future.

Firm users can request e-signatures regardless of whether or not a signature is required pursuant to <u>FINRA Rule 1010</u>. This provides firms the flexibility to determine when collecting electronic signatures using FINRA's capability is appropriate and desirable — even when signatures are not required by rule. This also supports scenarios where a firm opts to collect a required signature using an alternative method (*e.g.*, manual signature, an alternative e-signature tool) and where the firm is not able to obtain a signature or written acknowledgement (see <u>FINRA Rule 1010</u>, Supplementary Material .03).

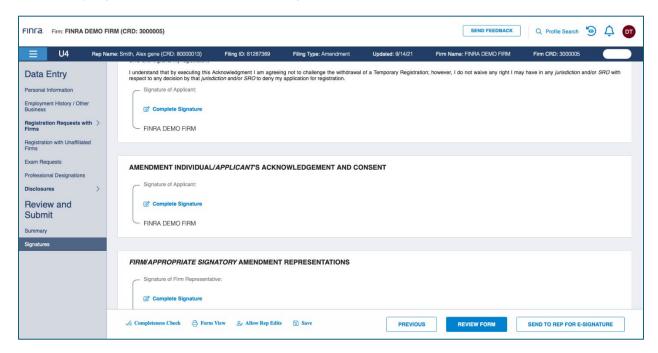
The system will not prevent a firm user from sending a filing to a rep that doesn't have a FinPro account. Firms should confirm if an individual has a FinPro account before sending to FinPro; FinPro usage information is available in FINRA Gateway at the top of each individual's profile and in the <u>FinPro Access Tracking</u> report. Please have reps visit the <u>Completing Form U4 in FinPro</u> guide for assistance with creating, retrieving and logging in with their credentials.

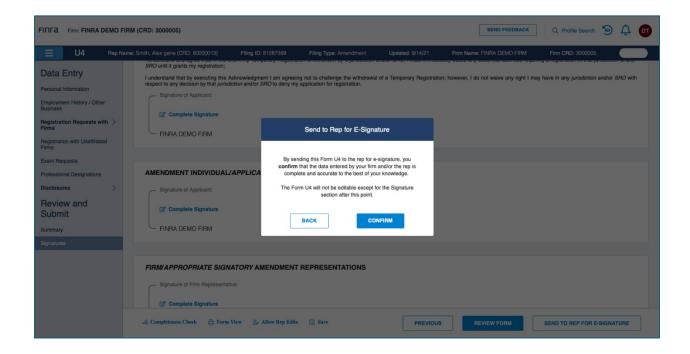
Sending a Form U4 to the Rep for E-Signature

As a best practice, the firm user responsible for processing the Form U4 filing should ensure that the filing is final prior to sending it to the rep to sign. When a Form U4 filing is ready to be signed, a firm user can send the filing to the rep to electronically sign via FinPro by clicking the **Send to Rep for E-Signature** button and **Confirm** that the filing is complete.

Firms should consider how they will communicate with the registered securities professional while collaborating on the Form U4 filing. Auto-generated email notifications will be developed in the future, but they are not currently part of the E-Signature process.

Note: If the firm needs to edit the form, the E-Signature process will stop and signatures already completed will be deleted (see the <u>Re-Editing the Form</u> section of this guide). This is done to ensure that the rep signs the final version of the filing.



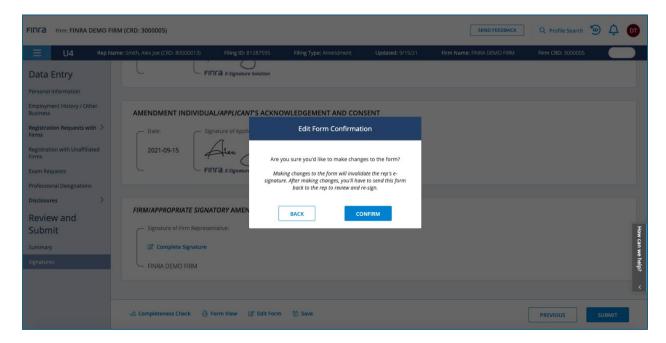


After clicking **Confirm**, the Form U4 will become available in FinPro for the registered securities professional to sign electronically. See the E-Signature section of the <u>Completing Form U4 in FinPro</u> guide for more information about the FinPro E-Signature process.



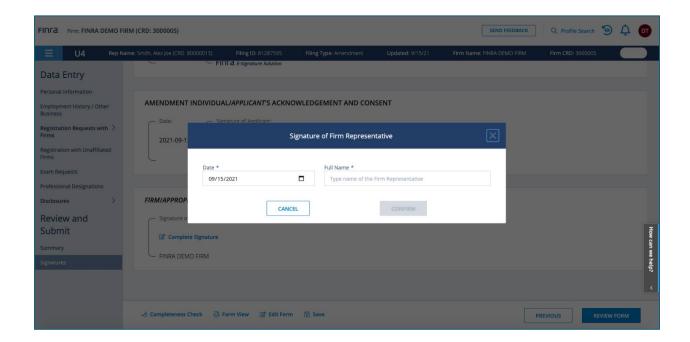
Re-Editing the Form

The firm user has the sole ability to stop the E-Signature process at any point so they can edit the filing. Doing so will delete all completed signatures. If a firm user does this before the signature is completed by the rep, it will remove the ability for the rep to electronically sign the filing, and the form must be re-sent to the rep for signature.



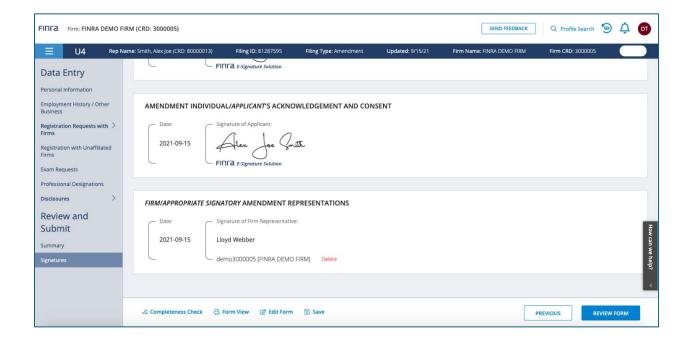
Submitting the Filing

The firm user must complete the signature block for the firm signatory prior to submitting the filing. The firm user can do this by clicking on the **Complete Signature** link on the **Signatures** screen from the **Data Entry View** of the filing.

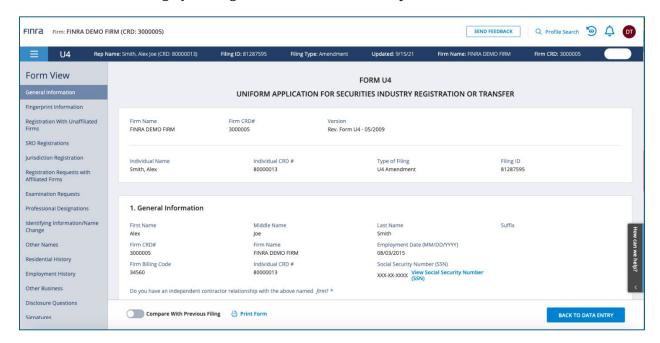


Once the Firm Signatory signature block is completed, the firm user must review the statutory form (**Form View**) by clicking **Review Form** prior to submitting the filing.

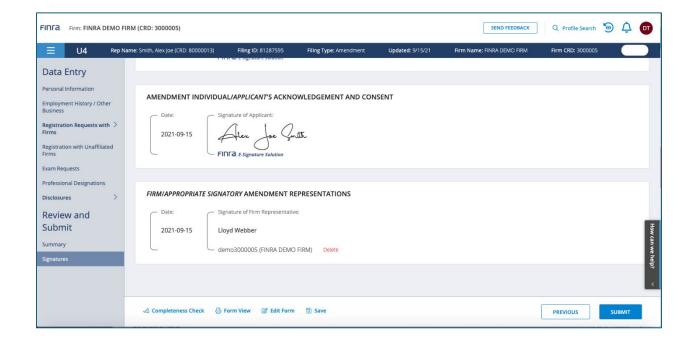
The system captures and displays the user ID of the firm user who completed the firm signatory's signature block. FINRA does not currently support any workflow to track and audit a review workflow with a firm signatory, assuming the firm signatory is not the same person who completes the firm signatory's signature block.



After reviewing the **Form View** of the Form U4 filing, the firm user can return to the **Data Entry View** to submit the filing by clicking on the **Back to Data Entry** button.

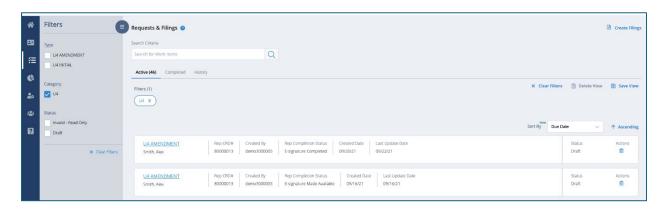


Click **Submit** to formally submit the filing to the appropriate regulator(s) for review.



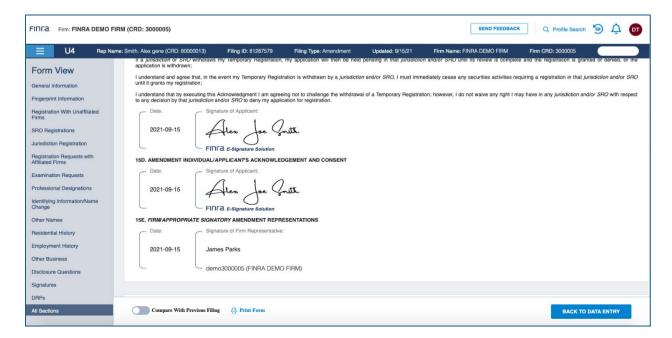
Tracking Pending Rep Signatures

Form U4 filing status, including e-signature steps, can be tracked via FINRA Gateway's Requests & Filings feature. The filing's **Rep Completion Status** will be updated to **E-Signature Made Available** while the e-signature is pending. When the rep completes and submits their e-signature, the filing's **Rep Completion Status** will change to **E-Signature Completed**.



Accessing a Signed Submitted Filing

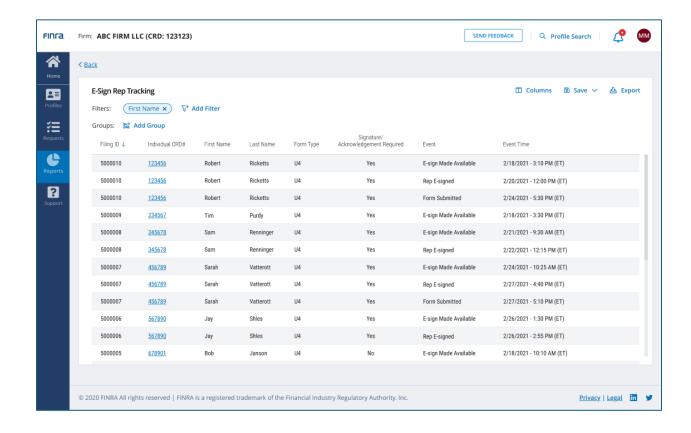
When the filing has been signed and submitted, the signed filing can be accessed by firm users via FINRA Gateway's Requests & Filings feature. The signed filing can be printed (as a hardcopy or PDF file) from the **Form View** so it can be retained by the firm (required).



Reviewing the Audit Trail

Entitled firm users will have access to an E-Signature Rep Tracking report through <u>FINRA Gateway</u> <u>Reports</u>. The report:

- a. Includes the audit trail of E-Signature workflows if necessary to prove the authenticity of electronic signatures captured using this new capability,
- b. Helps firms monitor and test procedures related to capturing signatures from their registered securities professionals, and
- c. Helps firms understand E-Signature processes relative to any SLA targets the firm has established.



IAR CE Reporting Fee for Regulatory Element

Applying CE Regulatory Element to IAR CE

The IAR CE Reg Element/Products and Practice (PP) Fee firm setting allows broker-dealer firms to pay the \$18 reporting fee to apply Regulatory Element to the IAR CE requirement from the Flex-Funding Account each time Regulatory Element is completed. Firms can opt in to pay the fee for all individuals registered with that broker-dealer who have an IAR CE requirement.

Learn more about IAR CE



If a firm does not opt in, each eligible individual would be responsible to choose between the following options to satisfy the six credits of Products and Practice CE:

- use <u>FinPro</u> to pay the fee themselves to apply the Regulatory Element to this part of their IAR CE requirement, or
- take six credits of Products and Practice CE with another <u>course provider</u>. The course provider will submit the course completions to FINRA.

Additional Considerations

Firms should be aware of the following before deciding to use this feature:

- This functionality is not available to investment adviser-only firms.
- This is an all-or-none functionality. There is no ability to select to pay for only certain individuals. If the firm does not want to pay the \$18 fee for all in-scope individuals, the firm should not opt in.
- The IAR CE Products and Practice requirement may be imposed due to an IAR registration that an individual holds with your firm, an affiliate firm, an unaffiliated firm, and even if the individual was previously IAR-registered in a state with the IAR CE requirement.
- Individuals who completed Regulatory Element at another firm prior to becoming registered with the firm opting in must pay through FinPro if they wish to apply the credits for the current year.