

Abstract**Security Marking Authentication Device**

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The invention discloses an authentication device for the visual authentication of a document or item comprising a circular polarizing security marking, said device comprising a light source and polarization filters for the either
10 parallel or alternate illumination of said marking on said document with left- and right -circular polarized light. Corresponding methods for the visual and the automated authentication of the marking are disclosed as well.

15 *Most illustrative drawing: Figure 7a*