

Documentary Credit

WORLD

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■ **COVID-19's OBTRUSION OF PAPER**

Outside their harmful effects on human health, viruses are otherwise known for the damage they inflict on computer data. In this latter context, however, COVID-19 has exposed the deficiencies of an over-reliance on the movement of paper documents. In his article, K. Nizardeen takes up the question whether this insidious virus will be the accelerant to push the trade community toward electronic document presentation. Other facets of banking have successfully digitized in recent years, but trade finance's paper-heavy system has survived despite attempts to modernize practice rules and efforts to demonstrate the advantages of digitizing the trade finance process. Nizardeen identifies what he perceives to be the impediments holding digitization back and offers his idea for achieving what is needed – a comprehensive electronic document presentation process.