

File No. NCCS/HQ/COMSEC/2021-22/III-Part-(2)
भारत सरकार/ Government of India
संचार मंत्रालय/Ministry of Communications
दूरसंचार विभाग/Department of Telecommunications
राष्ट्रीय संचार सुरक्षा केंद्र / National Centre for Communication Security
बेंगलुरु - 560027/ Bengaluru - 560027

Date: 18-10-2024

Sub: Clarification on Main Model and Associated Model for Security Certification – Reg.

Reference is invited to the subject cited above.

2. In this regard, following is clarified to the OEM/Applicants to avoid common mistakes while applying the application for security certification:

- a) The application for security certification can be made only for those product models (Main and Associated Models) which are same as per ER Certificate issued/ER Application made. OEM/Applicants need to ensure that while applying for Security Certification, the details mentioned in the application should be same as those mentioned in the ER Application/already issued ER certificate and should match with the DUT supplied for testing.
- b) For Security Testing, no Grouping of ER Certificates/Applications is allowed.
- c) **i. For those applications, for which ER Certificate is already issued**, the main model and the number of associated models, as mentioned in the ER Certificate, shall be taken for processing. However, while processing of the application (based on ITSAR BoM and/or demonstration provided by OEM/Applicant wherever applicable), only those associated models will be included in the security certification, which are having identical software as that of Main Model. Remaining associated Models shall be dropped from Security Certification and Integrated Certificate shall be generated by TEC accordingly. The OEM/Applicant may apply for security certification of the remaining/dropped associated models separately.
ii. For the applications for new Products for which OEM is submitting for fresh ER+ITSAR Application, OEMs are requested to make sure that they include only those associated models in their application which are having identical software. Security certification/Integrated certificate will be issued as per the procedure mentioned in 2(c)(i) above.

- d) **Identical Software:** Software in Associated Models shall be accepted as Identical Software in the following 2 Cases:
- i. Only when the entire software in associated model matches with that of Main Model along with their version, hash value and any other identifiers in ITSAR BoM.
or
 - ii. Where Associated model ITSAR BOM is non-identical to ITSAR BoM of Main Model and OEM/Applicant is successfully able to demonstrate to the Validator/Nominated Officer of NCCS (at the designated TSTL premises, where the testing is conducted or at NCCS premises or at OEM/Applicant premises in India or if in abroad through VC), that the associated Model software is derived from Main Model software without adding any new software component(s). The timeline for such demonstration shall be a maximum period of 30 calendar days after first communication to OEM/Applicant by the Validator. Any such cost including travel cost of Validator/Nominated Officer of NCCS for the purpose for such demonstration shall be borne by OEM/ Applicant, if such demonstration is not done in TSTL or in NCCS premises.
 - iii. Decision of Validator/Nominated Officer of NCCS in such case shall be final.
- e) If the Main Model is different in different ER applications/Certificates, the Main Models of respective applications need to undergo security testing separately.
- f) If a Main Model under one Application is already security certified and the OEM/Applicant wants to apply for Security Certification through another application where the Main Model is same as earlier certified case(s) but the associated models are different (with identical software as that of certified Main Model), in such cases, OEM/Applicant shall have an option to claim for exemption from Security Testing. During this application processing, OEM/Applicant shall be required to upload the Security certificate already issued for the Main Model. There shall be no security testing in these cases. Security Evaluation Fee in such cases shall be zero. However, Para 2 a) and b) conditions shall apply.

In such cases, while issuance of security certificate, details of software including ITSAR BoM shall be directly fetched from the portal for the already certified Main Model. Only New Associated Model details along with their Hash Values as approved by Validator, shall be considered for

security certification (which are having identical software as Main Model (as per 2(d) above)). Other associated Models shall be dropped from Security Certification.

- g) Main Model is under Security Certification: Under this category, if the OEM/Applicant has already applied for main model certification and application is under process and in meanwhile, if applicant wants to apply for another application for security certification, with same main model and different associated models, applicant shall be shown a pop-up “Applicant is advised to apply for security certification after completion of security certification of main Model, which is under process. The application shall not be processed further till testing and certification of previous application for the same main model is completed.”
- h) For Point No, f) and g), Flow shall be implemented in MTCTE and NCCS portal and once completed, the same shall be notified separately.
- i) Illustration for a few cases is provided at the end of this document.

This issues with approval of the Sr. DDG NCCS.

Encl: As Above

(Rama Krishna Majety)
Director(SC&HQ), NCCS

To:

- (i) OEMs/Applicants/Designated TSTLs - through NCCS website

Copy to:

- (i) Sr. DDG, TEC for kind information pl.
(ii) DDG(TC), TEC for kind information pl.
(iii) All officers of NCCS

Illustration:

Following cases are illustrated for various scenarios in the Security certification:

1. Following ER Certificates are issued [Mn – nth Main Model, AXn: nth Associated Model]

ER1:

M1	AX1	AX2	AX3	AX4	AX5	AX6	AX7	AX8	AX9
----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----

Case A: ITSAR BoM of AX1, AX2, AX3, AX4 are identical to main model M1

Case B: ITSAR BoM of AX5, AX6, AX7, AX8 and AX9 are same among themselves but non identical to ITSAR BoM of M1

ER2:

M1	AX10	AX11	AX12	AX13
----	------	------	------	------

Case C: ITSAR BoM of AX10, AX11, AX12 are identical to main model M1

Case D: ITSAR BoM of AX13 is not identical to ITSAR BoM of M1

ER3:

M2	AY1	AY2	AY3
----	-----	-----	-----

Case E: ITSAR BoM of M2, AY1, AY2, AY3 are identical to main model M1.

2. Security certification:

Case A: AX1, AX2, AX3, AX4 shall be included in Security certificate for M1 and integrated certificate with ER1.

Case B: OEM/Applicant needs to provide demonstration as given in para 2(d)(ii), failing which these models shall be dropped from the application and OEM/Applicant may offer the model with highest hardware configuration (among AX5, AX6, AX7, AX8 and AX9) for security testing separately.

If demonstration is successful, AX5, AX6, AX7, AX8 and AX9 shall be included in Security certificate for M1 and integrated certificate with ER1.

Case C: OEM/Applicant may apply for security certification after Security certificate of M1 is issued as per para 2(f) and models AX10, AX11, AX12 shall be included in Security certificate and integrated certificate with ER2.

Case D: Similar to Case B. If demonstration is successful as given in para 2(d)(ii), AX13, shall be included in Security certificate for M1 and integrated certificate with ER2.

Case E: Separate application for ER2 with M2 Model offered for testing shall be applied by OEM/Applicant. Security certificate for M2 and associated models AY1, AY2, AY3 shall be issued only after successful security testing of M2. Clubbing of these models with security certificate applications related to ER1 or ER2 shall not be accepted.

Note: The above illustration is provided as a guidance to OEM/Applicants for only a few cases as it not possible to cover all possible scenarios. In case, any other scenario exists, the instructions issued in the document may be referred by OEM/Applicant for approaching such cases.