File No. NCCS/SC/1-1/2024-25
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: **13-09-2024**

Sub: Guidelines to OEM/ Applicants, Telecom Security Testing laboratories (TSTLs) for streamlining the security certification process – Reg.

Kind reference is invited to the meeting held on **10.09.24** under the chairmanship of Sr. DDG NCCS for streamlining the security certification process.

2. In this regard, following broad guidelines and timelines (in supersession to earlier issued timelines) are issued to expedite the security certification process:

OEM/Applicants:

a. ITSAR BoM should contain information about all the software present in the DUT.

b. Alongwith DUT, OEM shall submit the detailed description of the product in the NCCS prescribed proforma. (Published in portal by NCCS)

c. DUT as mentioned in the submitted security certification application along with all required supporting documentation, command manuals required to operate DUT, undertakings, declarations as prescribed in ITSAR Document must be delivered to the TSTL within **15** calendar days from the date of acceptance of application by TSTL.

d. OEM/applicant shall ensure the details entered in application for security certification are   exactly as mentioned in the ER certificates and are correct.

e. The other details like Hardware Model No., Version, Software Number, Version etc. mentioned in the application also need to be checked to ensure that those are correct, and the same DUT with mentioned Hardware and Software is supplied to the TSTL.

f. No changes with respect to any detail as submitted in portal shall be accepted after the submission of application in portal.

g. If the DUT does not match with the application, it will be rejected and OEM must submit a fresh application with the correct details.

h. If any clarification/ documentation is asked by the TSTL, which is required for conducting the test, the complete information must be supplied by the applicant within 2 working days, Not more than 2 iterations are allowed.

i. In case of non-submission of DUT with complete documentation within the stipulated timelines, OEM application is liable to be rejected.

j. OEM/ Applicant may take maximum 3 weeks for the rectification of any/ all non-compliances reported by TSTL.

TSTLs:

a. TSTL is required to complete the testing (including submission of test plans and test reports) within 12 weeks and may allow a maximum of 3 weeks for the rectification of any/ all non-compliances noticed by OEM/ Applicant and submit of final test reports by TSTL in next one week. The entire testing process shall be completed within 16 weeks.

b. TSTL shall accept the request, for testing of a product, of an OEM/ applicant in NCCS portal only when TSTL is in a position to start testing within 2 weeks of acceptance of application.

c. The timeline of 12 weeks shall start from the date of receipt of DUT by TSTL.

d. Upon receiving the DUT with complete documentation, TSTL should record the DUT receipt date and communicate details to Validator. TSTL must verify whether hardware (serial no, Model No. etc.) & software (version number, hash value, etc.) of the DUT match with the application. In case of mismatch, it is the responsibility of TSTL to communicate to OEM & NCCS Validator through portal. Such an application is likely to be rejected.

e. TSTL shall plan week-wise schedule of testing to ensure testing is completed within time.

f. TSTL shall submit all the Test plans within 3 weeks from date of receipt of DUT by TSTL.

g. TSTL must include all mandatory undertakings/ test documents specified under the relevant clauses in the test reports.

h. In the event of failure of any test clause, the TSTL should communicate within one working day to the OEM along with observation report and ask for remediation by OEM/ Applicant.   A max. of **2** iterations are allowed for OEM & TSTL, within the entire **12** weeks duration.

i. TSTLs may submit their test reports to NCCS after the conclusion of testing of each clause/ chapter or on weekly basis as per their convenience. Further, a report on the progress made at the end of each week shall be sent to NCCS on the following Monday

j. The test plans must clearly describe all protocols and services supported by the DUT along with positive/ negative test cases relevant to the test clause.

k. In case of any observations from NCCS about re-test/ observations in Test plans & Test reports submitted by TSTL, TSTL shall complete the same and re-submit within **2** working days.

3. The detailed timelines for various milestones involved in the entire Security Certification process are available at **Annexure-A**. All the stakeholders shall strictly adhere to these timelines so as to complete the security testing and certification within the schedule.

This issues with approval of Sr. DDG NCCS.

Rama Krishna Majety
Director(SC&HQ),NCCS

To:

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

Copy to:

(i)   DDG(SAS)/ DDG(SLR)/ DDG(SC) for kind information pl.

Annexure-A

S.N	Milestone No.	Milestone Detail	Max. Timeline by which milestone is to be completed by
1.	Milestone 1	Acceptance of application by TSTL	T0
2.	Milestone 2	Appointment of Validator by NCCS	T0+1 week
3	Milestone 3	Receipt of DUT by TSTL from OEM along with complete documentation with filled product details in prescribed format as specified by NCCS, Commands list, required manuals, test reports, Declarations, Undertakings as required by ITSAR	T0+2 week=T1
4	Milestone 4*	Completion of identification of DUT by TSTL and submission of First Test plan by TSTL	T1+1 week
5	Milestone 5*	DUT Verification by Validator and Completion of approval of First Test plan by Validator	T1+2 week
6	Milestone 6*	Completion of submission of all Test plans by TSTL to Validator	T1+3 week
7	Milestone 7*	Completion of approval of all Test plans by Validator	T1+7 week
8	Milestone 8	Completion of Testing by TSTL, submission of Test reports by TSTL, Validation of all test report from Validator and submission of Technical Oversight report by Validator	T1+12 week
9	Milestone 9	Appointment of Evaluator by NCCS and completion of evaluation by Evaluator	T1+15 week
10	Milestone 10	Re-testing by TSTL based on inputs from Validators, Evaluators, if required and submission of revised reports	T1+19 week
11	Milestone 11	Completion of Final evaluation by Evaluator and submission of Evaluator report	T1+20 week=T2
12	Milestone 12	Processing of Case by Director (SC)	T2+1 week
13	Milestone 13	Processing of Case by DDG (SC)	T2+1 week

* - Testing will start as soon as possible and first test plan is approved by Validator. Testing will go on simultaneously with test plan approval.