



Council of the  
European Union

Brussels, 11 June 2019  
(OR. en)

10199/19

CSC 169  
CSCI 80  
CIS 8

**NOTE**

---

From: General Secretariat of the Council  
To: Delegations  
Subject: Information Assurance Guidelines on the Approval Process of  
Cryptographic Products

---

1. The Council Decision on the security rules for protecting EU classified information<sup>1</sup> states that "The Security Committee may agree at its level security guidelines to supplement or support this Decision and any security policies approved by the Council." (cf. Article 6(2)).
2. The Council Security Committee approved the attached Information Assurance Security Guidelines on the Approval of Cryptographic Products on Friday 7 June 2019.

---

<sup>1</sup> Council Decision 2013/488/EU, OJ L 274 of 23.09.2013, p.1

**This page intentionally left blank**

# IA Security Guidelines on the Approval Process of Cryptographic Products

*IASG 2-04*

## **I PURPOSE AND SCOPE**

- 1 These guidelines, agreed by the Council Security Committee in accordance with Article 6(2) of the Council Security Rules (hereinafter 'CSR'), [and the policy on (...)], are designed to support implementation of the CSR.
- 2 These guidelines describe the approval process for cryptographic devices used to protect European Union classified information, submitted for EU approval. Approval schemes in other contexts, such as Galileo Common Minimum Standards, are not in the scope of these guidelines.
- 3 The Council and the General Secretariat of the Council (GSC) will apply these security guidelines in their structures and communication and information systems (CIS).
- 4 When EU classified information is handled in national structures, including national CIS, the Member States will use these security guidelines as a benchmark.
- 5 EU agencies and bodies established under Title V, Chapter 2, of the TEU, Europol and Eurojust should use these security guidelines as a reference for implementing security rules in their own structures.

## II BACKGROUND

- 6 The processing of EU classified information (EUCI) is an essential part of the work of the Council, the European Council and the General Secretariat of the Council. The Council Security Rules <sup>1</sup> (CSR) are the legal basis for the protective measures that are required to adequately protect EUCI. In the area of Information Assurance, the CSR state *inter alia* that EUCI shall be protected by an EU approved cryptographic product during transmission by electronic means.
- 7 Cryptographic products that will protect information classified SECRET UE/EU SECRET or TRES SECRET UE/EU TOP SECRET are approved by the Council on recommendation of the Council Security Committee (Information Assurance) (CSC(IA)) and the Council Security Committee (CSC).  
Cryptographic products that will protect information classified CONFIDENTIEL UE/EU CONFIDENTIAL and RESTREINT UE/EU RESTRICTED are approved by the Secretary-General (SG) of the Council on recommendation of the CSC(IA) and the CSC.
- 8 Member States may protect EUCI at the levels CONFIDENTIEL UE/EU CONFIDENTIAL and RESTREINT UE/EU RESTRICTED handled in their national systems by a cryptographic product approved by a Member State's Crypto Approval Authority (CAA). In this case, the cryptographic product does not need a Council or SG approval.
- 9 A **full approval** of a cryptographic product is based on an approval by a CAA of a Member State in accordance with the IA Security Policy on Cryptography<sup>2</sup> and a successful second party evaluation (SPE) conducted by one of the Appropriately Qualified Authorities (AQUA) in accordance with the Information Assurance Security Guidelines on Second Party Evaluation (IASG 2-02)<sup>3</sup>. The request for such a full approval will pass through the approval process described at annex 1.

---

<sup>1</sup> Council Decision 2013/488/EU, OJ L 274 of 15.10.2013, p1

<sup>2</sup> IASP 2, doc. 10745/11 (R-UE/EU-R)

<sup>3</sup> Doc. 13910/12 (R-UE/EU-R)

- 10 In all other cases and only in exceptional situations and based on operational grounds an **interim approval** may be sought. The request for an interim approval will pass through the approval process described at annex 2.
- 11 Fully approved products which are intended for general use will in principle appear on the Council List of Approved Cryptographic Products (LACP) and on the Council's website as public information. It is at the discretion of the requesting authority to classify the approval process documentation. The approved product will then not be listed on the LACP. Approval process information for interim approvals are classified, by default at the level RESTREINT UE/EU RESTRICTED.
-

## Principal steps for a full approval

Step	Activity	Actor	Default marking or classification	Remarks
0	Cryptographic product must have successfully completed an SPE by an AQUA	CAA of the producing Member State and AQUA	-	In accordance with IASG 2-02 Products submitted for a SPE can be at all strength (classification) levels
1	Notification of a successful SPE Required: AQUA sends letter of recommendation for approval and the SPE report to the GSC	AQUA	LIMITE	By email to: <a href="mailto:cscia@consilium.europa.eu">cscia@consilium.europa.eu</a>
2	Checks GSC checks letter and SPE report for completeness and consistency. GSC may also request additional information	GSC	-	-

Step	Activity	Actor	Default marking or classification	Remarks
3	Distribution to CSC(IA) GSC sends a ST doc. with the letter of recommendation to the CSC(IA)	GSC	LIMITE	Only the letter of recommendation is sent to the CSC(IA). The evaluation report is available on request. For the level S-UE/EU-S the document will include the draft cover note for Coreper/Council.
4	CSC(IA) endorses the recommendation for approval of the cryptographic product 2 weeks' silence procedure at CSC(IA)	CSC(IA)	LIMITE	A Member State may register an objection to the process in writing by either: <u>Prolongation of silence procedure</u> A letter (or e-mail) requesting a prolongation of silence procedure. The letter must detail a reasonable length of time for the prolongation and the reasons for the request. The letter must be sent to the GSC before the end of silence procedure <u>Break of silence</u> A letter (or e-mail) with specific reasons for the break of silence and a description of the elements that could resolve the issue must be sent to the GSC before the end of silence procedure The GSC will make an effort to mediate.



Step	Activity	Actor	Default marking or classification	Remarks
5	If either a request for prolongation of silence procedure or a break of silence is received by the GSC, it will be circulated to the CSC(IA)	GSC	LIMITE	If the break of silence cannot be resolved in a reasonable timeframe, it will be discussed at the next meeting of the CSC(IA)
6	Distribution to CSC The GSC sends a ST doc about the CSC(IA)'s endorsement of the recommendation to the CSC	GSC	LIMITE	Only the letter of recommendation is sent to the CSC. For the level S-UE/EU-S the document will include the draft cover note for Coreper/Council.

Step	Activity	Actor	Default marking or classification	Remarks
7	CSC endorses the recommendation for approval of the cryptographic product  2 weeks' silence procedure at CSC	CSC	LIMITE	<p>A Member State may register an objection to the process in writing by either:</p> <p><u>Prolongation of silence procedure</u></p> <p>A letter (or e-mail) requesting a prolongation of silence procedure. The letter must detail a reasonable length of time for the prolongation and the reasons for the request. The letter must be sent to the GSC before the end of silence procedure</p> <p><u>Break of silence</u></p> <p>A letter (or e-mail) with specific reasons for the break of silence and a description of the elements that could resolve the issue must be sent to the GSC before the end of silence procedure</p> <p>The GSC will make an effort to mediate.</p>
8	If either a request for prolongation of silence procedure or a break of silence is received by the GSC, it will be circulated to the CSC	GSC	-	<p>If the break of silence cannot be resolved in a reasonable timeframe, then it will be discussed at the next meeting of the CSC</p>

Step	Activity	Actor	Default marking or classification	Remarks
9	<p>Formal approval</p> <p>For a S-UE/EU-S or TS-UE/EU-TS product, GSC sends a ST about the endorsed recommendation for approval to the next available COREPER/Council (I/A note) meeting</p> <p>For a C-UE/EU-C or R-UE/EU-R product, the GSC prepares a decision by the Secretary-General, confirming the recommendation and sends it to the SG for signature</p>	GSC	LIMITE	-
10	<p>Notification</p> <p>GSC sends a ST informing MS about the successful formal approval by Council or SG</p>	GSC	PUBLIC	-
11	<p>Publication</p> <p>Details of the formally approved cryptographic product entered on the ST doc, List of Approved Crypto products (LACP), and the Council website</p>	GSC	PUBLIC	Any additional information about the crypto product to be included on the Council's website must be supplied by the crypto producing Member State's CAA

Principal steps for interim approval

Step	Activity	Actor	Default marking or classification	Remarks
0	This procedure concerns crypto products that either/or: IASP, e.g. - have no national approval - have no SPE - are a non-EU produced crypto product	-	-	Only CAAs of MS, EU Institution or body may address a request to the GSC  By default, an interim approval will be granted for a period of 12 months

Step	Activity	Actor	Default marking or classification	Remarks
1	Request for an interim approval Requester sends a letter to GSC	CAA MS, GSC, Commission or EEAS	R-UE/EU-R	<p>This request must describe all the extenuating circumstances for the request for an interim approval including, where relevant:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- The operational reasons for the request including how and under what conditions will the crypto product be used</li> <li>- Why is it not possible to use an EU approved product</li> <li>- Why there is no national approval, or SPE or why a non-EU crypto is to be used. If there is a national approval, a copy of this should accompany the request.</li> <li>- What kind of EUCI and what level of EUCI will be protected by the crypto product</li> <li>- How the risk related to lack of a second party evaluation be mitigated?</li> <li>- Who is the Security Accreditation Authority for the CIS where the crypto product will be used?</li> <li>- What measures are planned to replace the use of this crypto with that of an EU-crypto</li> <li>- a full explanation of the reasons why the validity period for the interim approval is different from the default of 12 months (if applicable)</li> <li>- the supporting documents, ideally SecOps, SecTarget and product description should accompany the request for an interim approval, if this is possible.</li> <li>- any other information that the requester may consider relevant</li> </ul> <p>By email to: <a href="mailto:cscia@consilium.europa.eu">cscia@consilium.europa.eu</a></p>

Step	Activity	Actor	Default marking or classification	Remarks
2	<p>Checks</p> <p>GSC checks request for completeness and consistency. GSC may also request additional information</p>	GSC	-	-
3	<p>Distribution to CSC(IA)</p> <p>GSC sends an ST doc with the substantiated request to the CSC(IA)</p>	GSC	R-UE/EU-R	<p>The original substantiated request and any supporting information received is sent to the CSC(IA).</p> <p>For the level S-UE/EU-S the document will include the draft cover note for Coreper/Council.</p>

Step	Activity	Actor	Default marking or classification	Remarks
4	CSC(IA) endorses the recommendation for an interim approval of the cryptographic product 3 weeks' silence procedure at CSC (IA)	CSC(IA)	R-UE/EU-R	<p>A Member State may register an objection to the process in writing by either:</p> <p><u>Prolongation of silence procedure</u></p> <p>A letter requesting a prolongation of silence procedure. The letter must detail a reasonable length of time for the prolongation and the reasons for the request. The letter must be sent to the GSC before the end of silence procedure</p> <p><u>Break of silence</u></p> <p>A letter with specific reasons for the break of silence and a description of the elements that could resolve the issue must be sent to the GSC before the end of silence procedure</p> <p>The GSC will make an effort to mediate.</p>
5	If either a request for prolongation of silence procedure or a break of silence is received by the GSC, it will be circulated to the CSC(IA)	GSC	R-UE/EU-R	<p>If the break of silence cannot be resolved in a reasonable timeframe, then it will be discussed at the next meeting of the CSC(IA)</p>

Step	Activity	Actor	Default marking or classification	Remarks
6	<p>Distribution to CSC</p> <p>The GSC sends an ST doc to the CSC informing them about the endorsement of the request by the CSC(IA)</p>	GSC	R-UE/EU-R	<p>Only the original substantiated request is sent to the CSC.</p> <p>For the level S-UE/EU-S the document will include the draft cover note for Coreper/Council.</p>
7	<p>CSC endorses the recommendation for an interim approval of the cryptographic product</p> <p>2 weeks' silence procedure at CSC</p>	CSC	R-UE/EU-R	<p>A Member State may register an objection to the process in writing by either:</p> <p><u>Prolongation of silence procedure</u></p> <p>A letter requesting a prolongation of silence procedure. The letter must detail a reasonable length of time for the prolongation and the reasons for the request. The letter must be sent to the GSC before the end of silence procedure</p> <p><u>Break of silence</u></p> <p>A letter with specific reasons for the break of silence and a description of the elements that could resolve the issue must be sent to the GSC before the end of silence procedure</p> <p>The GSC will make an effort to mediate.</p>



Step	Activity	Actor	Default marking or classification	Remarks
8	If either a request for prolongation of silence procedure or a break of silence is received by the GSC, it will be circulated to the CSC	GSC	R-UE/EU-R	If the break of silence cannot be resolved in a reasonable timeframe, then it will be discussed at the next meeting of the CSC
9	<p>Formal interim approval</p> <p>For a S-UE/EU-S or TS-UE/EU-TS product, GSC sends an ST about the endorsement of the request for interim approval to the next available COREPER/Council (I/A note) meeting</p> <p>For a C-UE/EU-C or R-UE/EU-R product, the GSC prepares a decision by the Secretary-General, confirming the interim approval, and sends it to the SG for signature</p>	GSC	R-UE/EU-R	-
10	<p>Notification</p> <p>GSC sends ST informing MS about the successful formal interim approval by Council or the Secretary-General</p>	GSC	R-UE/EU-R	-

Step	Activity	Actor	Default marking or classification	Remarks
11	Publication	N/A	N/A	<p>There is no publication of information relating to an interim approval.</p> <p>An updated list of interim approved products will be sent to CSC(IA), SAB</p>