

Swedish Certification Body for IT Security
Scheme Note 27 - ST Requirements at the Time of Application for Certification

Scheme Note

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Presentation by Mats Engquist	Present at the Meeting CCB 2018-05-17	

Schematolkningens innebörd/Scheme Note Statement

Description and References

Introduction

This Scheme Note explains the expectations on the quality of the Security Target at the time of application for certification and how the Certification Body will act if those expectations are not fulfilled.

Background

The Security Target is the most important document attached to the application when applying for certification. A Security Target must be expressed in an unambiguous way and has to comply with all applicable requirements in order to be the basis of a technically sound, repeatable and objective evaluation and certification.

When reviewing the application the Security Target is used to judge:

- whether it is possible to certify the TOE
- whether the Scheme Crypto Policy is fulfilled
- the complexity of the TOE, i.e. the cost of the certification
- the applicable supporting documents to be used in the certification
- the competence needs for the certifiers and the evaluation team

During the handling of an application a certifier will perform a brief review of the Security Target. Based on this review the Certification Body decides if a certification may be initiated and if it is possible to send a tender to the Sponsor.

It is crucial that the quality of the Security Target allows these judgements to be made swiftly.

The experience of the Certification Body is that this is occasionally not the case and this scheme note is established to highlight how the Certification Body will work to reach a situation where its resources are utilized efficiently.

Requirements

The required contents of a Security Target are provided in *Common Criteria, Part 1*, while *Common Criteria, Part 3* and the *CEM* contain more specific requirements.

Specific requirements on Security Target, from the Certification Body, are provided in *SP-188 Scheme Crypto Policy*, in Scheme Note 18 - *Highlighted Requirements on the Security Target*, and in the current document.

Some technology types require special considerations during evaluation and certification, which are specified in Supporting Documents, issued by CCRA or SOGIS.

The requirements on the status of the Security Target in the application for certification are:

- The Security Target attached to an application for certification SHALL be complete and suitable for evaluation and certification.
- The application for certification SHALL be accompanied with information about any known deviation from any of the requirements above when sent to the Certification Body.

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One way to ensure that the Security Target meets these requirements may be for the evaluator to perform the evaluation of the assurance class ASE prior to sending the application for certification to the Certification Body.

Certification Body Actions

During the application review a certifier at the Certification Body will perform a review of the Security Target. In the review the known status of the Security Target (as informed about above) will be taken into account.

The outcome of the review is used internally by the Certification Body and will not be reported to the evaluator or the Sponsor.

As a result of the review one of the following situations may occur:

- If the conclusion of the review is that the Security Target fulfils the requirements the Certification Body will proceed to establish a tender for the certification.
- If the conclusion of the review is that the Security Target does not fulfil the requirements but that it may be possible to perform a certification and it is possible to calculate a price for the certification:
 - A brief statement about the Security Target will be sent to the evaluator or Sponsor, together with the Scheme Note highlighting the requirements
 - The Certification Body will proceed to establish a tender for the certification.
 - It shall be understood that the actual certification cannot start until the Security Target fulfils the requirements.
- If the conclusion of the review is that the Security Target does not fulfil the requirements and that it is not certain that it will be possible to perform a certification or to calculate a price for the certification:
 - A brief statement about the Security Target will be sent to the evaluator or Sponsor, together with the Scheme Note highlighting the requirements
 - The Certification Body will inform the Sponsor and evaluator that the application will be put on hold until the Security Target is updated to fulfil the requirements. This will be the case e.g. when a Security Target is self-contradictory, conflicts with CC or Supporting Documents from CCRA or SOGIS, if the physical/logical scope of the TOE is unclear, and if ambiguous terminology is used in the Security Target.

Appended Documents