

BSI IT Certificates Information for manufacturers



What are the benefits of the BSI Security Certificate for you as a manufacturer?

- **International sales opportunities**

Given that users are becoming increasingly aware of security issues, the certificate provides independent proof that your product does deliver the security performance defined in the certificate. Agreements with other countries for the mutual recognition of certificates will open the way for you to gain access to international markets.

- **Improved product quality**

The Common Criteria (CC) and the European ITSEC security criteria specify a set of requirements for testing all aspects of a product, from design through production to delivery and operation. The depth of testing is specified by you, depending on the level of assurance (EAL or E level) that you want to be able to demonstrate. In effect, your product will be undergoing an additional quality assurance process.

- **Increased confidence**

The demonstration of assurance of your product by a BSI Certificate will raise the level of confidence in the quality of your development processes.

- **Proper use**

To ensure that the security features of your product are properly used, the certification report contains all the information regarding administration and operational environment that is needed for secure operation. This will help to avoid damaging events in the security area which could have a negative effect on your image or that of your customers.

What criteria can be certificated?

ITS IT security criteria (the first national German set of criteria)

ITSEC Information Technology Security Evaluation Criteria (European harmonised security criteria)

CC Common Criteria (harmonisation of all relevant security criteria and an internationally recognised standard ISO/IEC 15048)

Common Criteria (CC)

The CC are based on the European **ITSEC** (Information Technology Security Evaluation Criteria), the US **TCSEC** (Trusted Computer Security Evaluation Criteria, "Orange Book") and the Canadian **CTCPEC** (Canadian Trusted Computer Product Evaluation Criteria). They offer a comprehensive catalogue of pre-defined functions.

Both the CC and ITSEC serve as the basis for testing the assurance of IT products. Assurance in the security functions implemented stems from correctness and effectiveness. The CC defines a series of evaluation assurance levels EAL1 to EAL7 while ITSEC offers evaluation levels E1 to E6.

What benefits do the CC offer?

- International recognition of the certification results on the basis of appropriate international agreements
- Lower costs (resulting from once-only evaluation of the IT product world-wide)
- Sales opportunities on international markets
- Standard and better specification of security performance through internationally agreed requirements
- Higher acceptance and enhanced reputation through the use of an ISO standard

What performance characteristics have to be satisfied for certification?

In principle the security criteria do not specify any particular functionality. They assume that you as manufacturer know the security functions that are implemented in the product and will describe these in the **security objectives**. But both from a user viewpoint and also from a marketing viewpoint it is necessary to demonstrate not just any old standard of security but one that is appropriate to the customer.

For this reason the CC offer the possibility of defining security requirements for various product classes in a set of generic security objectives, known as Protection Profiles (PP). If your product or system corresponds to a PP, the requirements specified in that PP are taken as the basis for evaluation and certification. In the certificate you will receive confirmation that your product complies with this "standard".

The BSI also offers this standardisation approach for PPs which are oriented to user requirements and likewise can be certified. It is up to the manufacturer to implement the user PP. Here the security profile can serve as an orientation aid for further product developments.

What is the outcome of certification?

The certification report

- describes the security characteristics of the product in relation to the threats listed;
- states the degree of assurance of the product;
- specifies the requirements regarding installation and the operational environment;
- states any inherent vulnerabilities and appropriate countermeasures.

Who is involved in the certification process?

The applicant/manufacturer

- applies for certification from the BSI certification authority;
- provides the product to be certified together with the necessary documentation;
- selects a testing agency;
- receives the certification report with the BSI Security Certificate following successful completion of the process.

The evaluation agency

- evaluates the product according to the provisions of the technical regulatory framework;
- passes the test results to the BSI certification authority and the manufacturer.

The BSI certification authority

- advises the manufacturer on all questions relating to certification;
- supports the manufacturer as he draws up the security objectives;
- attends every test carried out at a testing agency;
- issues the certificate after the certification report has been written;
- provided the manufacturer agrees, publishes the certification report with the certificate.

Who can apply for certification?

You as manufacturer of a product with security functions can apply for certification by the BSI. Vendors or licence holders of the product can likewise apply for certification, but the manufacturer's co-operation is necessary.

Would you like some further information?

You can obtain additional brochures on BSI certification, for example the latest list of BSI certificates or BSI 7138 *Information für Developers and Distributors*, from the address below. These documents are available in English.

All the documents can also be downloaded in electronic form from the Internet address provided below.

At what phase of development can an application for certification be submitted?

- Product is still under development:
Certification can take place in parallel to development, so that the product launch coincides with issue of the certificate.
- Product is already on the market:
The certification procedure is the same in principle as the procedure followed when the product is still under development. However, any necessary modifications can lead to a new product version.
- Certified product is enhanced:
The BSI offers a recertification procedure for cases where an already certified product is upgraded. This avoids unnecessary retesting.

Where can I submit an application for certification?

Bundesamt für Sicherheit in der Informationstechnik
Referat III 2.2
P.O. Box 20 03 63
53133 Bonn
GERMANY

Do you have any further questions?

BSI-Infoline: +49 228 9582-111
Fax: +49 228 99 9582-5455
E-mail: zerti@bsi.bund.de
Internet: <http://www.bsi.bund.de>