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International Standard

ISO/IEC 18045

Information security, cybersecurity and privacy protection — Evaluation criteria for IT security — Requirements and methodology for IT security evaluation

Sécurité de l'information, cybersécurité et protection de la vie privée — Critères d'évaluation pour la sécurité des technologies de l'information — Exigences et méthodologie pour l'évaluation de sécurité

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2026-05

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Foreword

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This fourth edition cancels and replaces the third edition (ISO/IEC 18045:2022), which has been technically revised.

The main changes are as follows:

— the document has been aligned with changes to the ISO/IEC 15408 series;

— technical changes have been introduced:

— the terminology has been reviewed and updated;

— the work units for each component have been reviewed and updated.

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Introduction

The target audience for this document is primarily evaluators applying the ISO/IEC 15408 series and certifiers confirming evaluator actions.

The following can be a secondary audience:

— evaluation sponsors,

— developers,

— protection profile (PP), PP-Module, PP-Configuration, and security target (ST) authors,

— other parties interested in IT security.

This document is not intended to answer all questions concerning IT security evaluation and further interpretations can be needed. Individual schemes determine how to handle such interpretations, although these can be subject to mutual recognition agreements. A list of methodology-related activities that can be handled by individual schemes can be found in Annex A.

This document is intended to be used in conjunction with the ISO/IEC 15408 series.

This document uses bold italic type face to identify special verbs relating to mandatory evaluation activities.

Several governmental organizations have contributed to the development of this version of the Common Methodology for Information Technology Security Evaluations. As the joint holders of the copyright in the Common Methodology for Information Technology Security Evaluations (called CEM), they hereby grant non-exclusive license to ISO/IEC to use CEM in the continued development/maintenance of the ISO/IEC 18045 International Standard. However, these governmental organizations retain the right to use, copy, distribute, translate, or modify CEM as they see fit. More information on these agencies can be found at https://commoncriterialportal.org//cc/copyright/index.cfm.

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Information security, cybersecurity and privacy protection — Evaluation criteria for IT security — Requirements and methodology for IT security evaluation

1 Scope

This document specifies requirements and the minimum actions performed by an evaluator in order to conduct an evaluation using the criteria and evaluation evidence defined in the ISO/IEC 15408 series evaluation.

2 Normative references

The following documents are referred to in the text in such a way that some or all of their content constitutes requirements of this document. For dated references, only the edition cited applies. For undated references, the latest edition of the referenced document (including any amendments) applies.

ISO/IEC 15408-1:2026, *Information security, cybersecurity and privacy protection — Evaluation criteria for IT security — Part 1: Introduction and general model*

ISO/IEC 15408-2:2026, *Information security, cybersecurity and privacy protection — Evaluation criteria for IT security — Part 2: Security functional components*

ISO/IEC 15408-3:2026, *Information security, cybersecurity and privacy protection — Evaluation criteria for IT security — Part 3: Security assurance components*

ISO/IEC 15408-4:2026, *Information security, cybersecurity and privacy protection — Evaluation criteria for IT security — Part 4: Framework for the specification of evaluation methods and activities*

ISO/IEC 15408-5:2026, *Information security, cybersecurity and privacy protection - Evaluation criteria for IT security — Part 5: Pre-defined packages of security requirements*

ISO/IEC/IEEE 24765:2017, *Systems and software engineering — Vocabulary*

3 Terms and definitions

For the purposes of this document, the terms and definitions given in in ISO/IEC/IEEE 24765, ISO/IEC 15408-1, ISO/IEC 15408-2, ISO/IEC 15408-3 and the following apply.

ISO and IEC maintain terminology databases for use in standardization at the following addresses:

— ISO Online browsing platform: available at https://www.iso.org/obp

— IEC Electropedia: available at https://www.electropedia.org/

3.1
check,verb
⟨evaluation⟩ generate a verdict by a simple comparison

Note 1 to entry: Evaluator expertise is not required. Statements using this verb "check" describe what is mapped.

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3.2
confirm,verb
⟨evaluation⟩ declare that something has been reviewed in detail with an independent determination of sufficiency

Note 1 to entry: The level of rigour required depends on the nature of the subject matter.

3.3
demonstrate
⟨evaluation⟩ provide a conclusion gained by an analysis which is less rigorous than that required by *prove* (3.18)

3.4
describe,verb
⟨evaluation⟩ provide specific details of an entity

3.5
determine,verb
⟨evaluation⟩ affirm a particular conclusion based on independent analysis with the objective of reaching a particular conclusion

Note 1 to entry: The usage of this term implies a truly independent analysis, usually in the absence of any previous analysis having been performed. This is unlike the terms *confirm* (3.2) or *verify* (3.29), which imply that an analysis has already been performed which requires review.

3.6
elapsed time
total amount of time taken by an attacker to identify that a particular potential vulnerability exists in the target of evaluation (TOE), to develop an attack method and to sustain the effort required to mount the attack against the TOE

3.7
ensure,verb
⟨evaluation⟩ guarantee a strong causal relationship between an action and its consequences

Note 1 to entry: When "ensure" is preceded by the word "help", it indicates that the consequence is not fully certain, on the basis of that action alone.

3.8
evaluation authority
entity that establishes and maintains a scheme, monitors the evaluation conducted by the evaluator, and issues certification or validation reports as well as certificates based on the evaluation results provided by the evaluator

3.9
evaluation evidence
item used as a basis for establishing the verdict of an evaluation activity

3.10
evaluation technical report
ETR
item presenting a technical justification of the evaluation verdict(s)

3.11
examine,verb
⟨evaluation⟩ generate a verdict by analysis using evaluator expertise

Note 1 to entry: Statements using this verb identify what is analysed and the properties for which it is analysed.

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3.12
exhaustive
⟨evaluation⟩ characteristic of a methodical approach taken to perform an analysis or activity according to an unambiguous plan

Note 1 to entry: This term is used in respective parts of the ISO/IEC 15408 series with respect to conducting an analysis or other activity. It is related to "systematic" but is considerably stronger, in that it indicates not only that a methodical approach has been taken to perform the analysis or activity according to an unambiguous plan, but that the plan that was followed is sufficient to *ensure* (3.7) that all possible avenues have been exercised.

3.13
explain,verb
⟨evaluation⟩ give argument accounting for the reason for taking a course of action

Note 1 to entry: This term differs from both *describe* (3.4) and *demonstrate* (3.3). It is intended to answer the question "Why?" without actually attempting to argue that the course of action that was taken was necessarily optimal.

3.14
justify,verb
⟨evaluation⟩ provide a rationale providing sufficient reason

Note 1 to entry: The term "justify" is more rigorous than *demonstrate* (3.3). This term requires significant rigour in terms of very carefully and thoroughly *explaining* (3.13) every step of a logical analysis leading to a conclusion.

3.15
monitoring attack
generic category of attack methods that includes passive analysis techniques aiming at disclosure of sensitive internal data of the target of evaluation (TOE) by operating the TOE in the way that corresponds to the developer supplied guidance documents

3.16
observation report
OR
report written by the evaluator requesting a clarification or identifying a problem during the evaluation

3.17
oversight verdict
statement issued by an evaluation authority confirming or rejecting an overall verdict based on the results of evaluation oversight activities

3.18
prove,verb
⟨evaluation⟩ show correspondence by formal analysis in its mathematical sense

Note 1 to entry: It is completely rigorous in all ways. Typically, the term "prove" is used when there is a desire to show correspondence between two target of evaluation (TOE) security functionality (TSF) representations at a high level of rigour.

3.19
record,verb
⟨evaluation⟩ retain a written description of procedures, events, observations, insights, and results in sufficient detail to enable the work performed during the evaluation to be reconstructed at a later time

3.20
report,verb
⟨evaluation⟩ include evaluation results and supporting material in the evaluation technical report, an *observation report* (3.16) or an evaluation authority report (report of the evaluation authority)

3.21
SFR-enforcing
functionality that implements a security functional requirement (SFR)

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3.22
SFR-supporting
functionality that *security functional requirement (SFR)-enforcing* (3.21) functionality depends upon, but which needs only to function correctly in order for the security policies of the target of evaluation (TOE) to be preserved

3.23
SFR-non-interfering
functionality on which neither *security functional requirement (SFR)-enforcing* (3.21) nor *SFR-supporting* (3.22) functionality have any dependence; that is, it plays no role in implementing SFR functionality

3.24
specify,verb
⟨evaluation⟩ provide specific details about an entity in a rigorous and precise manner

3.25
sub-activity
application of an assurance component of ISO/IEC 15408-3:2026

Note 1 to entry: Assurance families are not explicitly addressed in the ISO/IEC 15408 series because evaluations are conducted on a single-assurance component from an assurance family.

3.26
task
methodology-specific evaluation work required that is not derived directly from an ISO/IEC 15408 series requirement

3.27
trace,verb
⟨evaluation⟩ establish a relation between two sets of entities, which shows which entities in the first set correspond to which entities in the second

3.28
verdict
statement issued by an evaluator with respect to evaluator action element, assurance component, or class

3.29
verify,verb
⟨evaluation⟩ rigorously review in detail with an independent determination of sufficiency

Note 1 to entry: See also *confirm* (3.2) which has more rigorous connotations. The term verify is used in the context of evaluator actions where an independent effort is required of the evaluator.

3.30
window of opportunity
period of time during which an attacker has access to the target of evaluation (TOE)

3.31
work unit
most granular level of evaluation work

4 Terminology

Unlike in the ISO/IEC 15408 series, where each element generally maintains the last digit of its identifying symbol for all components within the family with some exceptions, this document can introduce new work units when an ISO/IEC 15408 series evaluator action element changes from sub-activity to sub-activity. As a result, the last digit of the work unit's identifying symbol can change although the work unit remains unchanged.

Any methodology-specific evaluation work required that is not derived directly from an ISO/IEC 15408 series requirement is termed task.

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5 Verb usage

All work unit and task verbs are preceded by the auxiliary verb shall. Both the work unit and task verb and the "shall" appear in ***bold italic*** typeface. The auxiliary verb ***shall*** is used only when the provided text is required and therefore only within the work units and tasks. The work units and tasks contain required activities that the evaluator shall perform in order to assign verdicts.

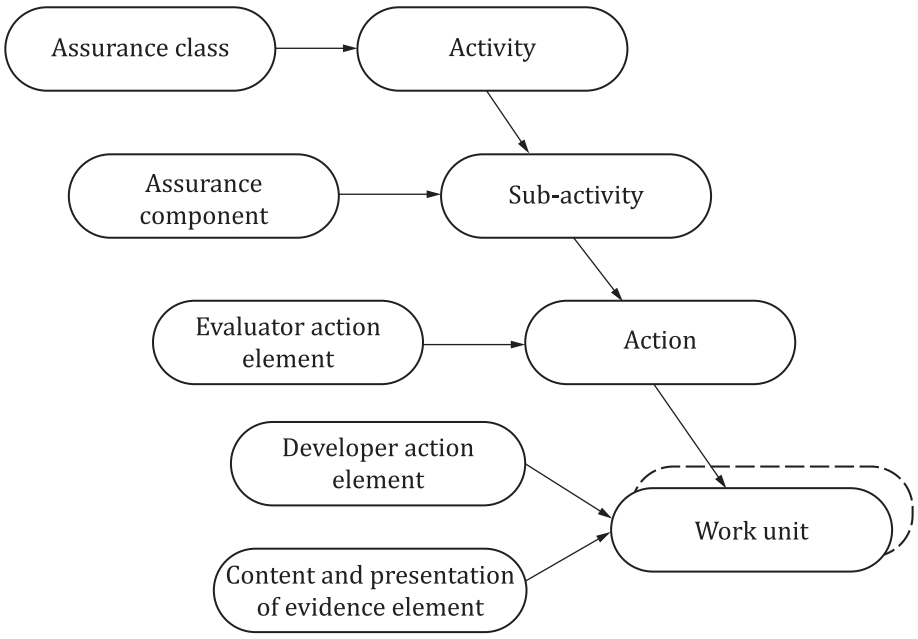
Guidance text accompanying work units and tasks gives further explanation on how to apply the ISO/IEC 15408 series words in an evaluation.

6 General evaluation guidance

Material that applies to more than one sub-activity is grouped together in this document. Guidance whose applicability is widespread (across activities and EALs) has been collected into Annex A. Guidance that pertains to multiple sub-activities within a single activity has been provided in the introduction to that activity. If guidance pertains to only a single sub-activity, it is presented within that sub-activity.

7 Relationship between structures within the CC and the structure of this document

There are direct relationships between the ISO/IEC 15408 series assurance constructs and the structure of this document. Figure 1 illustrates the correspondence between the ISO/IEC 15408-3:2026 constructs of assurance classes, assurance components and assurance elements and the related evaluation methodology activities, sub-activities, actions and work units. Several evaluation methodology work units can result from the requirements specified in the ISO/IEC 15408 series developer action and content and presentation elements.



Key

Assurance class	See ISO/IEC 15408-3:2026, 6.2
Assurance component	See ISO/IEC 15408-3:2026, 6.4
Evaluator action element	See ISO/IEC 15408-3:2026, 6.4.6
Developer action element	See ISO/IEC 15408-3:2026, 6.4.6
Content and presentation of evidence element	See ISO/IEC 15408-3:2026, 6.4.6

Figure 1 — Mapping of the P3 assurance constructs and CEM structure

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8 Evaluation process and related tasks

8.1 General

This clause provides an overview of the evaluation process and defines the tasks an evaluator shall perform when conducting an evaluation.

Each evaluation follows the same process, and has four evaluator tasks in common:

— the input task;

— the output task;

— the evaluation sub-activities;

— the demonstration of the technical competence to perform the evaluation authority task.

NOTE 1 Evaluations can be those covered in the ISO/IEC 15408 series, such as PP, PP-configuration, or TOE (including ST).

The input and output tasks, which are related to management of evaluation evidence and to report generation, are entirely described in this clause. Each task has related tasks that apply to all evaluations.

NOTE 2 This document uses the asterisk as a wildcard such that "ACO_VUL.*-1" implies ACO_VUL.1-1 (17.7.1.4.3), ACO_VUL.2-1 (17.7.2.4.3), and ACO_VUL.3-1 (17.7.3.4.3).

NOTE 3 The evaluation sub-activities are introduced in this clause. See the individual class activity requirements (Clause 9 onwards) for a full description of the sub-activities.

In contrast to the evaluation sub-activities, input and output tasks have no verdicts associated with them as they do not map to ISO/IEC 15408 series evaluator action elements; they are performed in order to meet the requirements of this document.

Evaluators can demonstrate their technical competence to perform the evaluation authority task through the evaluation authority analysis of the results of the output tasks. This can include the evaluators demonstrating their understanding of the inputs for the evaluation sub-activities. This task has no associated evaluator verdict, but has an evaluator authority verdict. The detailed criteria to pass this task are left to the discretion of the evaluation authority, as noted in A.6.

Evaluation activities defined according to ISO/IEC 15408-4:2026 may be used in place of work units defined within this document provided that this is made clear within the output reports.

Where evaluator tasks or activities involve a recommendation (e.g. "should" as defined in ISO/IEC Directives, Part 2), then the evaluator shall provide a justification if that recommendation is not followed.

8.2 Evaluation process overview

8.2.1 Objectives

The general model of the methodology is presented here and identifies:

— roles and responsibilities of the parties involved in the evaluation process;

— the general evaluation model.

8.2.2 Responsibilities of the roles

The general model defines the following roles:

— the sponsor, who is responsible for requesting and supporting an evaluation. This means that the sponsor establishes the different agreements for the evaluation (e.g. commissioning the evaluation). Moreover, the sponsor is responsible for ensuring that the evaluator is provided with the evaluation evidence;

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— the developer, who produces the TOE and is responsible for providing the evidence required for the evaluation (e.g. training, design information), on behalf of the sponsor;

— the evaluator, who performs the evaluation tasks required in the context of an evaluation. The evaluator receives the evaluation evidence from the developer on behalf of the sponsor or directly from the sponsor, performs the evaluation sub-activities and provides the results of the evaluation assessment to the evaluation authority;

— the evaluation authority, who establishes and maintains the scheme, monitors the evaluation conducted by the evaluator, and issues certification or validation reports as well as certificates based on the evaluation results provided by the evaluator.

8.2.3 Relationship of roles

To prevent undue influence from improperly affecting an evaluation, some separation of roles is required. This implies that the roles described above are fulfilled by different entities, except that the roles of developer and sponsor can be satisfied by a single entity.

Moreover, some evaluations [e.g. EAL1 (see ISO/IEC 15408-5:2026, 4.4) evaluation] do not require the developer to be involved in the project. In this case, it is the sponsor who provides the TOE to the evaluator and who generates the evaluation evidence.

8.2.4 General evaluation model

The evaluation process consists of the evaluator performing the evaluation input task, the evaluation output task and the evaluation sub-activities. Figure 2 provides an overview of the relationship between these tasks and sub-activities.

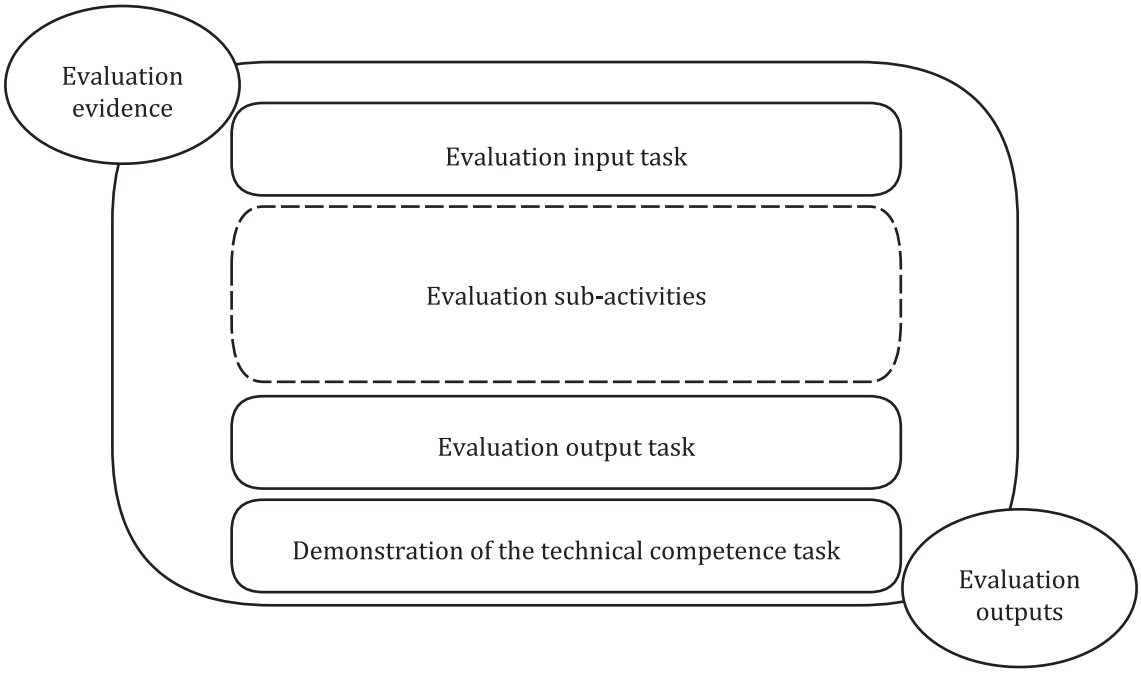


Figure 2 — Generic evaluation model

The evaluation process can be preceded by a preparation phase where initial contact is made between the sponsor and the evaluator. The work that is performed and the involvement of the different roles during this phase can vary. It is typically during this step that the evaluator performs a feasibility analysis to assess the likelihood of a successful evaluation.

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8.2.5 Evaluator verdicts

The evaluator assigns verdicts to the requirements of ISO/IEC 15408 series and not to those of this document. The most granular ISO/IEC 15408 series element to which a verdict is assigned is the evaluator action element (explicit or implied). A verdict is assigned to an applicable ISO/IEC 15408 series evaluator action element as a result of performing the corresponding evaluation methodology action and its constituent work units. Where required by a Security Target, the evaluator may follow evaluation activities derived from work units in this document (for example using the framework in ISO/IEC 15408-4:2026). Where such derived evaluation methods and evaluation activities are required by an ST then these shall be used by the evaluator to assign verdicts to the relevant evaluator action element(s). Finally, an evaluation result is assigned, as described in ISO/IEC 15408-1:2026, Clause 13.

This document recognises three mutually exclusive verdict states:

— conditions for a "pass" verdict are defined as an evaluator completion of the evaluator action element specified in the ISO/IEC 15408 series and determination that the requirements for the PP, PP-Configuration, ST or TOE under evaluation are met. The conditions for passing the element are defined as:

  — all evaluation evidence required for performing these work units is coherent, that is it can be fully and completely understood by the evaluator, and;

  — all evaluation evidence required for performing these work units does not have any obvious internal inconsistency or inconsistency with other evaluation evidence. In this context, obvious means that the evaluator discovers this inconsistency while performing the work units: the evaluator should not undertake a full consistency analysis across the entire evaluation evidence every time a work unit is performed;

— conditions for a "fail" verdict are defined as:

  — an evaluator completion of the evaluator action element specified in the ISO/IEC 15408 series, and;

  — determination that the requirements for the PP, PP-Configuration, ST, or TOE under evaluation are not met, or that the evidence is incoherent, or an obvious inconsistency in the evaluation evidence has been found;

— all verdicts are initially "inconclusive" and remain so until either a pass or fail verdict is assigned.

The overall verdict is "pass" if and only if all the constituent verdicts are also "pass". In the example illustrated in Figure 3, if the verdict for one evaluator action element is "fail" then the verdicts for the corresponding assurance component, assurance class, and overall verdict are also "fail".

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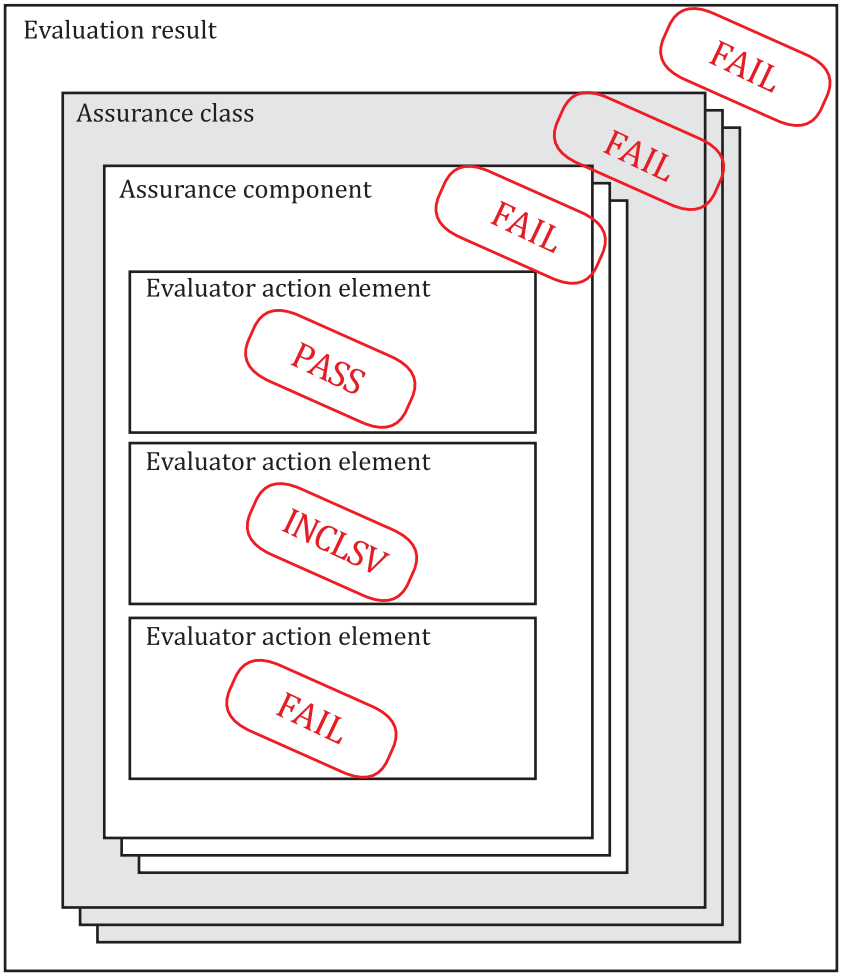


Figure 3 — Example of the verdict assignment rule

8.3 Evaluation input task

8.3.1 Objectives

The objective of this task is to ensure that the evaluator has available the correct version of the evaluation evidence necessary for the evaluation and that it is adequately protected. Otherwise, the technical accuracy of the evaluation cannot be assured, nor can it be assured that the evaluation is being conducted in a way to provide repeatable and reproducible results.

8.3.2 Application notes

The responsibility to provide all the required evaluation evidence lies with the sponsor. However, most of the evaluation evidence is likely to be produced and supplied by the developer, on behalf of the sponsor.

In case of single-assurance evaluation, since the assurance requirements apply to the entire TOE, all evaluation evidence pertaining to all parts of the TOE shall be made available to the evaluator. The scope and required content of such evaluation evidence is independent of the level of control that the developer has over each of the parts of the TOE. For example, if design is required, then the ADV_TDS (TOE design) (12.8) requirements will apply to all subsystems that are part of the TSF. In addition, assurance requirements that call for procedures to be in place, e.g. ALC_CMC (CM capabilities) (14.3) and ALC_DEL (Delivery) (14.5) will also apply to the entire TOE (including any part produced by another developer).

For multi-assurance evaluation: according to ISO/IEC 15408-1:2026, 11.3.2, a multi-assurance PP-Configuration or the conformant multi-assurance ST respectively describes the organization of the TSF in

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terms of the sub-TSFs that are defined in its components and defines for each sub-TSF a set of SARs that is consistent with the corresponding component. The multi-assurance evaluation paradigm applies different assurance requirements to different parts of the TSF (sub-TSFs), i.e. each sub-TSF is associated with its own set of security assurance requirements (SARs) in a multi-assurance PP-Configuration or ST. Concerning evaluation aspects in the multi-assurance case, for each component of a multi-assurance PP-Configuration or ST the assurance requirements related to that component shall be applied according to the single-assurance evaluation approach as outlined above. As far as applicable, e.g. for vulnerability analysis or testing, the entire TOE consisting of all those components shall also be taken into account.

It is recommended that the evaluator, in conjunction with the sponsor, produce an index to the required evaluation evidence. This index may be a set of references to the documentation. This index should contain enough information (e.g. a brief summary of each document, or at least an explicit title, indication of the position of the text portions of interest) to help the evaluator easily find the required evidence.

It is the information contained in the evaluation evidence that is required, not any particular document structure. Evaluation evidence for a sub-activity can be provided by separate documents, or a single document can satisfy several of the input requirements of a sub-activity.

The evaluator requires stable and formally-issued versions of evaluation evidence. However, draft evaluation evidence can be provided during an evaluation, for example, to help an evaluator make an early, informal assessment, but is not used as the basis for verdicts. It can be helpful for the evaluator to see draft versions of particular appropriate evaluation evidence, such as:

— test documentation, to allow the evaluator to make an early assessment of tests and test procedures;

— design documents, to provide the evaluator with background for understanding the TOE design;

— source code or hardware drawings, to allow the evaluator to assess the application of the developer's standards.

Draft evaluation evidence is more likely to be encountered where the evaluation of a TOE is performed concurrently with its development. However, it can also be encountered during the evaluation of an already-developed TOE where the developer has had to perform additional work to address a problem identified by the evaluator (e.g. to correct an error in design or implementation) or to provide evaluation evidence of security that is not provided in the existing documentation (e.g. in the case of a TOE not originally developed to meet the requirements of ISO/IEC 15408 series).

8.3.3 Management of evaluation evidence task

8.3.3.1 Configuration control

The evaluator shall perform configuration control of the evaluation evidence.

ISO/IEC 15408 series implies that the evaluator is able to identify and locate each item of evaluation evidence after it has been received and is able to determine whether a specific version of a document is in the evaluator's possession.

The evaluator shall protect the evaluation evidence from alteration or loss while it is in the evaluator's possession.

8.3.3.2 Disposal

Evaluation authority schemes can choose to control the disposal of evaluation evidence at the conclusion of an evaluation. The disposal of the evaluation evidence shall be achieved by at least one of the following:

— returning the evaluation evidence;

— archiving the evaluation evidence;

— destroying the evaluation evidence.

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8.3.3.3 Confidentiality

An evaluator can have access to sponsor and developer information that is commercially-sensitive (e.g. TOE design information, specialist tools), and can have access to nationally-sensitive information during the course of an evaluation. Evaluation authority schemes can impose requirements for the evaluator to maintain the confidentiality of the evaluation evidence. The sponsor and evaluator can mutually agree to additional requirements as long as these are consistent with the scheme.

Confidentiality requirements affect many aspects of evaluation work, including the receipt, handling, storage and disposal of evaluation evidence.

8.4 Evaluation sub-activities

The evaluation sub-activities vary depending on whether the evaluation concerns a PP, PP-Configuration, or a TOE. Moreover, in the case of a TOE evaluation, the sub-activities depend upon the selected assurance requirements.

8.5 Evaluation output task

8.5.1 Objectives

The objective here is to describe the Observation Report (OR) and the Evaluation Technical Report (ETR). Evaluation authority schemes can require additional evaluator reports such as reports on individual units of work, or can require additional information to be contained in the OR and the ETR. This document does not preclude the addition of information into these reports as this document specifies only the minimum information content.

Consistent reporting of evaluation results facilitates the achievement of the universal principle of repeatability and reproducibility of results. The consistency covers the type and the amount of information reported in the ETR and OR. The consistency of ETR and OR among different evaluations is the responsibility of the evaluation authority.

The evaluator performs the two following related tasks in order to meet the requirements of this document for the information content of reports:

— write OR task (if needed in the context of the evaluation);

— write ETR task.

8.5.2 Management of evaluation outputs

The evaluator delivers the ETR to the evaluation authority, as well as any ORs as they become available. Requirements for controls on handling the ETR and ORs are established by the scheme which can include delivery to the sponsor or developer. The ETR and ORs can include sensitive or proprietary information. It can also be necessary to sanitise ETR and ORs before they are given to the sponsor.

8.5.3 Application notes

In this document, the requirements for the provision of evaluator evidence to support re-evaluation and re-use have not been explicitly stated. Where information for re-evaluation or re-use is required by the sponsor, the scheme under which the evaluation is being performed shall be consulted.

8.5.4 Write OR task

ORs provide the evaluator with a mechanism to request a clarification (e.g. from the evaluation authority on the application of a requirement) or to identify a problem with an aspect of the evaluation.

In the case of a fail verdict, the evaluator shall provide an OR to reflect the evaluation result. Otherwise, the evaluator may use ORs as one way of expressing clarification needs.

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For each OR, the evaluator shall report the following:

— the identifier of the PP or TOE evaluated;

— the evaluation task or sub-activity during which the observation was generated;

— the observation;

— the assessment of its severity (e.g. implies a fail verdict, holds up progress on the evaluation, requires a resolution prior to evaluation being completed);

— the identification of the organization responsible for resolving the issue;

— the recommended timetable for resolution;

— the assessment of the impact on the evaluation of failure to resolve the observation.

The intended audience of an OR and procedures for handling the report depend on the nature of the report's content and on the scheme. Evaluation authority schemes can distinguish different types of ORs or define additional types, with associated differences in required information and distribution (e.g. evaluation ORs to evaluation authorities and sponsors).

8.5.5 Write ETR task

8.5.5.1 Objectives

The evaluator shall provide an ETR to present technical justification of the verdicts.

This document defines the ETR's minimum content requirement; however, evaluation authority schemes can specify additional content and specific presentational and structural requirements. For instance, evaluation authority schemes can require that certain introductory material (e.g. disclaimers and copyright clauses) be reported in the ETR.

The reader of the ETR is expected to be familiar with general concepts of information security, the ISO/IEC 15408 series, this document, evaluation approaches and IT.

The ETR supports the evaluation authority to confirm that the evaluation was completed to the required standard, but it is anticipated that in some cases the documented results cannot provide all of the necessary information, so additional information specifically requested by the scheme can be necessary. This aspect is outside the scope of this document.

8.5.5.2 ETR for a PP Evaluation

8.5.5.2.1 General

The minimum content of the ETR for a PP evaluation is described here. The contents of the ETR are portrayed in Figure 4; this figure can be used as a guide when constructing the structural outline of the ETR document.

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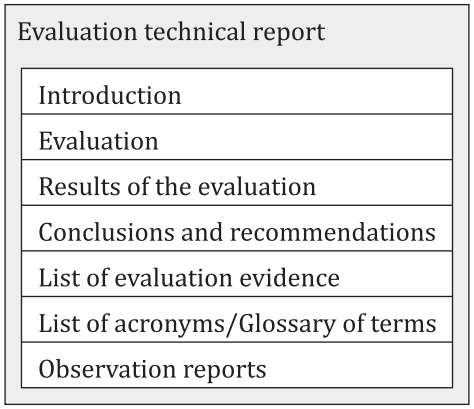


Figure 4 — ETR information content for a PP evaluation

8.5.5.2.2 Introduction

The evaluator shall report evaluation scheme identifiers.

Evaluation scheme identifiers (e.g. logos) are the information required to unambiguously identify the scheme responsible for the evaluation oversight.

The evaluator shall report ETR configuration control identifiers.

The ETR configuration control identifiers contain information that identifies the ETR (e.g. name, date and version number).

The evaluator shall report the identity of the developer.

The identity of the PP developer is required to identify the party responsible for producing the PP.

The evaluator shall report the identity of the sponsor.

The identity of the sponsor is required to identify the party responsible for providing evaluation evidence to the evaluator.

The evaluator shall report the identity of the evaluator.

The identity of the evaluator is required to identify the party that performs the evaluation and is responsible for the evaluation verdicts.

8.5.5.2.3 Evaluation

The evaluator shall report the evaluation methods, techniques, tools and standards (international, national, industry or organizational) used.

The evaluator references the evaluation criteria, methodology and interpretations used to evaluate the PP.

The evaluator shall report any constraints on the evaluation, constraints on the handling of evaluation results and assumptions made during the evaluation that have an impact on the evaluation results.

8.5.5.2.4 Results of the evaluation

The evaluator shall report a verdict and a supporting rationale for each assurance component that constitutes a class APE (Protection Profile (PP) evaluation) (Clause 9) activity, as a result of performing the corresponding evaluation methodology action and its constituent work units.

The rationale justifies the verdict using:

— the ISO/IEC 15408 series,

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— this document,

— any interpretations,

— the evaluation evidence examined.

The rationale shows how the evaluation evidence does or does not meet each aspect of the criteria. It contains a description of the work performed, the method used, and any derivation of results. The rationale can provide detail to the level of an evaluation methodology work unit.

8.5.5.2.5 Conclusions and recommendations

The evaluator shall report the conclusions of the evaluation, in particular the overall verdict as defined in ISO/IEC 15408-1:2026, 13.7, and determined by application of the verdict assignment described in 8.2.5.

The evaluator provides recommendations that can be useful for the evaluation authority. These recommendations can include shortcomings of the PP discovered during the evaluation or mention of features which are particularly useful.

8.5.5.2.6 List of evaluation evidence

The evaluator shall report for each item of evaluation evidence the following information:

— the issuing body (e.g. the developer, the sponsor);

— the title;

— the unique reference (e.g. issue date and version number).

8.5.5.2.7 List of acronyms and Glossary of terms

The evaluator shall report any acronyms or abbreviations used in the ETR.

It is not necessary to include in the ETR definitions that have been defined in the ISO/IEC 15408 series or in this document.

8.5.5.2.8 Observation reports

The evaluator shall report a complete list that uniquely identifies the ORs raised during the evaluation and their status.

For each OR, the list shall contain its identifier as well as its title or a brief summary of its content.

8.5.5.3 ETR for a PP-Configuration Evaluation

8.5.5.3.1 General

The minimum content of the ETR for a PP-Configuration evaluation is described here. The contents of the ETR are portrayed in Figure 5; this figure can be used as a guide when constructing the structural outline of the ETR document.

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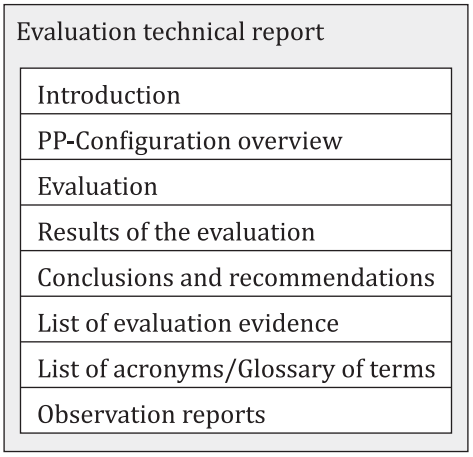


Figure 5 — ETR information content for a PP-Configuration evaluation

8.5.5.3.2 Introduction

The evaluator shall report evaluation scheme identifiers.

Evaluation scheme identifiers (e.g. logos) are the information required to unambiguously identify the scheme responsible for the evaluation oversight.

The evaluator shall report ETR configuration control identifiers.

The ETR configuration control identifiers contain information that identifies the ETR (e.g. name, date and version number).

The evaluator shall report PP-Configuration configuration control identifiers (i.e. identifiers used in the configuration control of the PP-Configuration itself).

The configuration control identifiers associated with the PP-Configuration (e.g. name, date and version number) are required to identify what is being evaluated in order for the evaluation authority to verify that the verdicts have been assigned correctly by the evaluator.

The evaluator shall report the identity of the developer.

The identity of the PP-Configuration developer is required to identify the party responsible for producing the PP-Configuration.

The evaluator shall report the identity of the sponsor.

The identity of the sponsor is required to identify the party responsible for providing evaluation evidence to the evaluator.

The evaluator shall report the identity of the evaluator.

The identity of the evaluator is required to identify the party performing the evaluation and responsible for the evaluation verdicts.

8.5.5.3.3 PP-Configuration overview

The evaluator shall report all PP-Configuration components used in the PP-configuration.

PP-Configuration components include at least one PP, as well as all other PPs and PP-Modules used in the PP-Configuration. Each PP-Module shall have one of its PP-Module Bases included in the PP-Configuration, therefore all elements of the relevant PP-Module Base(s) are included as PP-Configuration components. See ISO/IEC 15408-1:2026, Annex C for more detail on the identification of the PP-Module Base(s) for each PP-Module.

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The ETR shall report the reference of the PP-Configuration components.

A PP-Configuration component reference contains information that uniquely identifies the specific component (e.g. title, date, and version number).

8.5.5.3.4 Evaluation

The evaluator shall report the evaluation methods, techniques, tools and standards used.

The evaluator references the evaluation criteria, methodology and interpretations used to evaluate the PP-Configuration.

The evaluator shall report any constraints on the evaluation, constraints on the handling of evaluation results and assumptions made during the evaluation that have an impact on the evaluation results.

8.5.5.3.5 Results of the evaluation

The evaluator shall report a verdict and a supporting rationale for each assurance component that constitutes a class ACE (Protection Profile Configuration evaluation) (Clause 10) activity, as a result of performing the corresponding evaluation methodology action and its constituent work units.

The rationale justifies the verdict using:

— the ISO/IEC 15408 series,

— this document,

— any interpretations,

— the evaluation evidence examined.

The rationale shows how the evaluation evidence does or does not meet each aspect of the criteria. It contains a description of the work performed, the method used, and any derivation of results. The rationale can provide detail to the level of an evaluation methodology work unit.

8.5.5.3.6 Conclusions and recommendations

The evaluator shall report the conclusions of the evaluation, in particular the overall verdict as defined in ISO/IEC 15408-1:2026, 13.7, and determined by application of the verdict assignment described in 8.2.5.

The evaluator provides recommendations that can be useful for the evaluation authority. These recommendations can include shortcomings of the PP-Configuration discovered during the evaluation or mention of features which are particularly useful.

8.5.5.3.7 List of evaluation evidence

The evaluator shall report for each item of evaluation evidence the following information:

— the issuing body (e.g. the developer, the sponsor);

— the title;

— the unique reference (e.g. issue date and version number).

8.5.5.3.8 List of acronyms and Glossary of terms

The evaluator shall report any acronyms or abbreviations used in the ETR.

Glossary definitions already defined by the ISO/IEC 15408 series or by this document are not required to be repeated in the ETR.

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8.5.5.3.9 Observation reports

The evaluator shall report a complete list that uniquely identifies the ORs raised during the evaluation and their status.

For each OR, the list shall contain its identifier as well as its title or a brief summary of its content.

8.5.5.4 ETR for a TOE Evaluation

8.5.5.4.1 General

The minimum content of the ETR for a TOE evaluation is described here. The contents of the ETR are portrayed in Figure 6; this figure can be used as a guide when constructing the structural outline of the ETR document.

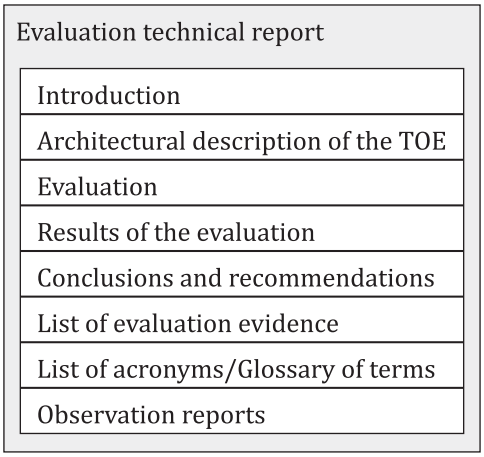


Figure 6 — ETR information content for a TOE evaluation

8.5.5.4.2 Introduction

The evaluator shall report evaluation scheme identifiers.

Evaluation scheme identifiers (e.g. logos) are the information required to unambiguously identify the scheme responsible for the evaluation oversight.

The evaluator shall report ETR configuration control identifiers.

The ETR configuration control identifiers contain information that identifies the ETR (e.g. name, date and version number).

The evaluator shall report ST and TOE configuration control identifiers.

ST and TOE configuration control identifiers identify what is being evaluated in order for the evaluation authority to verify that the verdicts have been assigned correctly by the evaluator.

If the ST claims that the TOE conforms to the requirements of one or more PPs, or to a PP-Configuration, the ETR shall report the reference of the corresponding PPs or PP-Configuration.

The PPs, or PP-Configuration, reference contains information that uniquely identifies the PPs, or PP-Configuration (e.g. title, date, and version number).

The evaluator shall report the identity of the developer.

The identity of the TOE developer is required to identify the party responsible for producing the TOE.

The evaluator shall report the identity of the sponsor.

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The identity of the sponsor is required to identify the party responsible for providing evaluation evidence to the evaluator.

The evaluator shall report the identity of the evaluator.

The identity of the evaluator is required to identify the party performing the evaluation and responsible for the evaluation verdicts.

8.5.5.4.3 Architectural description of the TOE

The evaluator shall report a high-level description of the TOE and its major components based on the evaluation evidence described in the assurance family ADV_TDS (TOE design) (12.8) in the ISO/IEC 15408 series.

The aim is to characterize the degree of architectural separation of the major components. If there is no ADV_TDS (TOE design) (12.8) requirement in the ST, this is not applicable and is considered to be satisfied.

8.5.5.4.4 Evaluation

The evaluator shall report the evaluation methods, techniques, tools and standards used.

The evaluator can reference the evaluation criteria, methodology and interpretations used to evaluate the TOE or the devices used to perform the tests. This shall include identification of any derived evaluation methods and evaluation activities used, and a confirmation that these are as required by the Security Target [see ASE_CCL (Conformance claims) (11.4)].

The evaluator shall report any constraints on the evaluation, constraints on the distribution of evaluation results and assumptions made during the evaluation that have an impact on the evaluation results.

8.5.5.4.5 Results of the evaluation

For each activity on which the TOE is evaluated, the evaluator shall report:

— the title of the activity considered;

— a verdict and a supporting rationale for each assurance component that constitutes this activity, as a result of performing the corresponding evaluation methodology action and its constituent work units.

The rationale justifies the verdict using:

— the ISO/IEC 15408 series;

— this document;

— any interpretations;

— the evaluation evidence examined.

The rationale shows how the evaluation evidence does or does not meet each aspect of the criteria. It contains a description of the work performed, the method used, and any derivation of results. The rationale can provide detail to the level of an evaluation methodology work unit.

The evaluator shall report all information specifically required by a work unit.

8.5.5.4.6 Conclusions and recommendations

The evaluator shall report the conclusions of the evaluation, which will relate to whether the TOE has satisfied its associated ST, in particular the overall verdict as defined in ISO/IEC 15408-1:2026, 13.7, and determined by application of the verdict assignment described in 8.2.5.

The evaluator shall report the conclusions of the evaluation, in particular the overall verdict as defined in ISO/IEC 15408-1:2026, 13.7, and determined by application of the verdict assignment described in 8.2.5.

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The evaluator provides recommendations that can be useful for the evaluation authority. These recommendations can include shortcomings of the IT product discovered during the evaluation or mention of features which are particularly useful.

8.5.5.4.7 List of evaluation evidence

The evaluator shall report for each item of evaluation evidence the following information:

— the issuing body (e.g. the developer, the sponsor);

— the title;

— the unique reference (e.g. issue date and version number).

8.5.5.4.8 List of acronyms and Glossary of terms

The evaluator shall report any acronyms or abbreviations used in the ETR.

Glossary definitions already defined by ISO/IEC 15408 series or by this document are not required to be repeated in the ETR.

8.5.5.4.9 Observation reports

The evaluator shall report a complete list that uniquely identifies the ORs raised during the evaluation and their status.

For each OR, the list shall contain its identifier as well as its title or a brief summary of its content.

9 Protection Profile (PP) evaluation

9.1 Introduction

This clause describes the evaluation of a PP. The requirements and methodology for PP evaluation are identical for each PP evaluation, regardless of the EAL (or other set of assurance requirements) that is claimed in the PP. The evaluation methodology in this clause is based on the requirements on the PP as specified in APE [Protection Profile (PP) evaluation].

This clause should be used in conjunction with ISO/IEC 15408-1:2026, Annex B and ISO/IEC 15408-1:2026, Annex D, as these annexes clarify the concepts discussed and provide many examples.

9.2 Application notes

9.2.1 Re-using the evaluation results of certified PPs

While evaluating a PP that is based on one or more certified PPs (certified by an evaluation authority), it is possible to re-use the fact that these PPs were certified. The potential for re-using the result of a certified PP is greater if the PP under evaluation does not add threats, OSPs, security objectives, or security requirements to those of the PP to which conformance is being claimed. If the PP under evaluation contains many of these then it is possible that re-use is not useful at all.

The evaluator is allowed to re-use the PP evaluation results by doing certain analyses only partially or not at all if these analyses or parts thereof were already done as part of the PP evaluation. While doing this, the evaluator should assume that the analyses in the PP were performed correctly.

An example would be where the PP to which conformance is claimed contains a set of security requirements, and these were determined to be internally consistent during its evaluation. If the PP under evaluation uses the exact same requirements, the consistency analysis is not required to be repeated during the PP evaluation. If, the PP under evaluation adds one or more requirements, or performs operations on these requirements, the analysis shall be repeated. However, it can be possible to save work in this consistency analysis by using

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the fact that the original requirements are internally consistent. If the original requirements are internally consistent, the evaluator only shall determine that:

— the set of all new or changed requirements is internally consistent, and

— the set of all new or changed requirements is consistent with the original requirements.

The evaluator notes in the ETR each case where analyses are not done or only partially done for this reason.

9.3 PP introduction (APE_INT)

9.3.1 Evaluation of sub-activity (APE_INT.1)

9.3.1.1 Objectives

The objective of this sub-activity is to determine whether the PP is correctly identified, and whether the PP reference and TOE overview are consistent with each other.

9.3.1.2 Input

Input for APE_INT.1 consists of the following:

— the PP.

9.3.1.3 Action APE_INT.1.1E

9.3.1.3.1 Evaluator action (ISO/IEC 15408-3:2026, 7.2.2)

The evaluator shall confirm that the information provided meets all requirements for content and presentation of evidence.

9.3.1.3.2 Content requirement APE_INT.1.1C (ISO/IEC 15408-3:2026, 7.2.2)

The PP introduction shall contain a PP reference and a TOE overview.

9.3.1.3.3 Work unit APE_INT.1-1

The evaluator ***shall check*** that the PP introduction contains a PP reference and a TOE overview.

9.3.1.3.4 Content requirement APE_INT.1.2C (ISO/IEC 15408-3:2026, 7.2.2)

The PP reference shall uniquely identify the PP.

9.3.1.3.5 Work unit APE_INT.1-2

The evaluator ***shall examine*** the PP reference to determine that it uniquely identifies the PP.

The evaluator determines that the PP reference identifies the PP itself, so that it can be easily distinguished from other PPs, and that it also uniquely identifies each version of the PP, e.g. by including a version number or a date of publication, or a combination.

The PP shall have some referencing system that is capable of supporting unique references (e.g. use of numbers, letters or dates).

9.3.1.3.6 Content requirement APE_INT.1.3C (ISO/IEC 15408-3:2026, 7.2.2)

The TOE overview shall summarize the usage and major security features of the TOE.

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9.3.1.3.7 Work unit APE_INT.1-3

The evaluator ***shall examine*** the TOE overview to determine that it describes the usage and major security features of the TOE.

The TOE overview should describe the usage and major security features expected of the TOE. The TOE overview should enable consumers and potential TOE developers to quickly determine whether the PP is of interest to them.

The evaluator determines that the overview is clear enough for TOE developers and consumers, and sufficient to give them a general understanding of the intended usage and major security features of the TOE.

9.3.1.3.8 Content requirement APE_INT.1.4C (ISO/IEC 15408-3:2026, 7.2.2)

The TOE overview shall identify the TOE type.

9.3.1.3.9 Work unit APE_INT.1-4

The evaluator ***shall check*** that the TOE overview identifies the TOE type.

9.3.1.3.10 Content requirement APE_INT.1.5C (ISO/IEC 15408-3:2026, 7.2.2)

The TOE overview shall identify any non-TOE hardware, software, firmware available to the TOE.

9.3.1.3.11 Work unit APE_INT.1-5

The evaluator ***shall examine*** the TOE overview to determine that it identifies all non-TOE hardware, software, and firmware available to the TOE.

While some TOEs can run stand-alone, other TOEs (notably software TOEs) need additional hardware, software or firmware to operate. In this section of the PP, the PP author lists all hardware, software, firmware that will be available for the TOE to run on.

This identification should be detailed enough for potential consumers and TOE developers to determine whether their TOE can operate with the listed hardware, software and firmware.

9.4 Conformance claims (APE_CCL)

9.4.1 Evaluation of sub-activity (APE_CCL.1)

9.4.1.1 Objectives

The objective of this sub-activity is to determine the validity of various conformance claims. These describe how the PP conforms to ISO/IEC 15408 series, other PPs and packages.

9.4.1.2 Input

Input for APE_CCL.1 consists of the following:

— the PP;

— the PP(s) that the PP claims conformance to;

— the package(s) that the PP claims conformance to.

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9.4.1.3 Action APE_CCL.1.1E

9.4.1.3.1 Evaluator action (ISO/IEC 15408-3:2026, 7.3.2)

The evaluator shall confirm that the information provided meets all requirements for content and presentation of evidence.

9.4.1.3.2 Content requirement APE_CCL.1.1C (ISO/IEC 15408-3:2026, 7.3.2)

The conformance claim shall identify the edition of the ISO/IEC 15408 series to which the PP claims conformance.

NOTE Previous editions can refer to withdrawn and replaced documents.

9.4.1.3.3 Work unit APE_CCL.1-1

The evaluator ***shall check*** that the conformance claim identifies the edition of ISO/IEC 15408 series to which the PP claims conformance.

The evaluator determines that the conformance claim identifies the edition of ISO/IEC 15408 series that was used to develop this PP. This shall include the edition number of ISO/IEC 15408 series and, unless the International English edition of ISO/IEC 15408 series was used, the language of the edition of ISO/IEC 15408 series that was used.

NOTE Previous editions can refer to withdrawn and replaced documents.

9.4.1.3.4 Content requirement APE_CCL.1.2C (ISO/IEC 15408-3:2026, 7.3.2)

The conformance claim shall describe the conformance of the PP to ISO/IEC 15408-2 as either "ISO/IEC 15408-2 conformant" or "ISO/IEC 15408-2 extended".

9.4.1.3.5 Work unit APE_CCL.1-2

The evaluator ***shall check*** that the conformance claim states a claim of either "ISO/IEC 15408-2 conformant" or "ISO/IEC 15408-2 extended" for the PP.

9.4.1.3.6 Content requirement APE_CCL.1.3C (ISO/IEC 15408-3:2026, 7.3.2)

The conformance claim shall describe the conformance of the PP to ISO/IEC 15408-3 as either "ISO/IEC 15408-3 conformant" or "ISO/IEC 15408-3 extended".

9.4.1.3.7 Work unit APE_CCL.1-3

The evaluator ***shall check*** that the conformance claim states a claim of either "ISO/IEC 15408-3 conformant" or "ISO/IEC 15408-3 extended" for the PP.

9.4.1.3.8 Content requirement APE_CCL.1.4C (ISO/IEC 15408-3:2026, 7.3.2)

The conformance claim shall be consistent with the extended components definition.

9.4.1.3.9 Work unit APE_CCL.1-4

The evaluator ***shall examine*** conformance claim for ISO/IEC 15408-2 to determine that it is consistent with the extended components definition.

If the conformance claim contains the statement "ISO/IEC 15408-2 conformant", the evaluator determines that the extended components definition does not define functional components.

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If the conformance claim contains ISO/IEC 15408-2 extended, the evaluator determines that the extended components definition defines at least one extended functional component.

9.4.1.3.10 Work unit APE_CCL.1-5

The evaluator ***shall examine*** the conformance claim for ISO/IEC 15408-3 to determine that it is consistent with the extended components definition.

If the conformance claim contains ISO/IEC 15408-3 conformant, the evaluator determines that the extended components definition does not define assurance components.

If the conformance claim contains ISO/IEC 15408-3 extended, the evaluator determines that the extended components definition defines at least one extended assurance component.

9.4.1.3.11 Content requirement APE_CCL.1.5C (ISO/IEC 15408-3:2026, 7.3.2)

The conformance claim shall identify all PPs and packages to which the PP claims conformance.

9.4.1.3.12 Work unit APE_CCL.1-6

The evaluator ***shall check*** that the conformance claim contains a PP claim that identifies all PPs for which the PP claims conformance.

If the PP does not claim conformance to another PP, this work unit is not applicable and therefore considered to be satisfied.

The evaluator determines that any referenced PPs are unambiguously identified (e.g. by title and version number, or by the identification included in the introduction of that PP).

The evaluator should keep in mind that claims of partial conformance to a PP are not permitted.

If the PP is of exact conformance type, the evaluator determines that the PP claims conformance to no other PPs. If the PP is not of exact conformance type, the evaluator determines that any PPs to which conformance is claimed do not require exact conformance in their conformance statement.

9.4.1.3.13 Work unit APE_CCL.1-7

The evaluator ***shall check***, for each identified functional package, that the package definition is complete.

If the PP does not claim conformance to a functional package, this work unit is not applicable and therefore considered to be satisfied.

The evaluator determines that the package definition is conformant to the requirements from ISO/IEC 15408-1:2026, Clause 9 by checking that the functional package includes:

— a functional package identification, giving a unique name, short name, version, date, sponsor, and the edition of the ISO/IEC 15408 series;

NOTE Previous editions can refer to withdrawn and replaced documents.

— a functional package overview, giving a narrative description of the security functionality;

— a component rationale that provides the rationale for selecting the functional components and requirements included in the package;

— if the package defines an SPD then:

  — the package includes a security requirements rationale,

  — the package includes a security objectives rationale if security objectives are defined,

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— if the package is a direct rationale package, there are no security objectives for the TOE defined and the security requirements rationale maps directly to the SPD,

— if the package is not a direct rationale package, then security objectives for the TOE are defined, the security objectives rationale covers the objectives with respect to the SPD, and the security requirements rationale maps the requirements to the security objectives;

— one or more security components or requirements (the functional package SFRs);

— if extended components have been specified then the functional package includes an extended components definition.

9.4.1.3.14 Work unit APE_CCL.1-8

The evaluator ***shall check***, for each identified assurance package, that the package definition is complete.

If the PP does not claim conformance to an assurance package, this work unit is not applicable and therefore considered to be satisfied.

If the assurance package is a reference to one of the assurance packages contained in ISO/IEC 15408-5 then this work unit is also considered to be satisfied.

The evaluator determines that the package definition is conformant to the requirements from ISO/IEC 15408-1:2026, Clause 9 by checking that the assurance package includes:

— an assurance package identification, giving a unique name, short name, version, date, sponsor, and the edition of the ISO/IEC 15408 series;

NOTE Previous editions can refer to withdrawn and replaced documents.

— an assurance package overview, giving a narrative description of the purpose;

— one or more security components or requirements (the assurance package SARs) drawn from ISO/IEC 15408-3, extended assurance components or some combination of both;

— if extended components have been specified then the assurance package includes an extended components definition;

— a security requirements rationale that provides the rationale for selecting the assurance components and requirements included in the package.

An assurance package shall not include an SPD or security objectives.

9.4.1.3.15 Content requirement APE_CCL.1.6C (ISO/IEC 15408-3:2026, 7.3.2)

The conformance claim shall describe any conformance of the PP to a functional package as one of package-conformant, package-augmented, or package-tailored.

9.4.1.3.16 Work unit APE_CCL.1-9

The evaluator ***shall check*** that, for each identified functional package, the conformance claim states a claim of conformance to that package as either package-conformant, package-augmented, or package-tailored.

If the PP does not claim conformance to a functional package, this work unit is not applicable and therefore considered to be satisfied.

If the package conformance claim contains the status of package-conformant, the evaluator determines that all the assumptions, threats, OSPs, security objectives and SFRs included in the package are included in identical form in the PP and ensures that any operations (iteration, assignment, selection and refinement) performed on the SFRs defined in the functional package are correct and follow the rules for operations.

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If the package conformance claim contains the status of package-augmented, the evaluator determines that all the assumptions, threats, OSPs, security objectives, and SFRs included in the package are included in identical form in the PP with the following exception: the PP shall have either one additional SFR or one SFR that is hierarchically higher than an SFR in the functional package or both. The evaluator ensures that any operations (iteration, assignment, selection and refinement) performed on the SFRs defined in the functional package are correct and follow the rules for operations.

If the package conformance claim contains the status of package-tailored, the evaluator determines that all the assumptions, threats, OSPs, Security Objectives, and SFRs included in the package are included in identical form in the PP with the following exceptions:

— at least one of these SFRs is modified by adding some selection items to the original selection items defined in the functional package and, optionally;

— the PP has additional SFRs or SFRs, or both that are hierarchically higher than an SFR in the functional package.

The evaluator ensures that any operations (iteration, assignment, selection and refinement) performed on the SFRs defined in the functional package are correct and follow the rules for operations.

9.4.1.3.17 Content requirement APE_CCL.1.7C (ISO/IEC 15408-3:2026, 7.3.2)

The conformance claim shall describe any conformance of the PP to an assurance package as either package-conformant or package-augmented.

9.4.1.3.18 Work unit APE_CCL.1-10

The evaluator ***shall check*** that, for each identified assurance package, the conformance claim states a claim of conformance to that package as one of package-conformant or package-augmented.

If the package conformance claim contains package-conformant, the evaluator determines that the PP contains all SARs included in the package, but no additional SARs.

If the package conformance claim contains package-augmented, the evaluator determines that the PP contains all SARs included in the package, and at least one additional SAR or at least one SAR that is hierarchically higher than a SAR in the package.

If the PP does not claim conformance to an assurance package, this work unit is not applicable and therefore considered to be satisfied.

9.4.1.3.19 Content requirement APE_CCL.1.8C (ISO/IEC 15408-3:2026, 7.3.2)

The conformance claim shall describe any conformance of the PP to another PP as PP-Conformant.

9.4.1.3.20 Work unit APE_CCL.1-11

The evaluator ***shall check*** that if the PP claims conformance to another PP, that claim is described as PP-Conformant.

If the PP does not claim conformance to another PP, this work unit is considered satisfied.

9.4.1.3.21 Content requirement APE_CCL.1.9C (ISO/IEC 15408-3:2026, 7.3.2)

The conformance claim rationale shall demonstrate that the TOE type is consistent with the TOE type in the PP(s) to which conformance is being claimed.

9.4.1.3.22 Work unit APE_CCL.1-12

The evaluator ***shall examine*** the conformance claim rationale to determine that the TOE type of the TOE is consistent with all TOE types of the PPs.

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If the PP does not claim conformance to another PP, this work unit is not applicable and therefore considered to be satisfied.

The relation between the types can be:

— simple, e.g. a firewall PP claiming conformance to another firewall PP; or

— more complex e.g. a smart card PP claiming conformance to a number of other PPs at the same time, including a PP for the integrated circuit, a PP for the smart card OS, and two PPs for two applications on the smart card.

9.4.1.3.23 Content requirement APE_CCL.1.10C (ISO/IEC 15408-3:2026, 7.3.2)

The conformance claim rationale shall demonstrate that the statement of the security problem definition is consistent with the statement of the security problem definition in the PPs and any functional packages for which conformance is being claimed.

9.4.1.3.24 Work unit APE_CCL.1-13

The evaluator ***shall examine*** the conformance claim rationale to determine that it demonstrates that the statement of security problem definition is consistent with the statements of security problem definition stated in the PPs and functional packages to which conformance is being claimed. When doing so the evaluator shall also take into consideration the conformance statements of PPs to which conformance is being claimed.

If the PP under evaluation does not claim conformance with any PP or functional packages, this work unit is not applicable and therefore considered to be satisfied.

If the conformance claim includes functional packages, the evaluator determines that the security problem definition of the PP under evaluation consists of all assumptions, threats and OSPs of all functional packages.

The terms exact, strict and demonstrable conformance are defined in ISO/IEC 15408-1.

If packages are used, the rules defined in the following paragraphs concerning strict and demonstrable conformance also hold for the SPD descriptions taken from the packages.

A PP that specifies strict or demonstrable conformance in its conformance statement shall only claim conformance to another PP whose conformance statement requires strict or demonstrable conformance. These are the only cases covered in the remainder of this work unit. If strict conformance is required by the PP to which conformance is being claimed, no conformance claim rationale is required. Instead, the evaluator determines whether:

— the threats in the PP under evaluation are a superset of or identical to the threats in the PP to which conformance is being claimed;

— the OSPs in the PP under evaluation are a superset of or identical to the OSPs in the PP to which conformance is being claimed;

— the assumptions in the PP claiming conformance are identical to the assumptions in the PP to which conformance is being claimed, with two possible exceptions:

  — an assumption (or part of an assumption) from the PP to which conformance is claimed, can be omitted, if all security objectives for the operational environment addressing this assumption (or part of an assumption) are replaced by security objectives for the TOE;

  — an assumption can be added to the assumptions defined in the PP to which conformance is claimed, if a justification is given, why the new assumption neither mitigates a threat (or a part of a threat) meant to be addressed by security objectives for the TOE in the PP to which conformance is claimed, nor fulfils an OSP (or part of an OSP) meant to be addressed by security objectives for the TOE in the PP to which conformance is claimed.

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The following points give some motivation and examples for cases where a PP omits assumptions from another PP to which conformance is claimed, or adds new assumptions:

a) example of omitting an assumption: a PP to which conformance is claimed, contains an assumption stating that the operational environment prevents unauthorized modification or interception of data sent to an external interface of the TOE. This can be the case if the TOE accepts data in clear text and without integrity protection at this interface and is assumed to be located in a secure operational environment, which will prevent attackers from accessing these data. The assumption will then be mapped in the PP, to which conformance is claimed, to some objective for the operational environment stating that the data interchanged at this interface are protected by adequate measures in the operational environment. If a PP claiming this PP, defines a more secure TOE, which has an additional security objective stating that the TOE itself protects these data, for example by providing a secure channel for encryption and integrity protection of all data transferred via this interface, the corresponding objective and assumption for the operational environment can be omitted from the PP claiming conformance. This is also called re-assigning of the objective, since the objective is re-assigned from the operational environment to the TOE. It should be noted that this TOE is still secure in an operational environment fulfilling the omitted assumption and therefore still fulfils the PP to which conformance is claimed;

b) example of adding an assumption: the PP to which conformance is claimed, is designed to specify requirements for a TOE of type "Firewall" and the author of another PP wishes to claim conformance to this PP for a TOE, which implements a firewall, but additionally provides the functionality of a virtual private network (VPN) component. For the VPN functionality, the TOE requires cryptographic keys. It can be necessary for these keys to be handled securely by the operational environment (e.g. if symmetric keys are used to secure the network connection and therefore are required to be provided in some secure way to other components in the network). In this case, it is acceptable to add an assumption that the cryptographic keys used by the VPN are handled securely by the operational environment. This assumption does not address threats or OSPs of the PP to which conformance is claimed, and therefore fulfils the conditions stated above;

c) counterexample of adding an assumption: in a variant of a), it is possible that a PP to which conformance is claimed, already contains an objective for the TOE to provide a secure channel for one of its interfaces, and this objective is mapped to a threat of unauthorized modification or reading of the data on this interface. In this case, it is clearly not permitted for another PP claiming this PP, to add an assumption for the operational environment, which assumes that the operational environment protects data on this interface against modification or unauthorized reading of the data. This assumption would reduce a threat, which is meant to be addressed by the TOE. Therefore, a TOE fulfilling a PP with this added assumption would not automatically fulfil the PP to which conformance is claimed. Thus, this addition is not permitted;

d) second counterexample of adding an assumption: In b), it would not be admissible to add a general assumption that the TOE is only connected to trusted devices, because this would obviously remove essential threats relevant for a firewall (namely that there is untrusted IP traffic, which requires filtering). Therefore, this addition would not be allowed.

If demonstrable conformance is required by the PP to which conformance is being claimed, the evaluator examines the conformance claim rationale to determine that it demonstrates that the statement of security problem definition of the PP under evaluation is equivalent or more restrictive than the statement of security problem definition in the PP to which conformance is being claimed.

For this, the conformance claim rationale shall demonstrate that the security problem definition in the PP claiming conformance is equivalent to, or more restrictive than, the security problem definition in the PP to which conformance is claimed. This means that:

— all TOEs that would meet the security problem definition in the PP claiming conformance also meet the security problem definition in the PP to which conformance is claimed. This can also be shown indirectly by demonstrating that every event, which realizes a threat defined in the PP to which conformance is claimed, or violates an OSP defined in the PP to which conformance is claimed, would also realize a threat stated in the PP claiming conformance or violate an OSP defined in the PP claiming conformance. Note that fulfilling an OSP stated in the PP claiming conformance can avert a threat stated in the PP to

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which conformance is claimed, or that averting a threat stated in the PP claiming conformance can fulfil an OSP stated in the PP to which conformance is claimed, so threats and OSPs can substitute each other;

— all operational environments that would meet the security problem definition in the PP to which conformance is claimed, would also meet the security problem definition in the PP claiming conformance (with one exception in the next bullet);

— besides a set of assumptions in the PP claiming conformance needed to demonstrate conformance to the SPD of the PP to which conformance is claimed, a PP claiming conformance can specify further assumptions, but only if these additional assumptions are independent of and do not affect the security problem definition as defined in the PP to which conformance is claimed. Furthermore, there are no assumptions in the PP claiming conformance that exclude threats to the TOE that shall be countered by the TOE according to the PP to which conformance is claimed. Similarly, there are no assumptions in the PP claiming conformance that realize aspects of an OSP stated in the PP to which conformance is claimed, which are meant to be fulfilled by the TOE according to the PP to which conformance is claimed.

9.4.1.3.25 Content requirement APE_CCL.1.11C (ISO/IEC 15408-3:2026, 7.3.2)

The conformance claim rationale shall demonstrate that the statement of security objectives is consistent with the statement of security objectives in the PPs and any functional packages for which conformance is being claimed.

9.4.1.3.26 Work unit APE_CCL.1-14

The evaluator ***shall examine*** the conformance claim rationale to determine that the statement of security objectives is consistent with the statement of security objectives in the PPs and functional packages to which conformance is being claimed, taking into consideration the conformance statement of PPs to which conformance is being claimed.

If the PP does not claim conformance to another PP nor to functional packages, this work unit is not applicable and therefore considered to be satisfied.

If conformance is claimed to any functional packages, the evaluator determines that the security objectives of the PP under evaluation include all security objectives of all functional packages to which conformance is claimed.

If packages are used, the rules defined in the following paragraphs concerning strict and demonstrable conformance also hold for the security objectives taken from the packages.

Note that since a PP can only claim conformance to another PP whose conformance statement requires strict or demonstrable conformance, those are the only cases covered in the following paragraphs. If strict conformance is required by the PP to which conformance is being claimed, no conformance claim rationale is required. Instead, the evaluator determines whether:

— the PP under evaluation contains all security objectives for the TOE of the PP to which conformance is being claimed. Note that it is allowed for the PP under evaluation to have additional security objectives for the TOE;

— the security objectives for the operational environment in the PP claiming conformance are identical to the security objectives for the operational environment in the PP to which conformance is being claimed, with two possible exceptions described in the following two bullet points:

  — a security objective for the operational environment (or part of such security objective) from the PP to which conformance is claimed, can be replaced by the same (part of the) security objective stated for the TOE;

  — a security objective for the operational environment can be added to the objectives defined in the PP to which conformance is claimed, if a justification is given, why the new objective neither mitigates a threat (or a part of a threat) meant to be addressed by security objectives for the TOE in the PP to which conformance is claimed, nor fulfils an OSP (or part of an OSP) meant to be addressed by security objectives for the TOE in the PP to which conformance is claimed.

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When examining a PP claiming another PP which omits security objectives for the operational environment from the PP to which conformance is claimed, or adds new security objectives for the operational environment, the evaluator shall carefully determine, if the conditions of this work unit are fulfilled. The examples given for the case of assumptions in the preceding work unit are also valid here.

If demonstrable conformance is required by the PP to which conformance is being claimed, the evaluator examines the conformance claim rationale to determine that it demonstrates that the statement of security objectives of the PP under evaluation is equivalent or more restrictive than the statement of security objectives in the PP to which conformance is being claimed.

For this the conformance claim rationale shall demonstrate that the security objectives in the PP claiming conformance are equivalent to (or more restrictive than) the security objectives in the PP to which conformance is claimed. This means that:

— all TOEs that would meet the security objectives for the TOE in the PP claiming conformance also meet the security objectives for the TOE in the PP to which conformance is claimed;

— all operational environments that would meet the security objectives for the operational environment in the PP to which conformance is claimed, would also meet the security objectives for the operational environment in the PP claiming conformance (with one exception in the next bullet);

— besides a set of security objectives for the operational environment in the PP claiming conformance, which are used to demonstrate conformance to the set of security objectives defined in the PP to which conformance is claimed, a PP claiming conformance can specify further security objectives for the operational environment, but only if these security objectives neither affect the original set of security objectives for the TOE nor the security objectives for the operational environment as defined in the PP to which conformance is claimed.

9.4.1.3.27 Content requirement APE_CCL.1.12C (ISO/IEC 15408-3:2026, 7.3.2)

The conformance claim rationale shall demonstrate that the statement of security requirements is consistent with the statement of security requirements in the PPs and any functional packages for which conformance is being claimed.

9.4.1.3.28 Work unit APE_CCL.1-15

The evaluator ***shall examine*** the PP to determine that the statement of security requirements is consistent with all security requirements stated in the PPs and any functional packages to which conformance is being claimed, taking into consideration the conformance statements of PPs to which conformance is being claimed.

If the PP does not claim conformance to another PP nor to functional packages, this work unit is not applicable and therefore considered to be satisfied.

If conformance is claimed to any functional packages, the evaluator determines that the SFRs of the PP under evaluation include all SFRs (or hierarchical SFRs) of all functional packages to which conformance is claimed.

If packages are used, the rules defined in this work unit concerning strict and demonstrable conformance also hold for the SFRs taken from the packages.

Note that since a PP can only claim conformance to another PP whose conformance statement requires strict or demonstrable conformance, those are the only cases covered in the following paragraphs.

If strict conformance is required by the PP to which conformance is being claimed, no conformance claim rationale is required. Instead, the evaluator determines whether the statement of security requirements in the PP under evaluation is a superset of or identical to the statement of security requirements in the PP to which conformance is being claimed (for strict conformance).

If demonstrable conformance is required by the PP to which conformance is being claimed, the evaluator examines the conformance claim rationale to determine that it demonstrates that the statement of security

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requirements of the PP under evaluation is equivalent or more restrictive than the statement of security requirements in the PP to which conformance is being claimed.

For SFRs:

— the conformance rationale in the PP claiming conformance shall demonstrate that the overall set of requirements defined by the SFRs in the PP claiming conformance is equivalent (or more restrictive) than the overall set of requirements defined by the SFRs in the PP to which conformance is claimed. This means that all TOEs that would meet the requirements defined by the set of all SFRs in the PP claiming conformance would also meet the requirements defined by the set of all SFRs in the PP to which conformance is claimed.

For SARs:

— the PP claiming conformance shall contain all SARs in the PP to which conformance is claimed, but can claim additional SARs or replace SARs by hierarchically stronger SARs. The completion of operations in the PP claiming conformance shall be consistent with that in the PP to which conformance is claimed; either the same completion will be used in the PP claiming conformance as that in the PP to which conformance is claimed or a completion that makes the SAR more restrictive (the rules of refinement apply).

9.4.1.3.29 Content requirement APE_CCL.1.13C (ISO/IEC 15408-3:2026, 7.3.2)

The conformance statement shall describe the conformance required of any PPs and STs to the PP as one of exact, strict, or demonstrable conformance.

9.4.1.3.30 Work unit APE_CCL.1-16

The evaluator ***shall check*** that the PP conformance statement states a claim of exact, strict or demonstrable conformance.

9.4.1.3.31 Content requirement APE_CCL.1.14C (ISO/IEC 15408-3:2026, 7.3.2)

For an exact conformance PP, the conformance statement shall contain an allowed-with statement that identifies the set of PPs (if any) to which, in combination with the PP under evaluation, exact conformance is allowed to be claimed.

9.4.1.3.32 Work unit APE_CCL.1-17

The evaluator ***shall check*** the conformance statement to determine that it contains an "allowed-with" statement that lists the set of PPs to which, in combination with the PP being evaluated, an exact conformance claim (in an ST or PP-Configuration) is allowed.

If the PP does not require exact conformance in its conformance statement, this work unit does not apply and is therefore considered satisfied.

If the PP does not allow claims of exact conformance to it in combination with any other PPs, then no list of PPs is required and this work unit is considered satisfied.

The usage of the allowed-with statement is a matter of policy and is not addressed here. There are no other actions for the evaluator other than determining that the list is present.

9.4.1.3.33 Content requirement APE_CCL.1.15C (ISO/IEC 15408-3:2026, 7.3.2)

For an exact conformance PP, the conformance statement shall contain an allowed-with statement that identifies the set of PP-Modules (if any) that are allowed to be used with the PP under evaluation in a PP-Configuration.

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9.4.1.3.34 Work unit APE_CCL.1-18

The evaluator ***shall check*** the conformance statement to determine that it contains an allowed-with statement that lists the set of PP-Modules that, in combination with the PP being evaluated, can be present in a PP-Configuration that requires exact conformance.

If the PP does not require exact conformance in its conformance statement, this work unit does not apply and is therefore considered satisfied.

If the PP does not allow claims of exact conformance to it in combination with any PP-Modules, then no list of PP-Modules is required and this work unit is considered satisfied.

The usage of the allowed-with statement is a matter of policy and is not addressed here. There are no other actions for the evaluator other than determining that the list is present.

9.4.1.3.35 Content requirement APE_CCL.1.16C (ISO/IEC 15408-3:2026, 7.3.2)

The conformance statement shall identify the set of derived evaluation methods and evaluation activities (if any) that shall be used with the PP under evaluation. This list shall contain:

— any evaluation methods and evaluation activities that are specified for the PP under evaluation;

— any evaluation methods and evaluation activities specified in conformance statements of PPs to which conformance is being claimed by the PP under evaluation;

— any evaluation methods and evaluation activities specified in the Security Requirements sections of packages to which conformance is being claimed by the PP under evaluation.

9.4.1.3.36 Work unit APE_CCL.1-19

The evaluator ***shall check*** the conformance statement of the PP under evaluation to determine that:

— if any derived evaluation methods and evaluation activities are required by other items to which the PP claims conformance then these are all identified in the PP under evaluation, along with any derived evaluation methods and evaluation activities that the PP itself requires;

— the list of derived evaluation methods and evaluation activities is sufficiently structured and detailed to unambiguously identify and locate every member of the list;

— if there is any overlap in the scope of the identified evaluation methods and evaluation activities (i.e. where an overlay exists as described in ISO/IEC 15408-4) then the rationale for the resulting set of evaluation methods and evaluation activities is applicable to the TOE as described by the PP under evaluation.

The intention of this work unit is to ensure that when evaluating a TOE that claims conformance with the PP under evaluation then the correct evaluation methods and evaluation activities can be used.

Where the individual evaluation activities are unambiguously included in a PP these activities are not required to be individually listed in a listed evaluation method. Similarly, where multiple evaluation methods or evaluation activities are included in a single document then it is sufficient to reference the document, provided that this does lead to unambiguous identification of the evaluation methods and evaluation activities that apply to the PP under evaluation.

If a document lists multiple different evaluation methods applicable to different use cases then it is not sufficient to reference the document; it is also necessary to identify the relevant use cases.

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9.5 Security problem definition (APE_SPD)

9.5.1 Evaluation of sub-activity (APE_SPD.1)

9.5.1.1 Objectives

The objective of this sub-activity is to determine that the security problem intended to be addressed by the TOE and its operational environment is clearly defined.

9.5.1.2 Input

Input for APE_SPD.1 consists of the following:

— the PP.

9.5.1.3 Action APE_SPD.1.1E

9.5.1.3.1 Evaluator action (ISO/IEC 15408-3:2026, 7.4.2)

The evaluator shall confirm that the information provided meets all requirements for content and presentation of evidence.

9.5.1.3.2 Content requirement APE_SPD.1.1C (ISO/IEC 15408-3:2026, 7.4.2)

The security problem definition shall describe the threats.

9.5.1.3.3 Work unit APE_SPD.1-1

The evaluator ***shall check*** that the security problem definition describes the threats.

It is not necessary for the statement of threats to be present in the PP if all security objectives are only derived from either assumptions or OSPs or both. In this case, this work unit is not applicable and therefore considered to be satisfied.

The evaluator determines that the security problem definition describes the threats that shall be countered by either the TOE or its operational environment or both.

Note that if optional requirements are defined by the PP, there can be associated threats that are covered by this work unit.

9.5.1.3.4 Content requirement APE_SPD.1.2C (ISO/IEC 15408-3:2026, 7.4.2)

All threats shall be described in terms of a threat agent, an asset, and an adverse action.

9.5.1.3.5 Work unit APE_SPD.1-2

The evaluator ***shall examine*** the security problem definition to determine that all threats are described in terms of a threat agent, an asset, and an adverse action.

It is not necessary for the statement of threats to be present in the PP if all security objectives are only derived from assumptions and OSPs. In this case, this work unit is not applicable and therefore considered to be satisfied.

Threat agents can be further described by aspects such as expertise, resource, opportunity, and motivation.

9.5.1.3.6 Content requirement APE_SPD.1.3C (ISO/IEC 15408-3:2026, 7.4.2)

The security problem definition shall describe the organizational security policies (OSPs).

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9.5.1.3.7 Work unit APE_SPD.1-3

The evaluator ***shall examine*** that the security problem definition describes the OSPs.

It is not necessary for OSPs to be present in the PP if all security objectives are only derived from either assumptions or threats, or both. In this case, this work unit is not applicable and therefore considered to be satisfied.

The evaluator determines that OSP statements are made in terms of rules or guidelines that shall be followed by either the TOE or its operational environment or both.

The evaluator determines that each OSP is either explained or interpreted, or both, in sufficient detail to make it clearly understandable; a clear presentation of policy statements is necessary to permit tracing security objectives to them.

Note that if optional requirements are defined by the PP, there can be associated OSPs that are covered by this work unit.

9.5.1.3.8 Content requirement APE_SPD.1.4C (ISO/IEC 15408-3:2026, 7.4.2)

The security problem definition shall describe the assumptions about the operational environment of the TOE.

9.5.1.3.9 Work unit APE_SPD.1-4

The evaluator ***shall examine*** the security problem definition to determine that it describes the assumptions about the operational environment of the TOE.

If there are no assumptions, this work unit is not applicable and is therefore considered to be satisfied.

The evaluator determines that each assumption about the operational environment of the TOE is explained in sufficient detail to enable consumers to determine that their operational environment matches the assumption. If the assumptions are not clearly understood, the end result can be that the TOE is used in an operational environment in which it will not function in a secure manner.

9.6 Security objectives (APE_OBJ)

9.6.1 Evaluation of sub-activity (APE_OBJ.1)

9.6.1.1 Objectives

The objective of this sub-activity is to determine whether the security objectives for the operational environment are clearly defined.

9.6.1.2 Input

Input for APE_OBJ.1 consists of the following:

— the PP.

9.6.1.3 Action APE_OBJ.1.1E

9.6.1.3.1 Evaluator action (ISO/IEC 15408-3:2026, 7.5.3)

The evaluator shall confirm that the information provided meets all requirements for content and presentation of evidence.

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9.6.1.3.2 Content requirement APE_OBJ.1.1C (ISO/IEC 15408-3:2026, 7.5.3)

The statement of security objectives shall describe the security objectives for the operational environment.

9.6.1.3.3 Work unit APE_OBJ.1-1

The evaluator ***shall check*** that the statement of security objectives defines the security objectives for the operational environment.

The evaluator checks that the security objectives for the operational environment are identified.

9.6.1.3.4 Content requirement APE_OBJ.1.2C (ISO/IEC 15408-3:2026, 7.5.3)

The security objectives rationale shall trace each security objective for the operational environment back to threats countered by that security objective, OSPs enforced by that security objective, and assumptions upheld by that security objective.

9.6.1.3.5 Work unit APE_OBJ.1-2

The evaluator ***shall check*** that the security objectives rationale traces the security objectives for the operational environment back to threats countered by that security objective, to OSPs enforced by that security objective, and to assumptions upheld by that security objective.

Each security objective for the operational environment can trace back to threats, OSPs, assumptions, or a combination of threats, OSPs, and assumptions, but it shall trace back to at least one threat, OSP or assumption.

Failure to trace a security objective for the operational environment back to at least a threat, OSP or assumption, implies that either the security objectives rationale is incomplete, the security problem definition is incomplete, or the security objective for the operational environment has no useful purpose.

There is no prescribed location where this tracing element of the rationale shall be placed: for example, the relevant parts can be located under each threat, OSP and assumption in order to help make the security argument clearer and easier to read.

9.6.1.3.6 Content requirement APE_OBJ.1.3C (ISO/IEC 15408-3:2026, 7.5.3)

The security objectives rationale shall demonstrate that the security objectives for the operational environment uphold all assumptions.

9.6.1.3.7 Work unit APE_OBJ.1-3

The evaluator ***shall examine*** the security objectives rationale to determine that for each assumption for the operational environment it contains an appropriate justification that the security objectives for the operational environment are suitable to uphold that assumption.

If no security objectives for the operational environment trace back to the assumption, the evaluator action related to this work unit is assigned a fail verdict.

The evaluator determines that the justification for an assumption about the operational environment of the TOE demonstrates that the security objectives are sufficient: if all security objectives for the operational environment that trace back to that assumption are achieved, the operational environment upholds the assumption.

The evaluator also determines that each security objective for the operational environment that traces back to an assumption about the operational environment of the TOE is necessary: when the security objective is achieved it actually contributes to the operational environment upholding the assumption.

Simply listing in the security objectives rationale the security objectives for the operational environment associated with each assumption can be a part of a justification, but does not constitute a justification by

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itself. A descriptive justification is required, although in simple cases this justification can be as minimal as "Security Objective X directly upholds Assumption Y".

9.6.2 Evaluation of sub-activity (APE_OBJ.2)

9.6.2.1 Objectives

The objective of this sub-activity is to determine whether the security objectives adequately and completely address the security problem definition and that the division of this problem between the TOE and its operational environment is clearly defined.

9.6.2.2 Input

Input for APE_OBJ.2 consists of the following:

— the PP.

9.6.2.3 Action APE_OBJ.2.1E

9.6.2.3.1 Evaluator action (ISO/IEC 15408-3:2026, 7.5.4)

The evaluator shall confirm that the information provided meets all requirements for content and presentation of evidence.

9.6.2.3.2 Content requirement APE_OBJ.2.1C (ISO/IEC 15408-3:2026, 7.5.4)

The statement of security objectives shall describe the security objectives for the TOE and the security objectives for the operational environment.

9.6.2.3.3 Work unit APE_OBJ.2-1

The evaluator ***shall check*** that the statement of security objectives defines the security objectives for the TOE and the security objectives for the operational environment.

The evaluator checks that both categories of security objectives are clearly identified and separated from the other category.

9.6.2.3.4 Content requirement APE_OBJ.2.2C (ISO/IEC 15408-3:2026, 7.5.4)

The security objectives rationale shall trace each security objective for the TOE back to threats countered by that security objective and OSPs enforced by that security objective.

9.6.2.3.5 Work unit APE_OBJ.2-2

The evaluator ***shall check*** that the security objectives rationale traces all security objectives for the TOE back to threats countered by either the objectives or OSPs enforced by the objectives, or both.

Each security objective for the TOE can trace back to threats or OSPs, or a combination of threats and OSPs, but it shall trace back to at least one threat or OSP. Optional requirements can require threats and OSPs to be specified, and security objectives associated with these SPD elements are also covered by this work unit.

Failure to trace a security objective for the TOE back to at least one threat or OSP, implies that either the security objectives rationale is incomplete, the security problem definition is incomplete, or the security objective for the TOE has no useful purpose.

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9.6.2.3.6 Content requirement APE_OBJ.2.3C (ISO/IEC 15408-3:2026, 7.5.4)

The security objectives rationale shall trace each security objective for the operational environment back to threats countered by that security objective, OSPs enforced by that security objective, and assumptions upheld by that security objective.

9.6.2.3.7 Work unit APE_OBJ.2-3

The evaluator ***shall check*** that the security objectives rationale traces the security objectives for the operational environment back to threats countered by that security objective, to OSPs enforced by that security objective, and to assumptions upheld by that security objective.

Each security objective for the operational environment can trace back to threats, OSPs, assumptions, or a combination of threats, OSPs and assumptions, but it shall trace back to at least one threat, OSP or assumption.

Failure to trace a security objective for the operational environment back to at least one threat, OSP, or assumption, implies that either the security objectives rationale is incomplete, the security problem definition is incomplete, or the security objective for the operational environment has no useful purpose.

9.6.2.3.8 Content requirement APE_OBJ.2.4C (ISO/IEC 15408-3:2026, 7.5.4)

The security objectives rationale shall demonstrate that the security objectives counter all threats.

9.6.2.3.9 Work unit APE_OBJ.2-4

The evaluator ***shall examine*** the security objectives rationale to determine that it justifies for each threat that the security objectives are suitable to counter that threat.

If no security objectives trace back to the threat, the evaluator action related to this work unit is assigned a fail verdict.

The evaluator determines that the justification for a threat shows whether the threat is removed, diminished or mitigated.

The evaluator determines that the justification for a threat demonstrates that the security objectives are sufficient: if all security objectives that trace back to the threat are achieved, the threat is removed, sufficiently diminished, or the effects of the threat are sufficiently mitigated.

The tracings from security objectives to threats provided in the security objectives rationale can be part of a justification, but do not constitute a justification by themselves. Even in the case that a security objective is merely a statement reflecting the intent to prevent a particular threat from being realised, a justification is required. This justification can be as minimal as "Security Objective X directly counters Threat Y".

The evaluator also determines that each security objective that traces back to a threat is necessary: when the security objective is achieved it actually contributes to the removal, diminishing or mitigation of that threat.

9.6.2.3.10 Content requirement APE_OBJ.2.5C (ISO/IEC 15408-3:2026, 7.5.4)

The security objectives rationale shall demonstrate that the security objectives enforce all OSPs.

9.6.2.3.11 Work unit APE_OBJ.2-5

The evaluator ***shall examine*** the security objectives rationale to determine that for each OSP it justifies that the security objectives are suitable to enforce that OSP.

If no security objectives trace back to the OSP, the evaluator action related to this work unit is assigned a fail verdict.

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The evaluator determines that the justification for an OSP demonstrates that the security objectives are sufficient: if all security objectives that trace back to that OSP are achieved, the OSP is enforced.

The evaluator also determines that each security objective that traces back to an OSP is necessary: when the security objective is achieved it actually contributes to the enforcement of the OSP.

The tracings from security objectives to OSPs provided in the security objectives rationale can be part of a justification, but do not constitute a justification by themselves. In the case that a security objective is merely a statement reflecting the intent to enforce a particular OSP, a justification is required, but this justification can be as minimal as "Security Objective X directly enforces OSP Y".

9.6.2.3.12 Content requirement APE_OBJ.2.6C (ISO/IEC 15408-3:2026, 7.5.4)

The security objectives rationale shall demonstrate that the security objectives for the operational environment uphold all assumptions.

9.6.2.3.13 Work unit APE_OBJ.2-6

The evaluator ***shall examine*** the security objectives rationale to determine that for each assumption for the operational environment it contains an appropriate justification that the security objectives for the operational environment are suitable to uphold that assumption.

If no security objectives for the operational environment trace back to the assumption, the evaluator action related to this work unit is assigned a fail verdict.

The evaluator determines that the justification for an assumption about the operational environment of the TOE demonstrates that the security objectives are sufficient: if all security objectives for the operational environment that trace back to that assumption are achieved, the operational environment upholds the assumption.

The evaluator also determines that each security objective for the operational environment that traces back to an assumption about the operational environment of the TOE is necessary: when the security objective is achieved it actually contributes to the operational environment upholding the assumption.

The tracings from security objectives for the operational environment to assumptions provided in the security objectives rationale can be a part of a justification, but do not constitute a justification by themselves. Even in the case that a security objective of the operational environment is merely a restatement of an assumption, a justification is required, but this justification can be as minimal as "Security Objective X directly upholds Assumption Y".

9.7 Extended components definition (APE_ECD)

9.7.1 Evaluation of sub-activity (APE_ECD.1)

9.7.1.1 Objectives

The objective of this sub-activity is to determine whether extended components have been clearly and unambiguously defined, and whether they are necessary, i.e. it is not possible to express them clearly by using existing components from ISO/IEC 15408-2 or ISO/IEC 15408-3.

9.7.1.2 Input

Input for APE_ECD.1 consists of the following:

— the PP.

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9.7.1.3 Action APE_ECD.1.1E

9.7.1.3.1 Evaluator action (ISO/IEC 15408-3:2026, 7.6.2)

The evaluator shall confirm that the information provided meets all requirements for content and presentation of evidence.

9.7.1.3.2 Content requirement APE_ECD.1.1C (ISO/IEC 15408-3:2026, 7.6.2)

The statement of security requirements shall identify all extended security requirements.

9.7.1.3.3 Work unit APE_ECD.1-1

The evaluator ***shall check*** that all security requirements in the statement of security requirements that are not identified as extended requirements are present in ISO/IEC 15408-2 or in ISO/IEC 15408-3

9.7.1.3.4 Content requirement APE_ECD.1.2C (ISO/IEC 15408-3:2026, 7.6.2)

The extended components definition shall define an extended component for each extended security requirement.

9.7.1.3.5 Work unit APE_ECD.1-2

The evaluator ***shall check*** that the extended components definition defines an extended component for each extended security requirement.

If the PP does not contain extended security requirements, this work unit is not applicable and therefore considered to be satisfied.

A single extended component may be used to define multiple iterations of an extended security requirement, it is not necessary to repeat this definition for each iteration.

9.7.1.3.6 Content requirement APE_ECD.1.3C (ISO/IEC 15408-3:2026, 7.6.2)

The extended components definition shall describe how each extended component is related to the existing components, families, and classes of ISO/IEC 15408-2 and ISO/IEC 15408-3.

9.7.1.3.7 Work unit APE_ECD.1-3

The evaluator ***shall examine*** the extended components definition to determine that it describes how each extended component fits into the existing ISO/IEC 15408 series components, families, and classes.

If the PP does not contain extended security requirements, this work unit is not applicable and therefore considered to be satisfied.

The evaluator determines that each extended component is either:

— a member of an existing ISO/IEC 15408-2 or ISO/IEC 15408-3 family; or

— a member of a new family defined in the PP.

If the extended component is a member of an existing ISO/IEC 15408-2 or ISO/IEC 15408-3 family, the evaluator determines that the extended components definition adequately describes why the extended component can be considered a member of that family and how it relates to other components of that family.

If the extended component is a member of a new family defined in the PP, the evaluator confirms that the extended component is not appropriate for an existing family.

If the PP defines new families, the evaluator determines that each new family is either:

— a member of an existing ISO/IEC 15408-2 or ISO/IEC 15408-3 class; or

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— a member of a new class defined in the PP.

If the family is a member of an existing ISO/IEC 15408-2 or ISO/IEC 15408-3 class, the evaluator determines that the extended components definition adequately describes why the family can be considered a member of that class and how it relates to other families in that class.

If the family is a member of a new class defined in the PP, the evaluator confirms that the family is not appropriate for an existing class.

9.7.1.3.8 Work unit APE_ECD.1-4

The evaluator ***shall examine*** the extended components definition to determine that each definition of an extended component identifies all applicable dependencies of that component.

If the PP does not contain extended security requirements, this work unit is not applicable and therefore considered to be satisfied.

The evaluator confirms that no applicable dependencies have been overlooked by the PP author.

9.7.1.3.9 Content requirement APE_ECD.1.4C (ISO/IEC 15408-3:2026, 7.6.2)

The extended components definition shall use the existing components, families, classes, and methodology specified in the ISO/IEC 15408 series as a model for presentation.

9.7.1.3.10 Work unit APE_ECD.1-5

The evaluator ***shall examine*** the extended components definition to determine that each extended functional component uses the existing ISO/IEC 15408-2 components as a model for presentation.

If the PP does not contain extended SFRs, this work unit is not applicable and therefore considered to be satisfied.

The evaluator determines that the extended functional component is consistent with ISO/IEC 15408-2:2026, 7.4.

If the extended functional component uses operations, the evaluator determines that the extended functional component is consistent with ISO/IEC 15408-1:2026, 8.2.

If the extended functional component is hierarchical to an existing functional component, the evaluator determines that the extended functional component is consistent with ISO/IEC 15408-2:2026, 7.6.2.

9.7.1.3.11 Work unit APE_ECD.1-6

The evaluator ***shall examine*** the extended components definition to determine that each definition of a new functional family uses the existing ISO/IEC 15408 series functional families as a model for presentation.

If the PP does not define new functional families, this work unit is not applicable and therefore considered to be satisfied.

The evaluator determines that all new functional families are defined consistent with ISO/IEC 15408-2:2026, 7.3.

9.7.1.3.12 Work unit APE_ECD.1-7

The evaluator ***shall examine*** the extended components definition to determine that each definition of a new functional class uses the existing ISO/IEC 15408 series functional classes as a model for presentation.

If the PP does not define new functional classes, this work unit is not applicable and therefore considered to be satisfied.

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The evaluator determines that all new functional classes are defined consistent with ISO/IEC 15408-2:2026, 7.2.

9.7.1.3.13 Work unit APE_ECD.1-8

The evaluator ***shall examine*** the extended components definition to determine that each definition of an extended assurance component uses the existing ISO/IEC 15408-3:2026 components as a model for presentation.

If the PP does not contain extended SARs, this work unit is not applicable and therefore considered to be satisfied.

The evaluator determines that the extended assurance component definition is consistent with ISO/IEC 15408-3:2026, 6.4.

If the extended assurance component uses operations, the evaluator determines that the extended assurance component is consistent with ISO/IEC 15408-1:2026, 8.2.

If the extended assurance component is hierarchical to an existing assurance component, the evaluator determines that the extended assurance component is consistent with ISO/IEC 15408-3:2026, 6.4.

9.7.1.3.14 Work unit APE_ECD.1-9

The evaluator ***shall examine*** the extended components definition to determine that, for each defined extended assurance component, applicable methodology has been provided.

If the PP does not contain extended SARs, this work unit is not applicable and therefore considered to be satisfied.

The evaluator determines that, for each evaluator action element of each extended SAR, one or more work units are provided and that successfully performing all work units for a given evaluator action element will demonstrate that the element has been achieved.

9.7.1.3.15 Work unit APE_ECD.1-10

The evaluator ***shall examine*** the extended components definition to determine that each definition of a new assurance family uses the existing ISO/IEC 15408 series assurance families as a model for presentation.

If the PP does not define new assurance families, this work unit is not applicable and therefore considered to be satisfied.

The evaluator determines that all new assurance families are defined consistent with ISO/IEC 15408-3:2026, 6.3.

9.7.1.3.16 Work unit APE_ECD.1-11

The evaluator ***shall examine*** the extended components definition to determine that each definition of a new assurance class uses the existing ISO/IEC 15408 series assurance classes as a model for presentation.

If the PP does not define new assurance classes, this work unit is not applicable and therefore considered to be satisfied.

The evaluator determines that all new assurance classes are defined consistent with ISO/IEC 15408-3:2026, 6.2.

9.7.1.3.17 Content requirement APE_ECD.1.5C (ISO/IEC 15408-3:2026, 7.6.2)

The extended components shall consist of measurable and objective elements such that conformance or nonconformance to these elements can be demonstrated.

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9.7.1.3.18 Work unit APE_ECD.1-12

The evaluator ***shall examine*** the extended components definition to determine that each element in each extended component is measurable and states objective evaluation requirements, such that conformance or nonconformance can be demonstrated.

If the PP does not contain extended security requirements, this work unit is not applicable and therefore considered to be satisfied.

The evaluator determines that elements of extended functional components are stated in such a way that they are testable, and traceable through the appropriate TSF representations.

The evaluator also determines that elements of extended assurance components avoid the need for subjective evaluator judgement.

The evaluator should keep in mind that whilst being measurable and objective is appropriate for all evaluation criteria, it is acknowledged that no formal method exists to prove such properties. Therefore, the existing functional and assurance components from the ISO/IEC 15408 series shall be used as a model for determining what constitutes conformance to this requirement.

9.7.1.4 Action APE_ECD.1.2E

9.7.1.4.1 Evaluator action (ISO/IEC 15408-3:2026, 7.6.2)

The evaluator shall confirm that it is impossible to clearly express any extended component by using existing components.

9.7.1.4.2 Work unit APE_ECD.1-13

The evaluator ***shall examine*** the extended components definition to determine that for each extended component it is impossible to clearly express it using existing components.

If the PP does not contain extended security requirements, this work unit is not applicable and therefore considered to be satisfied.

The evaluator should take components from ISO/IEC 15408-2 and ISO/IEC 15408-3, other extended components that have been defined in the PP, combinations of these components, and possible operations on these components into account when making this determination.

The evaluator should keep in mind that the role of this work unit is to preclude unnecessary duplication of components, that is, components that can be clearly expressed by using other components. The evaluator is not required to undertake an exhaustive search of all possible combinations of components including operations in an attempt to find a way to express the extended component by using existing components.

9.8 Security requirements (APE_REQ)

9.8.1 Evaluation of sub-activity (APE_REQ.1)

9.8.1.1 Objectives

The objective of this sub-activity is to determine whether the SFRs and SARs are clear, unambiguous and well-defined, whether they are internally consistent, and whether the SFRs counter the threats and implement the organizational security policies of the TOE.

9.8.1.2 Input

Input for APE_REQ.1 consists of the following:

— the PP.

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9.8.1.3 Action APE_REQ.1.1E

9.8.1.3.1 Evaluator action (ISO/IEC 15408-3:2026, 7.7.3)

The evaluator shall confirm that the information provided meets all requirements for content and presentation of evidence.

9.8.1.3.2 Content requirement APE_REQ.1.1C (ISO/IEC 15408-3:2026, 7.7.3)

The statement of security requirements shall describe the SFRs and the SARs.

9.8.1.3.3 Work unit APE_REQ.1-1

The evaluator ***shall check*** that the statement of security requirements describes the SFRs.

The evaluator determines that each SFR is identified by one of the following means:

— by reference to an individual component in ISO/IEC 15408-2;

— by reference to an extended component in the extended components definition of the PP;

— by reference to an individual component in a PP that the PP claims to be conformant with including any optional requirements defined in the PP;

— by reference to an individual component in a security requirements package that the PP claims to be conformant with;

— by reproduction in the PP.

It is not required to use the same means of identification for all SFRs.

9.8.1.3.4 Work unit APE_REQ.1-2

The evaluator ***shall check*** that the statement of security requirements describes the SARs.

The evaluator determines that each SAR is identified by one of the following means:

— by reference to an individual component in ISO/IEC 15408-3;

— by reference to an extended component in the extended components definition of the PP;

— by reference to an individual component in a PP that the PP claims to be conformant with;

— by reference to an individual component in a security requirements package that the PP claims to be conformant with;

— by reproduction in the PP.

It is not required to use the same means of identification for all SARs.

9.8.1.3.5 Content requirement APE_REQ.1.2C (ISO/IEC 15408-3:2026, 7.7.3)

All subjects, objects, operations, security attributes, external entities and other terms that are used in the SFRs and the SARs shall be defined.

9.8.1.3.6 Work unit APE_REQ.1-3

The evaluator ***shall examine*** the PP to determine that all subjects, objects, information, operations, security attributes, external entities and other terms that are used in the SFRs and the SARs are defined.

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The evaluator determines that the PP defines all:

a) (types of) subjects, objects and information that are used in the SFRs;

b) (types of) security attributes of subjects, users, objects, information, sessions, resources, possible values that these attributes can take and any relations between these values (e.g. top_secret is "higher" than secret);

c) (types of) operations that are used in the SFRs, including the effects of these operations;

d) (types of) external entities in the SFRs;

e) other terms that are introduced in either the SFRs or SARs or both, by completing operations, if these terms are not immediately clear, or are used outside their dictionary definition.

The goal of this work unit is to ensure that the SFRs and SARs are well-defined and that no misunderstanding can occur due to the introduction of vague terms. This work unit should not be taken to extremes, by forcing the PP author to define every single word. The general audience of a set of security requirements can be assumed to have a reasonable knowledge of IT, security and the ISO/IEC 15408 series.

All of the above definitions can be presented in groups, classes, roles, types or other groupings or characterizations that allow easy understanding.

The evaluator should keep in mind that these lists and definitions can be part of the statement of security requirements, but can instead be placed (in part or in whole) in different subclauses. This can be especially applicable if the same terms are used in the rest of the PP.

9.8.1.3.7 Content requirement APE_REQ.1.3C (ISO/IEC 15408-3:2026, 7.7.3)

The statement of security requirements shall identify all operations on the security requirements.

9.8.1.3.8 Work unit APE_REQ.1-4

The evaluator ***shall check*** that the statement of security requirements identifies all operations on the security requirements.

The evaluator determines that all operations are identified in each SFR or SAR where such an operation is used. This includes both completed operations and uncompleted operations. Identification can be achieved by typographical distinctions, or by explicit identification in the surrounding text, or by any other distinctive means.

If the PP defines selection-based SFRs, the evaluator determines that the PP clearly identifies the dependencies between the selection in an SFR and the selection-based SFR(s) to be included in the PP or ST if that selection is chosen by the PP, or ST, author.

9.8.1.3.9 Content requirement APE_REQ.1.4C (ISO/IEC 15408-3:2026, 7.7.3)

All operations shall be performed correctly.

9.8.1.3.10 Work unit APE_REQ.1-5

The evaluator ***shall examine*** the statement of security requirements to determine that all assignment operations are performed correctly.

Guidance on the correct performance of operations can be found in ISO/IEC 15408-1:2026, 8.2.

9.8.1.3.11 Work unit APE_REQ.1-6

The evaluator ***shall examine*** the statement of security requirements to determine that all iteration operations are performed correctly.

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Guidance on the correct performance of operations can be found in ISO/IEC 15408-1:2026, 8.2.

9.8.1.3.12 Work unit APE_REQ.1-7

The evaluator ***shall examine*** the statement of security requirements to determine that all selection operations are performed correctly.

Guidance on the correct performance of operations can be found in ISO/IEC 15408-1:2026, 8.2.

9.8.1.3.13 Work unit APE_REQ.1-8

The evaluator ***shall examine*** the statement of security requirements to determine that all refinement operations are performed correctly.

Guidance on the correct performance of operations can be found in ISO/IEC 15408-1:2026, 8.2.

9.8.1.3.14 Content requirement APE_REQ.1.5C (ISO/IEC 15408-3:2026, 7.7.3)

Each dependency of the security requirements shall either be satisfied, or the security requirements rationale shall justify the dependency not being satisfied.

9.8.1.3.15 Work unit APE_REQ.1-9

The evaluator ***shall examine*** the statement of security requirements to determine that each dependency of the security requirements is either satisfied, or that the security requirements rationale justifies the dependency not being satisfied.

A dependency is satisfied by the inclusion of the relevant component (or one that is hierarchical to it) within the statement of security requirements. The component used to satisfy the dependency shall, if necessary, be modified by operations to ensure that it actually satisfies that dependency.

A justification that a dependency is not met should address either:

— why the dependency is not necessary or useful, in which case no further information is required; or

— that the dependency has been addressed by the operational environment of the TOE, in which case the justification shall describe how the security objectives for the operational environment address this dependency.

The evaluator ensures that if a functional package defines a dependency on another functional package, then that functional package is included in the PP.

If a functional package identifies dependencies on its requirements that shall be satisfied by the underlying PP, the evaluator ensures that their analysis covers these dependencies as well.

9.8.1.3.16 Content requirement APE_REQ.1.6C (ISO/IEC 15408-3:2026, 7.7.3)

The security requirements rationale shall trace each SFR back to the threats countered by that SFR and the OSPs enforced by that SFR.

9.8.1.3.17 Work unit APE_REQ.1-10

The evaluator ***shall check*** that the security requirements rationale traces each SFR back to the threats countered by that SFR and OSPs enforced by that SFR.

The evaluator determines that each SFR is traced back to at least one threat or OSP for the TOE.

Failure to trace implies that either the security requirements rationale is incomplete, or the SFR has no useful purpose.

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There is no prescribed location where this tracing element of the rationale shall be placed: for example, the relevant parts can be located under each threat and OSP in order to help make the security argument clearer and easier to read.

9.8.1.3.18 Content requirement APE_REQ.1.7C (ISO/IEC 15408-3:2026, 7.7.3)

The security requirements rationale shall demonstrate that the SFRs, in conjunction with the security objectives for the operational environment, counter all threats for the TOE.

9.8.1.3.19 Work unit APE_REQ.1-11

The evaluator ***shall examine*** the security requirements rationale to determine that for each threat it justifies that the SFRs are suitable to meet that threat.

If no SFRs trace back to a threat and the evaluator determines that also no security objectives for the operational environment trace back to that threat in APE_OBJ.1-2 (9.6.1.3.5), the evaluator action related to this work unit is assigned a fail verdict.

The evaluator determines that the justification for a threat shows whether the threat is removed, diminished or mitigated.

The evaluator determines that the justification for a threat demonstrates that the SFRs are sufficient: if all SFRs that trace back to the threat are achieved then, in the context of any applicable OSPs and assumptions, the threat is removed, sufficiently diminished, or the effects of the threat are sufficiently mitigated.

Simply listing in the security requirements rationale the SFRs associated with each threat can be part of a justification, but does not constitute a justification by itself. A descriptive justification is required, although in simple cases this justification can be as minimal as "SFR X directly counters Threat Y".

The evaluator also determines that each SFR that traces back to a threat is necessary: when the SFR is implemented it actually contributes to the removal, diminishing or mitigation of that threat.

9.8.1.3.20 Content requirement APE_REQ.1.8C (ISO/IEC 15408-3:2026, 7.7.3)

The security requirements rationale shall demonstrate that the SFRs, in conjunction with the security objectives for the operational environment, enforce all OSPs for the TOE.

9.8.1.3.21 Work unit APE_REQ.1-12

The evaluator ***shall examine*** the security requirements rationale to determine that for each OSP it justifies that the SFRs are suitable to enforce that OSP.

If no SFRs trace back to the OSP and the evaluator determines that also no security objectives for the operational environment trace back to that OSP in APE_OBJ.1-2 (9.6.1.3.5), the evaluator action related to this work unit is assigned a fail verdict.

The evaluator determines that the justification for an OSP demonstrates that the SFRs are sufficient: if all SFRs that trace back to that OSP are achieved then, in the context of any applicable assumptions, the OSP is enforced.

The evaluator also determines that each SFR that traces back to an OSP is necessary: when the SFR is implemented it actually contributes to the enforcement of the OSP.

Simply listing in the security requirements rationale the SFRs associated with each OSP can be part of a justification, but does not constitute a justification by itself. A descriptive justification is required, although in simple cases this justification can be as minimal as "SFR X directly enforces OSP Y".

9.8.1.3.22 Content requirement APE_REQ.1.9C (ISO/IEC 15408-3:2026, 7.7.3)

The security requirements rationale shall explain why the SARs were chosen.

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9.8.1.3.23 Work unit APE_REQ.1-13

The evaluator ***shall check*** that the security requirements rationale explains why the SARs were chosen.

The evaluator shall keep in mind that any explanation is correct, as long as it is coherent and neither the SARs nor the explanation have obvious inconsistencies with the remainder of the PP.

An example of an obvious inconsistency between the SARs and the remainder of the PP would be having threat agents that are very capable, but a AVA_VAN (Vulnerability analysis) (16.3) SAR that does not protect against these threat agents.

9.8.1.3.24 Content requirement APE_REQ.1.10C (ISO/IEC 15408-3:2026, 7.7.3)

The statement of security requirements shall be internally consistent.

9.8.1.3.25 Work unit APE_REQ.1-14

The evaluator ***shall examine*** the statement of security requirements to determine that it is internally consistent.

The evaluator determines that the combined set of all SFRs and SARs is internally consistent. With respect to optional requirements, the evaluator determines that:

— all optional requirements either trace to an SPD element that is itself not optional, or trace to an SPD element that is clearly associated with that optional SFR;

— all optional requirements are clearly identified as either:

  — elective and therefore for inclusion purely at the discretion of the ST author (i.e. conformance to the PP does not depend on their inclusion in the ST); or

  — conditional and therefore required if a conformant TOE implements the functionality covered by the requirement.

— all optional requirements do not conflict with non-optional requirements. A capability cannot be both required and optional; however, a base capability can be required with enhancements to that capability being specified as optional.

The evaluator determines that these requirements do not conflict on all occasions where different security requirements apply to the same types of developer evidence, events, operations, data, tests to be performed, etc. or to "all objects", "all subjects", etc.

Some possible conflicts are:

— an extended SAR specifying that the design of a certain cryptographic algorithm shall be kept secret, and another extended SAR requiring the use of open source cryptographic components;

— FAU_GEN.1 specifying that subject identity shall be logged, FDP_ACC.1 specifying who has access to these logs, and FPR_UNO.1 specifying that some actions of subjects shall be unobservable to other subjects. If the subject is required to be unable to see to see an activity can access logs of this activity, these SFRs conflict;

— FDP_RIP.1 specifying deletion of information no longer needed, and FDP_ROL.1 specifying that a TOE can return to a previous state. If the information that is needed for the rollback to the previous state has been deleted, these requirements conflict;

— multiple iterations of FDP_ACC.1, especially where some iterations cover the same subjects, objects, or operations. If one access control SFR allows a subject to perform an operation on an object, while another access control SFR does not allow this, these requirements conflict.

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9.8.2 Evaluation of sub-activity (APE_REQ.2)

9.8.2.1 Objectives

The objective of this sub-activity is to determine whether the SFRs and SARs are clear, unambiguous and well-defined, whether they are internally consistent, and whether the SFRs meet the security objectives of the TOE.

9.8.2.2 Input

Input for APE_REQ.2 consists of the following:

— the PP.

9.8.2.3 Action APE_REQ.2.1E

9.8.2.3.1 Evaluator action (ISO/IEC 15408-3:2026, 7.7.4)

The evaluator shall confirm that the information provided meets all requirements for content and presentation of evidence.

9.8.2.3.2 Content requirement APE_REQ.2.1C (ISO/IEC 15408-3:2026, 7.7.4)

The statement of security requirements shall describe the SFRs and the SARs.

9.8.2.3.3 Work unit APE_REQ.2-1

The evaluator ***shall check*** that the statement of security requirements describes the SFRs.

The evaluator determines that each SFR is identified by one of the following means:

— by reference to an individual component in ISO/IEC 15408-2;

— by reference to an extended component in the extended components definition of the PP;

— by reference to an individual component in a PP that the PP claims to be conformant with, including any optional requirements defined in the PP;

— by reference to an individual component in a security requirements package that the PP claims to be conformant with;

— by reproduction in the PP.

It is not required to use the same means of identification for all SFRs.

9.8.2.3.4 Work unit APE_REQ.2-2

The evaluator ***shall check*** that the statement of security requirements describes the SARs.

The evaluator determines that each SAR is identified by one of the following means:

— by reference to an individual component in ISO/IEC 15408-3;

— by reference to an extended component in the extended components definition of the PP;

— by reference to an individual component in a PP that the PP claims to be conformant with;

— by reference to an individual component in a security requirements package that the PP claims to be conformant with;

— by reproduction in the PP.

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It is not required to use the same means of identification for all SARs.

9.8.2.3.5 Content requirement APE_REQ.2.2C (ISO/IEC 15408-3:2026, 7.7.4)

All subjects, objects, operations, security attributes, external entities and other terms that are used in the SFRs and the SARs shall be defined.

9.8.2.3.6 Work unit APE_REQ.2-3

The evaluator ***shall examine*** the PP to determine that all subjects, objects, information, operations, security attributes, external entities and other terms that are used in the SFRs and the SARs are defined.

The evaluator determines that the PP defines all:

a) (types of) subjects, objects and information that are used in the SFRs;

b) (types of) security attributes of subjects, users, objects, information, sessions, resources, possible values that these attributes can take and any relations between these values (e.g. top_secret is "higher" than secret);

c) (types of) operations that are used in the SFRs, including the effects of these operations;

d) (types of) external entities in the SFRs;

e) other terms that are introduced in either the SFRs or SARs, or both, by completing operations, if these terms are not immediately clear, or are used outside their dictionary definition.

The goal of this work unit is to ensure that the SFRs and SARs are well-defined and that no misunderstanding can occur due to the introduction of vague terms. This work unit should not be taken to extremes, by forcing the PP author to define every single word. The general audience of a set of security requirements can be assumed to have a reasonable knowledge of IT, security and the ISO/IEC 15408 series.

All of the above definitions can be presented in groups, classes, roles, types or other groupings or characterisations that allow easy understanding.

The evaluator should keep in mind that these lists and definitions can be part of the statement of security requirements, but can instead be placed (in part or in whole) in different subclauses. This can be especially applicable if the same terms are used in the rest of the PP.

9.8.2.3.7 Content requirement APE_REQ.2.3C (ISO/IEC 15408-3:2026, 7.7.4)

The statement of security requirements shall identify all operations on the security requirements.

9.8.2.3.8 Work unit APE_REQ.2-4

The evaluator ***shall check*** that the statement of security requirements identifies all operations on the security requirements.

The evaluator determines that all operations are identified in each SFR or SAR where such an operation is used. This includes both completed operations and uncompleted operations. Identification can be achieved by typographical distinctions, or by explicit identification in the surrounding text, or by any other distinctive means.

If the PP defines selection-based SFRs, the evaluator determines that the PP clearly identifies the dependencies between the selection in an SFR and the selection-based SFR(s) to be included in the PP, or ST, if that selection is chosen by the PP, or ST, author.

9.8.2.3.9 Content requirement APE_REQ.2.4C (ISO/IEC 15408-3:2026, 7.7.4)

All operations shall be performed correctly.

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9.8.2.3.10 Work unit APE_REQ.2-5

The evaluator ***shall examine*** the statement of security requirements to determine that all assignment operations are performed correctly.

Guidance on the correct performance of operations can be found in ISO/IEC 15408-1:2026, 8.2.

9.8.2.3.11 Work unit APE_REQ.2-6

The evaluator ***shall examine*** the statement of security requirements to determine that all iteration operations are performed correctly.

Guidance on the correct performance of operations can be found in ISO/IEC 15408-1:2026, 8.2.

9.8.2.3.12 Work unit APE_REQ.2-7

The evaluator ***shall examine*** the statement of security requirements to determine that all selection operations are performed correctly.

Guidance on the correct performance of operations can be found in ISO/IEC 15408-1:2026, 8.2.

9.8.2.3.13 Work unit APE_REQ.2-8

The evaluator ***shall examine*** the statement of security requirements to determine that all refinement operations are performed correctly.

Guidance on the correct performance of operations can be found in ISO/IEC 15408-1:2026, 8.2.

9.8.2.3.14 Content requirement APE_REQ.2.5C (ISO/IEC 15408-3:2026, 7.7.4)

Each dependency of the security requirements shall either be satisfied, or the security requirements rationale shall justify the dependency not being satisfied.

9.8.2.3.15 Work unit APE_REQ.2-9

The evaluator ***shall examine*** the statement of security requirements to determine that each dependency of the security requirements is either satisfied, or that the security requirements rationale justifies the dependency not being satisfied.

A dependency is satisfied by the inclusion of the relevant component (or one that is hierarchical to it) within the statement of security requirements. The component used to satisfy the dependency shall, if necessary, be modified by operations to ensure that it actually satisfies that dependency.

A justification that a dependency is not met should address either:

— why the dependency is not necessary or useful, in which case no further information is required; or

— that the dependency has been addressed by the operational environment of the TOE, in which case the justification shall describe how the security objectives for the operational environment address this dependency.

The evaluator ensures that if a functional package defines a dependency on another functional package, then that functional package is included in the PP.

If a functional package identifies dependencies on its requirements that shall be satisfied by the underlying PP, the evaluator ensures that their analysis covers these dependencies as well.

9.8.2.3.16 Content requirement APE_REQ.2.6C (ISO/IEC 15408-3:2026, 7.7.4)

The security requirements rationale shall trace each SFR back to the security objectives for the TOE enforced by that SFR.

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9.8.2.3.17 Work unit APE_REQ.2-10

The evaluator ***shall check*** that the security requirements rationale traces each SFR back to the security objectives for the TOE.

Security objectives associated with optional requirements also shall be considered for the security requirements rationale and related activities in this work unit.

The evaluator determines that each SFR is traced back to at least one security objective for the TOE.

Failure to trace implies that either the security requirements rationale is incomplete, the security objectives for the TOE are incomplete, or the SFR has no useful purpose.

9.8.2.3.18 Content requirement APE_REQ.2.7C (ISO/IEC 15408-3:2026, 7.7.4)

The security requirements rationale shall demonstrate that the SFRs meet all security objectives for the TOE.

9.8.2.3.19 Work unit APE_REQ.2-11

The evaluator ***shall examine*** the security requirements rationale to determine that for each security objective for the TOE it justifies that the SFRs are suitable to meet that security objective for the TOE.

If no SFRs trace back to the security objective for the TOE, the evaluator action related to this work unit is assigned a fail verdict.

The evaluator determines that the justification for a security objective for the TOE demonstrates that the SFRs are sufficient: if all SFRs that trace back to the objective are satisfied, the security objective for the TOE is achieved.

If the SFRs that trace back to a security objective for the TOE have any uncompleted assignments, or uncompleted or restricted selections, the evaluator determines that for every conceivable completion or combination of completions of these operations, the security objective is still met.

The evaluator also determines that each SFR that traces back to a security objective for the TOE is necessary: when the SFR is satisfied, it actually contributes to achieving the security objective.

The tracings from SFRs to security objectives for the TOE provided in the security requirements rationale can be a part of the justification, but do not constitute a justification by themselves.

9.8.2.3.20 Content requirement APE_REQ.2.8C (ISO/IEC 15408-3:2026, 7.7.4)

The security requirements rationale shall explain why the SARs were chosen.

9.8.2.3.21 Work unit APE_REQ.2-12

The evaluator ***shall check*** that the security requirements rationale explains why the SARs were chosen.

The evaluator should keep in mind that any explanation is correct, as long as it is coherent and neither the SARs nor the explanation have obvious inconsistencies with the remainder of the PP.

An example of an obvious inconsistency between the SARs and the remainder of the PP would be to have threat agents that are very capable, but an AVA_VAN (Vulnerability analysis) (16.3) SAR that does not protect against these threat agents.

9.8.2.3.22 Content requirement APE_REQ.2.9C (ISO/IEC 15408-3:2026, 7.7.4)

The statement of security requirements shall be internally consistent.

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9.8.2.3.23 Work unit APE_REQ.2-13

The evaluator ***shall examine*** the statement of security requirements to determine that it is internally consistent.

The evaluator determines that the combined set of all SFRs and SARs is internally consistent. With respect to optional requirements, the evaluator determines that:

— all optional requirements either trace to an SPD element that is itself not optional, or trace to an SPD element that is clearly associated with that optional SFR;

— all optional requirements are clearly identified as either:

  — elective and therefore for inclusion purely at the discretion of the ST author (i.e. conformance to the PP does not depend on their inclusion in the ST); or

  — conditional and therefore required if a conformant TOE implements the functionality covered by the requirement.

— all optional requirements do not conflict with non-optional requirements. A capability cannot be both required and optional; however, a base capability can be required with enhancements to that capability being specified as optional.

The evaluator determines that these requirements do not conflict on all occasions where different security requirements apply to the same types of developer evidence, events, operations, data, tests to be performed, etc. or to "all objects", "all subjects", etc.

Some possible conflicts are:

— an extended SAR specifying that the design of a certain cryptographic algorithm shall be kept secret, and another extended SAR requiring the use of open source cryptographic components;

— FAU_GEN.1 specifying that subject identity shall be logged, FDP_ACC.1 specifying who has access to these logs, and FPR_UNO.1 specifying that some actions of subjects shall be unobservable to other subjects. If the subject that is required to be unable to see an activity can access logs of this activity, these SFRs conflict;

— FDP_RIP.1 specifying deletion of information no longer needed, and FDP_ROL.1 specifying that a TOE can return to a previous state. If the information that is needed for the rollback to the previous state has been deleted, these requirements conflict;

— multiple iterations of FDP_ACC.1, especially where some iterations cover the same subjects, objects, or operations. If one access control SFR allows a subject to perform an operation on an object, while another access control SFR does not allow this, these requirements conflict.

10 Protection Profile Configuration evaluation

10.1 Introduction

The process of evaluating a PP-Configuration relies on the previous evaluation of all the PPs referenced in the PP-Configuration, and on the evaluation of each PP-Module, iteratively.

ACE (Protection Profile Configuration evaluation) does not prescribe the order in which the PP-Modules are evaluated. A possible order is the following. Consider a PP-Configuration composed of a set of PPs: PP_1, ... PP_n, and a set of PP-Modules: M_1, ... M_k, where $n \geq 2$ or $k \geq 1$. Figure 7 presents the dependency structure of PPs and PP-Modules: PPs are standalone, i.e. they do not depend on other PPs or PP-Modules. If the PP-Configuration contains one or more PP-Modules, then a non-empty subset of these is based on PPs only (i.e.

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they do not depend on other PP-Modules). One possible evaluation order of such PP-Configuration consists of the following steps:

— evaluation of the union of PPs (the PPs are assumed already evaluated following class APE (Protection Profile (PP) evaluation) (Clause 9) requirements);

— if the PP-Configuration contains one or more PP-Modules, then follow the PP-Configuration's dependency structure from top (PPs) to bottom (PP-Modules) and evaluate all the components of each sub-set of PP-Modules, i.e. for each PP-Module;

— evaluate the PP-Module in the framework of its PP-Module Base(s) (the elements of which have already been evaluated since the evaluation order meets the dependency structure) ACE_MCO.1 (PP-Module consistency) (10.8.1);

— evaluate the PP-Module in the framework of all the PPs and already evaluated PP-Modules (contained in the same or previous subset of PP-Modules) ACE_CCO.1 (PP-Configuration consistency) (10.9.1).

Due to the iterative nature of a PP-Configuration evaluation, it can be possible to mutualize the evaluation work to evaluate several configurations at the same time.

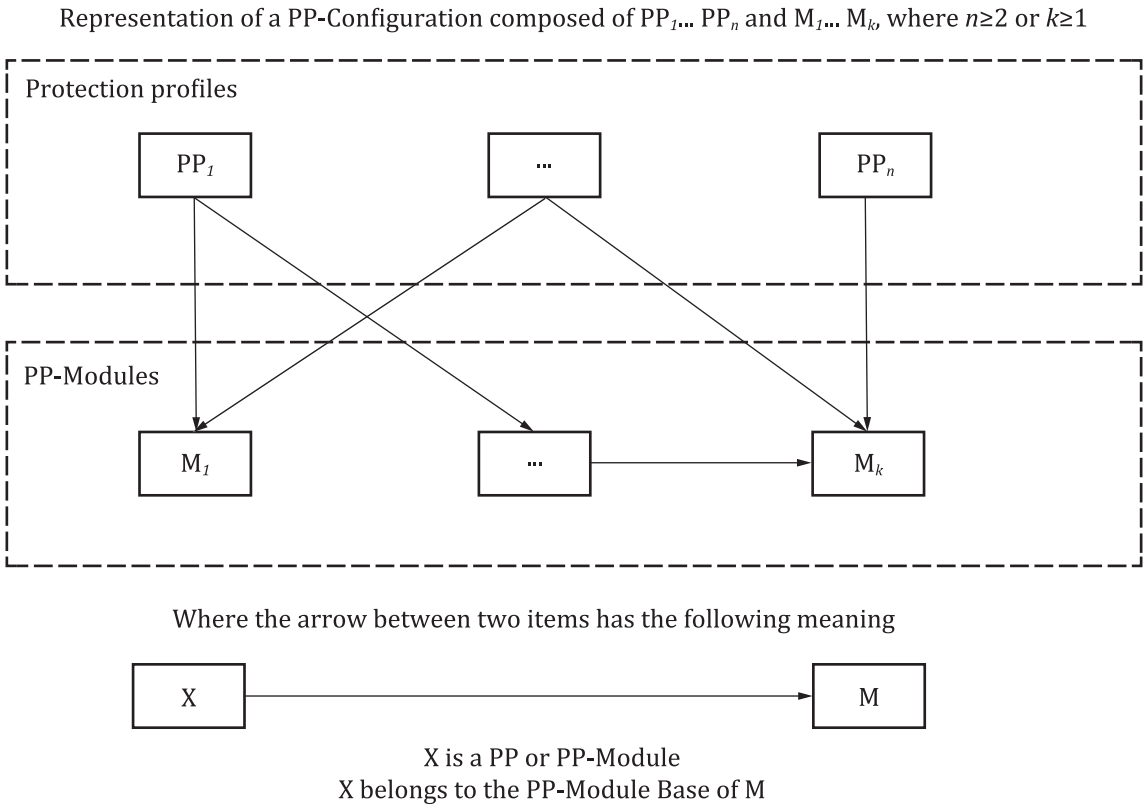


Figure 7 — Relationship between PPs and PP-Modules in a PP-Configuration

The ACE (Protection Profile Configuration evaluation) methodology is based on class APE (Protection Profile (PP) evaluation) (Clause 9).

10.2 PP-Module introduction (ACE_INT)

10.2.1 Evaluation of sub-activity (ACE_INT.1)

10.2.1.1 Objectives

The objective of this sub-activity is to determine whether the PP-Module is correctly identified, and whether the PP-Module Base and TOE overview are consistent with each other.

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10.2.1.2 Input

Input for ACE_INT.1 consists of the following:

— the PP-Module;

— its PP-Module Base(s).

10.2.1.3 Action ACE_INT.1.1E

10.2.1.3.1 Evaluator action (ISO/IEC 15408-3:2026, 8.2.2)

The evaluator shall confirm that the information provided meets all requirements for content and presentation of evidence.

10.2.1.3.2 Content requirement ACE_INT.1.1C (ISO/IEC 15408-3:2026, 8.2.2)

The PP-Module introduction shall contain a PP-Module reference, the identification of the PP-Module Base(s) and a TOE overview.

10.2.1.3.3 Work unit ACE_INT.1-1

The evaluator ***shall check*** that the PP-Module introduction identifies the PP-Module Base(s) on which the PP-Module relies.

The evaluator ***shall check*** that the PP-Module introduction contains a PP-Module reference and a TOE overview.

10.2.1.3.4 Content requirement ACE_INT.1.2C (ISO/IEC 15408-3:2026, 8.2.2)

The PP-Module reference shall uniquely identify the PP-Module.

10.2.1.3.5 Work unit ACE_INT.1-2

The evaluator ***shall examine*** the PP-Module reference to determine that it uniquely identifies the PP-Module.

The evaluator determines that the PP-Module reference identifies the PP-Module itself, so that it can be easily distinguished from other PP-Modules, and that it also uniquely identifies each version of the PP-Module, e.g. by including either a version number or a date of publication, or both.

The PP-Module shall have some referencing system that is capable of supporting unique references (e.g. use of numbers, letters or dates).

10.2.1.3.6 Content requirement ACE_INT.1.3C (ISO/IEC 15408-3:2026, 8.2.2)

The identification of the PP-Module Base shall consist of a list of at least one PP and possibly other PPs and PP-Modules on which the PP-Module depends.

10.2.1.3.7 Work unit ACE_INT.1-3

The evaluator ***shall examine*** the PP-Module Base identification to determine that it includes a list of PPs and PP-Modules B_i of the following shape:

B_1 ... AND ... B_n with $n \geq 1$

The evaluator ***shall check*** that the set $\{B_1 \ldots B_n\}$ contains one or more PPs.

For a PP-Module that allows to be used with alternative PP-Module Bases, the evaluator ***shall examine*** the PP-Module Base identification to determine that it includes multiple alternative lists of references that uniquely

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identify the sets S_i of PPs and PP-Modules on which the PP-Module can depend. The list of alternative PP-Module Bases has the following form:

S_1 ... OR ... S_k with $k \geq 1$

10.2.1.3.8 Content requirement ACE_INT.1.4C (ISO/IEC 15408-3:2026, 8.2.2)

The identification of the PP-Module Base(s) shall describe the dependency structure of the PP-Module Base(s).

10.2.1.3.9 Work unit ACE_INT.1-4

The evaluator ***shall examine*** the PP-Module Base identification to determine that it describes the dependency structure of the PPs and PP-Modules that compose the PP-Module Base.

Given the definition of a PP-Module Base B_i, the evaluator ***shall check*** that a PP-Module Base includes at least one PP, (that is a PP-Module Base cannot consist solely of a PP-Module), and every PP-Module identifies its PP-Module Base.

The evaluator ***shall check*** that the PP-Module Base $\{B_1 \ldots B_n\}$ is a closed set, that is, for any PP-Module B_i, its own PP-Module Base belongs to the set $\{B_1 \ldots B_n\}$.

For a PP-Module that allows to be used with alternative PP-Module Bases, the evaluator ***shall check*** that each of those define a closed set of PPs and PP-Modules.

The evaluator ensures that if the PP-Module restricts the PP-Module Bases allowed for PP-Modules in the PP-Module Base under evaluation then those restrictions shall be stated in the introduction and shall be consistent with the depended-upon PP-Module's definition of allowed PP-Module Bases.

10.2.1.3.10 Content requirement ACE_INT.1.5C (ISO/IEC 15408-3:2026, 8.2.2)

The PP-Module introduction shall contain as many TOE overviews as alternative PP-Module Bases.

10.2.1.3.11 Work unit ACE_INT.1-5

The evaluator ***shall check*** that the PP-Module introduction contains as many TOE overviews as alternative PP-Module Bases. The statement of the TOE overview in a PP-Module may be given by reference when it is the same as in its PP-Module Base, i.e. when there is no addition.

If the TOE overview is not affected by the choice of alternative PP-Module Bases anywhere in the set of PP-Module Bases for the PP-Module, then a separate TOE description is not required and instead a note should be included to that effect.

10.2.1.3.12 Content requirement ACE_INT.1.6C (ISO/IEC 15408-3:2026, 8.2.2)

The TOE overview shall summarize the usage and major security features of the TOE.

10.2.1.3.13 Work unit ACE_INT.1-6

The evaluator ***shall examine*** the TOE overview to determine that it describes the usage and major security features of the TOE.

The TOE overview shall describe the usage and major security features expected of the TOE. The TOE overview should enable consumers and potential TOE developers to quickly determine whether the PP-Module is of interest to them.

The evaluator determines that the overview is clear enough for TOE developers and consumers, and sufficient to give them a general understanding of the intended usage and major security features of the TOE.

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10.2.1.3.14 Content requirement ACE_INT.1.7C (ISO/IEC 15408-3:2026, 8.2.2)

The TOE overview shall identify the TOE type.

10.2.1.3.15 Work unit ACE_INT.1-7

The evaluator ***shall check*** that the TOE overview identifies the TOE type.

10.2.1.3.16 Content requirement ACE_INT.1.8C (ISO/IEC 15408-3:2026, 8.2.2)

The TOE overview shall identify any non-TOE hardware, software, firmware available to the TOE.

10.2.1.3.17 Work unit ACE_INT.1-8

The evaluator ***shall examine*** the TOE overview to determine that it identifies any non-TOE hardware, software, firmware available to the TOE.

While some TOEs can run stand-alone, other TOEs (notably software TOEs) need additional hardware, software or firmware to operate. In the TOE overview, the PP-Module author shall list all hardware, software, firmware, that can be available for the TOE to run on.

This identification should be detailed enough for potential consumers and TOE developers to determine whether their TOE can operate with the listed hardware, software and firmware.

10.2.1.3.18 Content requirement ACE_INT.1.9C (ISO/IEC 15408-3:2026, 8.2.2)

The TOE overview shall describe the differences of the TOE with regard to the TOEs defined in the PP-Module Base(s).

10.2.1.3.19 Work unit ACE_INT.1-9

The evaluator ***shall check*** that the TOE overview identifies the differences introduced by the PP-Module with respect to the TOE overview of its PP-Module Base(s).

10.3 PP-Module conformance claims (ACE_CCL)

10.3.1 Evaluation of sub-activity (ACE_CCL.1)

10.3.1.1 Objectives

The objective of this sub-activity is to determine the validity of various conformance claims and of the conformance statement. These describe how the PP-Module conforms to the ISO/IEC 15408-2 and packages. A PP-Module cannot claim conformance to any PP, PP-Configuration, or another PP-Module.

10.3.1.2 Input

Input for ACE_CCL.1 consists of the following:

— the PP-Module;

— the SFR and SAR package(s) that the PP-Module claims conformance to;

— the PP-Configuration.

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10.3.1.3 Action ACE_CCL.1.1E

10.3.1.3.1 Evaluator action (ISO/IEC 15408-3:2026, 8.3.2)

The evaluator shall confirm that the information provided meets all requirements for content and presentation of evidence.

10.3.1.3.2 Content requirement ACE_CCL.1.1C (ISO/IEC 15408-3:2026, 8.3.2)

The conformance claim shall identify the edition of the ISO/IEC 15408 series to which the PP-Module claims conformance.

NOTE Previous editions can refer to withdrawn and replaced documents.

10.3.1.3.3 Work unit ACE_CCL.1-1

The evaluator ***shall check*** that the conformance claim identifies the edition of the ISO/IEC 15408 series to which the PP-Module claims conformance.

The evaluator determines that the ISO/IEC 15408 series conformance claim identifies the edition of the ISO/IEC 15408 series that was used to develop this PP-Module. This shall include the edition number of the ISO/IEC 15408 series and, unless the English edition of the ISO/IEC 15408 series was used, the language of the edition of the ISO/IEC 15408 series that was used.

NOTE Previous editions can refer to withdrawn and replaced documents.

10.3.1.3.4 Content requirement ACE_CCL.1.2C (ISO/IEC 15408-3:2026, 8.3.2)

The conformance claim shall describe the conformance of the PP-Module to ISO/IEC 15408-2 as either "ISO/IEC 15408-2 conformant" or "ISO/IEC 15408-2 extended".

10.3.1.3.5 Work unit ACE_CCL.1-2

The evaluator ***shall check*** that the conformance claim states a claim of either "ISO/IEC 15408-2 conformant" or "ISO/IEC 15408-2 extended" for the PP-Module.

10.3.1.3.6 Content requirement ACE_CCL.1.3C (ISO/IEC 15408-3:2026, 8.3.2)

The conformance statement shall describe the conformance type required of any ST to the PP-Module (as part of a PP-Configuration) as one of exact, strict, or demonstrable.

10.3.1.3.7 Work unit ACE_CCL.1-3

The evaluator ***shall check*** that the PP-Module conformance statement states a claim of exact, strict or demonstrable conformance which describes the manner in which STs shall conform to the PP-Module (as part of a PP-Configuration).

If the PP-Module states that strict conformance is required, STs shall conform to the PP-Module (as part of a PP-Configuration) in a strict manner.

If the PP-Module states that demonstrable conformance is required, STs shall conform to the PP-Module (as part of a PP-Configuration) in a strict or demonstrable manner.

If the PP-Module states that exact conformance is required, STs shall conform to the PP-Module (as part of a PP-Configuration) in an exact manner. In this case, the evaluator ***shall check*** that all of the PP-Module's referenced PP-Module Base(s) require exact conformance as well.

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10.3.1.3.8 Content requirement ACE_CCL.1.4C (ISO/IEC 15408-3:2026, 8.3.2)

The conformance claim shall describe the conformance of the PP-Module to ISO/IEC 15408-3 as either "ISO/IEC 15408-3 conformant" or "ISO/IEC 15408-3 extended".

10.3.1.3.9 Work unit ACE_CCL.1-4

The evaluator ***shall check*** that the conformance claim states a claim of either "ISO/IEC 15408-3 conformant" or "ISO/IEC 15408-3 extended" for the PP-Module.

10.3.1.3.10 Content requirement ACE_CCL.1.5C (ISO/IEC 15408-3:2026, 8.3.2)

The conformance claim shall be consistent with the extended components definition.

10.3.1.3.11 Work unit ACE_CCL.1-5

The evaluator ***shall examine*** the conformance claim for ISO/IEC 15408-2 and ISO/IEC 15408-3 to determine that it is consistent with the extended components definition.

If the conformance claim contains either ISO/IEC 15408-2 conformant or ISO/IEC 15408-3 conformant or both, the evaluator determines that the extended components definition does not define functional or assurance components.

If the conformance claim contains ISO/IEC 15408-2 extended or ISO/IEC 15408-3 extended, or both, the evaluator determines that the extended components definition defines at least one extended either functional or assurance or both, component.

10.3.1.3.12 Content requirement ACE_CCL.1.6C (ISO/IEC 15408-3:2026, 8.3.2)

The conformance claim shall identify all functional packages to which the PP-Module claims conformance.

10.3.1.3.13 Work unit ACE_CCL.1-6

The evaluator ***shall check***, for each identified functional package, that the package definition is complete.

If the PP-Module does not claim conformance to a functional package, this work unit is not applicable and therefore considered to be satisfied.

For all functional packages that are not claimed by a component in the PP-Module's base, the evaluator determines that the package definition is conformant to the requirements from ISO/IEC 15408-1:2026, Clause 9 by checking that the functional package includes:

— a functional package identification, giving a unique name, short name, version, date, sponsor, and the edition of the ISO/IEC 15408 series;

NOTE Previous editions can refer to withdrawn and replaced documents.

— a functional package overview, giving a narrative description of the security functionality;

— a component rationale that provides the rationale for selecting the functional components and requirements included in the package;

— if the package defines an SPD then:

  — the package includes a security requirements rationale;

  — the package includes a security objectives rationale if security objectives are defined;

  — if the package is a direct rationale package, there are no security objectives for the TOE defined and the security requirements rationale maps directly to the SPD;

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— if the package is not a direct rationale package, then security objectives for the TOE are defined, the security objectives rationale covers the objectives with respect to the SPD, and the security requirements rationale maps the requirements to the security objectives;

— one or more security components or requirements (the functional package SFRs);

— if extended components have been specified then the functional package includes an extended components definition.

10.3.1.3.14 Content requirement ACE_CCL.1.7C (ISO/IEC 15408-3:2026, 8.3.2)

The conformance claim shall describe any conformance of the PP-Module to a functional package as either package-conformant, package-augmented or package-tailored.

10.3.1.3.15 Work unit ACE_CCL.1-7

The evaluator ***shall check*** that, for each identified functional package, the conformance claim states a claim of either package-conformant, package-augmented or package-tailored.

The evaluator determines that for all functional packages claimed by the PP-Module that are already claimed by one of the PPs or PP-Modules in its PP-Module Base(s), the PP-Module augments or tailors the functional package as it is instantiated in its PP-Module Base (in this case the PP-Module would claim the functional package as package augmented or package tailored (as appropriate)). Otherwise, the evaluator confirms that functional packages claimed by a PP-Module Base component are not claimed by the PP-Module.

If the PP-Module does not claim conformance to a package, this work unit is not applicable and therefore considered to be satisfied.

If the functional package conformance claim contains package-conformant, the evaluator determines that all the assumptions, threats, OSPs, security objectives and SFRs included in the package are included in identical form by the PP-Module and ensures that any operations (iteration, assignment, selection and refinement) performed on the SFRs defined in the functional package are correct and follow the rules for operations.

If the functional package conformance claim contains package-augmented, the evaluator determines that all the assumptions, threats, OSPs, security objectives and SFRs included in the package are included in identical form in the PP-Module with the following exception: the PP-Module shall have at least one additional SFR or one SFR that is hierarchically higher than an SFR in the functional package. The evaluator ensures that any operations (iteration, assignment, selection and refinement) performed on the SFRs defined in the functional package are correct and follow the rules for operations.

If the functional package conformance claim contains package-tailored, the evaluator determines that all the assumptions, threats, OSPs, security objectives and SFRs included in the package are included in identical form in the PP-Module with the following exceptions:

— at least one of these SFRs is modified by adding some selection items to the original selection items defined in the functional package, and

— optionally, the PP-Module has either additional SFRs or SFRs, or both, that are hierarchically higher than SFRs in the functional package.

The evaluator ensures that any operations (iteration, assignment, selection and refinement) performed on the SFRs defined in the functional package are correct and follow the rules for operations.

10.3.1.3.16 Content requirement ACE_CCL.1.8C (ISO/IEC 15408-3:2026, 8.3.2)

The conformance claim shall identify all assurance packages to which the PP-Module claims conformance.

10.3.1.3.17 Work unit ACE_CCL.1-8

The evaluator ***shall check***, for each identified assurance package, that the package definition is complete.

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If the PP-Module does not claim conformance to an assurance package, this work unit is not applicable and therefore considered to be satisfied.

If the assurance package is a reference to one of the assurance packages contained in ISO/IEC 15408-5:2026 then this work unit is also considered to be satisfied.

The evaluator determines that the package definition is conformant to the requirements from ISO/IEC 15408-1:2026, Clause 9 by checking that the assurance package includes:

— an assurance package identification, giving a unique name, short name, version, date, sponsor, and the edition of the ISO/IEC 15408 series;

NOTE Previous editions can refer to withdrawn and replaced documents.

— an assurance package overview, giving a narrative description of the purpose;

— one or more security components or requirements (the assurance package SARs) drawn from ISO/IEC 15408-3, extended assurance components or some combination of both;

— an assurance package shall not include an SPD or security objectives;

— if extended components have been specified then the assurance package includes an extended components definition;

— a security requirements rationale that provides the rationale for selecting the assurance components and requirements included in the package.

10.3.1.3.18 Content requirement ACE_CCL.1.9C (ISO/IEC 15408-3:2026, 8.3.2)

The conformance claim shall describe any conformance of the PP-Module to an assurance package as either package-conformant or package-augmented.

10.3.1.3.19 Work unit ACE_CCL.1-9

The evaluator ***shall check*** that, for each identified assurance package, the conformance claim states a claim of either package-conformant or package-augmented.

If the PP-Module does not claim conformance to an assurance package, this work unit is not applicable and therefore considered to be satisfied.

If the assurance package conformance claim contains package-conformant, the evaluator determines that all constituent parts included in the assurance package are included in identical form by the PP-Module, without modification.

If the assurance package conformance claim contains package-augmented, the evaluator determines that all constituent parts of the assurance package included in the PP-Module are identical to those given in the assurance package except that the PP-Module shall contain at least one additional SAR or one SAR that is hierarchically higher than those contained in the assurance package.

10.3.1.3.20 Content requirement ACE_CCL.1.10C (ISO/IEC 15408-3:2026, 8.3.2)

For exact conformance, the PP-Module's conformance statement shall contain an allowed-with statement that identifies the set of PPs and PP-Modules (exclusive of those PPs and PP-Modules that are included in the PP-Module Base) to which, in combination with the PP-Module under evaluation, exact conformance is allowed to be claimed.

10.3.1.3.21 Work unit ACE_CCL.1-10

The evaluator ***shall check*** the conformance statement of the PP-Module to determine that it contains an allowed-with statement that lists the set of other PPs and PP-Modules that can be specified in the components statement of a PP-Configuration that includes the PP-Module.

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The evaluator confirms that the listed PPs and PP-Modules are not part of any of the PP-Module Base sets.

There is no further check other than checking the existence of the list for the PP-Module's allowed-with statement.

10.3.1.3.22 Work unit ACE_CCL.1-11

The evaluator ***shall check*** that, for each PP-Module Base for the PP-Module, all components in the PP-Module Base identify all other components of the PP-Module Base in their allow-with statements.

This is an iterative operation, and it is important to note that the rule about a PP-Module not including any components in its PP-Module Base in its allowed-with statement holds for any PP-Module in the PP-Module Base.

All PPs in a given PP-Module Base set shall include allow-with statements covering all other components (PPs and PP-Modules) in that PP-Module Base set.

PPs and PP-Modules in one PP-Module Base set are not however, required to express an allowed with relationship with components in any other PP-Module Base set, since two PP-Module Base sets shall not simultaneously be specified in a PP-Configuration

10.3.1.3.23 Content requirement ACE_CCL.1.11C (ISO/IEC 15408-3:2026, 8.3.2)

The conformance statement may identify the set of ISO/IEC 18045-derived evaluation methods and evaluation activities that shall be used with the PP-Module under evaluation. This list shall contain any evaluation methods and evaluation activities that are specified in the PP-Module but also any evaluation methods and evaluation activities specified in either the PP-Module Base(s) or in the packages (if any) or both, for which conformance is being claimed by the PP-Module under evaluation.

10.3.1.3.24 Work unit ACE_CCL.1-12

The evaluator ***shall check*** the conformance statement of the PP-Module under evaluation to confirm that:

— if any derived evaluation methods and evaluation activities are required by other items used with the PP-Module (e.g. a PP-Module base), or required by other items to which the PP-Module claims conformance (e.g. packages), then these are all identified in the PP-Module under evaluation, along with any derived evaluation methods and evaluation activities that the PP-Module itself requires;

— the list of derived evaluation methods and evaluation activities is sufficiently structured and detailed to unambiguously identify and locate every member of the list;

— if there is any overlap in the scope of the identified evaluation methods and evaluation activities (i.e. where an overlay exists as described in ISO/IEC 15408-4) then the rationale for the resulting set of evaluation methods and evaluation activities is applicable to the TOE as described by the PP-Module under evaluation.

The intention of this work unit is to ensure that when evaluating a TOE that claims conformance with the PP-Configuration that contains the PP-Module under evaluation then the correct evaluation methods and evaluation activities can be used.

Where the individual evaluation activities are unambiguously included in a listed evaluation method these activities are not required to be listed in the PP-Module. Similarly, where multiple evaluation methods or evaluation activities are included in a single document then it is sufficient to reference the document, provided that this does lead to unambiguous identification of the evaluation methods and evaluation activities that apply to the PP-Module under evaluation.

If a document lists multiple different evaluation methods applicable to different use cases then it would not be sufficient to reference the document; it would also be necessary to identify the relevant use cases.

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10.4 PP-Module security problem definition (ACE_SPD)

10.4.1 Evaluation of sub-activity (ACE_SPD.1)

10.4.1.1 Objectives

The objective of this sub-activity is to determine that the security problem intended to be addressed by the TOE and its operational environment is clearly defined.

10.4.1.2 Input

Input for ACE_SPD.1 consists of the following:

— the PP-Module.

10.4.1.3 Action ACE_SPD.1.1E

10.4.1.3.1 Evaluator action (ISO/IEC 15408-3:2026, 8.4.2)

The evaluator shall confirm that the information provided meets all requirements for content and presentation of evidence.

10.4.1.3.2 Content requirement ACE_SPD.1.1C (ISO/IEC 15408-3:2026, 8.4.2)

The security problem definition shall describe the threats.

10.4.1.3.3 Work unit ACE_SPD.1-1

The evaluator ***shall check*** that the security problem definition describes the threats.

It is not necessary for the statement of threats to be present in the PP-Module if all security objectives are only derived from either assumptions or OSPs or both. In this case, this work unit is not applicable and therefore considered to be satisfied.

The evaluator determines that the security problem definition describes the threats that shall be countered by either the TOE or its operational environment or both.

If optional requirements are defined by the PP-Module, there can be associated threats that are covered by this work unit.

10.4.1.3.4 Content requirement ACE_SPD.1.2C (ISO/IEC 15408-3:2026, 8.4.2)

All threats shall be described in terms of a threat agent, an asset, and an adverse action.

10.4.1.3.5 Work unit ACE_SPD.1-2

The evaluator ***shall examine*** the security problem definition to determine that all threats are described in terms of a threat agent, an asset, and an adverse action.

It is not necessary for the statement of threats to be present in the PP-Module if all security objectives are only derived from either assumptions or OSPs or both. In this case, this work unit is not applicable and therefore considered to be satisfied.

Threat agents can be further described by aspects such as expertise, resource, opportunity, and motivation.

10.4.1.3.6 Content requirement ACE_SPD.1.3C (ISO/IEC 15408-3:2026, 8.4.2)

The security problem definition shall describe the OSPs.

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10.4.1.3.7 Work unit ACE_SPD.1-3

The evaluator ***shall examine*** that the security problem definition describes the OSPs.

It is not necessary for OSPs to be present in the PP-Module if all security objectives are only derived from either assumptions or threats or both. In this case, this work unit is not applicable and therefore considered to be satisfied.

The evaluator determines that OSP statements are made in terms of rules or guidelines that shall be followed by either the TOE or its operational environment or both.

The evaluator determines that each OSP is explained or interpreted in sufficient detail to make it clearly understandable; a clear presentation of policy statements is necessary to permit tracing security objectives to them.

If optional requirements are defined by the PP-Module, there can be associated OSPs that are covered by this work unit.

10.4.1.3.8 Content requirement ACE_SPD.1.4C (ISO/IEC 15408-3:2026, 8.4.2)

The security problem definition shall describe the assumptions about the operational environment of the TOE.

10.4.1.3.9 Work unit ACE_SPD.1-4

The evaluator ***shall examine*** the security problem definition to determine that it describes the assumptions about the operational environment of the TOE.

If there are no assumptions, this work unit is not applicable and is therefore considered to be satisfied.

The evaluator determines that each assumption about the operational environment of the TOE is explained in sufficient detail to enable consumers to determine that their operational environment matches the assumption. If the assumptions are not clearly understood, the end result can be that the TOE is used in an operational environment in which it will not function in a secure manner.

10.5 PP-Module security objectives (ACE_OBJ)

10.5.1 Evaluation of sub-activity (ACE_OBJ.1)

10.5.1.1 Objectives

The objective of this sub-activity is to determine whether the security objectives for the operational environment adequately address the security problem definition and completely cover the assumptions.

10.5.1.2 Application notes

If the PP-Module does not use the Direct Rationale approach (as determined in ACE_CCO.1-3 (10.9.1.3.6)) then this sub-activity is not applicable.

10.5.1.3 Input

Input for ACE_OBJ.1 consists of the following:

— the PP-Module.

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10.5.1.4 Action ACE_OBJ.1.1E

10.5.1.4.1 Evaluator action (ISO/IEC 15408-3:2026, 8.5.3)

The evaluator shall confirm that the information provided meets all requirements for content and presentation of evidence.

10.5.1.4.2 Content requirement ACE_OBJ.1.1C (ISO/IEC 15408-3:2026, 8.5.3)

The statement of security objectives shall describe the security objectives for the operational environment.

10.5.1.4.3 Work unit ACE_OBJ.1-1

The evaluator ***shall check*** that the statement of security objectives defines the security objectives for the operational environment.

The evaluator checks that the security objectives for the operational environment are identified.

10.5.1.4.4 Content requirement ACE_OBJ.1.2C (ISO/IEC 15408-3:2026, 8.5.3)

The security objectives rationale shall trace each security objective for the operational environment back to threats countered by that security objective, OSPs enforced by that security objective, and assumptions upheld by that security objective.

10.5.1.4.5 Work unit ACE_OBJ.1-2

The evaluator ***shall check*** that the security objectives requirements rationale traces the security objectives for the operational environment back to threats countered by that security objective, to OSPs enforced by that security objective, and to assumptions upheld by that security objective.

Each security objective for the operational environment may trace back to threats, OSPs, assumptions, or a combination of these, but it shall trace back to at least one threat, OSP or assumption.

Failure to trace implies that either the security objectives rationale is incomplete, the security problem definition is incomplete, or the security objective for the operational environment has no useful purpose.

There is no prescribed location where this tracing element of the rationale shall be placed: for example, the relevant parts may be located under each threat, OSP and assumption in order to help make the security argument clearer and easier to read.

10.5.1.4.6 Content requirement ACE_OBJ.1.3C (ISO/IEC 15408-3:2026, 8.5.3)

The security objectives rationale shall demonstrate that the security objectives for the operational environment uphold all assumptions.

10.5.1.4.7 Work unit ACE_OBJ.1-3

The evaluator ***shall examine*** the security objectives rationale to determine that for each assumption for the operational environment it contains an appropriate justification that the security objectives for the operational environment are suitable to uphold that assumption.

If no security objectives for the operational environment trace back to the assumption, the evaluator action related to this work unit is assigned a fail verdict.

The evaluator determines that the justification for an assumption about the operational environment of the TOE demonstrates that the security objectives are sufficient. If all security objectives for the operational environment that trace back to that assumption are achieved, the operational environment upholds the assumption.

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The evaluator also determines that each security objective for the operational environment that traces back to an assumption about the operational environment of the TOE is necessary and that, when the security objective is achieved it actually contributes to the operational environment upholding the assumption.

Simply listing in the security objectives rationale the security objectives for the operational environment associated with each assumption may be a part of a justification, but does not constitute a justification by itself. A descriptive justification is required, although in simple cases this justification may be as minimal as "Security Objective X directly upholds Assumption Y".

10.5.2 Evaluation of sub-activity (ACE_OBJ.2)

10.5.2.1 Objectives

The objective of this sub-activity is to determine whether the security objectives adequately and completely address the security problem definition and that the division of this problem between the TOE and its operational environment is clearly defined.

10.5.2.2 Application notes

If the PP-Module uses the Direct Rationale approach (as determined in ACE_CCO.1-3 (10.9.1.3.6)) then this sub-activity is not applicable.

10.5.2.3 Input

Input for ACE_OBJ.2 consists of the following:

— the PP-Module.

10.5.2.4 Action ACE_OBJ.2.1E

10.5.2.4.1 Evaluator action (ISO/IEC 15408-3:2026, 8.5.4)

The evaluator shall confirm that the information provided meets all requirements for content and presentation of evidence.

10.5.2.4.2 Content requirement ACE_OBJ.2.1C (ISO/IEC 15408-3:2026, 8.5.4)

The statement of security objectives shall describe the security objectives for the TOE and the security objectives for the operational environment.

10.5.2.4.3 Work unit ACE_OBJ.2-1

The evaluator ***shall check*** that the statement of security objectives defines the security objectives for the TOE and the security objectives for the operational environment.

The evaluator checks that both categories of security objectives are clearly identified and separated from the other category.

10.5.2.4.4 Content requirement ACE_OBJ.2.2C (ISO/IEC 15408-3:2026, 8.5.4)

The security objectives rationale shall trace each security objective for the TOE back to threats countered by that security objective and OSPs enforced by that security objective.

10.5.2.4.5 Work unit ACE_OBJ.2-2

The evaluator ***shall check*** that the security objectives rationale traces each security objective for the TOE back to threats countered by that objective and the OSPs enforced by that objective.

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Each security objective for the TOE may trace back to threats or OSPs, or a combination of threats and OSPs, but it shall trace back to at least one threat or OSP. Optional requirements can require threats and OSPs to be specified, and security objectives associated with these SPD elements are also covered by this work unit.

Failure to trace implies that either the security objectives rationale is incomplete, the security problem definition is incomplete, or the security objective for the TOE has no useful purpose.

10.5.2.4.6 Content requirement ACE_OBJ.2.3C (ISO/IEC 15408-3:2026, 8.5.4)

The security objectives rationale shall trace each security objective for the operational environment back to threats countered by that security objective, OSPs enforced by that security objective, and assumptions upheld by that security objective.

10.5.2.4.7 Work unit ACE_OBJ.2-3

The evaluator ***shall check*** that the security objectives rationale traces the security objectives for the operational environment back to threats countered by that security objective, to OSPs enforced by that security objective, and to assumptions upheld by that security objective.

Each security objective for the operational environment may trace back to threats, OSPs, assumptions, or a combination of these, but it shall trace back to at least one threat, OSP or assumption.

Failure to trace implies that either the security objectives rationale is incomplete, the security problem definition is incomplete, or the security objective for the operational environment has no useful purpose.

10.5.2.4.8 Content requirement ACE_OBJ.2.4C (ISO/IEC 15408-3:2026, 8.5.4)

The security objectives rationale shall demonstrate that the security objectives counter all threats.

10.5.2.4.9 Work unit ACE_OBJ.2-4

The evaluator ***shall examine*** the security objectives rationale to determine that it justifies for each threat that the security objectives are suitable to counter that threat.

If no security objectives trace back to the threat, the evaluator action related to this work unit is assigned a fail verdict.

The evaluator determines that the justification for a threat shows whether the threat is removed, diminished or mitigated.

The evaluator determines that the justification for a threat demonstrates that the security objectives are sufficient: if all security objectives that trace back to the threat are achieved, the threat is removed, sufficiently diminished, or the effects of the threat are sufficiently mitigated.

The tracings from security objectives to threats provided in the security objectives rationale may be part of a justification, but do not constitute a justification by themselves. Even in the case that a security objective is merely a statement reflecting the intent to prevent a particular threat from being realised, a justification is required, but this justification may be as minimal as "Security Objective X directly counters Threat Y".

The evaluator also determines that each security objective that traces back to a threat is necessary: when the security objective is achieved it actually contributes to the removal, diminishing or mitigation of that threat.

10.5.2.4.10 Content requirement ACE_OBJ.2.5C (ISO/IEC 15408-3:2026, 8.5.4)

The security objectives rationale shall demonstrate that the security objectives enforce all OSPs.

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10.5.2.4.11 Work unit ACE_OBJ.2-5

The evaluator ***shall examine*** the security objectives rationale to determine that for each OSP it justifies that the security objectives are suitable to enforce that OSP.

If no security objectives trace back to the OSP, the evaluator action related to this work unit is assigned a fail verdict.

The evaluator determines that the justification for an OSP demonstrates that the security objectives are sufficient: if all security objectives that trace back to that OSP are achieved, the OSP is enforced.

The evaluator also determines that each security objective that traces back to an OSP is necessary: when the security objective is achieved it actually contributes to the enforcement of the OSP.

The tracings from security objectives to OSPs provided in the security objectives rationale may be part of a justification, but do not constitute a justification by themselves. In the case that a security objective is merely a statement reflecting the intent to enforce a particular OSP, a justification is required, but this justification may be as minimal as "Security Objective X directly enforces OSP Y".

10.5.2.4.12 Content requirement ACE_OBJ.2.6C (ISO/IEC 15408-3:2026, 8.5.4)

The security objectives rationale shall demonstrate that the security objectives for the operational environment uphold all assumptions.

10.5.2.4.13 Work unit ACE_OBJ.2-6

The evaluator ***shall examine*** the security objectives rationale to determine that for each assumption for the operational environment it contains an appropriate justification that the security objectives for the operational environment are suitable to uphold that assumption.

If no security objectives for the operational environment trace back to the assumption, the evaluator action related to this work unit is assigned a fail verdict.

The evaluator determines that the justification for an assumption about the operational environment of the TOE demonstrates that the security objectives are sufficient: if all security objectives for the operational environment that trace back to that assumption are achieved, the operational environment upholds the assumption.

The evaluator also determines that each security objective for the operational environment that traces back to an assumption about the operational environment of the TOE is necessary: when the security objective is achieved it actually contributes to the operational environment upholding the assumption.

The tracings from security objectives for the operational environment to assumptions provided in the security objectives rationale may be a part of a justification, but do not constitute a justification by themselves. Even in the case that a security objective of the operational environment is merely a restatement of an assumption, a justification is required, but this justification may be as minimal as "Security Objective X directly upholds Assumption Y".

10.6 PP-Module extended components definition (ACE_ECD)

10.6.1 Evaluation of sub-activity (ACE_ECD.1)

10.6.1.1 Objectives

The objective of this sub-activity is to determine whether extended components have been clearly and unambiguously defined, and whether they are necessary, i.e. it is not possible to express them clearly by using existing components from ISO/IEC 15408-2 or ISO/IEC 15408-3.

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10.6.1.2 Input

Input for ACE_ECD.1 consists of the following:

— the PP-Module.

10.6.1.3 Action ACE_ECD.1.1E

10.6.1.3.1 Evaluator action (ISO/IEC 15408-3:2026, 8.6.2)

The evaluator shall confirm that the information provided meets all requirements for content and presentation of evidence.

10.6.1.3.2 Content requirement ACE_ECD.1.1C (ISO/IEC 15408-3:2026, 8.6.2)

The statement of security requirements shall identify all the extended security requirements.

10.6.1.3.3 Work unit ACE_ECD.1-1

The evaluator ***shall check*** that all security requirements in the statement of security requirements that are not identified as extended requirements are present in ISO/IEC 15408-2 or in ISO/IEC 15408-3.

10.6.1.3.4 Content requirement ACE_ECD.1.2C (ISO/IEC 15408-3:2026, 8.6.2)

The extended components definition shall define an extended component for each extended security requirement.

10.6.1.3.5 Work unit ACE_ECD.1-2

The evaluator ***shall check*** that the extended components definition defines an extended component for each extended security requirement.

If the PP-Module does not contain extended security requirements, this work unit is not applicable and therefore considered to be satisfied.

A single extended component may be used to define multiple iterations of an extended security requirement; it is not necessary to repeat this definition for each iteration.

10.6.1.3.6 Content requirement ACE_ECD.1.3C (ISO/IEC 15408-3:2026, 8.6.2)

The extended components definition shall describe how each extended component is related to the existing ISO/IEC 15408 series components, families, and classes.

10.6.1.3.7 Work unit ACE_ECD.1-3

The evaluator ***shall examine*** the extended components definition to determine that it describes how each extended component fits into the existing ISO/IEC 15408 series components, families, and classes.

If the PP-Module does not contain extended security requirements, this work unit is not applicable and therefore considered to be satisfied.

The evaluator determines that each extended component is either:

— a member of an existing ISO/IEC 15408-2 or ISO/IEC 15408-3 family; or

— a member of a new family defined in the PP-Module.

If the extended component is a member of an existing ISO/IEC 15408-2 or ISO/IEC 15408-3 family, the evaluator determines that the extended components definition adequately describes why the extended

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component can be considered to be a member of that family and how it relates to other components of that family.

If the extended component is a member of a new family defined in the PP-Module, the evaluator confirms that the extended component is not appropriate for an existing family.

If the PP-Module defines new families, the evaluator determines that each new family is either:

— a member of an existing ISO/IEC 15408-2 or ISO/IEC 15408-3 class; or

— a member of a new class defined in the PP-Module.

If the family is a member of an existing ISO/IEC 15408-2 or ISO/IEC 15408-3 class, the evaluator determines that the extended components definition adequately describes why the family can be considered to be a member of that class and how it relates to other families in that class.

If the family is a member of a new class defined in the PP-Module, the evaluator confirms that the family is not appropriate for an existing class.

10.6.1.3.8 Work unit ACE_ECD.1-4

The evaluator ***shall examine*** the extended components definition to determine that each definition of an extended component identifies all applicable dependencies of that component.

If the PP-Module does not contain extended security requirements, this work unit is not applicable and therefore considered to be satisfied.

The evaluator confirms that no applicable dependencies have been overlooked by the PP-Module author.

10.6.1.3.9 Content requirement ACE_ECD.1.4C (ISO/IEC 15408-3:2026, 8.6.2)

The extended components definition shall use the existing ISO/IEC 15408 series components, families, classes, and methodology as a model for presentation.

10.6.1.3.10 Work unit ACE_ECD.1-5

The evaluator ***shall examine*** the extended components definition to determine that each extended functional component uses the existing ISO/IEC 15408-2 components as a model for presentation.

If the PP-Module does not contain extended SFRs, this work unit is not applicable and therefore considered to be satisfied.

The evaluator determines that the extended functional component is consistent with ISO/IEC 15408-2:2026, 7.4.

If the extended functional component uses operations, the evaluator determines that the extended functional component is consistent with ISO/IEC 15408-1:2026, 8.2.

If the extended functional component is hierarchical to an existing functional component, the evaluator determines that the extended functional component is consistent with ISO/IEC 15408-2:2026, 7.6.2.

10.6.1.3.11 Work unit ACE_ECD.1-6

The evaluator ***shall examine*** the extended components definition to determine that each definition of a new functional family uses the existing ISO/IEC 15408 series functional families as a model for presentation.

If the PP-Module does not define new functional families, this work unit is not applicable and therefore considered to be satisfied.

The evaluator determines that all new functional families are defined consistent with ISO/IEC 15408-2:2026, 7.3.

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10.6.1.3.12 Work unit ACE_ECD.1-7

The evaluator ***shall examine*** the extended components definition to determine that each definition of a new functional class uses the existing ISO/IEC 15408 series functional classes as a model for presentation.

If the PP-Module does not define new functional classes, this work unit is not applicable and therefore considered to be satisfied.

The evaluator determines that all new functional classes are defined consistent with ISO/IEC 15408-2:2026, 7.2.

10.6.1.3.13 Work unit ACE_ECD.1-8

The evaluator ***shall examine*** the extended components definition to determine that each definition of an extended assurance component uses the existing ISO/IEC 15408-3 components as a model for presentation.

If the PP-Module does not contain extended SARs, this work unit is not applicable and therefore considered to be satisfied.

The evaluator determines that the extended assurance component definition is consistent with ISO/IEC 15408-3:2026, 6.4.

If the extended assurance component uses operations, the evaluator determines that the extended assurance component is consistent with ISO/IEC 15408-1:2026, 8.2.

If the extended assurance component is hierarchical to an existing assurance component, the evaluator determines that the extended assurance component is consistent with ISO/IEC 15408-3:2026, 6.4.

10.6.1.3.14 Work unit ACE_ECD.1-9

The evaluator ***shall examine*** the extended components definition to determine that, for each defined extended assurance component, applicable methodology has been provided.

If the PP-Module does not contain extended SARs, this work unit is not applicable and therefore considered to be satisfied.

The evaluator determines that, for each evaluator action element of each extended SAR, one or more work units are provided and that successfully performing all work units for a given evaluator action element will demonstrate that the element has been achieved.

10.6.1.3.15 Work unit ACE_ECD.1-10

The evaluator ***shall examine*** the extended components definition to determine that each definition of a new assurance family uses the existing ISO/IEC 15408 series assurance families as a model for presentation.

If the PP-Module does not define new assurance families, this work unit is not applicable and therefore considered to be satisfied.

The evaluator determines that all new assurance families are defined consistent with ISO/IEC 15408-3:2026, 6.3.

10.6.1.3.16 Work unit ACE_ECD.1-11

The evaluator ***shall examine*** the extended components definition to determine that each definition of a new assurance class uses the existing ISO/IEC 15408 series assurance classes as a model for presentation.

If the PP-Module does not define new assurance classes, this work unit is not applicable and therefore considered to be satisfied.

The evaluator determines that all new assurance classes are defined consistent with ISO/IEC 15408-3:2026, 6.2.

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10.6.1.3.17 Content requirement ACE_ECD.1.5C (ISO/IEC 15408-3:2026, 8.6.2)

The extended components shall consist of measurable and objective elements such that conformance or nonconformance to these elements can be demonstrated.

10.6.1.3.18 Work unit ACE_ECD.1-12

The evaluator ***shall examine*** the extended components definition to determine that each element in each extended component is measurable and states objective evaluation requirements, such that conformance or nonconformance can be demonstrated.

If the PP-Module does not contain extended security requirements, this work unit is not applicable and therefore considered to be satisfied.

The evaluator determines that elements of extended functional components are stated in such a way that they are testable, and traceable through the appropriate TSF representations.

The evaluator also determines that elements of extended assurance components avoid the need for subjective evaluator judgement.

The evaluator should keep in mind that whilst being measurable and objective is appropriate for all evaluation criteria, it is acknowledged that no formal method exists to prove such properties. Therefore, the functional and assurance components derived from the ISO/IEC 15408 series shall be used as a model for determining what constitutes conformance to this requirement.

10.6.1.4 Action ACE_ECD.1.2E

10.6.1.4.1 Evaluator action (ISO/IEC 15408-3:2026, 8.6.2)

The evaluator shall confirm that it is impossible to clearly express any extended component by using existing components.

10.6.1.4.2 Work unit ACE_ECD.1-13

The evaluator ***shall examine*** the extended components definition to determine that each extended component cannot be clearly expressed using existing components.

If the PP-Module does not contain extended security requirements, this work unit is not applicable and therefore considered to be satisfied.

The evaluator shall take components from ISO/IEC 15408-2 and ISO/IEC 15408-3, other extended components that have been defined in the PP-Module, combinations of these components, and possible operations on these components into account when making this determination.

The evaluator should keep in mind that the role of this work unit is to preclude unnecessary duplication of components, that is, components that can be clearly expressed by using other components. The evaluator is not required to undertake an exhaustive search of all possible combinations of components including operations when attempting to find a way to express the extended component by using existing components.

10.7 PP-Module security requirements (ACE_REQ)

10.7.1 Evaluation of sub-activity (ACE_REQ.1)

10.7.1.1 Objectives

The objective of this sub-activity is to determine whether the SFRs and SARs are clear, unambiguous and well-defined, whether they are internally consistent, and whether the SFRs counter the threats and implement the organizational security policies of the TOE.

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10.7.1.2 Application notes

If the PP-Module does not use the Direct Rationale approach (as determined in ACE_CCO.1-3 (10.9.1.3.6)) then this sub-activity is not applicable.

10.7.1.3 Input

Input for ACE_REQ.1 consists of the following:

— the PP-Module.

10.7.1.4 Action ACE_REQ.1.1E

10.7.1.4.1 Evaluator action (ISO/IEC 15408-3:2026, 8.7.3)

The evaluator shall confirm that the information provided meets all requirements for content and presentation of evidence.

10.7.1.4.2 Content requirement ACE_REQ.1.1C (ISO/IEC 15408-3:2026, 8.7.3)

The statement of security requirements shall describe the SFRs and SARs.

10.7.1.4.3 Work unit ACE_REQ.1-1

The evaluator ***shall check*** that the statement of security requirements describes the SFRs.

The evaluator determines that each SFR is identified by one of the following means:

— by reference to an individual component in ISO/IEC 15408-2;

— by reference to an extended component defined in the PP-Module or in its PP-Module Base(s);

— by reference to an individual component in a functional package that the PP-Module claims to be conformant with;

— by reproduction in the PP-Module of an SFR defined in its PP-Module Base(s).

It is not required to use the same means of identification for all SFRs.

10.7.1.4.4 Work unit ACE_REQ.1-2

The evaluator ***shall check*** that the statement of security requirements describes the SARs.

The evaluator determines that each SAR is identified by one of the following means:

— by reference to an individual component in ISO/IEC 15408-3;

— by reference to an extended component defined in the PP-Module or in its PP-Module Base(s);

— by reference to an individual component in an assurance package that the PP-Module claims to be conformant with;

— by reproduction in the PP-Module of an SAR defined in its PP-Module Base(s).

It is not required to use the same means of identification for all SARs.

10.7.1.4.5 Content requirement ACE_REQ.1.2C (ISO/IEC 15408-3:2026, 8.7.3)

All subjects, objects, operations, security attributes, external entities and other terms that are used in the SFRs and the SARs shall be defined.

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10.7.1.4.6 Work unit ACE_REQ.1-3

The evaluator ***shall examine*** the PP-Module to determine that all subjects, objects, information, operations, security attributes, external entities and other terms that are used in the SFRs and the SARs are defined.

The evaluator determines that the PP-Module defines all:

— (types of) subjects, objects and information that are used in the SFRs;

— (types of) security attributes of subjects, users, objects, information, sessions, resources, possible values that these attributes can take, and any relations between these values (e.g. top_secret is "higher" than secret);

— (types of) operations that are used in the SFRs, including the effects of these operations;

— (types of) external entities in the SFRs;

— other terms that are introduced in either the SFRs or SARs, or both, by completing operations, if these terms are not immediately clear, or are used outside their dictionary definition.

The goal of this work unit is to ensure that the SFRs and SARs are well-defined and that no misunderstanding can occur due to the introduction of vague terms. This work unit should not be taken to extremes, by forcing the PP-Module author to define every single word. The general audience of a set of security requirements can be assumed to have a reasonable knowledge of IT, security and the ISO/IEC 15408 series.

All of the definitions may be presented in groups, classes, roles, types or other groupings or characterisations that allow easy understanding.

The evaluator should keep in mind that these lists and definitions can be part of the statement of security requirements, but can also be placed (in part or in whole) in different subclauses. This can be especially applicable if the same terms are used in the rest of the PP-Module.

10.7.1.4.7 Content requirement ACE_REQ.1.3C (ISO/IEC 15408-3:2026, 8.7.3)

The statement of security requirements shall identify all operations on the security requirements.

10.7.1.4.8 Work unit ACE_REQ.1-4

The evaluator ***shall check*** that the statement of security requirements identifies all operations on the security requirements.

The evaluator determines that all operations are identified in each SFR or SAR where such an operation is used. This includes both completed operations and uncompleted operations. Identification may be achieved by typographical distinctions, or by explicit identification in the surrounding text, or by any other distinctive means.

If the PP-Module defines selection-based SFRs, the evaluator determines that the PP-Module clearly identifies the dependencies between the selection in an SFR and the selection-based SFR(s) to be included in the ST if that selection is chosen by the ST author.

10.7.1.4.9 Content requirement ACE_REQ.1.4C (ISO/IEC 15408-3:2026, 8.7.3)

All operations shall be performed correctly.

10.7.1.4.10 Work unit ACE_REQ.1-5

The evaluator ***shall examine*** the statement of security requirements to determine that all assignment operations are performed correctly.

Requirements for the correct performance of operations can be found in ISO/IEC 15408-3:2026, 8.2.

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10.7.1.4.11 Work unit ACE_REQ.1-6

The evaluator ***shall examine*** the statement of security requirements to determine that all iteration operations are performed correctly.

Requirements for the correct performance of operations can be found in ISO/IEC 15408-1:2026, 8.2.

10.7.1.4.12 Work unit ACE_REQ.1-7

The evaluator ***shall examine*** the statement of security requirements to determine that all selection operations are performed correctly.

Requirements for the correct performance of operations can be found in ISO/IEC 15408-1:2026, 8.2.

10.7.1.4.13 Work unit ACE_REQ.1-8

The evaluator ***shall examine*** the statement of security requirements to determine that all refinement operations are performed correctly.

Requirements for the correct performance of operations can be found in ISO/IEC 15408-1:2026, 8.2.

10.7.1.4.14 Content requirement ACE_REQ.1.5C (ISO/IEC 15408-3:2026, 8.7.3)

Each dependency of the security requirements shall either be satisfied, or the security requirements rationale shall justify the dependency not being satisfied.

10.7.1.4.15 Work unit ACE_REQ.1-9

The evaluator ***shall examine*** the statement of security requirements to determine that each dependency of the security requirements is either satisfied, or that the security requirements rationale justifies the dependency not being satisfied.

A dependency is satisfied by the inclusion of the relevant component (or one that is hierarchical to it) within the statement of security requirements. The component used to satisfy the dependency shall, if necessary, be modified by operations to ensure that it actually satisfies that dependency.

A justification that a dependency is not met shall address either:

— why the dependency is not necessary or useful, in which case no further information is required; or

— that the dependency has been addressed by the operational environment of the TOE, in which case the justification shall describe how the security objectives for the operational environment address this dependency.

The evaluator ensures that if a functional package defines a dependency on another functional package, then that functional package is included in the PP-Module.

If a functional package identifies dependencies on its requirements that shall be satisfied by the underlying PP-Module, the evaluator ensures that their analysis covers these dependencies as well.

10.7.1.4.16 Content requirement ACE_REQ.1.6C (ISO/IEC 15408-3:2026, 8.7.3)

The security requirements rationale shall trace each SFR back to the threats countered by that SFR and the OSPs enforced by that SFR.

10.7.1.4.17 Work unit ACE_REQ.1-10

The evaluator ***shall check*** that the security requirements rationale traces each SFR back to the threats countered by that SFR and OSPs enforced by that SFR.

The evaluator determines that each SFR is traced back to at least one threat or OSP for the TOE.

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Failure to trace implies that either the security requirements rationale is incomplete, the security objectives for the TOE are incomplete, or the SFR has no useful purpose.

There is no prescribed location where this tracing element of the rationale shall be placed. For example, the relevant parts may be located under each threat and OSP in order to help make the security argument clearer and easier to read.

10.7.1.4.18 Content requirement ACE_REQ.1.7C (ISO/IEC 15408-3:2026, 8.7.3)

The security requirements rationale shall demonstrate that the SFRs (in conjunction with the security objectives for the operational environment) counter all the threats for the TOE.

10.7.1.4.19 Work unit ACE_REQ.1-11

The evaluator ***shall examine*** the security requirements rationale to determine that for each threat it justifies that the SFRs are suitable to meet that threat.

If no SFRs trace back to a threat and the evaluator determines that also no security objectives for the operational environment trace back to that threat in ACE_OBJ.1-2 (10.5.1.4.5), the evaluator action related to this work unit is assigned a fail verdict.

The evaluator determines that the justification for a threat shows whether the threat is removed, diminished or mitigated.

The evaluator determines that the justification for a threat demonstrates that the SFRs are sufficient: if all SFRs that trace back to the threat are achieved then, in the context of any applicable security objectives for the TOE operational environment, the threat is removed, sufficiently diminished, or the effects of the threat are sufficiently mitigated.

Simply listing in the security requirements rationale the SFRs associated with each threat may be part of a justification, but does not constitute a justification by itself. A descriptive justification is required, although in simple cases this justification may be as minimal as "SFR X directly counters Threat Y".

The evaluator also determines that each SFR that traces back to a threat is necessary: when the SFR is implemented it actually contributes to the removal, diminishing or mitigation of that threat.

10.7.1.4.20 Content requirement ACE_REQ.1.8C (ISO/IEC 15408-3:2026, 8.7.3)

The security requirements rationale shall demonstrate that the SFRs (in conjunction with the security objectives for the operational environment) enforce all the OSPs for the TOE.

10.7.1.4.21 Work unit ACE_REQ.1-12

The evaluator ***shall examine*** the security requirements rationale to determine that it justifies that the SFRs are suitable to enforce each OSP.

If no SFRs trace back to the OSP and the evaluator determines that also no security objectives for the operational environment trace back to that OSP in ACE_OBJ.1-2 (10.5.1.4.5), the evaluator action related to this work unit is assigned a fail verdict.

The evaluator determines that the justification for an OSP demonstrates that the SFRs are sufficient. If all SFRs that trace back to that OSP are achieved then, in the context of any applicable security objectives for the TOE operational environment, the OSP is enforced.

The evaluator also determines that each SFR that traces back to an OSP is necessary. When the SFR is implemented it actually contributes to the enforcement of the OSP.

Simply listing in the security requirements rationale the SFRs associated with each OSP may be part of a justification, but does not constitute a justification by itself. A descriptive justification is required, although in simple cases this justification may be as minimal as "SFR X directly enforces OSP Y".

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10.7.1.4.22 Content requirement ACE_REQ.1.9C (ISO/IEC 15408-3:2026, 8.7.3)

The security requirements rationale shall explain why the SARs were chosen.

10.7.1.4.23 Work unit ACE_REQ.1-13

The evaluator ***shall check*** that the security requirements rationale explains why the SARs were chosen.

The evaluator should keep in mind that any explanation is correct, as long as it is coherent and neither the SARs nor the explanation have obvious inconsistencies with the PP-Module Base(s) or the remainder of the PP-Module.

An example of an obvious inconsistency between the SARs and the remainder of the PP-Module would be having threat agents that are very capable, but a AVA_VAN (Vulnerability analysis) (16.3) component that does not protect against these threat agents.

10.7.1.4.24 Content requirement ACE_REQ.1.10C (ISO/IEC 15408-3:2026, 8.7.3)

The statement of security requirements shall be internally consistent.

10.7.1.4.25 Work unit ACE_REQ.1-14

The evaluator ***shall examine*** the statement of security requirements to determine that it is internally consistent.

The evaluator determines that the combined set of all SFRs and SARs is internally consistent. With respect to optional requirements, the evaluator determines that:

— all optional requirements either trace to an SPD element that is itself not optional, or trace to an SPD element that is clearly associated with that optional SFR;

— all optional requirements are clearly identified as either:

  — elective and therefore for inclusion purely at the discretion of the ST author (i.e. conformance to the PP-Module does not depend on their inclusion in the ST); or

  — conditional and therefore required if a conformant TOE implements the functionality covered by the requirement;

— all optional requirements do not conflict with non-optional requirements. A capability cannot be both required and optional; however, a base capability can be required with enhancements to that capability being specified as optional.

The evaluator determines that these requirements do not conflict on all occasions where different security requirements apply to the same types of developer evidence, events, operations, data, tests to be performed, etc. or to "all objects", "all subjects", etc.

Some possible conflicts are:

— an extended SAR specifying that the design of a certain cryptographic algorithm shall be kept secret, and another extended SAR specifying an open source review;

— FAU_GEN.1 (Audit data generation) (see ISO/IEC 15408-2:2026, 8.4.7) specifying that subject identity shall be logged, FDP_ACC.1 (Subset access control) (see ISO/IEC 15408-2:2026, 11.3.6) specifying who has access to these logs, and FPR_UNO.1 (Unobservability) (see ISO/IEC 15408-2:2026, 14.6.6) specifying that some actions of subjects shall be unobservable to other subjects. If the subject that is required to be unable to see an activity can access logs of this activity, these SFRs conflict;

— FDP_RIP.1 (Subset residual information protection) (see ISO/IEC 15408-2:2026, 11.12.6) specifying deletion of information no longer needed, and FDP_ROL.1 (Basic rollback) (see ISO/IEC 15408-2:2026, 11.13.6) specifying that a TOE can return to a previous state. If the information that is needed for the rollback to the previous state has been deleted, these requirements conflict;

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— multiple iterations of FDP_ACC.1 (Subset access control) (see ISO/IEC 15408-2:2026, 11.3.6), especially where some iterations cover the same subjects, objects, or operations. If one access control SFR allows a subject to perform an operation on an object, while another access control SFR does not allow this, these requirements conflict.

10.7.2 Evaluation of sub-activity (ACE_REQ.2)

10.7.2.1 Objectives

The objective of this sub-activity is to determine whether the SFRs and SARs are clear, unambiguous and well-defined, whether they are internally consistent, and whether the SFRs meet the security objectives of the TOE.

10.7.2.2 Application notes

If the PP-Module uses the Direct Rationale approach (as determined in ACE_CCO.1-3 (10.9.1.3.6)) then this sub-activity is not applicable.

10.7.2.3 Input

Input for ACE_REQ.2 consists of the following:

— the PP-Module.

10.7.2.4 Action ACE_REQ.2.1E

10.7.2.4.1 Evaluator action (ISO/IEC 15408-3:2026, 8.7.4)

The evaluator shall confirm that the information provided meets all requirements for content and presentation of evidence.

10.7.2.4.2 Content requirement ACE_REQ.2.1C (ISO/IEC 15408-3:2026, 8.7.4)

The statement of security requirements shall describe the SFRs and SARs (the SARs that apply to the PP-Module can be explicitly stated or inherited from the PP-Module Base(s)).

10.7.2.4.3 Work unit ACE_REQ.2-1

The evaluator ***shall check*** that the statement of security requirements describes the SFRs.

The evaluator determines that each SFR is identified by one of the following means:

— by reference to an individual component in ISO/IEC 15408-2;

— by reference to an extended component defined in the PP-Module or in its PP-Module Base(s);

— by reference to an individual component in a security requirements package that the PP-Module claims to be conformant with;

— by reproduction in the PP-Module of an SFR defined in its PP-Module Base(s).

It is not required to use the same means of identification for all SFRs.

10.7.2.4.4 Work unit ACE_REQ.2-2

The evaluator ***shall check*** that the statement of security requirements describes the SARs.

The evaluator determines that each SAR is identified by one of the following means:

— by reference to an individual component in ISO/IEC 15408-3;

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— by reference to an extended component defined in the PP-Module or in its PP-Module Base(s);

— by reference to an individual component in an assurance package that the PP-Module claims to be conformant with;

— by reproduction in the PP-Module of an SAR defined in its PP-Module Base(s).

— by reference to an extended component in the extended components definition of the PP-Module Base;

— by reference to an individual component in a security requirements package that the PP-Module claims to be conformant with;

— by reproduction in the PP-Module.

It is not required to use the same means of identification for all SARs.

10.7.2.4.5 Content requirement ACE_REQ.2.2C (ISO/IEC 15408-3:2026, 8.7.4)

All subjects, objects, operations, security attributes, external entities and other terms that are used in the SFRs and the SARs shall be defined.

10.7.2.4.6 Work unit ACE_REQ.2-3

The evaluator ***shall examine*** the PP-Module to determine that all subjects, objects, information, operations, security attributes, external entities and other terms that are used in the SFRs and the SARs are defined.

The evaluator determines that the PP-Module defines all:

— (types of) subjects, objects and information that are used in the SFRs;

— (types of) security attributes of subjects, users, objects, information, sessions and resources, possible values that these attributes can take and any relations between these values (e.g. top_secret is "higher" than secret);

— (types of) operations that are used in the SFRs, including the effects of these operations;

— (types of) external entities in the SFRs;

— other terms that are introduced in either SFRs or SARs or both by completing operations, if these terms are not immediately clear, or are used outside their dictionary definition.

The goal of this work unit is to ensure that the SFRs and SARs are well-defined and that no misunderstanding can occur due to the introduction of vague terms. This work unit should not be taken to extremes, by forcing the PP-Module author to define every single word. The general audience of a set of security requirements should be assumed to have a reasonable knowledge of IT, security and the ISO/IEC 15408 series.

All of the definitions may be presented in groups, classes, roles, types or other groupings or characterisations that allow easy understanding.

The evaluator shall keep in mind that these lists and definitions do not have to be part of the statement of security requirements, but may be placed (in part or in whole) in different subclauses. This can be especially applicable if the same terms are used in the rest of the PP-Module.

10.7.2.4.7 Content requirement ACE_REQ.2.3C (ISO/IEC 15408-3:2026, 8.7.4)

The statement of security requirements shall identify all operations on the security requirements.

10.7.2.4.8 Work unit ACE_REQ.2-4

The evaluator ***shall check*** that the statement of security requirements identifies all operations on the security requirements.

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The evaluator determines that all operations are identified in each SFR or SAR where such an operation is used. This includes both completed operations and uncompleted operations. Identification may be achieved by typographical distinctions, or by explicit identification in the surrounding text, or by any other distinctive means.

If the PP-Module defines selection-based SFRs, the evaluator determines that the PP-Module clearly identifies the dependencies between the selection in an SFR and the selection-based SFR(s) to be included in the ST if that selection is chosen by the ST author.

10.7.2.4.9 Content requirement ACE_REQ.2.4C (ISO/IEC 15408-3:2026, 8.7.4)

All operations shall be performed correctly.

10.7.2.4.10 Work unit ACE_REQ.2-5

The evaluator ***shall examine*** the statement of security requirements to determine that all assignment operations are performed correctly.

Requirements for the correct performance of operations can be found in ISO/IEC 15408-1:2026, 8.2.

10.7.2.4.11 Work unit ACE_REQ.2-6

The evaluator ***shall examine*** the statement of security requirements to determine that all iteration operations are performed correctly.

Requirements for the correct performance of operations can be found in ISO/IEC 15408-1:2026, 8.2.

10.7.2.4.12 Work unit ACE_REQ.2-7

The evaluator ***shall examine*** the statement of security requirements to determine that all selection operations are performed correctly.

Requirements for the correct performance of operations can be found in ISO/IEC 15408-1:2026, 8.2.

10.7.2.4.13 Work unit ACE_REQ.2-8

The evaluator ***shall examine*** the statement of security requirements to determine that all refinement operations are performed correctly.

Requirements for the correct performance of operations can be found in ISO/IEC 15408-1:2026, 8.2.

10.7.2.4.14 Content requirement ACE_REQ.2.5C (ISO/IEC 15408-3:2026, 8.7.4)

Each dependency of the security requirements shall either be satisfied, or the security requirements rationale shall justify the dependency not being satisfied.

10.7.2.4.15 Work unit ACE_REQ.2-9

The evaluator ***shall examine*** the statement of security requirements to determine that each dependency of the security requirements is either satisfied, or that the security requirements rationale justifies the dependency not being satisfied.

A dependency is satisfied by the inclusion of the relevant component (or one that is hierarchical to it) within the statement of security requirements. The component used to satisfy the dependency can, if necessary, be modified by operations to ensure that it actually satisfies that dependency.

A justification that a dependency is not met shall address either:

— why the dependency is not necessary or useful, in which case no further information is required; or

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— that the dependency has been addressed by the operational environment of the TOE, in which case the justification shall describe how the security objectives for the operational environment address this dependency.

The evaluator ensures that if a functional package defines a dependency on another functional package, then that functional package is included in the PP-Module.

If a functional package identifies dependencies on its requirements that need to be satisfied by the underlying PP-Module, the evaluator ensures that their analysis covers these dependencies as well.

10.7.2.4.16 Content requirement ACE_REQ.2.6C (ISO/IEC 15408-3:2026, 8.7.4)

The security requirements rationale shall trace each SFR back to the security objectives for the TOE enforced by that SFR.

10.7.2.4.17 Work unit ACE_REQ.2-10

The evaluator ***shall check*** that the security requirements rationale traces each SFR back to the security objectives for the TOE.

Security objectives associated with optional requirements shall also be considered for the security requirements rationale and related activities in this work unit.

The evaluator determines that each SFR is traced back to at least one security objective for the TOE.

Failure to trace implies that either the security requirements rationale is incomplete, the security objectives for the TOE are incomplete, or the SFR has no useful purpose.

10.7.2.4.18 Content requirement ACE_REQ.2.7C (ISO/IEC 15408-3:2026, 8.7.4)

The security requirements rationale shall demonstrate that the SFRs meet all security objectives for the TOE.

10.7.2.4.19 Work unit ACE_REQ.2-11

The evaluator ***shall examine*** the security requirements rationale to determine that for each security objective for the TOE it justifies that the SFRs are suitable to meet that security objective for the TOE.

If no SFRs trace back to the security objective for the TOE, the evaluator action related to this work unit is assigned a fail verdict.

The evaluator determines that the justification for a security objective for the TOE demonstrates that the SFRs are sufficient. If all SFRs that trace back to the objective are satisfied, the security objective for the TOE is achieved.

If the SFRs that trace back to a security objective for the TOE have any uncompleted assignments, or uncompleted or restricted selections, the evaluator determines that for every conceivable completion or combination of completions of these operations, the security objective is still met.

The evaluator also determines that each SFR that traces back to a security objective for the TOE is necessary. When the SFR is satisfied, it actually contributes to achieving the security objective.

The tracings from SFRs to security objectives for the TOE provided in the security requirements rationale may be a part of the justification, but do not constitute a justification by themselves.

10.7.2.4.20 Content requirement ACE_REQ.2.8C (ISO/IEC 15408-3:2026, 8.7.4)

The security requirements rationale shall explain why the SARs were chosen.

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10.7.2.4.21 Work unit ACE_REQ.2-12

The evaluator ***shall check*** that the security requirements rationale explains why the SARs were chosen.

The evaluator should keep in mind that any explanation is correct, as long as it is coherent and neither the SARs nor the explanation have obvious inconsistencies with the PP-Module Base(s) or the remainder of the PP-Module.

An example of an obvious inconsistency between the SARs and the remainder of the PP-Module would be to have threat agents that are very capable, but an AVA_VAN (Vulnerability analysis) (16.3) component that does not protect against these threat agents.

10.7.2.4.22 Content requirement ACE_REQ.2.9C (ISO/IEC 15408-3:2026, 8.7.4)

The statement of security requirements shall be internally consistent.

10.7.2.4.23 Work unit ACE_REQ.2-13

The evaluator ***shall examine*** the statement of security requirements to determine that it is internally consistent.

The evaluator determines that the combined set of all SFRs and SARs is internally consistent. With respect to optional requirements, the evaluator determines that:

— all optional requirements either trace to an SPD element that is itself not optional, or trace to an SPD element that is clearly associated with that optional SFR;

— all optional requirements are clearly identified as either:

  — elective and therefore for inclusion purely at the discretion of the ST author (i.e. conformance to the PP-Module does not depend on their inclusion in the ST); or

  — conditional and therefore required if a conformant TOE implements the functionality covered by the requirement;

— all optional requirements do not conflict with non-optional requirements. A capability cannot be both required and optional; however, a base capability can be required with enhancements to that capability being specified as optional.

The evaluator determines that these requirements do not conflict on all occasions where different security requirements apply to the same types of developer evidence, events, operations, data, tests to be performed, etc. or to "all objects", "all subjects", etc.

Some possible conflicts are:

— an extended SAR specifying that the design of a certain cryptographic algorithm shall be kept secret, and another extended SAR specifying an open source review;

— FAU_GEN.1 (Audit data generation) (see ISO/IEC 15408-2:2026, 8.4.7) specifying that subject identity shall be logged, FDP_ACC.1 (Subset access control) (see ISO/IEC 15408-2:2026, 11.3.6) specifying who has access to these logs, and FPR_UNO.1 (Unobservability) (see ISO/IEC 15408-2:2026, 14.6.6) specifying that some actions of subjects shall be unobservable to other subjects. If the subject that shall not be able to see an activity can access logs of this activity, these SFRs conflict;

— FDP_RIP.1 (Subset residual information protection) (see ISO/IEC 15408-2:2026, 11.12.6) specifying deletion of information no longer needed, and FDP_ROL.1 (Basic rollback) (see ISO/IEC 15408-2:2026, 11.13.6) specifying that a TOE can return to a previous state. If the information that is needed for the rollback to the previous state has been deleted, these requirements conflict;

— multiple iterations of FDP_ACC.1 (Subset access control) (see ISO/IEC 15408-2:2026, 11.3.6), especially where some iterations cover the same subjects, objects, or operations. If one access control SFR allows a

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subject to perform an operation on an object, while another access control SFR does not allow this, these requirements conflict.

10.8 PP-Module consistency (ACE_MCO)

10.8.1 Evaluation of sub-activity (ACE_MCO.1)

10.8.1.1 Objectives

The objective of this sub-activity is to determine the consistency of the PP-Module regarding its PP-Module Base.

10.8.1.2 Input

Input for ACE_MCO.1 consists of the following:

— the PP-Module;

— its PP-Module Base(s);

— the PP-Configuration.

10.8.1.3 Action ACE_MCO.1.1E

10.8.1.3.1 Evaluator action (ISO/IEC 15408-3:2026, 8.8.2)

The evaluator shall confirm that the information provided meets all requirements for content and presentation of evidence. If the PP-Module specifies alternative PP-Module Bases, the evaluator shall perform this action for each consistency rationale.

10.8.1.3.2 Content requirement ACE_MCO.1.1C (ISO/IEC 15408-3:2026, 8.8.2)

The consistency rationale shall demonstrate that the TOE type of the PP-Module and the TOE types of its PP-Module Base(s) are consistent.

10.8.1.3.3 Work unit ACE_MCO.1-1

The evaluator ***shall examine*** the consistency rationale to determine that the TOE type of the PP-Module is consistent with the TOE type(s) of the PP-Module Base(s).

The relation between the types can be:

— simple - a PP-Module may consider a TOE that provides additional security functionality,

— more complex - a TOE that provides a given security functionality in a specific way.

10.8.1.3.4 Content requirement ACE_MCO.1.2C (ISO/IEC 15408-3:2026, 8.8.2)

The consistency rationale shall identify the assets of the PP-Module's SPD that also belong to any of the PP-Module Base(s) and amongst them those for which the PP-Module and the PP-Module Base(s) define different security problems.

10.8.1.3.5 Work unit ACE_MCO.1-2

The evaluator ***shall check*** that the consistency rationale contains the set of assets shared between the PP-Module and PP-Module Base(s), and that this set is unambiguous and complete.

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The evaluator ***shall check*** that the consistency rationale contains the subset of shared assets that either:

— hold different security properties; or

— are subject to different threat agents or threat scenarios;

— or both;

and that this subset is unambiguous and complete.

If there is no shared asset, then this work unit is considered satisfied.

10.8.1.3.6 Content requirement ACE_MCO.1.3C (ISO/IEC 15408-3:2026, 8.8.2)

The consistency rationale shall demonstrate that:

— the statement of the security problem definition is consistent with the statement of the security problem definition of its PP-Module Base(s);

— the statement of the security problem definition is consistent with the statement of the security problem definition of any functional package for which conformance is being claimed.

10.8.1.3.7 Work unit ACE_MCO.1-3

The evaluator ***shall examine*** the PP-Module consistency rationale to determine that it demonstrates that the statement of security problem definition of the PP-Module is consistent with the statements of security problem definition stated in its PP-Module Base(s).

In particular, the evaluator examines the consistency rationale to determine that:

— the statements of threats, assumptions and OSPs in the PP-Module do not contradict those drawn from its PP-Module Base(s);

— the statement of assumptions in the PP-Module addresses aspects out of scope of its PP-Module Base(s), in which case, the addition of elements is allowed.

10.8.1.3.8 Work unit ACE_MCO.1-4

The evaluator ***shall examine*** the PP-Module consistency rationale to determine that it demonstrates that the statement of security problem definition of the PP-Module is consistent with the statement(s) of security problem definition stated in any of the functional packages for which conformance is being claimed.

In particular, the evaluator examines the consistency rationale to determine that:

— the statements of threats, assumptions and OSPs in the PP-Module do not contradict those from any functional packages to which it claims conformance;

— the statement of assumptions in the PP-Module addresses aspects out of scope of any functional packages to which it claims conformance, in which case, the addition of elements is allowed.

10.8.1.3.9 Work unit ACE_MCO.1-5

For all the assets that are shared between the PP-Module and its PP-Module Base(s) or any functional packages to which it claims conformance, the evaluator ***shall determine*** that all the differences in the security problem definitions are justified. For instance, the asset resides in different locations or at different times or is subject to different operational environment conditions.

In particular, the evaluator examines the consistency rationale to determine that:

— the statements of security objectives for the TOE and the security objectives for the operational environment the PP-Module do not contradict those drawn from any functional packages to which it claims conformance;

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— the statement of security objectives for the operational environment in the PP-Module addresses aspects out of scope of any functional packages to which it claims conformance, in which case, the addition of elements is allowed.

10.8.1.3.10 Content requirement ACE_MCO.1.4C (ISO/IEC 15408-3:2026, 8.8.2)

The consistency rationale shall demonstrate that:

— the security objectives are consistent with the security objectives of its PP-Module Base(s);

— the security objectives are consistent with the security objectives of any functional package for which conformance is being claimed.

10.8.1.3.11 Work unit ACE_MCO.1-6

The evaluator ***shall examine*** the PP-Module consistency rationale to determine that it demonstrates that the statement of security objectives of the PP-Module is consistent with the statement of security objectives of its PP-Module Base(s).

Where the PP-Module and its PP-Module Base use the Direct Rationale approach then this work unit is trivially satisfied for the TOE objectives because these are not included under the Direct Rationale approach. If any of the PP-Module or its PP-Module Base(s) use the Direct Rationale approach then the PP-Module and all elements of its PP-Module Base(s) shall use the Direct Rationale approach, otherwise the evaluator action related to this work unit is assigned a fail verdict.

In particular, the evaluator examines the consistency rationale to determine that:

— the statements of security objectives for the TOE and the security objectives for the operational environment in the PP-Module do not contradict those drawn from its PP-Module Base(s);

— the statement of security objectives for the operational environment in the PP-Module addresses aspects out of scope of its PP-Module Base(s), in which case, the addition of elements is allowed.

10.8.1.3.12 Work unit ACE_MCO.1-7

The evaluator ***shall examine*** the PP-Module consistency rationale to determine that it demonstrates that the statement of security objectives of the PP-Module is consistent with the statement of security objectives of any functional package for which conformance is being claimed.

Where the PP-Module and its PP-Module Base(s) use the Direct Rationale approach then this work unit is trivially satisfied for the TOE objectives because these are not included under the Direct Rationale approach. If any of the PP-Module or its PP-Module Base(s) use the Direct Rationale approach then the PP-Module and all elements of its PP-Module Base(s) shall use the Direct Rationale approach, otherwise the evaluator action related to this work unit is assigned a fail verdict.

In particular, the evaluator examines the consistency rationale to determine that:

— the statements of the security objectives for the TOE and the security objectives for the operational environment in the PP-Module do not contradict those from any functional packages to which it claims conformance;

— the statement of the security objectives for the operational environment in the PP-Module addresses aspects out of scope of any functional packages to which it claims conformance, in which case, the addition of elements is allowed.

10.8.1.3.13 Content requirement ACE_MCO.1.5C (ISO/IEC 15408-3:2026, 8.8.2)

The consistency rationale shall demonstrate that:

— the security functional requirements are consistent with the security functional requirements of its PP-Modules Base(s);

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— the security functional requirements are consistent with the security functional requirements of any functional package for which conformance is being claimed.

10.8.1.3.14 Work unit ACE_MCO.1-8

The evaluator ***shall examine*** the consistency rationale to determine that the statement of security functional requirements of the PP-Module is consistent with the statement of security functional requirements of its PP-Module Base(s), i.e. the SFRs of the PP-Module either complete, refine or reproduce the SFRs of the PP-Module Base(s) and no contradiction arises from the whole set of SFRs of the PP-Module and the PP-Module Base(s).

10.8.1.3.15 Work unit ACE_MCO.1-9

The evaluator ***shall examine*** the consistency rationale to determine that the statement of security functional requirements of the PP-Module is consistent with the statement of security functional requirements of any functional package for which conformance is being claimed, i.e. the SFRs of the PP-Module either complete, refine or reproduce the SFRs of the claimed functional packages and no contradiction arises from the whole set of SFRs of the PP-Module and those of the functional packages for which conformance is claimed.

10.8.1.3.16 Content requirement ACE_MCO.1.6C (ISO/IEC 15408-3:2026, 8.8.2)

The assurance rationale shall demonstrate the internal consistency of the set of security assurance requirements of the PP-Module with regard to its security problem definition.

10.8.1.3.17 Work unit ACE_MCO.1-10

The evaluator ***shall examine*** the assurance rationale to determine that the set of security assurance requirements of the PP-Module is consistent with regard to the threat model defined in the PP-Module.

An example of an inconsistency between SARs and the SPD would be to consider highly skilled threat agents together with a low AVA_VAN (Vulnerability analysis) (16.3) level that cannot consider these threat agents by definition.

10.8.1.3.18 Content requirement ACE_MCO.1.7C (ISO/IEC 15408-3:2026, 8.8.2)

The assurance rationale shall demonstrate the consistency of the set of security assurance requirements of the PP-Module with regard to the security assurance requirements of the PP-Module Base(s).

10.8.1.3.19 Work unit ACE_MCO.1-11

The evaluator ***shall examine*** the assurance rationale to determine that the set of security assurance requirements of the PP-Module is consistent with regard to all the set(s) of SARs defined in its PP-Module Base(s).

10.8.1.3.20 Work unit ACE_MCO.1-12

The evaluator ***shall examine*** the assurance rationale to determine that the set of SARs defined in the PP-Module does not undermine the security that is expected for the assets that are shared between the PP-Module and its PP-Module Base(s) (if shared assets exist).

10.9 PP-Configuration consistency (ACE_CCO)

10.9.1 Evaluation of sub-activity (ACE_CCO.1)

10.9.1.1 Objectives

The objective of this sub-activity is to determine whether the PP-Configuration and its components are correctly identified.

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The objective of this sub-activity is also to determine the consistency of the PP-Configuration regarding the whole set of PP and PP-Modules.

For the consistency analysis required by this activity, the description of 9.2.1, is applicable to determine which parts of the PP-Module Base shall be re-evaluated during the evaluation of PP-Configuration.

10.9.1.2 Input

Input for ACE_CCO.1 consists of the following:

— the PP-Configuration;

— the PPs and PP-Modules identified in the components statement.

10.9.1.3 Action ACE_CCO.1.1E

10.9.1.3.1 Evaluator action (ISO/IEC 15408-3:2026, 8.9.2)

The evaluator shall confirm that the information provided meets all requirements for content and presentation of evidence.

10.9.1.3.2 Content requirement ACE_CCO.1.1C (ISO/IEC 15408-3:2026, 8.9.2)

The PP-Configuration reference shall uniquely identify the PP-Configuration.

10.9.1.3.3 Work unit ACE_CCO.1-1

The evaluator ***shall examine*** the PP-Configuration reference to determine that it uniquely identifies the PP-Configuration.

The evaluator determines that the PP-Configuration reference identifies the PP-Configuration itself, so that it can be easily distinguished from other PPs, PP-Configurations and PP-Modules, and that it also uniquely identifies each version of the PP-Configuration, e.g. by including either a version number or a date of publication, or both.

The PP-Configuration shall have some referencing system that is capable of supporting unique references (e.g. use of numbers, letters or dates).

10.9.1.3.4 Content requirement ACE_CCO.1.2C (ISO/IEC 15408-3:2026, 8.9.2)

The PP-Configuration components statement shall uniquely identify the PPs and PP-Modules that compose the PP-Configuration.

10.9.1.3.5 Work unit ACE_CCO.1-2

The evaluator ***shall examine*** the PP-Configuration components statement to determine that it uniquely identifies the PPs and PP-Modules contained in the PP-Configuration.

10.9.1.3.6 Work unit ACE_CCO.1-3

The evaluator ***shall check*** that if any of the PPs or PP-Modules in the PP-Configuration use the Direct Rationale Approach then all the PPs and PP-Modules in the PP-Configuration use the Direct Rationale approach.

10.9.1.3.7 Work unit ACE_CCO.1-4

The evaluator ***shall check*** that if any of the PPs or PP-Modules in the PP-Configuration are of exact conformance type then all PPs and PP-Modules in the PP-Configuration are of exact conformance type.

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The PPs should have been certified and available for use in Security Targets.

10.9.1.3.8 Content requirement ACE_CCO.1.3C (ISO/IEC 15408-3:2026, 8.9.2)

For each PP-Module identified in the PP-Configuration components statement, the components statement shall include the PP-Module Base required by the identified PP-Module. If the PP-Module specifies alternative PP-Module Bases, only one of these PP-Module Bases shall be referred to in the PP-Configuration.

10.9.1.3.9 Work unit ACE_CCO.1-5

The evaluator ***shall check*** that the PP-Module Base of each PP-Module in the PP-Configuration is identified in the PP-Configuration's component statement. Where a PP-Module specifies alternative PP-Module Bases then only one of these PP-Module Bases shall be referred to in the PP-Configuration.

10.9.1.3.10 Content requirement ACE_CCO.1.4C (ISO/IEC 15408-3:2026, 8.9.2)

For a multi-assurance PP-Configuration, the components statement shall describe the organization of the TSF in terms of the sub-TSFs defined in the PPs and PP-Modules defined in the PP-Configuration.

10.9.1.3.11 Work unit ACE_CCO.1-6

The evaluator ***shall check*** that the components statement provides a description of the TSF organisation in terms of the sub-TSFs defined by the PP-Configuration components.

10.9.1.3.12 Content requirement ACE_CCO.1.5C (ISO/IEC 15408-3:2026, 8.9.2)

The TOE overview shall identify the TOE type.

10.9.1.3.13 Work unit ACE_CCO.1-7

The evaluator ***shall check*** that the TOE overview identifies the TOE type.

10.9.1.3.14 Content requirement ACE_CCO.1.6C (ISO/IEC 15408-3:2026, 8.9.2)

The TOE overview shall describe the usage and major security features of the TOE.

10.9.1.3.15 Work unit ACE_CCO.1-8

The evaluator ***shall examine*** the TOE overview to determine that it describes the usage and major security features of the TOE.

The TOE overview shall describe the usage and major security features expected of the TOE. The TOE overview should enable consumers and potential TOE developers to quickly determine whether the PP-Configuration is of interest to them.

The evaluator determines that the overview is clear enough for TOE developers and consumers, and sufficient to give them a general understanding of the intended usage and major security features of the TOE.

10.9.1.3.16 Content requirement ACE_CCO.1.7C (ISO/IEC 15408-3:2026, 8.9.2)

The TOE overview shall identify any non-TOE:

— hardware,

— software,

— firmware, available to the TOE.

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10.9.1.3.17 Work unit ACE_CCO.1-9

The evaluator ***shall examine*** the TOE overview to determine that it identifies any non-TOE hardware, software, firmware available to the TOE.

While some TOEs can run stand-alone, other TOEs (notably software TOEs) need additional hardware, software or firmware to operate. In the TOE overview, the PP-Configuration author shall list all hardware, software, firmware, that can be available for the TOE to run on.

This identification should be detailed enough for potential consumers and TOE developers to determine whether their TOE can operate with the listed hardware, software and firmware.

10.9.1.3.18 Content requirement ACE_CCO.1.8C (ISO/IEC 15408-3:2026, 8.9.2)

The conformance claim shall identify the edition(s) of the ISO/IEC 15408 series to which the PP-Configuration components claim conformance.

NOTE Previous editions can refer to withdrawn and replaced documents.

10.9.1.3.19 Work unit ACE_CCO.1-10

The evaluator ***shall check*** that the conformance claim identifies the edition(s) of the ISO/IEC 15408 series to which the PP-Configuration and its components claim conformance.

NOTE Previous editions can refer to withdrawn and replaced documents.

10.9.1.3.20 Content requirement ACE_CCO.1.9C (ISO/IEC 15408-3:2026, 8.9.2)

The conformance claim shall describe the conformance of the PP-Configuration to ISO/IEC 15408-2 as either "ISO/IEC 15408-2 conformant" or "ISO/IEC 15408-2 extended".

10.9.1.3.21 Work unit ACE_CCO.1-11

The evaluator ***shall check*** that the conformance claim states a claim of either "ISO/IEC 15408-2 conformant" or "ISO/IEC 15408-2 extended" for the PP-Configuration.

10.9.1.3.22 Content requirement ACE_CCO.1.10C (ISO/IEC 15408-3:2026, 8.9.2)

The conformance claim shall describe the conformance of the PP-Configuration to ISO/IEC 15408-3 as either "ISO/IEC 15408-3 conformant" or "ISO/IEC 15408-3 extended".

10.9.1.3.23 Work unit ACE_CCO.1-12

The evaluator ***shall check*** that the conformance claim states a claim of either "ISO/IEC 15408-3 conformant" or "ISO/IEC 15408-3 extended" for the PP-Configuration.

10.9.1.3.24 Content requirement ACE_CCO.1.11C (ISO/IEC 15408-3:2026, 8.9.2)

The conformance claim shall be consistent with the conformance claims of the PP-Configuration components.

10.9.1.3.25 Work unit ACE_CCO.1-13

The evaluator ***shall examine*** the PP-Configuration conformance claim to determine the compatibility between all editions of the ISO/IEC 15408 series that are related to the PP-Configuration and its components.

The editions of the ISO/IEC 15408 series used in a PP-Configuration and its components shall be compatible. If compatibility is not obvious, guidance from the evaluation authority should be requested.

NOTE Previous editions can refer to withdrawn and replaced documents.

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10.9.1.3.26 Content requirement ACE_CCO.1.12C (ISO/IEC 15408-3:2026, 8.9.2)

The conformance claim of a PP-Configuration shall include an assurance package conformance claim consisting of statements describing any conformance of the PP-Configuration to an assurance package as either package-conformant or package-augmented.

10.9.1.3.27 Work unit ACE_CCO.1-14

The evaluator ***shall check*** that, for each identified assurance package, the conformance claim states that it is either package-conformant or package-augmented.

If the PP-Configuration does not claim conformance to an assurance package, this work unit is not applicable and therefore considered to be satisfied.

If the assurance package conformance claim contains package-conformant, the evaluator determines that all constituent parts included in the assurance package are included in identical form by the PP-Configuration, without modification.

If the assurance package conformance claim contains package-augmented, the evaluator determines that all constituent parts of the assurance package included in the PP-Configuration are identical to those given in the assurance package except that the PP-Configuration shall contain at least one additional SAR or one SAR that is hierarchically higher than those contained in the assurance package.

10.9.1.3.28 Content requirement ACE_CCO.1.13C (ISO/IEC 15408-3:2026, 8.9.2)

The conformance statement shall specify the required conformance to the PP-Configuration as one of exact, strict, demonstrable, or it shall provide the list of conformance types that are required by each of the PP-Configuration components.

10.9.1.3.29 Work unit ACE_CCO.1-15

The evaluator ***shall examine*** the PP-Configuration conformance statement to determine that it specifies the kind of conformance required: exact, strict, demonstrable, or a combination of strict and demonstrable.

If at least one of the PPs identified in the PP-Configuration components statement requires exact conformance, then the PP-Configuration conformance statement shall also require exact conformance.

10.9.1.3.30 Content requirement ACE_CCO.1.14C (ISO/IEC 15408-3:2026, 8.9.2)

For the exact conformance case, the allowed-with statement of the conformance statement of each PP included in the components statement of the PP-Configuration shall identify all the PP-Configuration components as being allowed to be used in combination with the PP in a PP-Configuration.

10.9.1.3.31 Work unit ACE_CCO.1-16

For the exact conformance case, for each PP listed in the PP-Configuration?s components statement, the evaluator ***shall check*** the PP's conformance statement to determine that all the components of the PP-Configuration are listed in the PP's allowed-with list and can therefore be used with that PP in a PP-Configuration.

Note: For the exact conformance case, through ACE_CCO.1-16 and ACE_CCO.1-17 (10.9.1.3.33) together, the evaluator ensures that each component of the PP-Configuration is permitted for use with any other components, either through the allowed-with lists of PPs and PP-Modules or through the definition of the PP-Module Bases(s).

10.9.1.3.32 Content requirement ACE_CCO.1.15C (ISO/IEC 15408-3:2026, 8.9.2)

For the exact conformance case, the allowed-with statement of the conformance statement of each PP-Module included in the components statement of the PP-Configuration shall identify all the PP-Configuration

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components that are not in the PP-Module Base(s) for that particular PP-Module as being allowed to be used in combination with the PP-Module in a PP-Configuration.

10.9.1.3.33 Work unit ACE_CCO.1-17

For the exact conformance case, for each PP-Module listed in the PP-Configuration's components statement, the evaluator ***shall check*** the PP-Module's conformance statement to determine that all the components of the PP-Configuration are listed as allowed to be used with that PP-Module in a PP-Configuration, with the exception that PP-Configuration components in the PP-Module Base are not required to appear in the PP-Module's allowed-with list.

10.9.1.3.34 Content requirement ACE_CCO.1.16C (ISO/IEC 15408-3:2026, 8.9.2)

For PP-Configurations that are not of exact conformance type (i.e. for PP-Configurations of strict or demonstrable conformance type), the conformance statement of a PP-Configuration may include an evaluation methods and evaluation activities reference statement that identifies the set of ISO/IEC 18045-derived evaluation methods and evaluation activities that are applicable to the PP-Configuration under evaluation.

10.9.1.3.35 Work unit ACE_CCO.1-18

The evaluator ***shall check*** the conformance statement of the PP-Configuration under evaluation to confirm that:

— if any derived evaluation methods and evaluation activities are required by other items included in the PP-Configuration (e.g. a PP-Module Base or PP-Module), or required by other items to which the PP-Configuration claims conformance (e.g. packages), then these are all identified in the PP-Configuration under evaluation, along with any derived evaluation methods and evaluation activities that the PP-Configuration itself chooses to require;

— the list of derived evaluation methods and evaluation activities is sufficiently structured and detailed to unambiguously identify and locate every member of the list;

— if there is any overlap in the scope of the identified evaluation methods and evaluation activities (i.e. where an overlay exists as described in ISO/IEC 15408-4) then the rationale for the resulting set of evaluation methods and evaluation activities is applicable to the TOE as described by the PP-Configuration under evaluation.

The intention of this work unit is to ensure that when evaluating a TOE that claims conformance with the PP-Configuration under evaluation then the correct evaluation methods and evaluation activities can be used.

Where the individual evaluation activities are unambiguously included in a listed evaluation method these activities are not required to be listed in the PP-Module. Similarly, where multiple evaluation methods or evaluation activities are included in a single document then it is sufficient to reference the document, provided this does lead to unambiguous identification of the evaluation methods and evaluation activities that apply to the PP-Configuration under evaluation.

If a document lists multiple different evaluation methods applicable to different use cases then it would not be sufficient to reference the document; it would also be necessary to identify the relevant use cases.

Where exact conformance is required then the PP-Configuration is not permitted to define its own requirements for derived evaluation methods and evaluation activities: it can only use those required by the other items (e.g. a PP-Module Base or PP-Module) in the PP-Configuration.

10.9.1.3.36 Content requirement ACE_CCO.1.17C (ISO/IEC 15408-3:2026, 8.9.2)

The consistency rationale shall demonstrate that the TOE type defined in the PP-Configuration is consistent with the TOE types defined in the PPs and PP-Modules that belong to the PP-Configuration components statement.

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10.9.1.3.37 Work unit ACE_CCO.1-19

The evaluator ***shall examine*** the consistency rationale to determine that the TOE type defined in the PP-Configuration is consistent with the TOE types defined in the components of the PP-Configuration.

10.9.1.3.38 Content requirement ACE_CCO.1.18C (ISO/IEC 15408-3:2026, 8.9.2)

The consistency rationale shall demonstrate that the union of all the SPDs, security objectives and security functional requirements defined in the PP-Configuration components is consistent.

10.9.1.3.39 Work unit ACE_CCO.1-20

The evaluator ***shall examine*** the PP-Configuration consistency rationale to determine that it demonstrates that the union of all the SPDs of the PPs and PP-Modules identified in the PP-Configuration's components statement is consistent.

10.9.1.3.40 Work unit ACE_CCO.1-21

The evaluator ***shall examine*** the PP-Configuration consistency rationale to determine that it demonstrates that the union of all the security objectives of the PPs and PP-Modules identified in the PP-Configuration's components statement is consistent. If the PP-Configuration is a Direct Rationale PP-Configuration (as determined in ACE_CCO.1-3 (10.9.1.3.6)) then the TOE objectives are not required in the consistency analysis.

10.9.1.3.41 Work unit ACE_CCO.1-22

The evaluator ***shall examine*** the PP-Configuration consistency rationale to determine that the union of all the security functional requirements of the PPs and PP-Modules identified in the PP-Configuration's components statement is consistent, i.e. no contradiction arises from the whole set of SFRs of the PP-Configuration and its components.

10.9.1.3.42 Content requirement ACE_CCO.1.19C (ISO/IEC 15408-3:2026, 8.9.2)

For a single-assurance PP-Configuration, the SAR statement shall define a single set of SARs that applies to the entire TOE. For strict and demonstrable conformance, the set of SARs shall include the SARs identified in each of the PP-Configuration components. For exact conformance, the set of SARs shall be identical to the set of SARs identified in each of the PP-Configuration components.

10.9.1.3.43 Work unit ACE_CCO.1-23

The evaluator ***shall examine*** the PP-Configuration SAR statement to determine that it defines all applicable assurance requirements drawn from ISO/IEC 15408-3 and possibly extended. The set of SARs can refer to a well-defined SAR package, given in an external reference.

10.9.1.3.44 Work unit ACE_CCO.1-24

For a strict or demonstrable conformance PP-Configuration, the evaluator ***shall check*** that the set of SARs is well-formed: it is closed by dependencies or the SAR statement provides a sound discarding rationale.

10.9.1.3.45 Work unit ACE_CCO.1-25

For a strict or demonstrable conformance PP-Configuration, the evaluator ***shall check*** that the set of SARs of the PP-Configuration is consistent with respect to the SARs of each of the PPs and PP-Modules contained in the PP-Configuration. For any SAR component in each of the PPs and PP-Modules, the PP-Configuration provides either the same or a higher SAR component in the family hierarchy.

If the SAR component in the PP or PP-Module is a refinement of a standard component, then the corresponding SAR component in the PP-Configuration shall include these refinements.

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If two PP-Configuration components refine the same SAR component, the evaluator ***shall check*** that the refinements are not contradictory and that the corresponding SAR component in the PP-Configuration meets both.

10.9.1.3.46 Work unit ACE_CCO.1-26

For an exact conformance PP-Configuration, the evaluator ***shall check*** that the set of SARs is identical to those SARs identified in each of the PP-Configuration components.

10.9.1.3.47 Content requirement ACE_CCO.1.20C (ISO/IEC 15408-3:2026, 8.9.2)

For a multi-assurance PP-Configuration, the SAR statement shall define the global set of SARs that applies to the entire TOE and the SARs that apply to each sub-TSF. For strict and demonstrable conformance, the global assurance set of SARs shall include the set of common SARs among the PP-Configuration components, and each set of SARs that apply to a sub-TSF shall include those identified for the PP-Configuration components associated with that sub-TSF. For exact conformance, the global assurance set of SARs shall be the set of common SARs among the PP-Configuration components, and each set of SARs that apply to a sub-TSF shall be identical to those identified for the PP-Configuration components associated with that sub-TSF.

10.9.1.3.48 Work unit ACE_CCO.1-27

For a multi-assurance PP-Configuration, the evaluator ***shall check*** that the SAR statement defines all the applicable assurance requirements. The evaluator ***shall examine*** the SAR statement to determine that it defines the global set of SARs applying to the entire TOE and the SARs applying to each sub-TSF.

10.9.1.3.49 Work unit ACE_CCO.1-28

For PP-Configurations of either strict or demonstrable conformance, the evaluator ***shall examine*** the global set of SARs to ensure that it includes at least the set of SARs that are common to all the PP-Configuration components, and that any augmentation of this set is clearly identified.

In most cases (and always in the exact conformance case), the global set of SARs can be built as the common set of SARs that apply to all of the sub-TSFs. However, as it is the case with STs in the general model, the PP-Configuration (of strict or demonstrable conformance type) can require additional or higher SARs compared to the original SARs in the PP-Configuration components. The evaluation of the PP-Configuration will ensure the consistency of the claim, similar to the general model for the compliance with two or more PPs defining different sets of SARs, and similar to the approach for a multi-assurance ST which can extend the sets of SARs defined in the PP-Configuration the ST claims conformance to.

See ISO/IEC 15408-1:2026, 11.3.2.4, for further requirements and examples.

10.9.1.3.50 Work unit ACE_CCO.1-29

For PP-Configurations of exact conformance, the evaluator ***shall examine*** the global set of SARs to ensure that it includes only the set of SARs that are common to all the PP-Configuration components.

In the exact conformance case, the global set of SARs is built as the common set of SARs that apply to all of the sub-TSFs (with no augmentation or extension in the global set).

See ISO/IEC 15408-1:2026, 11.3.2.4, for further requirements and examples.

10.9.1.3.51 Work unit ACE_CCO.1-30

For PP-Configurations of either strict or demonstrable conformance, or both, the evaluator ***shall determine*** that each set of SARs that apply to a sub-TSF include those SARs associated with that sub-TSF's PP-Configuration components.

It is also permissible to include an augmentation of those SARs.

See ISO/IEC 15408-1:2026, 11.3.2.4, for further requirements and examples.

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10.9.1.3.52 Work unit ACE_CCO.1-31

For PP-Configurations of exact conformance, the evaluator ***shall determine*** that each set of SARs that apply to a sub-TSF is identical those SARs associated with that sub-TSF's PP-Configuration components

10.9.1.3.53 Content requirement ACE_CCO.1.21C (ISO/IEC 15408-3:2026, 8.9.2)

The SAR statement of a PP-Configuration shall include an assurance rationale that demonstrates the consistency of the applicable set of SARs with those defined in the components of the PP-Configuration under evaluation and their associated evaluation methods and evaluation activities. For a multi-assurance PP-Configuration, the assurance rationale shall demonstrate:

— that the global set of SARs is consistent with the threats as defined in the SPDs of the PP-Configuration components, and

— that the global set of SARs and the sets of SARs for each sub-TSF are consistent with each other.

10.9.1.3.54 Work unit ACE_CCO.1-32

The evaluator ***shall check*** that the SAR statement of the PP-Configuration includes an assurance rationale.

10.9.1.3.55 Work unit ACE_CCO.1-33

The evaluator ***shall examine*** the assurance rationale to determine that the set of applicable SARs is consistent with those defined in the components of the PP-Configuration under evaluation.

10.9.1.3.56 Work unit ACE_CCO.1-34

The evaluator ***shall examine*** the assurance rationale to determine that the set of applicable SARs is consistent with the evaluation activities and evaluation methods associated with the PP-Configuration components.

10.9.1.3.57 Work unit ACE_CCO.1-35

For a multi-assurance PP-Configuration, the evaluator ***shall examine*** the assurance rationale to determine that the global set of SARs is consistent with the threats defined in the SPDs of the PP-Configuration components.

10.9.1.3.58 Work unit ACE_CCO.1-36

The evaluator ***shall check*** that the global set of SARs is consistent with all the sets of SARs for the sub-TSFs.

10.9.1.4 Action ACE_CCO.1.2E

10.9.1.4.1 Evaluator action (ISO/IEC 15408-3:2026, 8.9.2)

The evaluator shall check that the PP-Configuration consisting of all the PPs and PP-Modules identified in the component statement is consistent.

10.9.1.4.2 Work unit ACE_CCO.1-37

The evaluator ***shall check*** that the PP-Configuration and the PP-Configuration components are consistent. That is, the evaluator shall check that no contradiction arises from the whole set of PP-Configuration components.

The evaluator can organise this work in many ways; the actual organisation can depend on the will to derive evaluation results for more than one PP-Configuration at a time.

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For instance, the evaluator can proceed in two steps as follows:

— assess the consistency of the PP-Configuration components;

— then proceed with the assessment of the PP-Configuration consistency incrementally, by adding one PP-Module at a time, following the PPs or PP-Modules dependency structure.

An alternative is to proceed incrementally but mixing PPs and PP-Modules or to flatten or serialise the definition of the PP-Configuration, duplicating elements as required, and then assessing the consistency of the whole set. (See ISO/IEC 15408-1:2026, Annex C).

Any incremental consistency analysis step where C is a subset of the PP-Configuration and X is a PP or a PP-Module that shall be added to C, consists of:

— assessing that the SPD, the objectives and the SFRs of X do not contradict the statements in C;

— the assumptions and objectives for the environment in X either are the same as in C or address security aspects that are out of the scope of C.

If the PP-Configuration is a Direct Rationale PP-Configuration (as determined in ACE_CCO.1-3 (10.9.1.3.6)) then the TOE objectives are not required in the consistency analysis.

If X is a PP-Module, C contains its PP-Module Base, and ACE_MCO.1 (PP-Module consistency) (10.8.1) has succeeded for X, then the consistency analysis step shall be performed with respect to the components of C that are not included in the PP-Module Base of X.

11 Security Target (ST) evaluation

11.1 Introduction

This clause describes the evaluation of an ST. This ST evaluation should be started prior to any TOE evaluation sub-activities since the ST provides the basis and context to perform these sub-activities. The evaluation methodology in this clause is based on the requirements of the ST as specified in ASE (Security Target (ST) evaluation).

This clause should be used in conjunction with, ISO/IEC 15408-1:2026, Annex B and ISO/IEC 15408-1:2026, Annex C as these annexes clarify the concepts discussed in this clause and provide many examples.

11.2 Application notes

11.2.1 Re-using the evaluation results of certified PPs

While evaluating an ST that is based on one or more certified PPs, it is possible to re-use the fact that these PPs were certified. The potential for re-using the result of a certified PP is greater if the PP under evaluation does not add threats, OSPs, security objectives, or security requirements to those of the PP to which conformance is being claimed. If the PP under evaluation contains many of these then it is possible that re-use is not useful at all.

The evaluator is allowed to re-use the PP evaluation results by doing certain analyses only partially or not at all if these analyses or parts thereof were already done as part of the PP evaluation. While doing this, the evaluator should assume that the analyses in the PP were performed correctly.

An example would be where the PP contains a set of security requirements, and these were determined to be internally consistent during the PP evaluation. If the ST uses the exact same requirements, the consistency analysis is not required to be repeated during the ST evaluation. If the ST adds one or more requirements, or performs operations on these requirements, the analysis shall be repeated. However, it is possible to save work in this consistency analysis by using the fact that the original requirements are internally consistent. If the original requirements are internally consistent, the evaluator is only required to determine that:

— the set of all either new, or changed requirements, or both, is internally consistent, and

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— the set of all either new, or changed requirements, or both, is consistent with the original requirements.

The evaluator notes in the ETR each case where analyses are not done or only partially done for this reason.

The same re-use discussion applies to an ST claiming conformance to a certified PP-Configuration.

11.2.2 Composition

The composite-specific work units defined in ASE_COMP (Consistency of composite product Security Target) (11.10) are intended to be integrated as refinements to the evaluation activities of ASE (Security Target (ST) evaluation) listed in Table 1. The other activities of ASE (Security Target (ST) evaluation) do not require composite-specific work units.

Table 1 — Consistency of composite product Security Target

Assurance family	Evaluation activity	Evaluation work unit	Composite-specific work unit
ASE_OBJ (Security objectives) (11.6)	ASE_OBJ.2.1E (11.6.2.3)	ASE_OBJ.2-1 (11.6.2.3.3)	ASE_COMP.1-5 (11.10.1.3.8)
	ASE_OBJ.2.1E (11.6.2.3)	ASE_OBJ.2-1 (11.6.2.3.3)	ASE_COMP.1-6 (11.10.1.3.9)
	ASE_OBJ.2.1E (11.6.2.3)	ASE_OBJ.2-3 (11.6.2.3.7)	ASE_COMP.1-6 (11.10.1.3.9)
ASE_REQ (Security requirements) (11.8)	ASE_REQ.1.1E (11.8.1.3)	ASE_REQ.1-18 (11.8.1.3.30)	ASE_COMP.1-1 (11.10.1.3.3)
	ASE_REQ.2.1E (11.8.2.3)	ASE_REQ.2-18 (11.8.2.3.29)	ASE_COMP.1-1 (11.10.1.3.3)
	ASE_REQ.1.1E (11.8.1.3)	ASE_REQ.1-18 (11.8.1.3.30)	ASE_COMP.1-2 (11.10.1.3.4)
	ASE_REQ.2.1E (11.8.2.3)	ASE_REQ.2-18 (11.8.2.3.29)	ASE_COMP.1-2 (11.10.1.3.4)
	ASE_REQ.2.1E (11.8.2.3)	ASE_REQ.2-17 (11.8.2.3.27)	ASE_COMP.1-3 (11.10.1.3.6)
	ASE_REQ.2.1E (11.8.2.3)	ASE_REQ.2-10 (11.8.2.3.16)	ASE_COMP.1-4 (11.10.1.3.7)

11.3 ST introduction (ASE_INT)

11.3.1 Evaluation of sub-activity (ASE_INT.1)

11.3.1.1 Objectives

The objective of this sub-activity is to determine whether the ST and the TOE are correctly identified, whether the TOE is correctly described in a narrative way at three levels of abstraction (TOE reference, TOE overview and TOE description), and whether these three descriptions are consistent with each other.

11.3.1.2 Input

Input for ASE_INT.1 consists of the following:

— the ST.

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11.3.1.3 Action ASE_INT.1.1E

11.3.1.3.1 Evaluator action (ISO/IEC 15408-3:2026, 9.2.2)

The evaluator shall confirm that the information provided meets all requirements for content and presentation of evidence.

11.3.1.3.2 Content requirement ASE_INT.1.1C (ISO/IEC 15408-3:2026, 9.2.2)

The ST introduction shall contain an ST reference, a TOE reference, a TOE overview and a TOE description.

11.3.1.3.3 Work unit ASE_INT.1-1

The evaluator ***shall check*** that the ST introduction contains an ST reference, a TOE reference, a TOE overview and a TOE description.

11.3.1.3.4 Content requirement ASE_INT.1.2C (ISO/IEC 15408-3:2026, 9.2.2)

The ST reference shall uniquely identify the ST.

11.3.1.3.5 Work unit ASE_INT.1-2

The evaluator ***shall examine*** the ST reference to determine that it uniquely identifies the ST.

The evaluator determines that the ST reference identifies the ST itself, so that it can be easily distinguished from other STs, and that it also uniquely identifies each version of the ST, e.g. by including either a version number or a date of publication or both.

In evaluations where a CM system is provided, the evaluator can validate the uniqueness of the reference by checking the configuration list. In the other cases, the ST should have some referencing system that is capable of supporting unique references (e.g. use of numbers, letters or dates).

11.3.1.3.6 Content requirement ASE_INT.1.3C (ISO/IEC 15408-3:2026, 9.2.2)

The TOE reference shall uniquely identify the TOE.

11.3.1.3.7 Work unit ASE_INT.1-3

The evaluator ***shall examine*** the TOE reference to determine that it uniquely identifies the TOE.

The evaluator determines that the TOE reference uniquely identifies the TOE, so that it is clear to which TOE the ST refers, and that it also identifies the version of the TOE, e.g. by including a number denoting the version or release or build, or a date of release.

In the end of the evaluation, the evaluator ***shall check*** the TOE reference, and any unique identifiers associated with the TOE physical components are consistent with the identifier(s) assigned to the TOE evaluated in work units related to ALC_CMC.*.1C and the configuration list evaluated in work units related to ALC_CMS.*.2C.

11.3.1.3.8 Work unit ASE_INT.1-4

The evaluator ***shall examine*** the TOE reference to determine that it is not misleading.

If the TOE is related to one or more well-known products, it is allowed to reflect this in the TOE reference. However, this should not be used to mislead consumers and it should be made clear which part of the product has been evaluated.

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When a TOE requires some non-TOE hardware, software, or firmware to run properly, the TOE reference may include the name of the non-TOE hardware, software, firmware used by the TOE, however it shall be made clear that the non-TOE hardware, software, and firmware has not been evaluated.

11.3.1.3.9 Content requirement ASE_INT.1.4C (ISO/IEC 15408-3:2026, 9.2.2)

The TOE overview shall summarize the usage and major security features of the TOE.

11.3.1.3.10 Work unit ASE_INT.1-5

The evaluator ***shall examine*** the TOE overview to determine that it describes the usage and major security features of the TOE.

The TOE overview may describe security features that are provided either by the product, or those that users can expect in that product type, or both, but it shall clearly distinguish those features that are evaluated and those that are not evaluated.

The TOE overview shall be consistent with information provided in other sections of the Security Target such as the TOE description, the security objectives, the security functional requirements, and the TOE summary specification. In addition to ensuring the evaluated security features are consistently described throughout the ST, this means that any security feature that is not evaluated is only discussed within the ST introduction, or else is explicitly identified as not evaluated in each other place where it is mentioned (failure to make this identification means that this work unit is assigned a fail verdict).

The TOE overview in an ST for a composed TOE should describe the usage and major security feature of the composed TOE, rather than those of the individual component TOEs.

The evaluator determines that the overview is clear enough for consumers, and sufficient to give them a general understanding of the intended usage and major security features of the TOE.

11.3.1.3.11 Content requirement ASE_INT.1.5C (ISO/IEC 15408-3:2026, 9.2.2)

The TOE overview shall identify the TOE type.

11.3.1.3.12 Work unit ASE_INT.1-6

The evaluator ***shall check*** that the TOE overview identifies the TOE type.

11.3.1.3.13 Work unit ASE_INT.1-7

The evaluator ***shall examine*** the TOE overview to determine that the TOE type is not misleading.

There are situations where the general consumer would expect certain functionality of the TOE because of its TOE type. If this functionality is absent in the TOE, the evaluator determines that the TOE overview adequately discusses this absence.

There are also TOEs where the general consumer would expect that the TOE shall be able to operate in a certain operational environment because of its TOE type. If the TOE is unable to operate in such an operational environment, the evaluator determines that the TOE overview adequately discusses this.

11.3.1.3.14 Content requirement ASE_INT.1.6C (ISO/IEC 15408-3:2026, 9.2.2)

The TOE overview shall identify any non-TOE hardware or software or firmware required by the TOE.

11.3.1.3.15 Work unit ASE_INT.1-8

The evaluator ***shall examine*** the TOE overview to determine that it identifies all non-TOE, hardware, software, and firmware, required by the TOE.

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While some TOEs are able to run stand-alone, other TOEs (notably software TOEs) need additional hardware, software or firmware to operate. If the TOE does not require any hardware, software or firmware, this work unit is not applicable and therefore considered to be satisfied.

The evaluator determines that the TOE overview identifies any additional hardware, software and firmware needed by the TOE to operate. This identification is not required to be exhaustive, but detailed enough for potential consumers of the TOE to determine whether their current hardware, software and firmware support use of the TOE, and, if this is not the case, which additional hardware, software, firmware is needed.

11.3.1.3.16 Content requirement ASE_INT.1.7C (ISO/IEC 15408-3:2026, 9.2.2)

For a multi-assurance ST, the TOE overview shall describe the TSF organization in terms of the sub-TSFs defined in the PP-Configuration the ST claims conformance to.

11.3.1.3.17 Work unit ASE_INT.1-9

For a multi-assurance ST, the evaluator ***shall examine*** the TOE overview to determine that it describes the TSF organization in terms of the sub-TSFs defined in the PP-Configuration to which the ST claims conformance. The TSF organization is possibly completed with details of the actual TOE.

11.3.1.3.18 Content requirement ASE_INT.1.8C (ISO/IEC 15408-3:2026, 9.2.2)

The TOE description shall describe the physical scope of the TOE.

11.3.1.3.19 Work unit ASE_INT.1-10

The evaluator ***shall examine*** the TOE description to determine that it describes the physical scope of the TOE.

The evaluator determines that the TOE description lists the hardware, firmware, software and guidance parts that constitute the TOE and describes them at a level of detail that is sufficient to give the reader a general understanding of those parts.

As a minimum, the TOE description will cover the following elements:

— each separately delivered part of the TOE, which will be identified by its unique identifier and the current format (binary, wafer, inlay, pdf, docx, chm, etc.);

— the delivery method used by the developer to make available each part to the TOE consumer (web site download, courier delivery, etc.).

The physical description will also include some clear statements about the evaluated TOE configuration. In the case where a product can have multiple physical components, and therefore multiple configurations, the evaluated configurations shall be briefly described and identified.

The evaluator also determines that there is no possible misunderstanding as to whether any hardware, firmware, software or guidance part is part of the TOE or not.

11.3.1.3.20 Content requirement ASE_INT.1.9C (ISO/IEC 15408-3:2026, 9.2.2)

The TOE description shall describe the logical scope of the TOE.

11.3.1.3.21 Work unit ASE_INT.1-11

The evaluator ***shall examine*** the TOE description to determine that it describes the logical scope of the TOE.

The evaluator determines that the TOE description discusses the logical security features offered by the TOE at a level of detail that is sufficient to give the reader a general understanding of those features.

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The evaluator also determines that there is no possible misunderstanding as to whether any logical security feature is offered by the TOE or not.

An ST for a composed TOE may refer out to the description of the logical scope of the component TOEs, provided in the component TOE STs to provide the majority of this description for the composed TOE. However, the evaluator determines that the composed TOE ST clearly discusses which features of the individual components are not within the composed TOE, and therefore not a feature of the composed TOE.

11.3.1.4 Action ASE_INT.1.2E

11.3.1.4.1 Evaluator action (ISO/IEC 15408-3:2026, 9.2.2)

The evaluator shall confirm that the TOE reference, the TOE overview, and the TOE description are consistent with each other.

11.3.1.4.2 Work unit ASE_INT.1-12

The evaluator ***shall examine*** the TOE reference, TOE overview and TOE description to determine that they are consistent with each other.

11.4 Conformance claims (ASE_CCL)

11.4.1 Evaluation of sub-activity (ASE_CCL.1)

11.4.1.1 Objectives

The objective of this sub-activity is to determine the validity of various conformance claims. These describe how the ST and the TOE conform to ISO/IEC 15408 series and how the ST conforms to a PP-Configuration, PPs and packages.

11.4.1.2 Input

Input for ASE_CCL.1 consists of the following:

— the ST;

— the PP(s) or PP-Configuration that the ST claims conformance to;

— the package(s) that the ST claims conformance to.

11.4.1.3 Action ASE_CCL.1.1E

11.4.1.3.1 Evaluator action (ISO/IEC 15408-3:2026, 9.3.2)

The evaluator shall confirm that the information provided meets all requirements for content and presentation of evidence.

11.4.1.3.2 Content requirement ASE_CCL.1.1C (ISO/IEC 15408-3:2026, 9.3.2)

The conformance claim shall identify the edition of ISO/IEC 15408 series to which the ST and the TOE claim conformance.

NOTE Previous editions can refer to withdrawn and replaced documents.

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11.4.1.3.3 Work unit ASE_CCL.1-1

The evaluator ***shall check*** that the conformance claim identifies the edition of ISO/IEC 15408 series to which the ST and the TOE claim conformance.

NOTE Previous editions can refer to withdrawn and replaced documents.

The evaluator determines that the conformance claim identifies the edition of ISO/IEC 15408 series that was used to develop this ST. This shall include the edition of ISO/IEC 15408 series and, unless the English edition of ISO/IEC 15408 series was used, the language of the edition of ISO/IEC 15408 series that was used.

For a composed TOE, the evaluator will consider any differences between the edition of ISO/IEC 15408 series claimed for a component and the edition of ISO/IEC 15408 series claimed for the composed TOE. If the editions differ, the evaluator will assess whether the differences between them will lead to conflicting claims.

For instances where conformance claims for the base TOE and dependent TOE are for different major releases of ISO/IEC 15408 series (e.g. one component TOE conformance claim is ISO/IEC 15408 series edition "x" and the other component TOE conformance claim is ISO/IEC 15408 series edition "y"), the conformance claim for the composed TOE will be the earlier release of ISO/IEC 15408 series, as ISO/IEC 15408 series is developed with an aim to provide backwards compatibility.

11.4.1.3.4 Content requirement ASE_CCL.1.2C (ISO/IEC 15408-3:2026, 9.3.2)

The conformance claim shall describe the conformance of the ST to ISO/IEC 15408-2 as either "ISO/IEC 15408-2 conformant" or "ISO/IEC 15408-2 extended".

11.4.1.3.5 Work unit ASE_CCL.1-2

The evaluator ***shall check*** that the conformance claim states a claim of either "ISO/IEC 15408-2 conformant" or "ISO/IEC 15408-2 extended" for the ST.

For a composed TOE, the evaluator will consider whether this claim is consistent not only with ISO/IEC 15408-2, but also with the claims of conformance to ISO/IEC 15408-2 by each of the component TOEs, i.e. if one or more component TOEs claims to be ISO/IEC 15408-2 extended, then the composed TOE should also claim to be ISO/IEC 15408-2 extended.

The conformance claim for the composed TOE can be ISO/IEC 15408-2 extended, even though the component TOEs are ISO/IEC 15408-2 conformant, in the event that additional SFRs are claimed for the base TOE (see composed TOE guidance for ASE_CCL.1.6C (see ISO/IEC 15408-3:2026, 9.3.2)).

11.4.1.3.6 Content requirement ASE_CCL.1.3C (ISO/IEC 15408-3:2026, 9.3.2)

The conformance claim shall describe the conformance of the ST to ISO/IEC 15408-3 as either "ISO/IEC 15408-3 conformant" or "ISO/IEC 15408-3 extended".

11.4.1.3.7 Work unit ASE_CCL.1-3

The evaluator ***shall check*** that the conformance claim states a claim of either "ISO/IEC 15408-3 conformant" or "ISO/IEC 15408-3 extended" for the ST.

11.4.1.3.8 Content requirement ASE_CCL.1.4C (ISO/IEC 15408-3:2026, 9.3.2)

The conformance claim shall be consistent with the extended components definition.

11.4.1.3.9 Work unit ASE_CCL.1-4

The evaluator ***shall examine*** the conformance claim for ISO/IEC 15408-2 to determine that it is consistent with the extended components definition.

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If the conformance claim contains the statement "ISO/IEC 15408-2 conformant", the evaluator determines that the extended components definition does not define functional components.

If the conformance claim contains the statement "ISO/IEC 15408-2 extended", the evaluator determines that the extended components definition defines at least one extended functional component.

11.4.1.3.10 Work unit ASE_CCL.1-5

The evaluator ***shall examine*** the conformance claim for ISO/IEC 15408-3 to determine that it is consistent with the extended components definition.

If the conformance claim contains the statement "ISO/IEC 15408-3 conformant", the evaluator determines that the extended components definition does not define assurance components.

If the conformance claim contains the statement "ISO/IEC 15408-3 extended", the evaluator determines that the extended components definition defines at least one extended assurance component.

11.4.1.3.11 Content requirement ASE_CCL.1.5C (ISO/IEC 15408-3:2026, 9.3.2)

The conformance claim shall identify a PP-Configuration, or all PPs and security requirement packages to which the ST claims conformance.

11.4.1.3.12 Work unit ASE_CCL.1-6

The evaluator ***shall check*** that the conformance claim contains a PP claim that identifies all PPs for which the ST claims conformance.

If the ST does not claim conformance to a PP, this work unit is not applicable and therefore considered to be satisfied.

The evaluator determines that any referenced PPs are unambiguously identified (e.g. by title and version number, or by the identification included in the introduction of that PP).

11.4.1.3.13 Work unit ASE_CCL.1-7

For conformance claims to PPs containing functional packages, the evaluator ***shall check*** that, for each PP to which the ST claims conformance, the ST does not include conformance claims to any packages to which the PP also claims conformance, unless the ST augments the requirements in that package.

For example, if a PP claims <package foo>conformant to package foo, and an ST claims conformance to the PP, then the ST does not also claim conformance to foo. However, if it augments package foo with some requirements, then it would claim "<package foo>augmented" in its conformance claim.

The evaluator determines that if the ST does claim conformance to a package that is claimed by one of the PPs to which the ST is claiming conformance, the PP has a conformance type of strict or demonstrable. An ST is not allowed to claim conformance to any functional packages when claiming exact conformance to one or more PPs.

The evaluator should keep in mind that claims of partial conformance to a PP are not permitted. Therefore, conformance to a PP requiring a composed solution can be claimed in an ST for a composed TOE. Conformance to such a PP is not possible during the evaluation of the component TOEs. This is only possible if the PP permits the use of the composition evaluation approach (use of class ACO (Composition) (Clause 17) components).

For PPs containing functional packages, partial conformance would mean that not all the packages have been included in the ST, some functional packages have only been partially included in the ST, or some dependency requirements within or between functional packages have not been met. Note that exclusion of optional requirements that the ST either chooses not to, or is not required to, claim does not result in "partial conformance" to the PP, and is therefore allowed.

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11.4.1.3.14 Work unit ASE_CCL.1-8

The evaluator ***shall check*** that, for each PP to which the ST claims conformance, the allowed-with statement included in the conformance statement of that PP lists all other PPs in the ST's conformance claim.

If the ST is not claiming exact conformance to more than one PP, this work unit is not applicable and therefore considered to be satisfied.

There is no requirement for PPs and PP-Modules in one PP-Module Base to express an allowed with relationship with components in any other PP-Module Base set, since two PP-Module Base sets will not simultaneously be specified in a PP-Configuration.

The evaluator determines that the allowed-with statement included in the conformance statement of each PP to which conformance is being claimed lists each of the other PPs identified in the conformance claim section of the ST as being "allowed to be claimed with" that PP. Note that this is only applicable in cases where that PP requires exact conformance and the ST claims exact conformance.

Figure 8 depicts the case where an ST is being evaluated and claims conformance to PPs "B" and "C". The ST is claiming exact conformance, so all PPs require exact conformance in their conformance statements. Under this work unit, the evaluator determines that PP "B" lists (in its allowed-with statement) PP "C" as being a PP that can be claimed (by an ST) with PP B. Likewise, the evaluator determines that PP C lists (in its allowed-with statement) PP "B" as being a PP that can be claimed (by an ST) with PP "C".

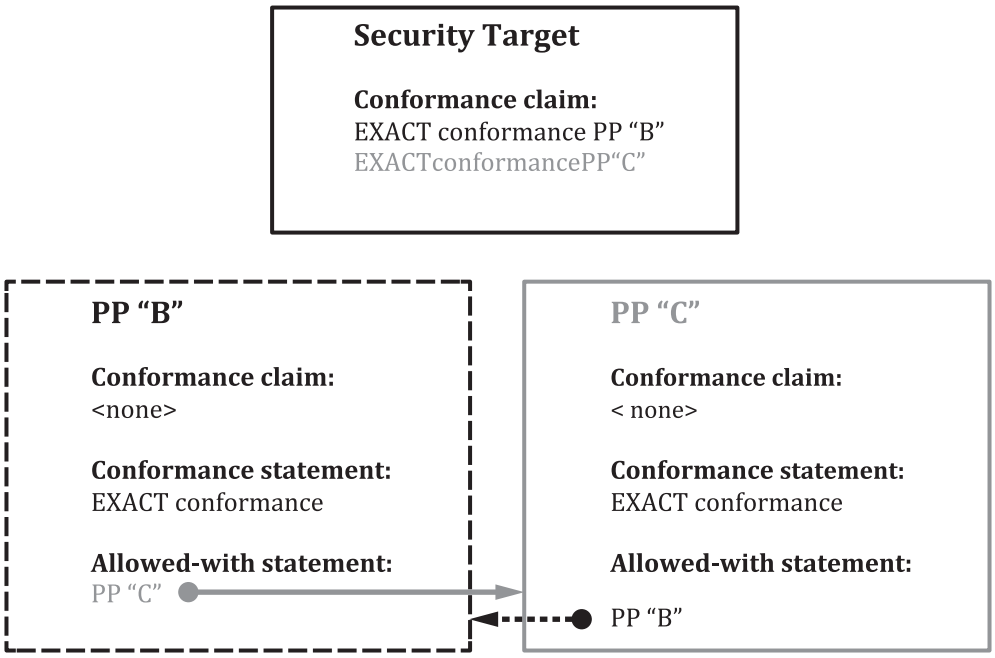


Figure 8 — Example of exact conformance relationships between an ST and PPs

11.4.1.3.15 Work unit ASE_CCL.1-9

The evaluator ***shall check*** that the conformance claim contains a PP-Configuration claim that identifies the PP-Configuration to which the ST claims conformance.

If the ST does not claim conformance to a PP-Configuration, this work unit is not applicable and therefore considered to be satisfied.

11.4.1.3.16 Work unit ASE_CCL.1-10

The evaluator ***shall check*** that the ST claims conformance to exactly one PP-Configuration.

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An ST cannot claim conformance to a PP-Configuration and one or more PP(s) that are not part of that PP-Configuration. The evaluator determines that the referenced PP-Configuration is unambiguously identified (e.g. by title and version number, or by the identification included in the introduction of that PP-Configuration).

An ST is not allowed to claim conformance to a PP-Configuration and a functional package simultaneously, so the evaluator should confirm that no functional package conformance claims are included in the ST conformance claim section if it claims conformance to a PP-Configuration.

If an ST claims conformance to a PP-Configuration that claims, or whose components claim, conformance to a security assurance package, the evaluator ensures that the ST does not include conformance claims to those packages unless the ST augments those packages.

11.4.1.3.17 Work unit ASE_CCL.1-11

The evaluator ***shall check***, for each identified functional package, that the package definition is complete.

If the ST does not claim conformance to a functional package, this work unit is not applicable and therefore considered to be satisfied.

The evaluator determines that the package definition is conformant to the requirements from ISO/IEC 15408-1:2026, Clause 9 by checking that the functional package includes:

— a functional package identification, giving a unique name, short name, version, date, sponsor, and the edition of the ISO/IEC 15408 series;

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— a functional package overview, giving a narrative description of the security functionality;

— a component rationale that provides the rationale for selecting the functional components and requirements included in the package;

— if the package defines an SPD then:

  — the package includes a security requirements rationale;

  — the package includes a security objectives rationale if security objectives are defined;

  — if the package is a direct rationale package, there are no security objectives for the TOE defined and the security requirements rationale maps directly to the SPD;

  — if the package is not a direct rationale package, then security objectives for the TOE are defined, the security objectives rationale covers the objectives with respect to the SPD, and the security requirements rationale maps the requirements to the security objectives;

— one or more security components or requirements (the functional package SFRs);

— if extended components have been specified then the functional package includes an extended components definition;

11.4.1.3.18 Work unit ASE_CCL.1-12

The evaluator ***shall check***, for each identified assurance package, that the package definition is complete.

If the ST does not claim conformance to an assurance package, this work unit is not applicable and therefore considered to be satisfied.

If the assurance package is a reference to one of the assurance packages contained in ISO/IEC 15408-5, then this work unit is also considered to be satisfied.

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The evaluator determines that the package definition is conformant to the requirements from ISO/IEC 15408-1:2026, Clause 9 by checking that the assurance package includes:

— an assurance package identification, giving a unique name, short name, version, date, sponsor, and the edition of the ISO/IEC 15408 series;

— an assurance package overview, giving a narrative description of the purpose;

— one or more security components or requirements (the assurance package SARs) drawn from ISO/IEC 15408-3, extended assurance components or some combination of both;

— an assurance package shall not include an SPD or security objectives;

— if extended components have been specified then the assurance package includes an extended components definition;

— a security requirements rationale that provides the rationale for selecting the assurance components and requirements included in the package.

11.4.1.3.19 Work unit ASE_CCL.1-13

The evaluator ***shall check*** that the conformance claim contains a package claim that identifies all packages to which the ST claims conformance.

If the ST does not claim conformance to a package, this work unit is not applicable and therefore considered to be satisfied.

More complex situations can arise such as the following combination:

— an ST claims conformance to a set of packages;

— a PP also claims conformance to some of those packages;

— the ST also claims conformance to that PP.

This work unit is unaffected however as such situations are addressed in other work units.

The evaluator also determines that, if the ST is claiming conformance to a PP-Configuration, then only assurance packages are claimed conformance to by the ST.

Additionally, the evaluator determines that if the ST is claiming exact conformance to a PP or PP-Configuration, then no packages are claimed conformance to by the ST.

The evaluator should keep in mind that claims of partial conformance to a package are not permitted.

11.4.1.3.20 Content requirement ASE_CCL.1.6C (ISO/IEC 15408-3:2026, 9.3.2)

The conformance claim shall describe any conformance of the ST to a package as either package-conformant or package-augmented.

11.4.1.3.21 Work unit ASE_CCL.1-14

The evaluator ***shall check*** that, for each identified package, the conformance claim states a claim of either package-conformant or package-augmented.

If the ST claims conformance to a PP or PP-Configuration and the PP or PP-Configuration component itself claims conformance to one or more functional packages then the ST shall not claim conformance to the same packages unless the conditions outlined in work unit ASE_CCL.1-7 (11.4.1.3.13) (for PPs) or ASE_CCL.1-10 (11.4.1.3.16) (for PP-Configuration components) are met. If the ST does not claim conformance to a package, this work unit is not applicable and therefore considered to be satisfied.

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If the ST makes a package conformance claim, the evaluator determines that:

— if the package is an assurance package, then:

  — the ST contains all SARs included in the package, but

  — no additional or hierarchically higher SARs;

— if the package is a functional package, then:

  — all assumptions, threats, OSPs, security objectives and SFRs are included in the package in identical form to those included in the ST,

  — all the assignments and selections required in the SFRs are correctly and completely performed in the ST,

  — any other operations (iteration and refinement) are correct and follow the rules for operations;

— if the package conformance claim contains the statement "package-augmented", then:

  — if the package is an assurance package, the ST contains:

    — all the SARs included in the package, and

    — at least one additional SAR or at least one SAR that is hierarchical higher than an SAR in the package;

  — if the package is a functional package, the ST contains the SPD, security objectives, and SFRs of the package in identical form, with the following exception:

  — the ST contains at least one additional SFR, or one SFR that is hierarchically higher than an SFR in the functional package, or both. The evaluator ensures that all the assignments and selections required in the SFRs are correctly and completely performed in the ST and that any other operations (iteration and refinement) are correct and follow the rules for operations;

— if the ST claims exact conformance to a PP or PP-Configuration, no package conformance claims are present.

11.4.1.3.22 Content requirement ASE_CCL.1.7C (ISO/IEC 15408-3:2026, 9.3.2)

The conformance claim shall describe any conformance of the ST to a PP as PP-Conformant.

11.4.1.3.23 Work unit ASE_CCL.1-15

The evaluator ***shall check*** that if the ST claims conformance to PPs, only PP-Conformant claims are present. For a Direct Rationale ST, the evaluator shall check that only conformance claims to Direct Rationale PPs are present.

11.4.1.3.24 Content requirement ASE_CCL.1.8C (ISO/IEC 15408-3:2026, 9.3.2)

The conformance claim rationale shall demonstrate that the TOE type is consistent with the TOE type in the PP-Configuration or PPs for which conformance is being claimed.

11.4.1.3.25 Work unit ASE_CCL.1-16

In this work unit, the term "PP" shall be understood to mean "PP or PP-Configuration component".

The evaluator ***shall examine*** the conformance claim rationale to determine that the TOE type of the TOE is consistent with all TOE types of the PPs.

If the ST does not claim conformance to a PP, this work unit is not applicable and therefore considered to be satisfied.

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The relation between the types can be:

— simple: a firewall ST claiming conformance to a firewall PP, or

— more complex: a smart card ST claiming conformance to a number of PPs at the same time (a PP for the integrated circuit, a PP for the smart card OS, and two PPs for two applications on the smart card).

For a composed TOE, the evaluator will determine whether the conformance claim rationale demonstrates that the TOE types of the component TOEs are consistent with the composed TOE type. This does not mean that both the component and the composed TOE types are required to be the same, but rather that the component TOEs are suitable for integration to provide the composed TOE. It should be made clear in the composed TOE ST which SFRs are only included as a result of composition, and were not examined as SFRs in the base and dependent TOE (e.g. EALx) evaluation.

11.4.1.3.26 Content requirement ASE_CCL.1.9C (ISO/IEC 15408-3:2026, 9.3.2)

The conformance claim rationale shall demonstrate that the statement of the security problem definition is consistent with the statement of the security problem definition in the PP-Configuration, PPs and any functional packages for which conformance is being claimed.

11.4.1.3.27 Work unit ASE_CCL.1-17

The evaluator ***shall examine*** the conformance claim rationale to determine that it demonstrates that the statement of security problem definition is consistent with the statements of security problem definition stated in the PPs or PP-Configuration or functional packages to which conformance is being claimed.

If the ST does not claim conformance with any PP or PP-Configuration or functional package, this work unit is not applicable and therefore considered to be satisfied.

If the PP or PP-Configuration or functional package does not have a statement of security problem definition, this work unit is not applicable and therefore considered to be satisfied.

If the PP or PP-Configuration contains functional packages, the evaluator determines that the security problem definition of the ST consists of all assumptions, threats and OSPs of all functional packages.

If functional packages are claimed, the rules defined in this work unit concerning exact, strict and demonstrable conformance also hold for the SPD descriptions taken from the functional packages.

If exact conformance is required by the PPs or PP-Configuration to which conformance is being claimed, no conformance claim rationale is required. Instead, the evaluator determines whether:

— the threats in the ST are identical (no fewer threats, no additional threats) to the threats in the PP or PP-Configuration to which conformance is being claimed. If exact conformance is being claimed to more than one PP, then the set of threats in the ST shall be identical to the union of the threats in all PPs to which conformance is being claimed;

— the OSPs in the ST are identical (no fewer OSPs, no additional OSPs) to the OSPs in the PP or PP-Configuration to which conformance is being claimed. If exact conformance is being claimed to more than one PP, then the set of OSPs in the ST shall be identical to the union of the OSPs in all PPs to which conformance is being claimed;

— the assumptions in the ST are identical (no fewer assumptions, no additional assumptions) to the assumptions in the PP or PP-Configuration to which conformance is being claimed. If exact conformance is being claimed to more than one PP, then the set of assumptions in the ST shall be identical to the union of the assumptions in all PPs to which conformance is being claimed, with the following possible exception.

An assumption (or part of an assumption) from a PP can be omitted, if all security objectives for the operational environment addressing this assumption (or part of an assumption) are replaced by security objectives for the TOE that are identical to (taken from) another of the PPs to which the ST is claiming

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conformance. When examining an ST in these circumstances the evaluator shall carefully determine that this condition is fulfilled.

In this example, an ST is claiming exact conformance to two PPs. As determined in previous work units, both PPs require exact conformance in their conformance statements, and both PPs list the other as being "allowed with" the PP in a conformance claim by an ST. One PP to which the ST claims conformance contains an assumption stating that the operational environment prevents unauthorized modification or interception of data sent to an external interface of the TOE. This can be the case if the TOE accepts data in clear text and without integrity protection at this interface but is assumed to be located in a secure operational environment, which will prevent attackers from accessing this data. The assumption will then be mapped in the PP to some objective for the operational environment stating that the data interchanged at this interface are protected by adequate measures in the operational environment. If the other PP specifies that conformant TOEs shall protect data sent over their external interfaces, and has appropriate threats and security objectives addressing this threat, then the ST author can replace the assumption and security objective for the environment related to the protection of data over the external interfaces of the TOE from one PP with the security objective stating that the TOE itself protects these data, for example by providing a secure channel for encryption and integrity protection of all data transferred via this interface from the other PP; the corresponding objective and assumption for the operational environment from the other PP is thus omitted from the ST. This is also called re-assigning of the objective, since the objective is re-assigned from the operational environment to the TOE. This TOE is still secure in an operational environment fulfilling the omitted assumption and therefore still fulfils the PP. Further, the set of threats and objectives in the ST is still no broader than the union of threats and objectives in the PPs to which it is claiming exact conformance.

If strict conformance is required by the PPs or PP-Configuration to which conformance is being claimed no conformance claim rationale is required. Instead, the evaluator determines whether:

— the threats in the ST are a superset of or identical to the threats in the PPs or PP-Configuration to which conformance is being claimed;

— the OSPs in the ST are a superset of or identical to the OSPs in the PPs or PP-Configuration to which conformance is being claimed;

— the assumptions in the ST are identical to the assumptions in the PPs or PP-Configuration to which conformance is being claimed, with two possible exceptions:

  — an assumption (or part of an assumption) from a PP or PP-Configuration can be omitted, if all security objectives for the operational environment addressing this assumption (or part of an assumption) are replaced by security objectives for the TOE;

  — an assumption can be added to the assumptions defined in a PP or PP-Configuration, if a rationale is given, why the new assumption neither mitigates a threat (or a part of a threat) meant to be addressed by security objectives for the TOE in the PP or PP-Configuration, nor fulfils an OSP (or part of an OSP) meant to be addressed by security objectives for the TOE in the PP or PP-Configuration.

When examining an ST claiming a PP or PP-Configuration, which omits assumptions from the PP or PP-Configuration or adds new assumptions, the evaluator shall carefully determine, if the conditions given in this work unit are fulfilled. The following points give some motivation and examples for these cases:

a) example for omitting an assumption: A PP contains an assumption stating that the operational environment prevents unauthorized modification or interception of data sent to an external interface of the TOE. This can be the case if the TOE accepts data in clear text and without integrity protection at this interface and is assumed to be located in a secure operational environment, which will prevent attackers from accessing these data. The assumption will then be mapped in the PP to some objective for the operational environment stating that the data interchanged at this interface are protected by adequate measures in the operational environment. If an ST claiming this PP defines a more secure TOE, which has an additional security objective stating that the TOE itself protects these data, for example by providing a secure channel for encryption and integrity protection of all data transferred via this interface, the corresponding objective and assumption for the operational environment can be omitted from the ST. This is also called re-assigning of the objective, since the objective is re-assigned from the

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operational environment to the TOE. This TOE is still secure in an operational environment fulfilling the omitted assumption and therefore still fulfils the PP;

b) example for adding an assumption: In this example, the PP is designed to specify requirements for a TOE of type "Firewall" and an ST author wishes to claim this PP for a TOE, which implements a firewall, but additionally provides the functionality of a virtual private network (VPN) component. For the VPN functionality, the TOE needs cryptographic keys and it can also be necessary for these keys to be handled securely by the operational environment (e. g. if symmetric keys are used to secure the network connection and therefore are required to be provided in some secure way to other components in the network). In this case, it is acceptable to add an assumption that the cryptographic keys used by the VPN are handled securely by the operational environment. This assumption does not address threats or OSPs of the PP and therefore fulfils the conditions stated above;

c) counter example for adding an assumption: In a variant of the first example a PP can already contain an objective for the TOE to provide a secure channel for one of its interfaces, and this objective is mapped to a threat of unauthorized modification or reading of the data on this interface. In this case, it is clearly not allowed for an ST claiming this PP to add an assumption for the operational environment, which assumes that the operational environment protects data on this interface against modification or unauthorized reading of the data. This assumption would reduce a threat, which is meant to be addressed by the TOE. Therefore, a TOE fulfilling an ST with this added assumption would not automatically fulfil the PP any more and this addition is therefore not allowed;

d) second counter example for adding an assumption: In example c) above of a TOE implementing a firewall it would not be admissible to add a general assumption that the TOE is only connected to trusted devices, because this would obviously remove essential threats relevant for a firewall (namely that there is untrusted IP traffic, which is required to be filtered). Therefore, this addition would not be allowed.

If demonstrable conformance is required by the PP or PP-Configuration, the evaluator examines the conformance claim rationale to determine that it demonstrates that the statement of security problem definition of the ST is equivalent or more restrictive than the statement of security problem definition in the PP or PP-Configuration to which conformance is being claimed.

For this, the conformance claim rationale shall demonstrate that the security problem definition in the ST is equivalent (or more restrictive) than the security problem definition in the PP or PP-Configuration. This means that:

— all TOEs that would meet the security problem definition in the ST also meet the security problem definition in the PP or PP-Configuration. This can also be shown indirectly by demonstrating that every event, which realises a threat defined in the PP or PP-Configuration or violates an OSP defined in the PP or PP-Configuration, would also realise a threat stated in the ST or violate an OSP defined in the ST. Note that fulfilling an OSP stated in the ST can avert a threat stated in the PP or PP-Configuration or that averting a threat stated in the ST can fulfil an OSP stated in the PP or PP-Configuration, so threats and OSPs can substitute each other;

— all operational environments that would meet the security problem definition in the PP or PP-Configuration would also meet the security problem definition in the ST (with one exception in the next bullet);

— besides a set of assumptions in the ST needed to demonstrate conformance to the SPD of the PP or PP-Configuration, an ST may specify further assumptions, but only if these additional assumptions are independent of and do not affect the security problem definition as defined in the PP or PP-Configuration. Furthermore, there are no assumptions in the ST that exclude threats to the TOE that are required to be countered by the TOE according to the PP or PP-Configuration. Similarly, there are no assumptions in the ST that realise aspects of an OSP stated in the PP or PP-Configuration, which are meant to be fulfilled by the TOE according to the PP or PP-Configuration.

For a composed TOE, the evaluator will consider whether the security problem definition of the composed TOE is consistent with that specified in the STs for the component TOEs. This is determined in terms of

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demonstrable conformance. In particular, the evaluator examines the conformance claim rationale to determine that:

— threat statements and OSPs in the composed TOE ST do not contradict those from the component STs;

— any assumptions made in the component STs are upheld in the composed TOE ST. That is, either the assumption should also be present in the composed ST, or the assumption should be positively addressed in the composed ST. The assumption can be positively addressed through specification of requirements in the composed TOE to provide functionality fulfilling the concern captured in the assumption.

11.4.1.3.28 Content requirement ASE_CCL.1.10C (ISO/IEC 15408-3:2026, 9.3.2)

The conformance claim rationale shall demonstrate that the statement of security objectives is consistent with the statement of security objectives in the PP-Configuration, PPs, and any functional package for which conformance is being claimed.

11.4.1.3.29 Work unit ASE_CCL.1-18

The evaluator ***shall examine*** the conformance claim rationale to determine that the statement of security objectives is consistent, with the statement of security objectives in the PPs or PP-Configuration or functional packages to which conformance is being claimed.

If the ST does not claim conformance to a PP or PP-Configuration or functional packages, this work unit is not applicable and therefore considered to be satisfied.

If the PP or PP-Configuration to which conformance is being claimed contains functional packages, the evaluator determines that the security objectives of the ST consist of all security objectives of all functional packages.

If functional packages are claimed the rules defined in this work unit concerning exact, strict and demonstrable conformance also hold for the security objectives taken from these packages.

If exact conformance is required by the PPs or PP-Configuration to which conformance is being claimed, no conformance claim rationale is required. Instead, the evaluator determines whether:

— the ST contains all security objectives for the TOE of the PP or PP-Configuration to which conformance is being claimed. In the exact conformance case, it is not permitted for the ST under evaluation to have additional security objectives for the TOE. If conformance is being claimed to more than one PP, the set of security objectives for the TOE shall be identical to the union of the security objectives for the TOE in the PPs to which conformance is being claimed. It should be noted that in the case that optional requirements have associated SPD elements, exact conformance can still be claimed if objectives associated with the SPD elements are omitted when the associated optional SFRs are also omitted;

— the security objectives for the operational environment in the ST are identical to the security objectives for the operational environment in the PP or PP-Configuration to which conformance is being claimed. If conformance is being claimed to more than one PP, the set of security objectives for the operational environment shall be identical to the union of the security objectives for the operational environment in the PPs to which conformance is being claimed with the possible exception as follows:

— a security objective for the operational environment (or part of such security objective) from one PP can be replaced by the same (part of the) security objective for the TOE from another PP.

If strict conformance is required by the PPs or PP-Configuration to which conformance is being claimed, no conformance claim rationale is required. Instead, the evaluator determines whether:

— the ST contains all security objectives for the TOE of the PP or PP-Configuration to which conformance is being claimed. It is permitted for the ST under evaluation to have additional security objectives for the TOE;

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— the security objectives for the operational environment in the ST are identical to the security objectives for the operational environment in the PP or PP-Configuration to which conformance is being claimed, with two possible exceptions:

— a security objective for the operational environment (or part of such security objective) from the PP or PP-Configuration can be replaced by the same (part of the) security objective stated for the TOE;

— a security objective for the operational environment can be added to the objectives defined in the PP or PP-Configuration, if a justification is given, as to why the new objective neither mitigates a threat (or a part of a threat) meant to be addressed by security objectives for the TOE in the PP or PP-Configuration, nor fulfils an OSP (or part of an OSP) meant to be addressed by security objectives for the TOE in the PP or PP-Configuration.

When examining an ST claiming a PP or PP-Configuration, which omits security objectives for the operational environment from the PP or PP-Configuration or adds new security objectives for the operational environment, the evaluator shall carefully determine, if the conditions of this work unit are fulfilled. The examples given for the case of assumptions in the preceding work unit (ASE_CCL.1-17 (11.4.1.3.27)) are also valid here.

If demonstrable conformance is required by the PPs or PP-Configuration to which conformance is being claimed, the evaluator examines the conformance claim rationale to determine that it demonstrates that the statement of security objectives of the ST is equivalent or more restrictive than the statement of security objectives in the PP or PP-Configuration to which conformance is being claimed.

For this the conformance claim rationale shall demonstrate that the security objectives in the ST are equivalent (or more restrictive) than the security objectives in the PP or PP-Configuration. This means that:

— all TOEs that would meet the security objectives for the TOE in the ST also meet the security objectives for the TOE in the PP or PP-Configuration;

— all operational environments that would meet the security objectives for the operational environment in the PP or PP-Configuration would also meet the security objectives for the operational environment in the ST (with one exception in the next bullet);

— besides a set of security objectives for the operational environment in the ST, which are used to demonstrate conformance to the set of security objectives defined in the PP or PP-Configuration, an ST can specify further security objectives for the operational environment, but only if these security objectives neither affect the original set of security objectives for the TOE nor the security objectives for the operational environment as defined in the PP or PP-Configuration to which conformance is claimed.

For a composed TOE, the evaluator will consider whether the security objectives of the composed TOE are consistent with that specified in the STs for the component TOEs. This is determined in terms of demonstrable conformance. In particular, the evaluator examines the conformance claim rationale to determine that:

— the statement of security objectives in the dependent TOE ST relevant to any IT in the operational environment is consistent with the statement of security objectives for the TOE in the base TOE ST. It is not expected that the statement of security objectives for the environment defined in the dependent TOE ST will cover all aspects of the statement of security objectives for the TOE in the base TOE ST;

— the statement of security objectives in the composed ST is consistent with the statements of security objectives in the STs for the component TOEs.

11.4.1.3.30 Content requirement ASE_CCL.1.11C (ISO/IEC 15408-3:2026, 9.3.2)

The conformance claim rationale shall demonstrate that the statement of security requirements is consistent with the statement of security requirements in the PP-Configuration, PPs, and any functional packages for which conformance is being claimed.

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11.4.1.3.31 Work unit ASE_CCL.1-19

The evaluator ***shall examine*** the ST to determine that it is consistent with all security requirements in the PPs or PP-Configuration or functional packages for which conformance is being claimed.

If the ST does not claim conformance to a PP or PP-Configuration or functional package, this work unit is not applicable and therefore considered to be satisfied.

If the PPs or PP-Configuration to which conformance is being claimed contains functional packages, the evaluator determines that the SFRs of the ST consist of all SFRs (or hierarchical SFRs) of all functional packages.

If functional packages are used, the rules defined in the following paragraphs concerning exact, strict and demonstrable conformance also hold for the SFRs taken from these packages.

If exact conformance is required by the PP or PP-Configuration to which conformance is being claimed, no conformance claim rationale is required. Instead, the evaluator determines that the statement of security requirements in the PP or PP-Configuration to which conformance is being claimed is exactly reproduced in the ST, with the following allowances:

— an SFR from the PP or PP-Configuration may be iterated or refined in the ST;

— all SFRs that are defined in the PP or PP-Configuration to which conformance is being claimed as selection-based upon a particular selection shall be included if and only if that selection on which inclusion is based is present in the ST. If a selection is not chosen by the ST author, then the selection-based SFRs associated with that selection are not included in the ST;

— there are no additional security requirements (SFRs or SARs) that are included in the ST that are not also present in the PP or PP-Configuration;

— in the case where exact conformance is being claimed to multiple PPs, the evaluator determines there are no additional security requirements included in the ST that are not in at least one of the PPs, and that all of the requirements (with the allowances described in this list) in all of the PPs have been included in the ST;

— in the case where multiple PPs, or multiple components of a PP-Configuration, to which an ST claims conformance have requirements that it is necessary to combine or to de-conflict, such de-confliction guidance shall be provided in those PPs or components as a result of the allow-with analysis performed by the PP or component authors. It is acceptable to include such modified requirements as explicitly allowed in the ST.

The ST includes any optional requirements (and associated SPD elements) from the PP or PP-Configuration as follows:

— elective requirements defined in the PP or PP-Configuration that the ST wishes to claim;

— conditional requirements defined in the PP or PP-Configuration that the ST is required to claim (as stipulated in the PP or PP-Configuration) due to the TOE implementation.

If strict conformance is required by the PP or PP-Configuration to which conformance is being claimed, no conformance claim rationale is required. Instead, the evaluator determines whether the statement of security requirements in the ST is a superset of, or identical to, the statement of security requirements in the PP or PP-Configuration to which conformance is being claimed (for strict conformance).

If demonstrable conformance is required by the PPs or PP-Configuration to which conformance is being claimed, the evaluator examines the conformance claim rationale to determine that it demonstrates that the statement of security requirements of the ST is equivalent or more restrictive than the statement of security requirements in the PPs or PP-Configuration to which conformance is being claimed.

For:

— SFRs: the conformance rationale in the ST shall demonstrate that the overall set of requirements defined by the SFRs in the ST is equivalent (or more restrictive) than the overall set of requirements defined by

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the SFRs in the PPs or PP-Configuration. This means that all TOEs that would meet the requirements defined by the set of all SFRs in the ST would also meet the requirements defined by the set of all SFRs in the PPs or PP-Configuration;

— SARs: the ST shall contain all SARs in the PPs or PP-Configuration, but may claim additional SARs or replace SARs by hierarchically stronger SARs. The completion of operations in the ST shall be consistent with that in the PPs or PP-Configuration; either the same completion will be used in the ST as that in the PPs or PP-Configuration or a completion that makes the SAR more restrictive (the rules of refinement apply).

For a composed TOE, the evaluator will consider whether the security requirements of the composed TOE are consistent with that specified in the STs for the component TOEs. This is determined in terms of demonstrable conformance. In particular, the evaluator examines the conformance rationale to determine that:

— the statement of security requirements in the dependent TOE ST relevant to any IT in the operational environment is consistent with the statement of security requirements for the TOE in the base TOE ST. It is not expected that the statement of security requirements for the environment within in the dependent TOE ST shall cover all aspects of the statement of security requirements for the TOE in the base TOE ST, as it can be necessary for some SFRs to be added to the statement of security requirements in the composed TOE ST. However, the statement of security requirements in the base should support the operation of the dependent component;

— the statement of security objectives in the dependent TOE ST relevant to any IT in the operational environment is consistent with the statement of security requirements for the TOE in the base TOE ST. It is not expected that the statement of security objectives for the environment within in the dependent TOE ST will cover all aspects of the statement of security requirements for the TOE in the base TOE ST;

— the statement of security requirements in the composed ST is consistent with the statements of security requirements in the STs for the component TOEs.

11.4.1.3.32 Content requirement ASE_CCL.1.12C (ISO/IEC 15408-3:2026, 9.3.2)

The conformance claim for PP(s) or a PP-Configuration shall be exact, strict, or demonstrable or a list of conformance types.

11.4.1.3.33 Work unit ASE_CCL.1-20

The evaluator ***shall check*** that the conformance claim for PPs or a PP-Configuration is one of exact, strict, or demonstrable or a list of conformance types.

If the ST claims exact conformance to one PP, then it shall claim exact conformance to all PPs, and all PPs shall require exact conformance.

11.4.1.3.34 Content requirement ASE_CCL.1.13C (ISO/IEC 15408-3:2026, 9.3.2)

If the conformance claim identifies a set of evaluation methods and evaluation activities derived from ISO/IEC 18045 work units that shall be used to evaluate the TOE then this set shall include all those that are included in any package, PP, or PP-Module in a PP-Configuration to which the ST claims conformance, and no others.

11.4.1.3.35 Work unit ASE_CCL.1-21

The evaluator ***shall check*** the conformance claim of the ST to determine that:

— if any derived evaluation methods and evaluation activities are required by other items to which the ST claims conformance then these are all identified in the ST, otherwise, no evaluation methods and evaluation activities are identified;

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— the list of derived evaluation methods and evaluation activities is sufficiently structured and detailed to unambiguously identify and locate every member of the list;

— if there is any overlap in the scope of the identified evaluation methods and evaluation activities (i.e. where an overlay exists as described in ISO/IEC 15408-4) then the rationale for the resulting set of evaluation methods and evaluation activities is applicable to the TOE as described by the ST.

The intention of this work unit is to ensure that the correct evaluation methods and evaluation activities can be used when evaluating the TOE described by the ST.

Where the individual evaluation activities are unambiguously included in a listed evaluation method these activities are not required to be individually listed in the ST. Similarly, where multiple evaluation methods or evaluation activities are included in a single document then it is sufficient to reference the document, provided that this does lead to unambiguous identification of the evaluation methods and evaluation activities that apply to the ST.

If a document lists multiple different evaluation methods applicable to different use cases then it is not sufficient to simply reference the document; it is also necessary to identify the relevant use cases.

11.5 Security problem definition (ASE_SPD)

11.5.1 Evaluation of sub-activity (ASE_SPD.1)

11.5.1.1 Objectives

The objective of this sub-activity is to determine that the security problem intended to be addressed by the TOE and its operational environment is clearly defined.

11.5.1.2 Input

Input for ASE_SPD.1 consists of the following:

— the ST.

11.5.1.3 Action ASE_SPD.1.1E

11.5.1.3.1 Evaluator action (ISO/IEC 15408-3:2026, 9.4.2)

The evaluator shall confirm that the information provided meets all requirements for content and presentation of evidence.

11.5.1.3.2 Content requirement ASE_SPD.1.1C (ISO/IEC 15408-3:2026, 9.4.2)

The security problem definition shall describe the threats.

11.5.1.3.3 Work unit ASE_SPD.1-1

The evaluator ***shall check*** that the security problem definition describes the threats.

It is not necessary for the statement of threats to be present in the ST if all security objectives are only derived from either assumptions, or OSPs, or both. In this case, this work unit is not applicable and therefore considered to be satisfied.

The evaluator determines that the security problem definition describes the threats that shall be countered by either the TOE, or operational environment, or both.

11.5.1.3.4 Content requirement ASE_SPD.1.2C (ISO/IEC 15408-3:2026, 9.4.2)

All threats shall be described in terms of a threat agent, an asset, and an adverse action.

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11.5.1.3.5 Work unit ASE_SPD.1-2

The evaluator ***shall examine*** the security problem definition to determine that all threats are described in terms of a threat agent, an asset, and an adverse action.

If all security objectives are only derived from either assumptions or OSPs, or both, the statement of threats is not required to be present in the ST. In this case, this work unit is not applicable and therefore considered to be satisfied.

Threat agents can be further described by aspects such as expertise, resource, opportunity, and motivation.

11.5.1.3.6 Content requirement ASE_SPD.1.3C (ISO/IEC 15408-3:2026, 9.4.2)

The security problem definition shall describe the OSPs.

11.5.1.3.7 Work unit ASE_SPD.1-3

The evaluator ***shall examine*** that the security problem definition describes the OSPs.

It is not necessary for OSPs to be present in the ST if all security objectives are only derived from assumptions and threats. In this case, this work unit is not applicable and therefore considered to be satisfied.

The evaluator determines that OSP statements are made in terms of rules or guidelines that shall be followed by either the TOE, or its operational environment, or both.

The evaluator determines that each OSP is explained or interpreted in sufficient detail to make it clearly understandable; a clear presentation of policy statements is necessary to permit tracing security objectives to them.

11.5.1.3.8 Content requirement ASE_SPD.1.4C (ISO/IEC 15408-3:2026, 9.4.2)

The security problem definition shall describe the assumptions about the operational environment of the TOE.

11.5.1.3.9 Work unit ASE_SPD.1-4

The evaluator ***shall examine*** the security problem definition to determine that it describes the assumptions about the operational environment of the TOE.

If there are no assumptions, this work unit is not applicable and is therefore considered to be satisfied.

The evaluator determines that each assumption about the operational environment of the TOE is explained in sufficient detail to enable consumers to determine that their operational environment matches the assumption. If the assumptions are not clearly understood, the end result can be that the TOE is used in an operational environment in which it will not function in a secure manner.

11.6 Security objectives (ASE_OBJ)

11.6.1 Evaluation of sub-activity (ASE_OBJ.1)

11.6.1.1 Objectives

The objective of this sub-activity is to determine whether the security objectives for the operational environment are clearly defined.

11.6.1.2 Input

Input for ASE_OBJ.1 consists of the following:

— the ST.

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11.6.1.3 Action ASE_OBJ.1.1E

11.6.1.3.1 Evaluator action (ISO/IEC 15408-3:2026, 9.5.3)

The evaluator shall confirm that the information provided meets all requirements for content and presentation of evidence.

11.6.1.3.2 Content requirement ASE_OBJ.1.1C (ISO/IEC 15408-3:2026, 9.5.3)

The statement of security objectives shall describe the security objectives for the operational environment.

11.6.1.3.3 Work unit ASE_OBJ.1-1

The evaluator ***shall check*** that the statement of security objectives defines the security objectives for the operational environment.

The evaluator checks that the security objectives for the operational environment are identified.

11.6.1.3.4 Content requirement ASE_OBJ.1.2C (ISO/IEC 15408-3:2026, 9.5.3)

The security objectives rationale shall trace each security objective for the operational environment back to threats countered by that security objective, OSPs enforced by that security objective, and assumptions upheld by that security objective.

11.6.1.3.5 Work unit ASE_OBJ.1-2

The evaluator ***shall check*** that the security objectives rationale traces all security objectives for the operational environment back to threats countered by the objectives, OSPs enforced by the objectives, assumptions upheld by the objectives, or a combination of these.

Each security objective for the operational environment can trace back to threats, OSPs or assumptions, or a combination of threats, OSPs and assumptions, but it shall trace back to at least one threat, OSP or assumption.

Failure to trace implies that either the security objectives rationale is incomplete, the security problem definition is incomplete, or the security objective for the operational environment has no useful purpose.

11.6.1.3.6 Content requirement ASE_OBJ.1.3C (ISO/IEC 15408-3:2026, 9.5.3)

The security objectives rationale shall demonstrate that the security objectives for the operational environment uphold all assumptions.

11.6.1.3.7 Work unit ASE_OBJ.1-3

The evaluator ***shall examine*** the security objectives rationale to determine that for each assumption for the operational environment it contains an appropriate justification that the security objectives for the operational environment are suitable to uphold that assumption.

If no security objectives for the operational environment trace back to the assumption, the evaluator action related to this work unit is assigned a fail verdict.

The evaluator determines that the justification for an assumption about the operational environment of the TOE demonstrates that the security objectives are sufficient: if all security objectives for the operational environment that trace back to that assumption are achieved, the operational environment upholds the assumption.

The evaluator also determines that each security objective for the operational environment that traces back to an assumption about the operational environment of the TOE is necessary: when the security objective is achieved it actually contributes to the operational environment upholding the assumption.

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The tracings from security objectives for the operational environment to assumptions provided in the security objectives rationale can be a part of a justification, but do not constitute a justification by themselves. Even in the case that a security objective of the operational environment is merely a restatement of an assumption, a justification is required, but this justification may be as minimal as "Security Objective X directly upholds Assumption Y".

11.6.2 Evaluation of sub-activity (ASE_OBJ.2)

11.6.2.1 Objectives

The objective of this sub-activity is to determine whether the security objectives adequately and completely address the security problem definition and that the division of this problem between the TOE and its operational environment is clearly defined.

11.6.2.2 Input

Input for ASE_OBJ.2 consists of the following:

— the ST.

11.6.2.3 Action ASE_OBJ.2.1E

11.6.2.3.1 Evaluator action (ISO/IEC 15408-3:2026, 9.5.4)

The evaluator shall confirm that the information provided meets all requirements for content and presentation of evidence.

11.6.2.3.2 Content requirement ASE_OBJ.2.1C (ISO/IEC 15408-3:2026, 9.5.4)

The statement of security objectives shall describe the security objectives for the TOE and the security objectives for the operational environment.

11.6.2.3.3 Work unit ASE_OBJ.2-1

The evaluator ***shall check*** that the statement of security objectives defines the security objectives for the TOE and the security objectives for the operational environment.

The evaluator checks that both categories of security objectives are clearly identified and separated from the other category.

11.6.2.3.4 Content requirement ASE_OBJ.2.2C (ISO/IEC 15408-3:2026, 9.5.4)

The security objectives rationale shall trace each security objective for the TOE back to threats countered by that security objective and OSPs enforced by that security objective.

11.6.2.3.5 Work unit ASE_OBJ.2-2

The evaluator ***shall check*** that the security objectives rationale traces all security objectives for the TOE back to threats countered by either the objectives or OSPs enforced by the objectives, or both.

Each security objective for the TOE can trace back to threats or OSPs, or a combination of threats and OSPs, but it shall trace back to at least one threat or OSP.

Failure to trace implies that either the security objectives rationale is incomplete, the security problem definition is incomplete, or the security objective for the TOE has no useful purpose.

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11.6.2.3.6 Content requirement ASE_OBJ.2.3C (ISO/IEC 15408-3:2026, 9.5.4)

The security objectives rationale shall trace each security objective for the operational environment back to threats countered by that security objective, OSPs enforced by that security objective, and assumptions upheld by that security objective.

11.6.2.3.7 Work unit ASE_OBJ.2-3

The evaluator ***shall check*** that the security objectives rationale traces all security objectives for the operational environment back to threats countered by the objectives, OSPs enforced by either the objectives, or assumptions upheld by the objectives, or both.

Each security objective for the operational environment can trace back to threats, OSPs or assumptions, or a combination of threats, OSPs and assumptions, but it shall trace back to at least one threat, OSP or assumption.

Failure to trace implies that either the security objectives rationale is incomplete, the security problem definition is incomplete, or the security objective for the operational environment has no useful purpose.

11.6.2.3.8 Content requirement ASE_OBJ.2.4C (ISO/IEC 15408-3:2026, 9.5.4)

The security objectives rationale shall demonstrate that the security objectives counter all threats.

11.6.2.3.9 Work unit ASE_OBJ.2-4

The evaluator ***shall examine*** the security objectives rationale to determine that it justifies for each threat that the security objectives are suitable to counter that threat.

If no security objectives trace back to the threat, the evaluator action related to this work unit is assigned a fail verdict.

The evaluator determines that the justification for a threat shows whether the threat is removed, diminished or mitigated.

The evaluator determines that the justification for a threat demonstrates that the security objectives are sufficient: if all security objectives that trace back to the threat are achieved, the threat is removed, sufficiently diminished, or the effects of the threat are sufficiently mitigated.

The tracings from security objectives to threats provided in the security objectives rationale can be part of a justification, but do not constitute a justification by themselves. Even in the case that a security objective is merely a statement reflecting the intent to prevent a particular threat from being realised, a justification is required, but this justification may be as minimal as "Security Objective X directly counters Threat Y".

The evaluator also determines that each security objective that traces back to a threat is necessary: when the security objective is achieved it actually contributes to the removal, diminishing or mitigation of that threat.

11.6.2.3.10 Content requirement ASE_OBJ.2.5C (ISO/IEC 15408-3:2026, 9.5.4)

The security objectives rationale shall demonstrate that the security objectives enforce all OSPs.

11.6.2.3.11 Work unit ASE_OBJ.2-5

The evaluator ***shall examine*** the security objectives rationale to determine that for each OSP it justifies that the security objectives are suitable to enforce that OSP.

If no security objectives trace back to the OSP, the evaluator action related to this work unit is assigned a fail verdict.

The evaluator determines that the justification for an OSP demonstrates that the security objectives are sufficient: if all security objectives that trace back to that OSP are achieved, the OSP is enforced.

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The evaluator also determines that each security objective that traces back to an OSP is necessary: when the security objective is achieved it actually contributes to the enforcement of the OSP.

The tracings from security objectives to OSPs provided in the security objectives rationale can be part of a justification, but do not constitute a justification by themselves. In the case that a security objective is merely a statement reflecting the intent to enforce a particular OSP, a justification is required, but this justification may be as minimal as "Security Objective X directly enforces OSP Y".

11.6.2.3.12 Content requirement ASE_OBJ.2.6C (ISO/IEC 15408-3:2026, 9.5.4)

The security objectives rationale shall demonstrate that the security objectives for the operational environment uphold all assumptions.

11.6.2.3.13 Work unit ASE_OBJ.2-6

The evaluator ***shall examine*** the security objectives rationale to determine that for each assumption for the operational environment it contains an appropriate justification that the security objectives for the operational environment are suitable to uphold that assumption.

If no security objectives for the operational environment trace back to the assumption, the evaluator action related to this work unit is assigned a fail verdict.

The evaluator determines that the justification for an assumption about the operational environment of the TOE demonstrates that the security objectives are sufficient: if all security objectives for the operational environment that trace back to that assumption are achieved, the operational environment upholds the assumption.

The evaluator also determines that each security objective for the operational environment that traces back to an assumption about the operational environment of the TOE is necessary: when the security objective is achieved it actually contributes to the operational environment upholding the assumption.

The tracings from security objectives for the operational environment to assumptions provided in the security objectives rationale can be a part of a justification, but do not constitute a justification by themselves. Even in the case that a security objective of the operational environment is merely a restatement of an assumption, a justification is required, but this justification may be as minimal as "Security Objective X directly upholds Assumption Y".

11.7 Extended components definition (ASE_ECD)

11.7.1 Evaluation of sub-activity (ASE_ECD.1)

11.7.1.1 Objectives

The objective of this sub-activity is to determine whether extended components have been clearly and unambiguously defined, and whether they are necessary, i.e. it is not possible to express them clearly by using existing ISO/IEC 15408-2 or ISO/IEC 15408-3 components.

11.7.1.2 Input

Input for ASE_ECD.1 consists of the following:

— the ST.

11.7.1.3 Action ASE_ECD.1.1E

11.7.1.3.1 Evaluator action (ISO/IEC 15408-3:2026, 9.6.2)

The evaluator shall confirm that the information provided meets all requirements for content and presentation of evidence.

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11.7.1.3.2 Content requirement ASE_ECD.1.1C (ISO/IEC 15408-3:2026, 9.6.2)

The statement of security requirements shall identify all extended security requirements.

11.7.1.3.3 Work unit ASE_ECD.1-1

The evaluator ***shall check*** that all security requirements in the statement of security requirements that are not identified as extended requirements are present in ISO/IEC 15408-2 or in ISO/IEC 15408-3.

11.7.1.3.4 Content requirement ASE_ECD.1.2C (ISO/IEC 15408-3:2026, 9.6.2)

The extended components definition shall define an extended component for each extended security requirement.

11.7.1.3.5 Work unit ASE_ECD.1-2

The evaluator ***shall check*** that the extended components definition defines an extended component for each extended security requirement.

If the ST does not contain extended security requirements, this work unit is not applicable and therefore considered to be satisfied.

If the extended component definition(s) are taken from a PP or PP-Configuration that has previously been certified then the PP or PP-Configuration evaluation results may be reused as described in 12.2.1.

A single extended component may be used to define multiple iterations of an extended security requirement; it is not necessary to repeat this definition for each iteration.

11.7.1.3.6 Content requirement ASE_ECD.1.3C (ISO/IEC 15408-3:2026, 9.6.2)

The extended components definition shall describe how each extended component is related to the existing ISO/IEC 15408 series components, families, and classes.

11.7.1.3.7 Work unit ASE_ECD.1-3

The evaluator ***shall examine*** the extended components definition to determine that it describes how each extended component fits into the existing ISO/IEC 15408 series components, families, and classes.

If the ST does not contain extended security requirements, this work unit is not applicable and therefore considered to be satisfied.

The evaluator determines that each extended component is either:

— a member of an existing ISO/IEC 15408-2 or ISO/IEC 15408-3 family; or

— a member of a new family defined in the ST.

If the extended component is a member of an existing ISO/IEC 15408-2 or ISO/IEC 15408-3 family, the evaluator determines that the extended components definition adequately describes why the extended component can be considered a member of that family and how it relates to other components of that family.

If the extended component is a member of a new family defined in the ST, the evaluator confirms that the extended component is not appropriate for an existing family.

If the ST defines new families, the evaluator determines that each new family is either:

— a member of an existing ISO/IEC 15408-2 or ISO/IEC 15408-3 class; or

— a member of a new class defined in the ST.

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If the family is a member of an existing ISO/IEC 15408-2 or ISO/IEC 15408-3 class, the evaluator determines that the extended components definition adequately describes why the family can be considered a member of that class and how it relates to other families in that class.

If the family is a member of a new class defined in the ST, the evaluator confirms that the family is not appropriate for an existing class.

11.7.1.3.8 Work unit ASE_ECD.1-4

The evaluator ***shall examine*** the extended components definition to determine that each definition of an extended component identifies all applicable dependencies of that component.

If the ST does not contain extended security requirements, this work unit is not applicable and therefore considered to be satisfied.

The evaluator confirms that no applicable dependencies have been overlooked by the ST author.

11.7.1.3.9 Content requirement ASE_ECD.1.4C (ISO/IEC 15408-3:2026, 9.6.2)

The extended components definition shall use the existing ISO/IEC 15408 series components, families, classes, and methodology as a model for presentation.

11.7.1.3.10 Work unit ASE_ECD.1-5

The evaluator ***shall examine*** the extended components definition to determine that each extended functional component uses the existing ISO/IEC 15408-2 components as a model for presentation.

If the ST does not contain extended SFRs, this work unit is not applicable and therefore considered to be satisfied.

The evaluator determines that the extended functional component is consistent with ISO/IEC 15408-2:2026, 7.4.

If the extended functional component uses operations, the evaluator determines that the extended functional component is consistent with ISO/IEC 15408-1:2026, 8.2.

If the extended functional component is hierarchical to an existing functional component, the evaluator determines that the extended functional component is consistent with ISO/IEC 15408-2:2026, 7.6.2.

11.7.1.3.11 Work unit ASE_ECD.1-6

The evaluator ***shall examine*** the extended components definition to determine that each definition of a new functional family uses the existing ISO/IEC 15408 series functional families as a model for presentation.

If the ST does not define new functional families, this work unit is not applicable and therefore considered to be satisfied.

The evaluator determines that all new functional families are defined consistent with ISO/IEC 15408-2:2026, 7.3.

11.7.1.3.12 Work unit ASE_ECD.1-7

The evaluator ***shall examine*** the extended components definition to determine that each definition of a new functional class uses the existing ISO/IEC 15408 series functional classes as a model for presentation.

If the ST does not define new functional classes, this work unit is not applicable and therefore considered to be satisfied.

The evaluator determines that all new functional classes are defined consistent with ISO/IEC 15408-2:2026, 7.2.

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11.7.1.3.13 Work unit ASE_ECD.1-8

The evaluator ***shall examine*** the extended components definition to determine that each definition of an extended assurance component uses the existing ISO/IEC 15408-3:2026 components as a model for presentation.

If the ST does not contain extended SARs, this work unit is not applicable and therefore considered to be satisfied.

The evaluator determines that the extended assurance component definition is consistent with ISO/IEC 15408-3:2026, 6.4.

If the extended assurance component uses operations, the evaluator determines that the extended assurance component is consistent with ISO/IEC 15408-1:2026, 8.2.

If the extended assurance component is hierarchical to an existing assurance component, the evaluator determines that the extended assurance component is consistent with ISO/IEC 15408-3:2026, 6.4.

11.7.1.3.14 Work unit ASE_ECD.1-9

The evaluator ***shall examine*** the extended components definition to determine that, for each defined extended assurance component, applicable methodology has been provided.

If the ST does not contain extended SARs, this work unit is not applicable and therefore considered to be satisfied.

The evaluator determines that, for each evaluator action element of each extended SAR, one or more work units are provided and that successfully performing all work units for a given evaluator action element will demonstrate that the element has been achieved.

11.7.1.3.15 Work unit ASE_ECD.1-10

The evaluator ***shall examine*** the extended components definition to determine that each definition of a new assurance family uses the existing ISO/IEC 15408 series assurance families as a model for presentation.

If the ST does not define new assurance families, this work unit is not applicable and therefore considered to be satisfied.

The evaluator determines that all new assurance families are defined consistent with ISO/IEC 15408-3:2026, 6.3.

11.7.1.3.16 Work unit ASE_ECD.1-11

The evaluator ***shall examine*** the extended components definition to determine that each definition of a new assurance class uses the existing ISO/IEC 15408 series assurance classes as a model for presentation.

If the ST does not define new assurance classes, this work unit is not applicable and therefore considered to be satisfied.

The evaluator determines that all new assurance classes are defined consistent with ISO/IEC 15408-3:2026, 6.2.

11.7.1.3.17 Work unit ASE_ECD.1-12

The evaluator ***shall examine*** the extended components definition to determine that each element in each extended component is measurable and states objective evaluation requirements, such that conformance or nonconformance can be demonstrated.

If the ST does not contain extended security requirements, this work unit is not applicable and therefore considered to be satisfied.

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The evaluator determines that elements of extended functional components are stated in such a way that they are testable, and traceable through the appropriate TSF representations.

The evaluator also determines that elements of extended assurance components avoid the need for subjective evaluator judgement.

The evaluator should keep in mind that whilst being measurable and objective is appropriate for all evaluation criteria, it is acknowledged that no formal method exists to prove such properties. Therefore, the existing ISO/IEC 15408 series functional and assurance components shall be used as a model for determining what constitutes conformance with this requirement.

11.7.1.4 Action ASE_ECD.1.2E

11.7.1.4.1 Evaluator action (ISO/IEC 15408-3:2026, 9.6.2)

The evaluator shall confirm that it is impossible to clearly express any extended component by using existing components.

11.7.1.4.2 Work unit ASE_ECD.1-13

The evaluator ***shall examine*** the extended components definition to determine that each extended component cannot be clearly expressed using existing components.

If the ST does not contain extended security requirements, this work unit is not applicable and therefore considered to be satisfied.

The evaluator should take components from ISO/IEC 15408-2 and ISO/IEC 15408-3, other extended components that have been defined in the ST, combinations of these components, and possible operations on these components into account when making this determination.

The evaluator should keep in mind that the role of this work unit is to preclude unnecessary duplication of components, that is, components that can be clearly expressed by using other components. The evaluator is not required to undertake an exhaustive search of all possible combinations of components including operations in an attempt to find a way to express the extended component by using existing components.

11.8 Security requirements (ASE_REQ)

11.8.1 Evaluation of sub-activity (ASE_REQ.1)

11.8.1.1 Objectives

The objective of this sub-activity is to determine whether the SFRs and SARs are clear, unambiguous and well-defined, whether they are internally consistent, and whether the SFRs counter the threats and implement the organizational security policies of the TOE.

11.8.1.2 Input

Input for ASE_REQ.1 consists of the following:

— the ST.

11.8.1.3 Action ASE_REQ.1.1E

11.8.1.3.1 Evaluator action (ISO/IEC 15408-3:2026, 9.7.3)

The evaluator shall confirm that the information provided meets all requirements for content and presentation of evidence.

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11.8.1.3.2 Content requirement ASE_REQ.1.1C (ISO/IEC 15408-3:2026, 9.7.3)

The statement of security requirements shall describe the SFRs and the SARs.

11.8.1.3.3 Work unit ASE_REQ.1-1

The evaluator ***shall check*** that the statement of security requirements describes the SFRs.

The evaluator determines that each SFR is identified by one of the following means:

— by reference to an individual component in ISO/IEC 15408-2;

— by reference to an extended component in the extended components definition of the ST;

— by reference to an individual component in a PP or PP-Configuration that the ST claims to be conformant with including any optional requirements defined in the PP or PP-Configuration;

— by reference to an individual component in a security requirements package that the ST claims to be conformant with;

— by reproduction in the ST.

It is not required to use the same means of identification for all SFRs.

11.8.1.3.4 Work unit ASE_REQ.1-2

The evaluator ***shall check*** that the statement of security requirements describes the SARs.

The evaluator determines that each SAR is identified by one of the following means:

— by reference to an individual component in ISO/IEC 15408-3;

— by reference to an extended component in the extended components definition of the ST;

— by reference to an individual component in a PP or PP-Configuration that the ST claims to be conformant with;

— by reference to an individual component in a security requirements package that the ST claims to be conformant with;

— by reproduction in the ST.

It is not required to use the same means of identification for all SARs.

11.8.1.3.5 Content requirement ASE_REQ.1.2C (ISO/IEC 15408-3:2026, 9.7.3)

For a single-assurance ST, the statement of security requirements shall define the global set of SARs that apply to the entire TOE. The sets of SARs shall be consistent with the PPs or PP-Configuration to which the ST claims conformance.

11.8.1.3.6 Work unit ASE_REQ.1-3

The evaluator ***shall check*** that the statement of security requirements defines the global set of SARs that apply to the entire TOE.

The evaluator ***shall examine*** the sets of SARs to determine that they are consistent with the PPs or the PP-Configuration to which the ST claims conformance.

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11.8.1.3.7 Content requirement ASE_REQ.1.3C (ISO/IEC 15408-3:2026, 9.7.3)

For a multi-assurance ST, the statement of security requirements shall define the global set of SARs that apply to the entire TOE and the sets of SARs that apply to each sub-TSF. The sets of SARs shall be consistent with the multi-assurance PP-Configuration to which the ST claims conformance.

11.8.1.3.8 Work unit ASE_REQ.1-4

For a multi-assurance ST, the evaluator ***shall examine*** the statement of security requirements to determine that it defines the global set of SARs that apply to the entire TOE.

The TSF organization associates sub-TSFs with specific assurance requirements. It can happen that sub-TSFs are implemented by different sets of subsystems and modules, but there can also be some degree of overlap: a subsystem or module can implement functionalities belonging to two different sub-TSFs. This means that the two sets of SARs apply to the common subsystem or module (i.e. the union of the sets of SARs applies). In both cases, for each sub-TSF, all of the other sub-TSFs belong to the TOE and the corresponding subsystems and modules shall be evaluated in terms of the requirements of the sub-TSF.

11.8.1.3.9 Work unit ASE_REQ.1-5

The evaluator ***shall check*** that the SARs that apply to each sub-TSF are defined in the ST and that they are either identical to the ones defined in the PP-Configuration or augmented. Augmentation is only allowed when strict or demonstrable conformance is being claimed by the ST to the PP-Configuration.

11.8.1.3.10 Work unit ASE_REQ.1-6

For augmented sets of SARs, the evaluator ***shall check*** that a rationale is provided.

11.8.1.3.11 Work unit ASE_REQ.1-7

The evaluator ***shall check*** that the sets of SARs defined in the ST are consistent with the multi-assurance PP-Configuration to which the ST claims conformance.

11.8.1.3.12 Content requirement ASE_REQ.1.4C (ISO/IEC 15408-3:2026, 9.7.3)

All subjects, objects, operations, security attributes, external entities and other terms that are used in the SFRs and the SARs shall be defined.

11.8.1.3.13 Work unit ASE_REQ.1-8

The evaluator ***shall examine*** the ST to determine that all subjects, objects, information, operations, security attributes, external entities and other terms that are used in the SFRs and the SARs are defined.

The evaluator determines that the ST defines all:

— (types of) subjects, objects and information that are used in the SFRs;

— (types of) security attributes of subjects, users, objects, information, sessions, resources, possible values that these attributes can take and any relations between these values (e.g. top_secret is "higher" than secret);

— (types of) operations that are used in the SFRs, including the effects of these operations;

— (types of) external entities in the SFRs;

— other terms that are introduced in the SFRs, or SARs, or both, by completing operations, if these terms are not immediately clear, or are used outside their dictionary definition.

The goal of this work unit is to ensure that the SFRs and SARs are well-defined and that no misunderstanding can occur due to the introduction of vague terms. This work unit shall not be taken to extremes, by forcing

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the ST author to define every single word. The general audience of a set of security requirements can be assumed to have a reasonable knowledge of IT, security and the ISO/IEC 15408 series.

All of the above definitions can be presented in groups, classes, roles, types or other groupings or characterisations that allow easy understanding.

The evaluator shall keep in mind that these lists and definitions are not required to be part of the statement of security requirements, but can be placed (in part or in whole) in different subclauses. This can be especially applicable if the same terms are used in the rest of the ST.

11.8.1.3.14 Content requirement ASE_REQ.1.5C (ISO/IEC 15408-3:2026, 9.7.3)

The statement of security requirements shall identify all operations on the security requirements.

11.8.1.3.15 Work unit ASE_REQ.1-9

The evaluator ***shall check*** that the statement of security requirements identifies all operations on the security requirements.

The evaluator determines that all operations are identified in each SFR or SAR where such an operation is used. Identification can be achieved by typographical distinctions, or by explicit identification in the surrounding text, or by any other distinctive means.

11.8.1.3.16 Content requirement ASE_REQ.1.6C (ISO/IEC 15408-3:2026, 9.7.3)

All operations shall be performed correctly.

11.8.1.3.17 Work unit ASE_REQ.1-10

The evaluator ***shall examine*** the statement of security requirements to determine that all assignment operations are performed correctly.

Guidance on the correct performance of operations can be found in ISO/IEC 15408-1:2026, 8.2.

11.8.1.3.18 Work unit ASE_REQ.1-11

The evaluator ***shall examine*** the statement of security requirements to determine that all iteration operations are performed correctly.

Guidance on the correct performance of operations can be found in ISO/IEC 15408-1:2026, 8.2.

11.8.1.3.19 Work unit ASE_REQ.1-12

The evaluator ***shall examine*** the statement of security requirements to determine that all selection operations are performed correctly.

Guidance on the correct performance of operations can be found in ISO/IEC 15408-1:2026, 8.2.

11.8.1.3.20 Work unit ASE_REQ.1-13

The evaluator ***shall examine*** the statement of security requirements to determine that all refinement operations are performed correctly.

Guidance on the correct performance of operations can be found in ISO/IEC 15408-1:2026, 8.2.

11.8.1.3.21 Content requirement ASE_REQ.1.7C (ISO/IEC 15408-3:2026, 9.7.3)

Each dependency of the security requirements shall either be satisfied, or the security requirements rationale shall justify the dependency not being satisfied.

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11.8.1.3.22 Work unit ASE_REQ.1-14

The evaluator ***shall examine*** the statement of security requirements to determine that each dependency of the security requirements is either satisfied, or that a security requirements rationale is provided which justifies the dependency not being satisfied.

A dependency is satisfied by the inclusion of the relevant component (or one that is hierarchical to it) within the statement of security requirements. The component used to satisfy the dependency shall, if necessary, be modified by operations to ensure that it actually satisfies that dependency.

A justification that a dependency is not met should address either:

— why the dependency is not necessary or useful, in which case no further information is required; or

— that the dependency has been addressed by the operational environment of the TOE, in which case the justification shall describe how the security objectives for the operational environment address this dependency.

11.8.1.3.23 Content requirement ASE_REQ.1.8C (ISO/IEC 15408-3:2026, 9.7.3)

The security requirements rationale shall trace each SFR back to the threats countered by that SFR and the OSPs enforced by that SFR. The security requirements rationale shall demonstrate that the SFRs (in conjunction with the security objectives for the operational environment) counter all threats for the TOE.

11.8.1.3.24 Work unit ASE_REQ.1-15

The evaluator ***shall check*** that the security requirements rationale traces each SFR back to the threats countered by that SFR and OSPs enforced by that SFR.

The evaluator ***shall examine*** the security requirements rationale to determine that for each threat it justifies that the SFRs are suitable to meet that threat.

The evaluator determines that each SFR is traced back to at least one threat or OSP for the TOE.

Failure to trace implies that either the security requirements rationale is incomplete, the security objectives for the operational environment are incomplete, or the SFR has no useful purpose.

There is no prescribed location where this tracing element of the rationale shall be placed: for example, the relevant parts may be located under each threat and OSP in order to help make the security argument clearer and easier to read.

If no SFRs trace back to a threat and the evaluator determines that also no security objectives for the operational environment trace back to that threat in ASE_OBJ.1-2 (11.6.1.3.5), the evaluator action related to this work unit is assigned a fail verdict.

The evaluator determines that the justification for a threat shows whether the threat is removed, diminished or mitigated.

The evaluator determines that the justification for a threat demonstrates that the SFRs are sufficient: if all SFRs that trace back to the threat are achieved then, in the context of any applicable OSPs and assumptions, the threat is removed, sufficiently diminished, or the effects of the threat are sufficiently mitigated.

Simply listing in the security requirements rationale the SFRs associated with each threat can be part of a justification, but does not constitute a justification by itself. A descriptive justification is required, although in simple cases this justification may be as minimal as "SFR X directly counters Threat Y".

The evaluator also determines that each SFR that traces back to a threat is necessary: when the SFR is implemented it actually contributes to the removal, diminishing or mitigation of that threat.

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11.8.1.3.25 Content requirement ASE_REQ.1.9C (ISO/IEC 15408-3:2026, 9.7.3)

The security requirements rationale shall demonstrate that the SFRs (in conjunction with the security objectives for the operational environment) enforce all OSPs.

11.8.1.3.26 Work unit ASE_REQ.1-16

The evaluator ***shall examine*** the security requirements rationale to determine that for each OSP it justifies that the SFRs are suitable to enforce that OSP.

If no SFRs trace back to the OSP and the evaluator determines that also no security objectives for the operational environment trace back to that OSP in ASE_OBJ.1-2 (11.6.1.3.5), the evaluator action related to this work unit is assigned a fail verdict.

The evaluator determines that the justification for an OSP demonstrates that the SFRs are sufficient: if all SFRs that trace back to that OSP are achieved then, in the context of any applicable assumptions, the OSP is enforced.

The evaluator also determines that each SFR that traces back to an OSP is necessary: when the SFR is implemented it actually contributes to the enforcement of the OSP.

Simply listing in the security requirements rationale the SFRs associated with each OSP can be part of a justification, but does not constitute a justification by itself. A descriptive justification is required, although in simple cases this justification may be as minimal as "SFR X directly enforces OSP Y".

11.8.1.3.27 Content requirement ASE_REQ.1.10C (ISO/IEC 15408-3:2026, 9.7.3)

The security requirements rationale shall explain why the SARs were chosen.

11.8.1.3.28 Work unit ASE_REQ.1-17

The evaluator ***shall examine*** the security requirements rationale to determine that the inclusion of each chosen SAR has been explained and is justified.

11.8.1.3.29 Content requirement ASE_REQ.1.11C (ISO/IEC 15408-3:2026, 9.7.3)

The statement of security requirements shall be internally consistent.

11.8.1.3.30 Work unit ASE_REQ.1-18

The evaluator ***shall examine*** the statement of security requirements to determine that it is internally consistent.

The evaluator determines that the combined set of all SFRs and SARs is internally consistent. With respect to optional requirements, the evaluator determines that:

— all optional requirements either trace to an SPD element that is itself not optional, or trace to an SPD element that is clearly associated with that optional SFR;

— all optional requirements marked as conditional in a PP or PP-Configuration Component to which the ST claims conformance are included if the TOE implements functionality that is covered by the requirement. Elective optional requirements may be omitted;

— all optional requirements do not conflict with non-optional requirements. A capability cannot be both required and optional; however, a base capability can be required with enhancements to that capability being specified as optional.

The evaluator determines that these requirements do not conflict on all occasions where different security requirements apply to the same types of developer evidence, events, operations, data, tests to be performed, etc. or to "all objects", "all subjects", etc.

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Some possible conflicts are:

— an extended SAR specifying that the design of a certain cryptographic algorithm shall be kept secret, and another extended SAR specifying an open source review;

— FAU_GEN.1 (Audit data generation) (see ISO/IEC 15408-2:2026, 8.4.7) specifying that subject identity shall be logged, FDP_ACC.1 (Subset access control) (see ISO/IEC 15408-2:2026, 11.3.6) specifying who has access to these logs, and FPR_UNO.1 (Unobservability) (see ISO/IEC 15408-2:2026, 14.6.6) specifying that some actions of subjects shall be unobservable to other subjects. If the subject that is required to be unable to see an activity can access logs of this activity, these SFRs conflict;

— FDP_RIP.1 (Subset residual information protection) (see ISO/IEC 15408-2:2026, 11.12.6) specifying deletion of information no longer needed, and FDP_ROL.1 (Basic rollback) (see ISO/IEC 15408-2:2026, 11.13.6) specifying that a TOE can return to a previous state. If the information that is needed for the rollback to the previous state has been deleted, these requirements conflict;

— multiple iterations of FDP_ACC.1 (Subset access control) (see ISO/IEC 15408-2:2026, 11.3.6) especially where some iterations cover the same subjects, objects, or operations. If one access control SFR allows a subject to perform an operation on an object, while another access control SFR does not allow this, these requirements conflict.

11.8.1.3.31 Content requirement ASE_REQ.1.12C (ISO/IEC 15408-3:2026, 9.7.3)

If the ST defines sets of SARs that expand the sets of SARs of the PPs or PP-Configuration to which it claims conformance, the security requirements rationale shall include an assurance rationale that justifies the consistency of the extension and provides a rationale for the disposition of any evaluation methods and evaluation activities identified in the conformance statement that are affected by the extension of the sets of SARs.

11.8.1.3.32 Work unit ASE_REQ.1-19

If an ST extends the sets of SARs of the PP(s) or PP-Configuration it claims conformance to, the evaluator ***shall examine*** the security requirements rationale to determine that it includes an assurance rationale justifying the consistency of the extension with regard to the SPD, together with a rationale for the disposition of any evaluation methods and evaluation activities defined in the PP(s) or PP-Configuration to which it claims conformance that are affected by the extension of the sets of SARs.

If the ST does not claim conformance to one or more PPs, or to a PP-Configuration, this work unit is not applicable and therefore considered satisfied.

If the ST claims exact conformance to one or more PPs, or to a PP-Configuration, then augmentation of the SARs is not allowed and the evaluator verifies that either no augmentation has been performed (in which case this work unit is considered satisfied), or that the conformance claim is either strict or demonstrable.

Where the expansion of the SARs affects any evaluation methods or evaluation activities defined in the PP or PP-Configuration to which the ST claims conformance, the evaluator examines the assurance rationale to confirm that it preserves the relevant aspects of the affected evaluation methods and evaluation activities, taking into account the context in which the ST can be used. This includes a check that the assurance resulting from meeting the expanded SARs shall be as least as strong as that generated by the original evaluation methods and evaluation activities.

If either rationale is missing, or incomplete, then the evaluator action related to this work unit is assigned a fail verdict.

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11.8.2 Evaluation of sub-activity (ASE_REQ.2)

11.8.2.1 Objectives

The objective of this sub-activity is to determine whether the SFRs and SARs are clear, unambiguous and well-defined, whether they are internally consistent, and whether the SFRs meet the security objectives of the TOE.

11.8.2.2 Input

Input for ASE_REQ.2 consists of the following:

— the ST.

11.8.2.3 Action ASE_REQ.2.1E

11.8.2.3.1 Evaluator action (ISO/IEC 15408-3:2026, 9.7.4)

The evaluator shall confirm that the information provided meets all requirements for content and presentation of evidence.

11.8.2.3.2 Content requirement ASE_REQ.2.1C (ISO/IEC 15408-3:2026, 9.7.4)

The statement of security requirements shall describe the SFRs and the SARs.

11.8.2.3.3 Work unit ASE_REQ.2-1

The evaluator ***shall check*** that the statement of security requirements describes the SFRs.

The evaluator determines that each SFR is identified by one of the following means:

— by reference to an individual component in ISO/IEC 15408-2;

— by reference to an extended component in the extended components definition of the ST;

— by reference to an individual component in a PP or PP-Configuration that the ST claims to be conformant with, including any optional requirements defined in the PP or PP-Configuration;

— by reference to an individual component in a security requirements package that the ST claims to be conformant with;

— by reproduction in the ST.

It is not required to use the same means of identification for all SFRs.

11.8.2.3.4 Work unit ASE_REQ.2-2

The evaluator ***shall check*** that the statement of security requirements describes the SARs.

The evaluator determines that all SARs are identified by one of the following means:

— by reference to an individual component in ISO/IEC 15408-3;

— by reference to an extended component in the extended components definition of the ST;

— by reference to an individual component in a PP or PP-Configuration that the ST claims to be conformant with;

— by reference to an individual component in a security requirements package that the ST claims to be conformant with;

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— by reproduction in the ST.

It is not required to use the same means of identification for all SARs.

If optional requirements are defined by the PP, there can be associated threats that are covered by this work unit.

11.8.2.3.5 Content requirement ASE_REQ.2.2C (ISO/IEC 15408-3:2026, 9.7.4)

For a single-assurance ST, the statement of security requirements shall define the global set of SARs that apply to the entire TOE. The sets of SARs shall be consistent with the PPs or PP-Configuration to which the ST claims conformance.

11.8.2.3.6 Work unit ASE_REQ.2-3

The evaluator ***shall check*** that the statement of security requirements defines the global set of SARs that apply to the entire TOE.

11.8.2.3.7 Work unit ASE_REQ.2-4

The evaluator ***shall examine*** the sets of SARs to determine that they are consistent with the PPs or PP-Configuration to which the ST claims conformance.

11.8.2.3.8 Content requirement ASE_REQ.2.3C (ISO/IEC 15408-3:2026, 9.7.4)

For a multi-assurance ST, the statement of security requirements shall define the global set of SARs that apply to the entire TOE and the sets of SARs that apply to each sub-TSF. The sets of SARs shall be consistent with the multi-assurance PP-Configuration to which the ST claims conformance.

11.8.2.3.9 Work unit ASE_REQ.2-5

For a multi-assurance ST, the evaluator ***shall examine*** the statement of security requirements to determine that it defines the global set of SARs that apply to the entire TOE.

The TSF organization associates sub-TSFs with specific assurance requirements. It can happen that sub-TSFs are implemented by different sets of subsystems and modules, but there can also be some degree of overlap: a subsystem or module can implement functionalities belonging to two different sub-TSFs. This means that the two sets of SARs apply to the common subsystem or module (i.e. the union of the sets of SARs applies). In both cases, for each sub-TSF, all of the other sub-TSFs belong to the TOE and the corresponding subsystems and modules shall be evaluated in terms of the requirements of the sub-TSF.

11.8.2.3.10 Work unit ASE_REQ.2-6

The evaluator ***shall check*** that the SARs that apply to each sub-TSF are defined in the ST and that they are either identical to the ones defined in the PP-Configuration or augmented. Augmentation is only allowed when strict or demonstrable conformance is being claimed by the ST to the PP-Configuration.

11.8.2.3.11 Work unit ASE_REQ.2-7

For augmented sets of SARs, the evaluator ***shall check*** that a rationale is provided.

11.8.2.3.12 Work unit ASE_REQ.2-8

The evaluator ***shall check*** that the sets of SARs defined in the ST are consistent with the multi-assurance PP-Configuration to which the ST claims conformance.

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11.8.2.3.13 Content requirement ASE_REQ.2.4C (ISO/IEC 15408-3:2026, 9.7.4)

All subjects, objects, operations, security attributes, external entities and other terms that are used in the SFRs and the SARs shall be defined.

11.8.2.3.14 Work unit ASE_REQ.2-9

The evaluator ***shall examine*** the ST to determine that all subjects, objects, information, operations, security attributes, external entities and other terms that are used in the SFRs and the SARs are defined.

The evaluator determines that the ST defines all:

— (types of) subjects, objects and information that are used in the SFRs;

— (types of) security attributes of subjects, users, objects, information, sessions, resources, possible values that these attributes can take and any relations between these values (e.g. top_secret is "higher" than secret);

— (types of) operations that are used in the SFRs, including the effects of these operations;

— (types of) external entities in the SFRs;

— other terms that are introduced in either the SFRs or SARs, or both by completing operations, if these terms are not immediately clear, or are used outside their dictionary definition.

The goal of this work unit is to ensure that the SFRs and SARs are well-defined and that no misunderstanding can occur due to the introduction of vague terms. This work unit should not be taken to extremes, by forcing the ST author to define every single word. The general audience of a set of security requirements can be assumed to have a reasonable knowledge of IT, security and the ISO/IEC 15408 series.

All of the above definitions can be presented in groups, classes, roles, types or other groupings or characterisations that allow easy understanding.

The evaluator should keep in mind that these lists and definitions do not have to be part of the statement of security requirements, but can be placed (in part or in whole) in different subclauses. This can be especially applicable if the same terms are used in the rest of the ST.

11.8.2.3.15 Content requirement ASE_REQ.2.5C (ISO/IEC 15408-3:2026, 9.7.4)

The statement of security requirements shall identify all operations on the security requirements.

11.8.2.3.16 Work unit ASE_REQ.2-10

The evaluator ***shall check*** that the statement of security requirements identifies all operations on the security requirements.

The evaluator determines that all operations are identified in each SFR or SAR where such an operation is used. Identification can be achieved by typographical distinctions, or by explicit identification in the surrounding text, or by any other distinctive means.

11.8.2.3.17 Content requirement ASE_REQ.2.6C (ISO/IEC 15408-3:2026, 9.7.4)

All operations shall be performed correctly.

11.8.2.3.18 Work unit ASE_REQ.2-11

The evaluator ***shall examine*** the statement of security requirements to determine that all assignment operations are performed correctly.

Guidance on the correct performance of operations can be found in ISO/IEC 15408-1:2026, 8.2.

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11.8.2.3.19 Work unit ASE_REQ.2-12

The evaluator ***shall examine*** the statement of security requirements to determine that all iteration operations are performed correctly.

Guidance on the correct performance of operations can be found in ISO/IEC 15408-1:2026, 8.2.

11.8.2.3.20 Work unit ASE_REQ.2-13

The evaluator ***shall examine*** the statement of security requirements to determine that all selection operations are performed correctly.

Guidance on the correct performance of operations can be found in ISO/IEC 15408-1:2026, 8.2.

11.8.2.3.21 Work unit ASE_REQ.2-14

The evaluator ***shall examine*** the statement of security requirements to determine that all refinement operations are performed correctly.

Guidance on the correct performance of operations can be found in ISO/IEC 15408-1:2026, 8.2.

11.8.2.3.22 Content requirement ASE_REQ.2.7C (ISO/IEC 15408-3:2026, 9.7.4)

Each dependency of the security requirements shall either be satisfied, or the security requirements rationale shall justify the dependency not being satisfied.

11.8.2.3.23 Work unit ASE_REQ.2-15

The evaluator ***shall examine*** the statement of security requirements to determine that each dependency of the security requirements is either satisfied, or that the security requirements rationale justifies the dependency not being satisfied.

A dependency is satisfied by the inclusion of the relevant component (or one that is hierarchical to it) within the statement of security requirements. The component used to satisfy the dependency shall, if necessary, be modified by operations to ensure that it actually satisfies that dependency.

A justification that a dependency is not met should address either:

— why the dependency is not necessary or useful, in which case no further information is required; or

— that the dependency has been addressed by the operational environment of the TOE, in which case the justification shall describe how the security objectives for the operational environment address this dependency.

11.8.2.3.24 Content requirement ASE_REQ.2.8C (ISO/IEC 15408-3:2026, 9.7.4)

The security requirements rationale shall trace each SFR back to the security objectives for the TOE. The security requirements rationale shall demonstrate that the SFRs meet all security objectives for the TOE.

11.8.2.3.25 Work unit ASE_REQ.2-16

The evaluator ***shall check*** that the security requirements rationale traces each SFR back to the security objectives for the TOE.

The evaluator ***shall examine*** the security requirements rationale to determine that for each security objective for the TOE it justifies that the SFRs are suitable to meet that security objective for the TOE.

Optional requirements can require Threats or OSPs, or both, to be specified, and security objectives associated with these SPD elements are also covered by this work unit.

The evaluator determines that each SFR is traced back to at least one security objective for the TOE.

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Failure to trace implies that either the security requirements rationale is incomplete, the security objectives for the TOE are incomplete, or the SFR has no useful purpose.

If no SFRs trace back to the security objective for the TOE, the evaluator action related to this work unit is assigned a fail verdict.

The evaluator determines that the justification for a security objective for the TOE demonstrates that the SFRs are sufficient: if all SFRs that trace back to the objective are satisfied, the security objective for the TOE is achieved.

The evaluator also determines that each SFR that traces back to a security objective for the TOE is necessary: when the SFR is satisfied, it actually contributes to achieving the security objective.

The tracings from SFRs to security objectives for the TOE provided in the security requirements rationale can be a part of the justification, but do not constitute a justification by themselves.

11.8.2.3.26 Content requirement ASE_REQ.2.9C (ISO/IEC 15408-3:2026, 9.7.4)

The security requirements rationale shall explain why the SARs were chosen.

11.8.2.3.27 Work unit ASE_REQ.2-17

The evaluator ***shall check*** that the security requirements rationale explains why the SARs were chosen.

The evaluator should keep in mind that any explanation is correct, as long as it is coherent and neither the SARs nor the explanation have obvious inconsistencies with the remainder of the ST.

An example of an obvious inconsistency between the SARs and the remainder of the ST would be to have threat agents that are very capable, but an AVA_VAN (Vulnerability analysis) (16.3) SAR that does not protect against these threat agents.

11.8.2.3.28 Content requirement ASE_REQ.2.10C (ISO/IEC 15408-3:2026, 9.7.4)

The statement of security requirements shall be internally consistent.

11.8.2.3.29 Work unit ASE_REQ.2-18

The evaluator ***shall examine*** the statement of security requirements to determine that it is internally consistent.

The evaluator determines that the combined set of all SFRs and SARs is internally consistent. With respect to optional requirements, the evaluator determines that:

— all optional requirements either trace to an SPD element that is itself not optional, or trace to an SPD element that is clearly associated with that optional SFR;

— all optional requirements marked as conditional in a PP or PP-Configuration Component to which the ST claims conformance are included if the TOE implements functionality that is covered by the requirement. Elective optional requirements may be omitted;

— all optional requirements do not conflict with non-optional requirements. A capability cannot be both required and optional; however, a base capability can be required with enhancements to that capability being specified as optional.

The evaluator determines that these requirements do not conflict on all occasions where different security requirements apply to the same types of developer evidence, events, operations, data, tests to be performed, etc. or to "all objects", "all subjects", etc.

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Some possible conflicts are:

— an extended SAR specifying that the design of a certain cryptographic algorithm shall be kept secret, and another extended assurance requirement specifying an open source review;

— FAU_GEN.1 (Audit data generation) (see ISO/IEC 15408-2:2026, 8.4.7) specifying that subject identity shall be logged, FDP_ACC.1 (Subset access control) (see ISO/IEC 15408-2:2026, 11.3.6) specifying who has access to these logs, and FPR_UNO.1 (Unobservability) (see ISO/IEC 15408-2:2026, 14.6.6) specifying that some actions of subjects shall be unobservable to other subjects. If the subject that is required to be unable to see an activity can access logs of this activity, these SFRs conflict;

— FDP_RIP.1 (Subset residual information protection) (see ISO/IEC 15408-2:2026, 11.12.6) specifying deletion of information no longer needed, and FDP_ROL.1 (Basic rollback) (see ISO/IEC 15408-2:2026, 11.13.6) specifying that a TOE can return to a previous state. If the information that is needed for the rollback to the previous state has been deleted, these requirements conflict;

— multiple iterations of FDP_ACC.1 (Subset access control) (see ISO/IEC 15408-2:2026, 11.3.6) especially where some iterations cover the same subjects, objects, or operations. If one access control SFR allows a subject to perform an operation on an object, while another access control SFR does not allow this, these requirements conflict.

11.8.2.3.30 Content requirement ASE_REQ.2.11C (ISO/IEC 15408-3:2026, 9.7.4)

If the ST specifies sets of SARs that expand the sets of SARs of the PPs or PP-Configuration it claims conformance to, the security requirements rationale shall include an assurance rationale that justifies the consistency of the extension and provides a rationale for the disposition of any evaluation methods and evaluation activities identified in the conformance statement that are affected by the extension of the sets of SARs.

11.8.2.3.31 Work unit ASE_REQ.2-19

If an ST that extends the sets of SARs of the PP-Configuration it claims conformance to, the evaluator ***shall examine*** the security requirements rationale to determine that it includes an assurance rationale justifying the consistency of the extension with regard to the SPD, together with a rationale for the disposition of any evaluation methods and evaluation activities defined in the PP(s) or PP-Configuration to which it claims conformance that are affected by the extension of the sets of SARs.

If the ST does not claim conformance to one or more PPs, or to a PP-Configuration, this work unit is not applicable and therefore considered satisfied.

If the ST claims exact conformance to one or more PPs, or to a PP-Configuration, then augmentation of the SARs is not allowed and the evaluator verifies that either no augmentation has been performed (in which case this work unit is considered satisfied), or that the conformance claim is either strict or demonstrable.

Where the expansion of the SARs affects any evaluation methods or evaluation activities defined in the PP or PP-Configuration to which the ST claims conformance, the evaluator examines the assurance rationale to confirm that it preserves the relevant aspects of the affected evaluation methods and evaluation activities, taking into account the context in which the ST can be used. This includes a check that the assurance resulting from meeting the expanded SARs will be as least as strong as that generated by the original evaluation methods and evaluation activities.

If either rationale is missing, or incomplete, then the evaluator action related to this work unit is assigned a fail verdict.

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11.9 TOE summary specification (ASE_TSS)

11.9.1 Evaluation of sub-activity (ASE_TSS.1)

11.9.1.1 Objectives

The objective of this sub-activity is to determine whether the TOE summary specification addresses all SFRs, and whether the TOE summary specification is consistent with other narrative descriptions of the TOE.

11.9.1.2 Input

Input for ASE_TSS.1 consists of the following:

— the ST.

11.9.1.3 Action ASE_TSS.1.1E

11.9.1.3.1 Evaluator action (ISO/IEC 15408-3:2026, 9.8.3)

The evaluator shall confirm that the information provided meets all requirements for content and presentation of evidence.

11.9.1.3.2 Content requirement ASE_TSS.1.1C (ISO/IEC 15408-3:2026, 9.8.3)

The TOE summary specification shall describe how the TOE meets each SFR.

11.9.1.3.3 Work unit ASE_TSS.1-1

The evaluator ***shall examine*** the TOE summary specification to determine that it describes how the TOE meets each SFR.

The evaluator determines that the TOE summary specification provides, for each SFR from the statement of security requirements, a description on how that SFR is met.

The evaluator should keep in mind that the objective of each description is to provide potential consumers of the TOE with a high-level view of how the developer intends to satisfy each SFR and that the descriptions therefore are not required to be overly detailed. Often several SFRs will be implemented in one context; for instance, a password authentication mechanism can implement FIA_UAU.1 (Timing of authentication) (see ISO/IEC 15408-2:2026, 12.7.6), FIA_SOS.1 (Verification of secrets) (see ISO/IEC 15408-2:2026, 12.6.6) and FIA_UID.1 (Timing of identification) (see ISO/IEC 15408-2:2026, 12.8.6). Therefore, usually the TSS will not consist of a long list with texts for each single SFR, but complete groups of SFRs can be covered by one text passage.

For a composed TOE, the evaluator also determines that it is clear which component provides each SFR or how the components combine to meet each SFR.

11.9.1.4 Action ASE_TSS.1.2E

11.9.1.4.1 Evaluator action (ISO/IEC 15408-3:2026, 9.8.3)

The evaluator shall confirm that the TOE summary specification is consistent with the TOE overview and the TOE description.

11.9.1.4.2 Work unit ASE_TSS.1-2

The evaluator ***shall examine*** the TOE summary specification to determine that it is consistent with the TOE overview and the TOE description.

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The TOE overview, TOE description, and TOE summary specification describe the TOE in a narrative form at increasing levels of detail. These descriptions are therefore required to be consistent.

11.9.2 Evaluation of sub-activity (ASE_TSS.2)

11.9.2.1 Objectives

The objective of this sub-activity is to determine whether the TOE summary specification addresses all SFRs, whether the TOE summary specification addresses interference, logical tampering and bypass, and whether the TOE summary specification is consistent with other narrative descriptions of the TOE.

11.9.2.2 Input

Input for ASE_TSS.2 consists of the following:

— the ST.

11.9.2.3 Action ASE_TSS.2.1E

11.9.2.3.1 Evaluator action (ISO/IEC 15408-3:2026, 9.8.4)

The evaluator shall confirm that the information provided meets all requirements for content and presentation of evidence.

11.9.2.3.2 Content requirement ASE_TSS.2.1C (ISO/IEC 15408-3:2026, 9.8.4)

The TOE summary specification shall describe how the TOE meets each SFR.

11.9.2.3.3 Work unit ASE_TSS.2-1

The evaluator ***shall examine*** the TOE summary specification to determine that it describes how the TOE meets each SFR.

The evaluator determines that the TOE summary specification provides, for each SFR from the statement of security requirements, a description on how that SFR is met.

The evaluator should keep in mind that the objective of each description is to provide potential consumers of the TOE with a high-level view of how the developer intends to satisfy each SFR and that the descriptions therefore are not required to be overly detailed. Often several SFRs will be implemented in one context; for instance, a password authentication mechanism can implement FIA_UAU.1 (Timing of authentication) (see ISO/IEC 15408-2:2026, 12.7.6), FIA_SOS.1 (Verification of secrets) (see ISO/IEC 15408-2:2026, 12.6.6) and FIA_UID.1 (Timing of identification) (see ISO/IEC 15408-2:2026, 12.8.6). Therefore, usually the TSS will not consist of a long list with texts for each single SFR, but complete groups of SFRs can be covered by one text passage.

For a composed TOE, the evaluator also determines that it is clear which component provides each SFR or how the components combine to meet each SFR.

11.9.2.3.4 Content requirement ASE_TSS.2.2C (ISO/IEC 15408-3:2026, 9.8.4)

The TOE summary specification shall describe how the TOE protects itself against interference and logical tampering.

11.9.2.3.5 Work unit ASE_TSS.2-2

The evaluator ***shall examine*** the TOE summary specification to determine that it describes how the TOE protects itself against interference and logical tampering.

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The evaluator should keep in mind that the objective of each description is to provide potential consumers of the TOE with a high-level view of how the developer intends to provide protection against interference and logical tampering and that the descriptions therefore is not required to be overly detailed.

For a composed TOE, the evaluator also determines that it is clear which component provides the protection or how the components combine to provide protection.

11.9.2.3.6 Content requirement ASE_TSS.2.3C (ISO/IEC 15408-3:2026, 9.8.4)

The TOE summary specification shall describe how the TOE protects itself against bypass.

11.9.2.3.7 Work unit ASE_TSS.2-3

The evaluator ***shall examine*** the TOE summary specification to determine that it describes how the TOE protects itself against bypass.

The evaluator should keep in mind that the objective of each description is to provide potential consumers of the TOE with a high-level view of how the developer intends to provide protection against bypass and that the descriptions therefore are not required to be overly detailed.

For a composed TOE, the evaluator also determines that it is clear which component provides the protection or how the components combine to provide protection.

11.9.2.4 Action ASE_TSS.2.2E

11.9.2.4.1 Evaluator action (ISO/IEC 15408-3:2026, 9.8.4)

The evaluator shall confirm that the TOE summary specification is consistent with the TOE overview and the TOE description.

11.9.2.4.2 Work unit ASE_TSS.2-4

The evaluator ***shall examine*** the TOE summary specification to determine that it is consistent with the TOE overview and the TOE description.

The TOE overview, TOE description, and TOE summary specification describe the TOE in a narrative form at increasing levels of detail. These descriptions shall be consistent.

11.10 Consistency of composite product Security Target (ASE_COMP)

11.10.1 Evaluation of sub-activity (ASE_COMP.1)

11.10.1.1 Objectives

The aim of this activity is to determine whether the Security Target (ST) of the composite product does not contradict the ST of the related base component.

NOTE 1 The ST of the composite product is denoted by composite product Security Target or composite-ST.

NOTE 2 The ST of the related base component is denoted by base component Security Target or base-ST.

NOTE 3 Generally, a Security Target expresses a security policy for the TOE defined.

11.10.1.2 Application notes

An ST for the composite product shall be written and evaluated.

The composite product evaluator shall examine that the Security Target of the composite product does not contradict the Security Target of the related base component. In particular, this means that the composite

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product evaluator shall examine the composite product Security Target and the base component Security Target for any conflicting assumptions, compatibility of security objectives, security requirements and security functionality needed by the dependent component.

The composite product evaluation sponsor shall ensure that the Security Target of the base component is available for the dependent component developer, for the composite product evaluator and for the composite product evaluation authority. It is possible that the information available in the public version of the base component Security Target is not sufficient.

These application notes aid the developer to create as well as the evaluator to analyse a composite product Security Target and describe a general methodology for it. For detailed information and guidance please refer to the individual work units of ASE_COMP (Consistency of composite product Security Target).

In order to create a composite product Security Target the developer should perform the following steps:

Step 1: The developer formulates a preliminary Security Target for the composite product (the composite-ST) using the standard code of practice. The composite-ST can be formulated independently of the Security Target of the composite product's related base component (the base-ST) -- at least as long as there are no formal PP conformance claims.

Step 2: The developer determines the overlap between the base-ST and the composite-ST by analysing and comparing their respective TOE Security Functionality (TSF). The comparison shall be performed on the abstraction level of SFRs. If the developer defined security functionality groups (TSF-groups) in the TSS part of the Security Target, the evaluator should also consider them in order to get a better understanding for the context of the security services offered by the TOE.

NOTE 1 This step is necessary because the TSF enforce the Security Target (together with the organizational measures enforcing the security objectives for the operational environment of the TOE).

Step 3: The developer determines under which conditions they can trust in and rely on the base component-TSF being used by the composite-ST without a new examination.

Having undertaken these steps, the developer completes the preliminary Security Target for the composite product.

It is not required that the composite product and its related base component be evaluated according to the same editions of ISO/IEC 15408 series.

The dependent component of the composite product can rely on some security services of the base component, if:

— the assurance level of the base component covers the intended assurance level of the composite product, and

— the base component evaluation is valid (i.e. accepted by the base component evaluation authority) and up-to-date.

Equivalence of single-assurance components (and, hence, of assurance levels) belonging to different editions ofthe ISO/IEC 15408 series shall be established/acknowledged by the composite product evaluation authority.

NOTE 2 Previous editions can refer to withdrawn and replaced documents.

If conformance to a PP is claimed, e.g. a composite product Security Target claims conformance to a PP (that possibly claims conformance to a further PP), the consistency check can be reduced to the elements of the Security Target having not already been covered by these PPs. However, in general the fact of compliance to a PP is not sufficient to avoid inconsistencies. Assume the following situation, where → stands for "complies with":

composite-ST → PP 1 → PP 2 ← base-ST

PP 1 may require any kind of conformance, (e.g. "strict", "exact" or "demonstrable" according to the ISO/IEC 15408-1), but this does not affect the "additional elements" that the base-ST can introduce beyond

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PP 2. In conclusion, these additions are not necessarily consistent with the composite-ST's additions chosen beyond PP 1: There is no scenario that ensures their consistency "by construction".

Note that objectives for the base component's environment can become objectives for the composite TOE.

11.10.1.3 Action ASE_COMP.1.1E

11.10.1.3.1 Evaluator action (ISO/IEC 15408-3:2026, 9.9.4)

The evaluator shall confirm that the information provided meets all requirements for content and presentation of evidence.

11.10.1.3.2 Content requirement ASE_COMP.1.1C (ISO/IEC 15408-3:2026, 9.9.4)

The statement of compatibility shall describe the separation of the base component-TSF into relevant base component-TSF being used by the composite product Security Target and others.

11.10.1.3.3 Work unit ASE_COMP.1-1

The evaluator ***shall check*** that the statement of compatibility describes the separation of the base component-TSF into relevant base component-TSF being used by the composite product Security Target and others.

It should be noted that TSF means "TOE Security Functionality", whereby the TSF content is represented by SFRs. The respective TOE summary specification (TSS) shall provide, for each SFR, a description on how each SFR is met. The evaluator ***shall use*** this description in order to understand the contextual frame of the SFRs.

If the developer defined security functionality groups (TSF-groups) in the TSS part of the Security Target as such contextual frame of the SFRs, the evaluator should also consider them in order to get a better understanding for the context of the security services offered by the TOE.

This work unit relates to Step 2 of the Application Notes for ASE_COMP.1 (Consistency of Security Target (ST)). In order to determine the intersection area the evaluator considers the list of the base component-SFRs as given in the base component Security Target as single properties of the base component's security services.

These base component-SFRs shall be separated in three groups:

— IP_SFR: Irrelevant base component-SFRs not being used by the composite-ST;

— RP_SFR-SERV: Relevant base component-SFRs being used by the composite-ST to implement a security service with associated TSFI;

— RP_SFR-MECH: Relevant base component-SFRs being used by the composite-ST because of their security properties providing protection against attacks to the TOE as a whole and being addressed in ADV_ARC (Security architecture) (12.3). These required security properties are a result of the security mechanisms and services that are implemented in the base component.

To give an example, assume that there are the following base component-SFRs: Cryptographic operations FCS_COP.1/RSA, FCS_COP.1/AES, FCS_COP.1/EC as well as tamper-resistance FPT_PHP.3 (Resistance to physical attack) (see ISO/IEC 15408-2:2026, 15.10.8) and limited capabilities and availability FMT_LIM.1 (Limited capabilities) (see ISO/IEC 15408-2:2026, 13.3.6) and FMT_LIM.2 (Limited availability) (see ISO/IEC 15408-2:2026, 13.3.7).

The second and third group RP_SFR-SERV and RP_SFR-MECH exactly represent the intersection area in question. For example, IP_SFR = {FCS_COP.1/AES}, RP_SFR-SERV = {FCS_COP.1/RSA, FCS_COP.1/EC} and RP_SFR-MECH = {FPT_PHP.3, FMT_LIM.1, FMT_LIM.2}, i.e. AES is not used by the composite TOE, but all other base component-SFRs are used. However, the RP_SFR-MECH cannot be directly connected to SFRs in the composite-ST.

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The size of the overlapping area (i.e. the content of the group RP_SFR-SERV and RP_SFR-MECH) results from the concrete properties of the base-ST and the composite-ST. If the composite-ST does not use any property of the base-ST and, hence, the intersection area is an empty set (i.e. RP_SFR-MECH ∪ RP_SFR-SERV = {∅}), no further composite evaluation activities are necessary at all: In such a case there is a technical, but not a security composition of the base component and the dependent component.

The result of this work unit shall be integrated to the result of ASE_REQ.1.1E (11.8.1.3)/ASE_REQ.1-18 (11.8.1.3.30) (or the equivalent higher components if a higher assurance level is selected) and ASE_REQ.2.1E (11.8.2.3)/ASE_REQ.2-18 (11.8.2.3.29).

11.10.1.3.4 Work unit ASE_COMP.1-2

The evaluator ***shall examine*** the statement of compatibility to determine that the base component-TSF being used by the composite product Security Target are complete and consistent for the current composite product.

In order to determine the completeness of the list of the base component-TSF being used by the composite-ST, the evaluator ***shall verify*** that:

— {base component-SFRs} = IP_SFR ∪ RP_SFR-SERV ∪ RP_SFR-MECH;

— elements that belong to RP_SFR-SERV and RP_SFR-MECH are taken into account during the evaluation of the composite TOE. The IP-SFR are obviously part of the base component but they are not considered during the evaluation of the composite TOE.

In order to determine the consistency of the list of the base component-TSF being used by the composite-ST, the evaluator ***shall verify*** that there are no ambiguities and contradictory statements.

The result of this work unit shall be integrated to the result of ASE_REQ.1.1E (11.8.1.3)/ASE_REQ.1-18 (11.8.1.3.30) (or the equivalent higher components if a higher assurance level is selected) and ASE_REQ.2.1E (11.8.2.3)/ASE_REQ.2-18 (11.8.2.3.29).

11.10.1.3.5 Content requirement ASE_COMP.1.2C (ISO/IEC 15408-3:2026, 9.9.4)

The statement of compatibility between the composite product Security Target and the base component Security Target shall show (e.g. in form of a mapping) that the Security Targets of the composite product and of the related base component match. That is, this statement shall show that there is no conflict between security environments, security objectives, and security requirements of the composite product Security Target and the base component Security Target. It can be provided by indicating the concerned elements directly in the composite product Security Target followed by explanatory text, if necessary.

11.10.1.3.6 Work unit ASE_COMP.1-3

The evaluator ***shall check*** that the security assurance requirements of the composite evaluation represent a subset of the security assurance requirements of the base component and its evaluation.

This work unit relates to Step 2 of the Application Notes for ASE_COMP.1 (Consistency of Security Target (ST)). In order to ensure a sufficient degree of trustworthiness of the base component-TSF the evaluator compares the TOE security assurance requirements of the composite evaluation with those of the base component and its evaluation. The evaluator decides that the degree of trustworthiness of the base component-TSF is sufficient, if the composite product-SAR represent a subset of the base component-SAR:

base component-SAR ⊇ composite product-SAR

E.g. the EAL chosen for the composite evaluation does not exceed the EAL applied to the evaluation of the base component.

The result of this work unit shall be integrated to the result of ASE_REQ.2.1E (11.8.2.3)/ASE_REQ.2-17 (11.8.2.3.27).

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11.10.1.3.7 Work unit ASE_COMP.1-4

The evaluator ***shall examine*** the statement of compatibility to determine that all performed operations on the relevant TOE security functional requirements of the base component Security Target are appropriate for the composite product Security Target.

This work unit relates to Step 3 of the Application Notes for ASE_COMP.1 (Consistency of Security Target (ST)). The relevant TOE security functional requirements of the base-ST comprise at least the elements of the group RP_SFR-SERV (see the work unit ASE_COMP.1-1 (11.10.1.3.3)), but also the RP_SFR-MECH may be presented as relevant TOE security functional requirements. The non-relevant TOE security functional requirements belong to IP_SFR.

In order to perform this work unit the evaluator compares single parameters of the relevant SFRs of the base-ST with those of the composite evaluation. For example, the evaluator compares the properties of the respective components FCS_COP.1/RSA and determines that the composite-ST requires a key length of 2048 bit and the base-ST enforces the RSA-function with a key length of 1024 and 2048 bit, i.e. this parameter of the base-ST is appropriate for the composite-ST. Note, that the composite product-SFRs are not necessarily the same as the base component-SFRs, e.g. a trusted channel (FTP_ITC.1) in the composite-ST can be built using an RSA implementation (FCS_COP.1/RSA) of the base-ST.

The result of this work unit shall be integrated to the result of ASE_REQ.2.1E (11.8.2.3)/ASE_REQ.2-10 (11.8.2.3.16).

11.10.1.3.8 Work unit ASE_COMP.1-5

The evaluator ***shall examine*** the statement of compatibility to determine that the relevant TOE security objectives of the base component Security Target are not contradictory to those of the composite product Security Target.

This work unit relates to Step 3 of the Application Notes for ASE_COMP.1 (Consistency of Security Target (ST)). The relevant TOE security objectives of the base-ST are those that are mapped to the relevant SFRs of the base-ST (see the work unit ASE_COMP.1-1 (11.10.1.3.3)).

In order to perform this work unit the evaluator compares the relevant TOE security objectives of the base-ST with those of the composite-ST and determines whether they are not contradictory.

The result of this work unit shall be integrated to the result of ASE_OBJ.2.1E (11.6.2.3)/ASE_OBJ.2-1 (11.6.2.3.3).

11.10.1.3.9 Work unit ASE_COMP.1-6

The evaluator ***shall examine*** the statement of compatibility to determine that the significant security objectives for the operational environment of the base component Security Target are not contradictory to those of the composite product Security Target.

This work unit relates to Step 3 of the Application Notes for ASE_COMP.1 (Consistency of Security Target (ST)). In order to determine which security objectives for the operational environment of the base-ST are significant for the composite-ST the evaluator analyses the objectives for the environment of the base-ST and their separation in the following groups:

— IrOE: The objectives for the environment being not relevant for the composite-ST, e.g. the objectives for the environment about the developing and manufacturing phases of the base component;

— CfPOE: The objectives for the environment being fulfilled by the composite-ST automatically. Such objectives for the environment of the base-ST can always be assigned to the TOE security objectives of the composite-ST. Due to the fact that they will be fulfilled either by the composite product-SFRs or by the composite product-SARs automatically;

— SgOE: The remaining objectives for the environment of the base-ST belonging neither to the group IrOE nor CfOE Exactly this group makes up the significant objectives for the environment for the composite-ST, which shall be addressed in the composite-ST.

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As an example for CfPOE, if the wording of an objective for the environment OE.Resp-Appl of the base-ST states: "All User Data are owned by Smartcard Embedded Software". It can be assumed that security relevant User Data (especially cryptographic keys) are treated by the Smartcard Embedded Software as defined for the specific application context. Furthermore, the wording of a TOE security objective OT.Key_Secrecy of the composite-ST states: "The secrecy of the signature private key used for signature generation is reasonably assured against attacks with a High attack potential." Given these two statements then, if the private key is the only sensitive data element, the objective for the environment OE.Resp-Appl is covered by the TOE security objective OT.Key_Secrecy automatically;

In order to accomplish this work unit, the evaluator compares the significant security objectives for the operational environment of the base-ST with those of the composite-ST and determines whether there are no contradictions. If necessary, the significant security objectives for the operational environment of the base-ST shall be included into the composite-ST including the related assumptions from which the objectives for the environment are drawn. The inclusion is not necessary, if the composite-ST already contains equivalent (or similar) security objectives (covering all relevant aspects) and assumptions.

Since assurance of the development and manufacturing environment of the base component is confirmed by the base component's evaluation, the respective objectives for the base component, if any, belong to the group IrOE.

Assurance of development and manufacturing environment is usually completely addressed by the assurance class ALC (life cycle support) (Clause 14), and, hence, requires no explicit security objective.

The result of this work unit shall be integrated to the result of ASE_OBJ.2.1E (11.6.2.3)/ASE_OBJ.2-1 (11.6.2.3.3) and ASE_OBJ.2.1E (11.6.2.3)/ASE_OBJ.2-3 (11.6.2.3.7).

12 Development

12.1 Introduction

The purpose of the development activity is to assess the design documentation in terms of its adequacy to understand how the TSF meets the SFRs and how the implementation of these SFRs cannot be tampered with or bypassed. This understanding is achieved through examination of increasingly refined descriptions of the TSF design documentation. Design documentation consists of:

a) a functional specification (which describes the interfaces of the TSF),

b) a TOE design description (which describes the architecture of the TSF in terms of how it works in order to perform the functions related to the SFRs being claimed),

c) an implementation description (a source code level description),

d) a security architecture description (which describes the architectural properties of the TSF to explain how its security enforcement cannot be compromised or bypassed),

e) an internal description (which describes how the TSF was constructed in a manner that encourages understandability),

f) a security policy model (which formally describes the security policies enforced by the TSF).

12.2 Application notes

12.2.1 General

Requirements of the ISO/IEC 15408 series for design documentation are levelled by the amount, and detail of information provided, and the degree of formality of the presentation of the information (see also Annex C). At lower levels, the most security-critical portions of the TSF are described with the most detail, while less security-critical portions of the TSF are merely summarized; added assurance is gained by increasing the amount of information about the most security-critical portions of the TSF, and increasing the details about

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the less security-critical portions. The most assurance is achieved when thorough details and information of all portions are provided.

ISO/IEC 15408 series considers a document's degree of formality (that is, whether it is informal or semi-formal) to be hierarchical. An informal document is one that is expressed in a natural language. The methodology does not dictate the specific language used; that issue is left for the scheme. The following paragraphs differentiate the contents of the different informal documents.

A functional specification provides a description of the purpose and method-of-use of interfaces to the TSF. For example, if an operating system presents the user with a means of self-identification, of creating files, of modifying or deleting files, of setting permissions defining which other users can access files, and of communicating with remote machines, its functional specification shall contain descriptions of each of these and how they are realised through interactions with the externally-visible interfaces to the TSF. If there is also audit functionality that detects and record the occurrences of such events, descriptions of this audit functionality are also expected to be part of the functional specification; while this functionality is technically not directly invoked by the user at the external interface, it certainly is affected by what occurs at the user's external interface.

A design description is expressed in terms of logical divisions (subsystems or modules) that each provide a comprehensible service or function. For example, a firewall can be composed of subsystems that deal with packet filtering, with remote administration, with auditing, and with connection-level filtering. The design description of the firewall would describe the actions that are taken, in terms of what actions each subsystem takes when an incoming packet arrives at the firewall.

12.2.2 Composition

The composite-specific work units defined in ADV_COMP (Composite design compliance) (12.9) are intended to be integrated as refinements to the evaluation activities of ADV (Development) listed in Table 2. The other activities of ADV (Development) do not require composite-specific work units.

Table 2 — Composite design compliance

Assurance family	Evaluation activity	Evaluation work unit	Composite-specific work unit
ADV_ARC (Security architecture) (12.3)	ADV_ARC.1.1E (12.3.1.4)	ADV_ARC.1-1 (12.3.1.4.3)	ADV_COMP.1-1 (12.9.1.3.3)
ADV_IMP (Implementation representation) (12.5)	ADV_IMP.1.1E (12.5.1.4)	ADV_IMP.1-1 (12.5.1.4.3)	ADV_COMP.1-1 (12.9.1.3.3)
ADV_TDS (TOE design) (12.8)	ADV_TDS.1.2E (12.8.1.3)	ADV_TDS.1-7 (12.8.1.3.2)	ADV_COMP.1-1 (12.9.1.3.3)
NOTE If the level of the assurance requirement chosen is higher than those identified in this table, the composite-specific work unit is also applicable.			

12.3 Security architecture (ADV_ARC)

12.3.1 Evaluation of sub-activity (ADV_ARC.1)

12.3.1.1 Objectives

The objective of this sub-activity is to determine whether the TSF is structured such that it cannot be tampered with or bypassed, and whether TSFs that provide security domains isolate those domains from each other.

12.3.1.2 Application notes

The notions of self-protection, domain separation, and non-bypassability are distinct from security functionality expressed in ISO/IEC 15408-2 SFRs because self-protection and non-bypassability largely have no directly observable interface at the TSF. Rather, they are properties of the TSF that are achieved through

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the design of the TOE, and enforced by the correct implementation of that design. Also, the evaluation of these properties is less straight-forward than the evaluation of mechanisms; it is more difficult to check for the absence of functionality than for its presence. However, the determination that these properties are being satisfied is just as critical as the determination that the mechanisms are properly implemented.

The overall approach used is that the developer provides a TSF that meets the properties of self-protection, domain separation, and non-bypassability, and provides evidence (in the form of documentation) that can be analysed to show that the properties are met. The evaluator has the responsibility for looking at the evidence and, coupled with other evidence delivered for the TOE, determining that the properties are achieved. The work units can be characterised as those detailing what information shall be provided, and those dealing with the actual analysis the evaluator performs.

The security architecture description describes how domains are defined and how the TSF keeps them separate. It describes what prevents untrusted processes from getting to the TSF and modifying it. It describes what ensures that all resources under the TSF's control are adequately protected and that all actions related to the SFRs are mediated by the TSF. It explains any role the environment plays in any of these (e.g. presuming it gets correctly invoked by its underlying environment, how is its security functionality invoked?). In short, it explains how the TOE is considered to be providing any kind of security service.

The analyses the evaluator performs shall be done in the context of all of the development evidence provided for the TOE, at the level of detail the evidence is provided. At lower assurance levels, there is no expectation that, for example, TSF self-protection is completely analysed, because it is possible that only high-level design representations are available. The evaluator shall be sure to use information gleaned from other portions of their analysis (e.g. analysis of the TOE design) in making their assessments for the properties being examined in the work units associated with this component.

12.3.1.3 Input

Input for ADV_ARC.1 consists of the following:

— the ST;

— the functional specification;

— the TOE design;

— the security architecture description;

— the implementation representation (if available);

— the operational user guidance.

12.3.1.4 Action ADV_ARC.1.1E

12.3.1.4.1 Evaluator action (ISO/IEC 15408-3:2026, 10.2.4)

The evaluator shall confirm that the information provided meets all requirements for content and presentation of evidence.

12.3.1.4.2 Content requirement ADV_ARC.1.1C (ISO/IEC 15408-3:2026, 10.2.4)

The security architecture description shall be at a level of detail commensurate with the description of the SFR-enforcing abstractions described in the TOE design document.

12.3.1.4.3 Work unit ADV_ARC.1-1

The evaluator ***shall examine*** the security architecture description to determine that the information provided in the evidence is presented at a level of detail commensurate with the descriptions of the SFR-enforcing abstractions contained in the functional specification and TOE design document.

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With respect to the functional specification, the evaluator should ensure that the self-protection functionality described cover those effects that are evident at the TSFIs. Such a description can include protection placed upon the executable images of the TSF, and protection placed on objects (e.g. files used by the TSF). The evaluator ensures that the functionality that can be invoked through the TSFIs is described.

If ADV_TDS.1 (Basic design) (12.8.1) or ADV_TDS.2 (Architectural design) (12.8.2) are included, the evaluator ensures the security architecture description contains information on how any subsystems that contribute to TSF domain separation work.

If ADV_TDS.3 (Basic modular design) (12.8.3) or higher is included, the evaluator ensures that the security architecture description also contains implementation-dependent information. For example, such a description can contain information pertaining to coding conventions for parameter checking that would prevent TSF compromises (e.g. buffer overflows), and information on stack management for call and return operations. The evaluator checks the descriptions of the mechanisms to ensure that the level of detail is such that there is little ambiguity between the description in the security architecture description and the implementation representation.

The evaluator action related to this work unit shall be assigned a fail verdict if the security architecture description mentions any module, subsystem, or interface that is not described in the functional specification or TOE design document.

12.3.1.4.4 Content requirement ADV_ARC.1.2C (ISO/IEC 15408-3:2026, 10.2.4)

The security architecture description shall describe the security domains maintained by the TSF consistently with the SFRs.

12.3.1.4.5 Work unit ADV_ARC.1-2

The evaluator ***shall examine*** the security architecture description to determine that it describes the security domains maintained by the TSF.

Security domains refer to environments supplied by the TSF for use by potentially harmful entities; for example, a typical secure operating system supplies a set of resources (address space, per-process environment variables) for use by processes with limited access rights and security properties. The evaluator determines that the developer's description of the security domains takes into account all of the SFRs claimed by the TOE.

For some TOEs such domains do not exist because all of the interactions available to users are severely constrained by the TSF. A packet-filter firewall is an example of such a TOE. Users on the LAN or WAN do not interact with the TOE, so there need be no security domains; there are only data structures maintained by the TSF to keep the users' packets separated. The evaluator ensures that any claim that there are no domains is supported by the evidence and that no such domains are, in fact, available.

12.3.1.4.6 Content requirement ADV_ARC.1.3C (ISO/IEC 15408-3:2026, 10.2.4)

The security architecture description shall describe how the TSF initialisation process is secure.

12.3.1.4.7 Work unit ADV_ARC.1-3

The evaluator ***shall examine*** the security architecture description to determine that the initialisation process preserves security.

The information provided in the security architecture description relating to TSF initialisation is directed at the TOE components that are involved in bringing the TSF into an initial secure state (i.e. when all parts of the TSF are operational) when power-on or a reset is applied. This discussion in the security architecture description should list the system initialisation components and the processing that occurs in transitioning from the "down" state to the initial secure state.

It is often the case that the components that perform this initialisation function are not accessible after the secure state is achieved; if this is the case then the security architecture description identifies

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the components and explains how they are not reachable by untrusted entities after the TSF has been established. In this respect, the property that shall be preserved is that these components either:

— cannot be accessed by untrusted entities after the secure state is achieved, or;

— if they provide interfaces to untrusted entities, these TSFIs cannot be used to tamper with the TSF.

The TOE components related to TSF initialisation are considered part of the TSF, and analysed from that perspective. It should be noted that even though these are evaluated as part of the TSF, it is likely that a justification (as allowed by ADV_INT (TSF internals) (12.6)) can be made that they do not have to meet the internal structuring requirements of ADV_INT (TSF internals) (12.6).

12.3.1.4.8 Content requirement ADV_ARC.1.4C (ISO/IEC 15408-3:2026, 10.2.4)

The security architecture description shall demonstrate that the TSF protects itself from tampering.

12.3.1.4.9 Work unit ADV_ARC.1-4

The evaluator ***shall examine*** the security architecture description to determine that it contains information sufficient to support a determination that the TSF is able to protect itself from tampering by untrusted active entities.

"Self-protection" refers to the ability of the TSF to protect itself from manipulation from external entities that can result in changes to the TSF. For TOEs that have dependencies on other IT entities, it is often the case that the TOE uses services supplied by the other IT entities in order to perform its functions. In such cases, the TSF alone does not protect itself because it depends on the other IT entities to provide some of the protection. For the purposes of the security architecture description, the notion of self-protection applies only to the services provided by the TSF through its TSFIs, and not to services provided by underlying IT entities that it uses.

Self-protection is typically achieved by a variety of means:

— physical and logical restrictions on access to the TOE;

— hardware-based means (e.g. "execution rings" and memory management functionality);

— software-based means (e.g. boundary checking of inputs on a trusted server).

The evaluator determines that all such mechanisms are described.

The evaluator determines that the design description covers how user input is handled by the TSF in such a way that the TSF does not subject itself to being corrupted by that user input. For example, the TSF can implement the notion of privilege and protect itself by using privileged-mode routines to handle user input. The TSF can make use of processor-based separation mechanisms such as privilege levels or rings. The TSF can implement software protection constructs or coding conventions that contribute to implementing separation of software domains, perhaps by delineating user address space from system address space. The TSF can have reliance upon its environment to provide some support to the protection of the TSF.

All of the mechanisms contributing to the domain separation functions shall be described. The evaluator should use knowledge gained from other evidence (functional specification, TOE design, TSF internals description, other parts of the security architecture description, or implementation representation, as included in the assurance package for the TOE) in determining if any functionality contributing to self-protection was described that is not present in the security architecture description.

Accuracy of the description of the self-protection mechanisms is the property that the description faithfully describes what is implemented. The evaluator should use other evidence (functional specification, TOE design, TSF Internals documentation, other parts of the security architecture description, implementation representation, as included in the ST for the TOE) in determining whether there are discrepancies in any descriptions of the self-protection mechanisms. If ADV_IMP (Implementation representation) (12.5) is included in the assurance package for the TOE, the evaluator shall choose a sample of the implementation representation; the evaluator should also ensure that the descriptions are accurate for the sample chosen. If

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an evaluator cannot understand how a certain self-protection mechanism works or can work in the system architecture, it can be the case that the description is not accurate.

12.3.1.4.10 Content requirement ADV_ARC.1.5C (ISO/IEC 15408-3:2026, 10.2.4)

The security architecture description shall demonstrate that the TSF prevents bypass of the SFR-enforcing functionality.

12.3.1.4.11 Work unit ADV_ARC.1-5

The evaluator ***shall examine*** the security architecture description to determine that it presents an analysis that adequately describes how the SFR-enforcing mechanisms cannot be bypassed.

Non-bypassability is a property that the security functionality of the TSF (as specified by the SFRs) is always invoked. For example, if access control to files is specified as a capability of the TSF via an SFR, there shall be no interfaces through which files can be accessed without invoking the TSF's access control mechanism (such as an interface through which a raw disk access takes place).

Describing how the TSF mechanisms cannot be bypassed generally requires a systematic argument based on the TSF and the TSFIs. The description of how the TSF works (contained in the design decomposition evidence, such as the functional specification, TOE design documentation) — along with the information in the TSS — provides the background necessary for the evaluator to understand what resources are being protected and what security functions are being provided. The functional specification provides descriptions of the TSFIs through which the resources and functions are accessed.

The evaluator assesses the description provided (and other information provided by the developer, such as the functional specification) to ensure that no available interface can be used to bypass the TSF. This means that every available interface shall be either unrelated to the SFRs that are claimed in the ST (and does not interact with anything that is used to satisfy SFRs) or else uses the security functionality that is described in other development evidence in the manner described. For example, a game would likely be unrelated to the SFRs, but an explanation of how it cannot affect security would be required. Access to user data, however, is likely to be related to access control SFRs, so the explanation would describe how the security functionality works when invoked through the data-access interfaces. Such a description is required for every available interface.

In this case the TSF provides file protection. In addition, although the "traditional" system call TSFIs for open, read, and write invoke the file protection mechanism described in the TOE design, there also exists a TSFI that allows access to a batch job facility (creating batch jobs, deleting jobs, modifying unprocessed jobs). The evaluator is expected to be able to determine from the vendor-provided description that this TSFI invokes the same protection mechanisms as do the "traditional" interfaces. This can be done, for example, by referencing the appropriate parts of the TOE design that discuss how the batch job facility TSFI achieves its security objectives.

In this case, there is a TSFI whose sole purpose is to display the time of day. The evaluator is expected to determine that the description adequately argues that this TSFI is not capable of manipulating any protected resources and does not invoke any security functionality.

In this case the TSF is expected to maintain confidentiality of a cryptographic key (the user is allowed to use it for cryptographic operations, but is not allowed to read or write it). If an attacker has direct physical access to the device, they can examine side-channels such as the power usage of the device, the exact timing of the device, or even any electromagnetic emanations of the device and, from this, infer the key.

If such side-channels are present, the demonstration is expected to address the mechanisms that prevent these side-channels from occurring, such as random internal clocks, dual-line technology. Verification of these mechanisms would be verified by a combination of purely design-based arguments and testing.

Using security functionality rather than a protected resource, in this case an ST that contains FCO_NRO.2 (Enforced proof of origin) (see ISO/IEC 15408-2:2026, 9.3.7), which requires that the TSF provides evidence of origination for information types specified in the ST. The "information types" included all information that can be sent by the TOE via e-mail. In this case, the evaluator is expected to examine the description to

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ensure that all TSFIs that can be invoked to send e-mail perform the "evidence of origination generation" function are detailed. The description can point to user guidance to show all places where e-mail can originate (e.g. e-mail program, notification from scripts/batch jobs) and then how each of these places invokes the evidence generation function.

The evaluator should also ensure that the description is comprehensive, in that each interface is analysed with respect to the entire set of claimed SFRs. This can require the evaluator to examine supporting information (functional specification, TOE design, other parts of the security architecture description, operational user guidance, and perhaps even the implementation representation, as provided for the TOE) to determine that the description has correctly captured all aspects of an interface. The evaluator should consider what SFRs each TSFI can affect (from the description of the TSFI and its implementation in the supporting documentation), and then examine the description to determine whether it covers those aspects.

12.4 Functional specification (ADV_FSP)

12.4.1 Evaluation of sub-activity (ADV_FSP.1)

12.4.1.1 Objectives

The objective of this sub-activity is to determine whether the developer has provided a high-level description of at least the SFR-enforcing and SFR-supporting TSFIs, in terms of descriptions of their parameters. There is no other required evidence that can be expected to be available to measure the accuracy of these descriptions; the evaluator merely ensures the descriptions seem plausible.

12.4.1.2 Input

Input for ADV_FSP.1 consists of the following:

— the ST;

— the functional specification;

— the operational user guidance.

12.4.1.3 Action ADV_FSP.1.1E

12.4.1.3.1 Evaluator action (ISO/IEC 15408-3:2026, 10.3.4)

The evaluator shall confirm that the information provided meets all requirements for content and presentation of evidence.

12.4.1.3.2 Content requirement ADV_FSP.1.1C (ISO/IEC 15408-3:2026, 10.3.4)

The functional specification shall describe the purpose and method of use for each SFR-enforcing and SFR-supporting TSFI.

12.4.1.3.3 Work unit ADV_FSP.1-1

The evaluator ***shall examine*** the functional specification to determine that it states the purpose of each SFR-supporting and SFR-enforcing TSFI.

The purpose of a TSFI is a general statement summarising the functionality provided by the interface. It is not intended to be a complete statement of the actions and results related to the interface, but rather a statement to help the reader understand in general what the interface is intended to be used for. The evaluator should not only determine that the purpose exists, but also that it accurately reflects the TSFI by taking into account other information about the interface, such as the description of the parameters; this can be done in association with other work units for this component.

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If an action available through an interface plays a role in enforcing any security policy on the TOE (that is, if one of the actions of the interface can be traced to one of the SFRs levied on the TSF), then that interface is SFR-enforcing. Such policies are not limited to the access control policies, but also refer to any functionality specified by one of the SFRs contained in the ST. It is possible that an interface has various actions and results, some of which are SFR-enforcing and some of which are not.

Interfaces to (or actions available through an interface relating to) actions that SFR-enforcing functionality depends on, but which are only required to function correctly in order for the security policies of the TOE to be preserved, are termed SFR supporting. Interfaces to actions on which SFR-enforcing functionality has no dependence are termed SFR non-interfering.

It should be noted that in order for an interface to be SFR supporting or SFR non-interfering it shall have no SFR-enforcing actions or results. In contrast, an SFR-enforcing interface may have SFR-supporting actions (for example, the ability to set the system clock can be an SFR-enforcing action of an interface, but if that same interface is used to display the system date that action shall be SFR supporting). An example of a purely SFR-supporting interface is a system call interface that is used both by untrusted users and by a portion of the TSF that is running in user mode.

At this level, it is unlikely that effort has been expended by a developer to label interfaces as SFR-enforcing and SFR-supporting. In the case that this has been done, the evaluator should verify, to the extent that supporting documentation (e.g. operational user guidance) allows, that this identification is correct. This identification activity is necessary for several work units of this component.

In the most likely case that the developer has not labelled the interfaces, the evaluator ***shall perform*** their own identification of the interfaces first, and then determine whether the required information (for this work unit, the purpose) is present. Again, because of the lack of supporting evidence this identification can be difficult and have low assurance that all appropriate interfaces have been correctly identified, but nonetheless the evaluator examines other evidence available for the TOE to ensure as complete coverage as is possible.

12.4.1.3.4 Work unit ADV_FSP.1-2

The evaluator ***shall examine*** the functional specification to determine that the method of use for each SFR-supporting and SFR-enforcing TSFI is given.

See work unit ADV_FSP.1-1 (12.4.1.3.3) for a discussion on the identification of SFR-supporting and SFR-enforcing TSFIs.

The method of use for a TSFI summarizes how the interface is manipulated in order to invoke the actions and obtain the results associated with the TSFI. The evaluator is expected to be able to determine, from reading this material in the functional specification, how to use each interface. This does not necessarily mean that a separate method of use is required for each TSFI, as it is possible to describe in general how kernel calls are invoked, for instance, and then identify each interface using that general style. Different types of interfaces will require different method of use specifications. APIs, network protocol interfaces, system configuration parameters, and hardware bus interfaces all have very different methods of use, and this should be taken into account by the developer when developing the functional specification, as well as by the evaluator evaluating the functional specification.

For administrative interfaces, whose functionality is documented as being inaccessible to untrusted users, the evaluator ensures that the method of making the functions inaccessible is described in the functional specification. It should be noted that this inaccessibility should be tested by the developer in their test suite.

12.4.1.3.5 Content requirement ADV_FSP.1.2C (ISO/IEC 15408-3:2026, 10.3.4)

The functional specification shall identify all parameters associated with each SFR-enforcing and SFR-supporting TSFI.

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12.4.1.3.6 Work unit ADV_FSP.1-3

The evaluator ***shall examine*** the presentation of the TSFI to determine that it identifies all parameters associated with each SFR-enforcing and SFR-supporting TSFI.

See work unit ADV_FSP.1-1 (12.4.1.3.3) for a discussion on the identification of SFR-supporting and SFR-enforcing TSFIs.

The evaluator examines the functional specification to ensure that all of the parameters are described for identified TSFI. Parameters are explicit inputs or outputs to an interface that control the behaviour of that interface. For example, parameters include the arguments supplied to an API, the various fields in a packet for a given network protocol, the individual key values in an operating system registry and the signals across a set of pins on a chip.

While difficult to obtain much assurance that all parameters for the applicable TSFIs have been identified, the evaluator should also check other evidence provided for the evaluation (e.g. operational user guidance) to see if behaviour or additional parameters are described there but not in the functional specification.

12.4.1.3.7 Content requirement ADV_FSP.1.3C (ISO/IEC 15408-3:2026, 10.3.4)

The functional specification shall provide rationale for the implicit categorization of interfaces as SFR-non-interfering.

12.4.1.3.8 Work unit ADV_FSP.1-4

The evaluator ***shall examine*** the rationale provided by the developer for the implicit categorisation of interfaces as SFR-non-interfering to determine that it is accurate.

In the case where the developer has provided adequate documentation to perform the analysis called for by the rest of the work units for this component without explicitly identifying SFR-enforcing and SFR-supporting interfaces, this work unit should be considered satisfied.

This work unit is intended to apply to cases where the developer has not described a portion of the TSFI, claiming that it is SFR-non-interfering and therefore not subject to other requirements of this component. In such a case, the developer provides a rationale for this characterisation in sufficient detail such that the evaluator understands the rationale, the characteristics of the interfaces affected (e.g. their high-level function with respect to the TOE, such as "colour palette manipulation"), and that the claim that these are SFR-non-interfering is supported. Given the level of assurance the evaluator should not expect more detail than is provided for the SFR-enforcing or SFR-supporting interfaces, and in fact the detail should be much less. In most cases, individual interfaces are unlikely to require addressing in the developer-provided rationale.

12.4.1.3.9 Content requirement ADV_FSP.1.4C (ISO/IEC 15408-3:2026, 10.3.4)

The tracing shall demonstrate that the SFRs trace to TSFIs in the functional specification.

12.4.1.3.10 Work unit ADV_FSP.1-5

The evaluator ***shall check*** that the tracing links the SFRs to the corresponding TSFIs.

The tracing is provided by the developer to serve as a guide to which SFRs are related to which TSFIs. This tracing can be as simple as a table; it is used as input to the evaluator for use in other work units of ADV_FSP.1 (Basic functional specification) where the evaluator verifies its completeness and accuracy.

12.4.1.4 Action ADV_FSP.1.2E

12.4.1.4.1 Evaluator action (ISO/IEC 15408-3:2026, 10.3.4)

The evaluator shall determine that the functional specification is an accurate and complete instantiation of the SFRs.

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12.4.1.4.2 Work unit ADV_FSP.1-6

The evaluator ***shall examine*** the functional specification to determine that it is a complete instantiation of the SFRs.

To ensure that all SFRs are covered by the functional specification, as well as the test coverage analysis, the evaluator may build upon the developer's tracing (see ADV_FSP.1-5 (12.4.1.3.10)) a map between the TOE security functional requirements and the TSFIs). It can be necessary for this map to be at a level of detail below the component or even element level of the requirements, because of operations (assignments, refinements, selections) performed on the functional requirement by the ST author.

In this case the FDP_ACC.1 (Subset access control) (see ISO/IEC 15408-2:2026, 11.3.6) component contains an element with assignments. If the ST contained, for instance, ten rules in the FDP_ACC.1 (Subset access control) (see ISO/IEC 15408-2:2026, 11.3.6) assignment, and these ten rules were covered by three different TSFIs, it would be inadequate for the evaluator to map FDP_ACC.1 (Subset access control) (see ISO/IEC 15408-2:2026, 11.3.6) to TSFIs A, B, and C and claim they had completed the work unit. Instead, the evaluator would map FDP_ACC.1 (Subset access control) (see ISO/IEC 15408-2:2026, 11.3.6) (rule 1) to TSFI A; FDP_ACC.1 (Subset access control) (see ISO/IEC 15408-2:2026, 11.3.6) (rule 2) to TSFI B; etc. It can also be the case that the interface is a wrapper interface (e.g. IOCTL), in which case the mapping would only be required to be specific to a certain set of parameters for a given interface.

The evaluator should recognise that for requirements that have little or no manifestation at the TSF boundary (e.g. FDP_RIP (Residual information protection) (see ISO/IEC 15408-2:2026, 11.12)) it is not expected that they completely map those requirements to the TSFIs. The analysis for those requirements will be performed in the analysis for the ADV_TDS (TOE design) (12.8) when included in the ST. It is also important to note that since the parameters associated with TSFIs shall be fully specified, the evaluator is expected to be able to determine if all aspects of an SFR appear to be implemented at the interface level.

12.4.1.4.3 Work unit ADV_FSP.1-7

The evaluator ***shall examine*** the functional specification to determine that it is an accurate instantiation of the SFRs.

For each functional requirement in the ST that results in effects visible at the TSF boundary, the evaluator ***shall examine*** the information in the associated TSFI to determine that it describes the required functionality. For example, if the ST contains a requirement for access control lists, and the only TSFIs that map to that requirement specify functionality for Unix-like protection bits, then the functional specification is not accurate with respect to the requirements.

The evaluator should recognise that for requirements that have little or no manifestation at the TSF boundary (e.g. FDP_RIP (Residual information protection) (see ISO/IEC 15408-2:2026, 11.12)) it is not expected that the evaluator completely map those requirements to the TSFIs. The analysis for those requirements will be performed in the analysis for the ADV_TDS (TOE design) (12.8) when included in the ST.

12.4.2 Evaluation of sub-activity (ADV_FSP.2)

12.4.2.1 Objectives

The objective of this sub-activity is to determine whether the developer has provided a description of the TSFIs in terms of their purpose, method of use, and parameters. In addition, the SFR-enforcing actions, results and error messages of each TSFI that is SFR-enforcing are also described.

12.4.2.2 Input

Input for ADV_FSP.2 consists of the following:

— the ST;

— the functional specification;

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— the TOE design.

If either or both of the following are included in the ST for the TOE then they shall also be included as evaluation evidence:

— the security architecture description;

— the operational user guidance.

12.4.2.3 Action ADV_FSP.2.1E

12.4.2.3.1 Evaluator action (ISO/IEC 15408-3:2026, 10.3.5)

The evaluator shall confirm that the information provided meets all requirements for content and presentation of evidence.

12.4.2.3.2 Content requirement ADV_FSP.2.1C (ISO/IEC 15408-3:2026, 10.3.5)

The functional specification shall completely represent the TSF.

12.4.2.3.3 Work unit ADV_FSP.2-1

The evaluator ***shall examine*** the functional specification to determine that the TSF is fully represented.

The identification of the TSFI is a necessary prerequisite to all other activities in this sub-activity. The TSF shall be identified (done as part of the ADV_TDS (TOE design) (12.8) work units) in order to identify the TSFIs. This activity can be done at a high level to ensure that no large groups of interfaces have been missed (network protocols, hardware interfaces, configuration files), or at a low level as the evaluation of the functional specification proceeds.

In making an assessment for this work unit, the evaluator determines that all portions of the TSF are addressed in terms of the interfaces listed in the functional specification. All portions of the TSF should have a corresponding interface description, or if there are no corresponding interfaces for a portion of the TSF, the evaluator determines that that is acceptable.

12.4.2.3.4 Content requirement ADV_FSP.2.2C (ISO/IEC 15408-3:2026, 10.3.5)

The functional specification shall describe the purpose and method of use for all TSFIs.

12.4.2.3.5 Work unit ADV_FSP.2-2

The evaluator ***shall examine*** the functional specification to determine that it states the purpose of each TSFI.

The purpose of a TSFI is a general statement summarising the functionality provided by the interface. It is not intended to be a complete statement of the actions and results related to the interface, but rather a statement to help the reader understand in general what the interface is intended to be used for. The evaluator should not only determine that the purpose exists, but also that it accurately reflects the TSFI by taking into account other information about the interface, such as the description of actions and error messages.

12.4.2.3.6 Work unit ADV_FSP.2-3

The evaluator ***shall examine*** the functional specification to determine that the method of use for each TSFI is given.

The method of use for a TSFI summarises how the interface is manipulated in order to invoke the actions and obtain the results associated with the TSFI. The evaluator is expected to be able to determine, from reading this material in the functional specification, how to use each interface. This does not mean that a separate method of use is required for each TSFI, as it is possible to describe in general how kernel calls are

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invoked, for instance, and then identify each interface using that general style. Different types of interfaces will require different method of use specifications. APIs, network protocol interfaces, system configuration parameters, and hardware bus interfaces all have very different methods of use, and this should be taken into account by the developer when developing the functional specification, as well as by the evaluator evaluating the functional specification.

For administrative interfaces, whose functionality is documented as being inaccessible to untrusted users, the evaluator ensures that the method of making the functions inaccessible is described in the functional specification. It should be noted that this inaccessibility should be tested by the developer in their test suite.

The evaluator should not only determine that the set of method of use descriptions exist, but also that they accurately cover each TSFI.

12.4.2.3.7 Content requirement ADV_FSP.2.3C (ISO/IEC 15408-3:2026, 10.3.5)

The functional specification shall identify and describe all parameters associated with each TSFI.

12.4.2.3.8 Work unit ADV_FSP.2-4

The evaluator ***shall examine*** the presentation of the TSFI to determine that it completely identifies all parameters associated with every TSFI.

The evaluator examines the functional specification to ensure that all of the parameters are described for each TSFI. Parameters are explicit inputs or outputs to an interface that control the behaviour of that interface. For example, parameters include the arguments supplied to an API, the various fields in a packet for a given network protocol, the individual key values in an operating system registry and the signals across a set of pins on a chip.

In order to determine that all of the parameters are present in the TSFI, the evaluator should examine the rest of the interface description (actions, error messages, etc.) to determine if the effects of the parameter are accounted for in the description. The evaluator should also check other evidence provided for the evaluation (e.g. TOE design, security architecture description, operational user guidance, implementation representation) to see if behaviour or additional parameters are described there but not in the functional specification.

12.4.2.3.9 Work unit ADV_FSP.2-5

The evaluator ***shall examine*** the presentation of the TSFI to determine that it completely and accurately describes all parameters associated with every TSFI.

Once all of the parameters have been identified, the evaluator ***shall ensure*** that they are accurately described, and that the description of the parameters is complete. A parameter description tells what the parameter is in some meaningful way. For instance, the interface foo(*i*) can be described as having "parameter *i* which is an integer"; this is not an acceptable parameter description. A description such as "parameter *i* is an integer that indicates the number of users currently logged in to the system" is much more acceptable.

In order to determine that the description of the parameters is complete, the evaluator should examine the rest of the interface description (purpose, method of use, actions, error messages, etc.) to determine if the descriptions of the parameter(s) are accounted for in the description. The evaluator should also check other evidence provided (e.g. TOE design, architectural design, operational user guidance, implementation representation) to see if behaviour or additional parameters are described there but not in the functional specification.

12.4.2.3.10 Content requirement ADV_FSP.2.4C (ISO/IEC 15408-3:2026, 10.3.5)

For each SFR-enforcing TSFI, the functional specification shall describe the SFR-enforcing actions associated with the TSFI.

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12.4.2.3.11 Work unit ADV_FSP.2-6

The evaluator ***shall examine*** the presentation of the TSFI to determine that it completely and accurately describes the SFR-enforcing actions associated with the SFR-enforcing TSFIs.

If an action available through an interface can be traced to one of the SFRs levied on the TSF, then that interface is SFR-enforcing. Such policies are not limited to the access control policies, but also refer to any functionality specified by one of the SFRs contained in the ST. It is possible that an interface has various actions and results, some of which are SFR-enforcing and some of which are not.

The developer is not required to "label" interfaces as SFR-enforcing, and likewise is not required to identify actions available through an interface as SFR-enforcing. It is the evaluator's responsibility to examine the evidence provided by the developer and determine that the required information is present. In the case where the developer has identified the SFR-enforcing TSFIs and SFR-enforcing actions available through those TSFI, the evaluator shall judge completeness and accuracy based on other information supplied for the evaluation (e.g. TOE design, security architecture description, operational user guidance), and on the other information presented for the interfaces (parameters and parameter descriptions, error messages, etc.).

In this case (where the developer has provided only the SFR-enforcing information for SFR-enforcing TSFIs) the evaluator also ensures that no interfaces have been mis-categorized. This is done by examining other information supplied for the evaluation (e.g. TOE design, security architecture description, operational user guidance), and the other information presented for the interfaces (e.g. parameters and parameter descriptions) not labelled as SFR-enforcing.

In the case where the developer has provided the same level of information on all interfaces, the evaluator performs the same type of analysis mentioned in the previous paragraphs. The evaluator should determine which interfaces are SFR-enforcing and which are not, and subsequently ensure that the SFR-enforcing aspects of the SFR-enforcing actions are appropriately described.

The SFR-enforcing actions are those that are visible at any external interface and that provide for the enforcement of the SFRs being claimed. For example, if audit requirements are included in the ST, then audit-related actions would be SFR-enforcing and therefore should be described, even if the result of that action is generally not visible through the invoked interface (as is often the case with audit, where a user action at one interface would produce an audit record visible at another interface).

The level of description required is one that enables the reader to understand the role played by the TSFI actions with respect to the SFR. The evaluator should keep in mind that the description should be detailed enough to support the generation (and assessment) of test cases against that interface. If the description is unclear or lacking detail such that meaningful testing cannot be conducted against the TSFI, it is likely that the description is inadequate.

12.4.2.3.12 Content requirement ADV_FSP.2.5C (ISO/IEC 15408-3:2026, 10.3.5)

For each SFR-enforcing TSFI, the functional specification shall describe direct error messages resulting from processing associated with the SFR-enforcing actions.

12.4.2.3.13 Work unit ADV_FSP.2-7

The evaluator ***shall examine*** the presentation of the TSFI to determine that it completely and accurately describes error messages that result from SFR-enforcing actions associated with each SFR-enforcing TSFI.

This work unit should be performed in conjunction with, or after, work unit ADV_FSP.2-6 (12.4.2.3.11) in order to ensure the set of SFR-enforcing TSFIs and SFR-enforcing actions is correctly identified. The developer can provide more information than is required (e.g. all error messages associated with each interface), in which the case the evaluator should restrict their assessment of completeness and accuracy to only those that they determine to be associated with SFR-enforcing actions of SFR-enforcing TSFIs.

Errors can take many forms, depending on the interface being described. For an API, the interface itself can return an error code, set a global error condition, or set a certain parameter with an error code. For a configuration file, an incorrectly configured parameter can cause an error message to be written to a log file.

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For a hardware PCI card, an error condition can raise a signal on the bus, or trigger an exception condition to the CPU.

Errors (and the associated error messages) come about through the invocation of an interface. The processing that occurs in response to the interface invocation can encounter error conditions, which trigger (through an implementation-specific mechanism) an error message to be generated. In some instances, the error message can be a return value from the interface itself; in other instances a global value can be set and checked after the invocation of an interface. It is likely that a TOE has a number of low-level error messages that can result from fundamental resource conditions, such as "disk full" or "resource locked". While these error messages can map to a large number of TSFIs, they can be used to detect instances where detail from an interface description has been omitted. For instance, a TSFI that produces a "disk full" message, but has no obvious description of why that TSFI should cause an access to the disk in its description of actions, can cause the evaluator to examine other evidence ADV_ARC (Security architecture) (12.3), ADV_TDS (TOE design) (12.8) related to that TSFI to determine if the description is accurate.

In order to determine that the description of the error messages of a TSFI is accurate and complete, the evaluator measures the interface description against the other evidence provided for the evaluation (e.g. TOE design, security architecture description, operational user guidance), as well as other evidence available for that TSFI (parameters, analysis from work unit ADV_FSP.2-6 (12.4.2.3.11)).

12.4.2.3.14 Content requirement ADV_FSP.2.6C (ISO/IEC 15408-3:2026, 10.3.5)

The tracing shall demonstrate that the SFRs trace to TSFIs in the functional specification.

12.4.2.3.15 Work unit ADV_FSP.2-8

The evaluator ***shall check*** that the tracing links the SFRs to the corresponding TSFIs.

The tracing is provided by the developer to serve as a guide to which SFRs are related to which TSFIs. This tracing can be as simple as a table; it is used as input to the evaluator for use in other work units of ADV_FSP.2 (Security-enforcing functional specification) where the evaluator verifies its completeness and accuracy.

12.4.2.4 Action ADV_FSP.2.2E

12.4.2.4.1 Evaluator action (ISO/IEC 15408-3:2026, 10.3.5)

The evaluator shall determine that the functional specification is an accurate and complete instantiation of the SFRs.

12.4.2.4.2 Work unit ADV_FSP.2-9

The evaluator ***shall examine*** the functional specification to determine that it is a complete instantiation of the SFRs.

To ensure that all SFRs are covered by the functional specification, as well as the test coverage analysis, the evaluator can build upon the developer's tracing (see ADV_FSP.2-8 (12.4.2.3.15)) a map between the TOE security functional requirements and the TSFIs. It can be necessary for this map to be at a level of detail below the component or even element level of the requirements, because of operations (assignments, refinements, selections) performed on the functional requirement by the ST author.

For example, the FDP_ACC.1 (Subset access control) (see ISO/IEC 15408-2:2026, 11.3.6) component contains an element with assignments. If the ST contained, for instance, ten rules in the FDP_ACC.1 (Subset access control) (see ISO/IEC 15408-2:2026, 11.3.6) assignment, and these ten rules were covered by three different TSFIs, it would be inadequate for the evaluator to map FDP_ACC.1 (Subset access control) (see ISO/IEC 15408-2:2026, 11.3.6) to TSFIs A, B, and C and claim they had completed the work unit. Instead, the evaluator would map FDP_ACC.1 (Subset access control) (see ISO/IEC 15408-2:2026, 11.3.6) (rule 1) to TSFI A; FDP_ACC.1 (Subset access control) (see ISO/IEC 15408-2:2026, 11.3.6) (rule 2) to TSFI B; etc. It can also be the case that the interface is a wrapper interface (e.g. IOCTL), in which case the mapping would only be required to be specific to certain set of parameters for a given interface.

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The evaluator should recognise that for requirements that have little or no manifestation at the TSF boundary (e.g. FDP_RIP (Residual information protection) (see ISO/IEC 15408-2:2026, 11.12)) it is not expected that they completely map those requirements to the TSFIs. The analysis for those requirements will be performed in the analysis for the ADV_TDS (TOE design) (12.8) when included in the ST. It is also important to note that since the parameters, actions, and error messages associated with TSFIs are required to be fully specified, the evaluator is expected to be able to determine if all aspects of an SFR appear to be implemented at the interface level.

12.4.2.4.3 Work unit ADV_FSP.2-10

The evaluator ***shall examine*** the functional specification to determine that it is an accurate instantiation of the SFRs.

For each functional requirement in the ST that results in effects visible at the TSF boundary, the evaluator ***shall examine*** the information in the associated TSFI to determine that it describes the required functionality. For example, if the ST contains a requirement for access control lists, and the only TSFIs that map to that requirement specify functionality for Unix-like protection bits, then the functional specification is not accurate with respect to the requirements.

The evaluator should recognise that for requirements that have little or no manifestation at the TSF boundary (e.g. FDP_RIP (Residual information protection) (see ISO/IEC 15408-2:2026, 11.12)) it is not expected that the evaluator completely map those requirements to the TSFIs. The analysis for those requirements will be performed in the analysis for the ADV_TDS (TOE design) (12.8) when included in the ST.

12.4.3 Evaluation of sub-activity (ADV_FSP.3)

12.4.3.1 Objectives

The objective of this sub-activity is to determine whether the developer has provided a description of the TSFIs in terms of their purpose, method of use, and parameters. In addition, the actions, results and error messages of each TSFI are also described sufficiently that it can be determined whether they are SFR-enforcing, with the SFR-enforcing TSFI being described in more detail than other TSFIs.

12.4.3.2 Input

Input for ADV_FSP.3 consists of the following:

— the ST;

— the functional specification;

— the TOE design.

The evaluation evidence for this sub-activity that is used if included in the ST for the TOE is:

— the security architecture description;

— the implementation representation;

— the TSF internals description;

— the operational user guidance.

12.4.3.3 Action ADV_FSP.3.1E

12.4.3.3.1 Evaluator action (ISO/IEC 15408-3:2026, 10.3.6)

The evaluator shall confirm that the information provided meets all requirements for content and presentation of evidence.

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12.4.3.3.2 Content requirement ADV_FSP.3.1C (ISO/IEC 15408-3:2026, 10.3.6)

The functional specification shall completely represent the TSF.

12.4.3.3.3 Work unit ADV_FSP.3-1

The evaluator ***shall examine*** the functional specification to determine that the TSF is fully represented.

The identification of the TSFIs is a requirement as a foundation for all other activities in this sub-activity. The TSF shall be identified (done as part of the ADV_TDS (TOE design) (12.8) work units) in order to identify the TSFI. This activity can be done at a high level to ensure that no large groups of interfaces have been missed (network protocols, hardware interfaces, configuration files), or at a low level as the evaluation of the functional specification proceeds.

In making an assessment for this work unit, the evaluator determines that all portions of the TSF are addressed in terms of the interfaces listed in the functional specification. All portions of the TSF should have a corresponding interface description, or if there are no corresponding interfaces for a portion of the TSF, the evaluator determines that that is acceptable.

12.4.3.3.4 Content requirement ADV_FSP.3.2C (ISO/IEC 15408-3:2026, 10.3.6)

The functional specification shall describe the purpose and method of use for all TSFIs.

12.4.3.3.5 Work unit ADV_FSP.3-2

The evaluator ***shall examine*** the functional specification to determine that it states the purpose of each TSFI.

The purpose of a TSFI is a general statement summarising the functionality provided by the interface. It is not intended to be a complete statement of the actions and results related to the interface, but rather a statement to help the reader understand in general what the interface is intended to be used for. The evaluator should not only determine that the purpose exists, but also that it accurately reflects the TSFI by taking into account other information about the interface, such as the description of actions and error messages.

12.4.3.3.6 Work unit ADV_FSP.3-3

The evaluator ***shall examine*** the functional specification to determine that the method of use for each TSFI is given.

The method of use for a TSFI summarizes how the interface is manipulated in order to invoke the actions and obtain the results associated with the TSFI. The evaluator is expected to be able to determine, from reading this material in the functional specification, how to use each interface. This does not necessarily mean that a separate method of use is required for each TSFI, as it is possible to describe in general how kernel calls are invoked, for instance, and then identify each interface using that general style. Different types of interfaces will require different method of use specifications. APIs, network protocol interfaces, system configuration parameters, and hardware bus interfaces all have very different methods of use, and this should be taken into account by the developer when developing the functional specification, as well as by the evaluator evaluating the functional specification.

For administrative interfaces whose functionality is documented as being inaccessible to untrusted users, the evaluator ensures that the method of making the functions inaccessible is described in the functional specification. It should be noted that this inaccessibility should be tested by the developer in their test suite.

The evaluator should not only determine that the set of method of use descriptions exist, but also that they accurately cover each TSFI.

12.4.3.3.7 Content requirement ADV_FSP.3.3C (ISO/IEC 15408-3:2026, 10.3.6)

The functional specification shall identify and describe all parameters associated with each TSFI.

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12.4.3.3.8 Work unit ADV_FSP.3-4

The evaluator ***shall examine*** the presentation of the TSFI to determine that it completely identifies all parameters associated with every TSFI.

The evaluator examines the functional specification to ensure that all of the parameters are described for each TSFI. Parameters are explicit inputs or outputs to an interface that control the behaviour of that interface. For example, parameters include the arguments supplied to an API, the various fields in a packet for a given network protocol, the individual key values in an operating system registry and the signals across a set of pins on a chip.

In order to determine that all of the parameters are present in the TSFI, the evaluator should examine the rest of the interface description (actions, error messages, etc.) to determine if the effects of the parameter are accounted for in the description. The evaluator should also check other evidence provided for the evaluation (e.g. TOE design, security architecture description, operational user guidance, implementation representation) to see if behaviour or additional parameters are described there but not in the functional specification.

12.4.3.3.9 Work unit ADV_FSP.3-5

The evaluator ***shall examine*** the presentation of the TSFI to determine that it completely and accurately describes all parameters associated with every TSFI.

Once all of the parameters have been identified, the evaluator ***shall ensure*** that they are accurately described, and that the description of the parameters is complete. A parameter description tells what the parameter is in some meaningful way. For instance, the interface foo(*i*) can be described as having "parameter *i* which is an integer"; this is not an acceptable parameter description. A description such as "parameter *i* is an integer that indicates the number of users currently logged in to the system" is much more acceptable.

In order to determine that the description of the parameters is complete, the evaluator should examine the rest of the interface description (purpose, method of use, actions, error messages, etc.) to determine if the descriptions of the parameter(s) are accounted for in the description. The evaluator should also check other evidence provided (e.g. TOE design, architectural design, operational user guidance, implementation representation) to see if behaviour or additional parameters are described there but not in the functional specification.

12.4.3.3.10 Content requirement ADV_FSP.3.4C (ISO/IEC 15408-3:2026, 10.3.6)

For each SFR-enforcing TSFI, the functional specification shall describe the SFR-enforcing actions associated with the TSFI.

12.4.3.3.11 Work unit ADV_FSP.3-6

The evaluator ***shall examine*** the presentation of the TSFI to determine that it completely and accurately describes the SFR-enforcing actions associated with the SFR-enforcing TSFIs.

If an action available through an interface plays a role in enforcing any security policy on the TOE (that is, if one of the actions of the interface can be traced to one of the SFRs levied on the TSF), then that interface is SFR-enforcing. Such policies are not limited to the access control policies, but also refer to any functionality specified by one of the SFRs contained in the ST. It is possible that an interface has various actions and results, some of which are SFR-enforcing and some of which are not.

The developer is not required to "label" interfaces as SFR-enforcing, and likewise is not required to identify actions available through an interface as SFR-enforcing. It is the evaluator's responsibility to examine the evidence provided by the developer and determine that the required information is present. In the case where the developer has identified the SFR-enforcing TSFI and SFR-enforcing actions available through those TSFI, the evaluator shall judge completeness and accuracy based on other information supplied for the evaluation (e.g. TOE design, security architecture description, operational user guidance), and on the other information presented for the interfaces (parameters and parameter descriptions, error messages, etc.).

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In this case (developer has provided only the SFR-enforcing information for SFR-enforcing TSFI) the evaluator also ensures that no interfaces have been mis-categorised. This is done by examining other information supplied for the evaluation (e.g. TOE design, security architecture description, operational user guidance), and the other information presented for the interfaces (e.g. parameters and parameter descriptions) not labelled as SFR-enforcing. The analysis done for work units ADV_FSP.3-7 (12.4.3.3.13) and ADV_FSP.3-8 (12.4.3.3.15) are also used in making this determination.

In the case where the developer has provided the same level of information on all interfaces, the evaluator performs the same type of analysis mentioned in the previous paragraphs. The evaluator should determine which interfaces are SFR-enforcing and which are not, and subsequently ensure that the SFR-enforcing aspects of the SFR-enforcing actions are appropriately described. Note that in this case, the evaluator should be able to perform the bulk of the work associated with work unit ADV_FSP.3-8 (12.4.3.3.15) in the course of performing this SFR-enforcing analysis.

The SFR-enforcing actions are those that are visible at any external interface and that provide for the enforcement of the SFRs being claimed. For example, if audit requirements are included in the ST, then audit-related actions would be SFR-enforcing and therefore should be described, even if the result of that action is generally not visible through the invoked interface (as is often the case with audit, where a user action at one interface would produce an audit record visible at another interface).

The level of description that is required is one that enables the reader to understand the role played by the TSFI actions with respect to the SFR. The evaluator should keep in mind that the description should be detailed enough to support the generation (and assessment) of test cases against that interface. If the description is unclear or lacking detail such that meaningful testing cannot be conducted against the TSFI, it is likely that the description is inadequate.

12.4.3.3.12 Content requirement ADV_FSP.3.5C (ISO/IEC 15408-3:2026, 10.3.6)

For each SFR-enforcing TSFI, the functional specification shall describe direct error messages resulting from SFR-enforcing actions and exceptions associated with invocation of the TSFI.

12.4.3.3.13 Work unit ADV_FSP.3-7

The evaluator ***shall examine*** the presentation of the TSFI to determine that it completely and accurately describes error messages that can result from an invocation of each SFR-enforcing TSFI.

This work unit should be performed in conjunction with, or after, work unit ADV_FSP.3-6 (12.4.3.3.11) in order to ensure that the set of SFR-enforcing TSFIs is correctly identified. The evaluator ***shall ensure*** that all direct error messages associated with an SFR-enforcing TSFI are described, since these are associated with SFR-enforcing actions. At this level of assurance, the "extra" information provided by the error message descriptions should be used in determining whether all of the SFR-enforcing aspects of an interface have been appropriately described. For instance, if an error message associated with a TSFI (e.g. "access denied") indicated that an SFR-enforcing decision or action had taken place, but in the description of the SFR-enforcing actions there was no mention of that particular SFR-enforcing mechanism, then it is possible that the description is not complete.

Errors can take many forms, depending on the interface being described. For an API, the interface itself can return an error code, set a global error condition, or set a certain parameter with an error code. For a configuration file, an incorrectly configured parameter can cause an error message to be written to a log file. For a hardware PCI card, an error condition can raise a signal on the bus, or trigger an exception condition to the CPU.

Errors (and the associated error messages) come about through the invocation of an interface. The processing that occurs in response to the interface invocation can encounter error conditions, which trigger (through an implementation-specific mechanism) an error message to be generated. In some instances, the error message can be a return value from the interface itself; in other instances a global value can be set and checked after the invocation of an interface. It is likely that a TOE has a number of low-level error messages that can result from fundamental resource conditions, such as "disk full" or "resource locked". While these error messages can map to a large number of TSFIs, they can be used to detect instances where detail from an interface description has been omitted. For instance, a TSFI that produces a "disk full" message, but has

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no obvious description of why that TSFI should cause an access to the disk in its description of actions, can cause the evaluator to examine other evidence ADV_ARC (Security architecture) (12.3), ADV_TDS (TOE design) (12.8) related that TSFI to determine if the description is accurate.

In order to determine that the description of the error messages of a TSFI is accurate and complete, the evaluator measures the interface description against the other evidence provided for the evaluation (e.g. TOE design, security architecture description, operational user guidance), as well as for other evidence supplied for that TSFI (description of SFR-enforcing actions, summary of SFR-supporting and SFR-non-interfering actions and results).

12.4.3.3.14 Content requirement ADV_FSP.3.6C (ISO/IEC 15408-3:2026, 10.3.6)

The functional specification shall summarize the SFR-supporting and SFR-non-interfering actions associated with each TSFI.

12.4.3.3.15 Work unit ADV_FSP.3-8

The evaluator ***shall examine*** the presentation of the TSFI to determine that it summarizes the SFR-supporting and SFR-non-interfering actions associated with each TSFI.

The purpose of this work unit is to supplement the details about the SFR-enforcing actions (provided in work unit ADV_FSP.3-6 (12.4.3.3.11)) with a summary of the remaining actions (i.e. those that are not SFR-enforcing). This covers all SFR-supporting and SFR-non-interfering actions, whether invokable through SFR-enforcing TSFI or through SFR-supporting or SFR-non-interfering TSFI. Such a summary about all SFR-supporting and SFR-non-interfering actions helps to provide a more complete picture of the functions provided by the TSF, and shall be used by the evaluator in determining whether an action or TSFI has been mis-categorized.

The information to be provided is more abstract than that required for SFR-enforcing actions. While it should still be detailed enough so that the reader can understand what the action does, the description is not required to be detailed enough to support writing tests against it, for instance. For the evaluator, the key is that the information shall be sufficient to make a positive determination that the action is SFR-supporting or SFR-non-interfering. If that level of information is missing, the summary is insufficient and more information shall be obtained.

12.4.3.3.16 Content requirement ADV_FSP.3.7C (ISO/IEC 15408-3:2026, 10.3.6)

The tracing shall demonstrate that the SFRs trace to TSFIs in the functional specification.

12.4.3.3.17 Work unit ADV_FSP.3-9

The evaluator ***shall check*** that the tracing links the SFRs to the corresponding TSFIs.

The tracing is provided by the developer to serve as a guide to which SFRs are related to which TSFIs. This tracing can be as simple as a table; it is used as input to the evaluator for use in the following work units, in which the evaluator verifies its completeness and accuracy.

12.4.3.4 Action ADV_FSP.3.2E

12.4.3.4.1 Evaluator action (ISO/IEC 15408-3:2026, 10.3.6)

The evaluator shall determine that the functional specification is an accurate and complete instantiation of the SFRs.

12.4.3.4.2 Work unit ADV_FSP.3-10

The evaluator ***shall examine*** the functional specification to determine that it is a complete instantiation of the SFRs.

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To ensure that all SFRs are covered by the functional specification, as well as the test coverage analysis, the evaluator can build upon the developer's tracing (see ADV_FSP.3-9 (12.4.3.3.17)) a map between the TOE security functional requirements and the TSFIs. It can be necessary for this map to be at a level of detail below the component or even element level of the requirements, because of operations (assignments, refinements, selections) performed on the functional requirement by the ST author.

For example, the FDP_ACC.1 (Subset access control) (see ISO/IEC 15408-2:2026, 11.3.6) component contains an element with assignments. If the ST contained, for instance, ten rules in the FDP_ACC.1 (Subset access control) (see ISO/IEC 15408-2:2026, 11.3.6) assignment, and these ten rules were covered by three different TSFIs, it would be inadequate for the evaluator to map FDP_ACC.1 (Subset access control) (see ISO/IEC 15408-2:2026, 11.3.6) to TSFIs A, B, and C and claim they had completed the work unit. Instead, the evaluator would map FDP_ACC.1 (Subset access control) (see ISO/IEC 15408-2:2026, 11.3.6) (rule 1) to TSFI A; FDP_ACC.1 (Subset access control) (see ISO/IEC 15408-2:2026, 11.3.6) (rule 2) to TSFI B; etc. It can also be the case that the interface is a wrapper interface (e.g. IOCTL), in which case the mapping would only be required to be specific to certain set of parameters for a given interface.

The evaluator should recognise that for requirements that have little or no manifestation at the TSF boundary (e.g. FDP_RIP (Residual information protection) (see ISO/IEC 15408-2:2026, 11.12)) it is not expected that they completely map those requirements to the TSFIs. The analysis for those requirements will be performed in the analysis for the ADV_TDS (TOE design) (12.8) when included in the ST. It is also important to note that since the parameters, actions, and error messages associated with TSFIs are required to be fully specified, the evaluator is expected to be able to determine if all aspects of an SFR appear to be implemented at the interface level.

12.4.3.4.3 Work unit ADV_FSP.3-11

The evaluator ***shall examine*** the functional specification to determine that it is an accurate instantiation of the SFRs.

For each functional requirement in the ST that results in effects visible at the TSF boundary, the evaluator ***shall examine*** the information in the associated TSFI to determine that it describes the required functionality. For example, if the ST contains a requirement for access control lists, and the only TSFIs that map to that requirement specify functionality for Unix-like protection bits, then the functional specification is not accurate with respect to the requirements.

The evaluator should recognise that for requirements that have little or no manifestation at the TSF boundary (e.g. FDP_RIP (Residual information protection) (see ISO/IEC 15408-2:2026, 11.12)) it is not expected that the evaluator completely map those requirements to the TSFIs. The analysis for those requirements will be performed in the analysis for the ADV_TDS (TOE design) (12.8) when included in the ST.

12.4.4 Evaluation of sub-activity (ADV_FSP.4)

12.4.4.1 Objectives

The objective of this sub-activity is to determine whether the developer has completely described all of the TSFIs in a manner such that the evaluator is able to determine whether the TSFI are completely and accurately described, and appears to implement the security functional requirements of the ST.

12.4.4.2 Application notes

The functional specification describes the interfaces to the TSF (the TSFIs) in a structured manner. Owing to the dependency on ADV_TDS.1 (Basic design) (12.8.1), the evaluator is expected to have identified the TSF prior to beginning work on this sub-activity. Without firm knowledge of what comprises the TSF, it is not possible to assess the completeness of the TSFI.

In performing the various work units included in this family, the evaluator is asked to make assessments of accuracy and completeness of several factors (the TSFI itself, as well as the individual components (parameters, actions, error messages, etc.) of the TSFI). In doing this analysis, the evaluator is expected to use the documentation provided for the evaluation. This includes the ST, the TOE design, and can

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include other documentation such as the operational user guidance, security architecture description, and implementation representation. The documentation should be examined in an iterative fashion. The evaluator can read, for example, in the TOE design how a certain function is implemented, but see no way to invoke that function from the interface. This can cause the evaluator to question the completeness of a particular TSFI description, or whether an interface has been left out of the functional specification altogether. Describing analysis activities of this sort in the ETR is a key method in providing rationale that the work units have been performed appropriately.

There exist functional requirements whose functionality is manifested wholly or in part architecturally, rather than through a specific mechanism. An example of this is the implementation of mechanisms implementing the FDP_RIP (Residual information protection) (see ISO/IEC 15408-2:2026, 11.12) requirements. Such mechanisms typically are implemented to ensure a behaviour isn't present, which is difficult to test and typically is verified through analysis. In the cases where such functional requirements are included in the ST, it is expected that the evaluator recognises that there can be SFRs of this type that have no interfaces, and that this should not be considered a deficiency in the functional specification.

12.4.4.3 Input

Input for ADV_FSP.4 consists of the following:

— the ST;

— the functional specification;

— the TOE design.

The evaluation evidence for this sub-activity that is used if included in the ST for the TOE is:

— the security architecture description;

— the implementation representation;

— the TSF internals description;

— the operational user guidance.

12.4.4.4 Action ADV_FSP.4.1E

12.4.4.4.1 Evaluator action (ISO/IEC 15408-3:2026, 10.3.7)

The evaluator shall confirm that the information provided meets all requirements for content and presentation of evidence.

12.4.4.4.2 Content requirement ADV_FSP.4.1C (ISO/IEC 15408-3:2026, 10.3.7)

The functional specification shall completely represent the TSF.

12.4.4.4.3 Work unit ADV_FSP.4-1

The evaluator ***shall examine*** the functional specification to determine that the TSF is fully represented.

The identification of the TSFIs is a requirement as a foundation for all other activities in this sub-activity. The TSF shall be identified (done as part of the ADV_TDS (TOE design) (12.8) work units) in order to identify the TSFI. This activity can be done at a high level to ensure that no large groups of interfaces have been missed (network protocols, hardware interfaces, configuration files), or at a low level as the evaluation of the functional specification proceeds.

In making an assessment for this work unit, the evaluator determines that all portions of the TSF are addressed in terms of the interfaces listed in the functional specification. All portions of the TSF should have a corresponding interface description, or if there are no corresponding interfaces for a portion of the TSF, the evaluator determines that that is acceptable.

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12.4.4.4.4 Content requirement ADV_FSP.4.2C (ISO/IEC 15408-3:2026, 10.3.7)

The functional specification shall describe the purpose and method of use for all TSFIs.

12.4.4.4.5 Work unit ADV_FSP.4-2

The evaluator ***shall examine*** the functional specification to determine that it states the purpose of each TSFI.

The purpose of a TSFI is a general statement summarising the functionality provided by the interface. It is not intended to be a complete statement of the actions and results related to the interface, but rather a statement to help the reader understand in general what the interface is intended to be used for. The evaluator should not only determine that the purpose exists, but also that it accurately reflects the TSFI by taking into account other information about the interface, such as the description of actions and error messages.

12.4.4.4.6 Work unit ADV_FSP.4-3

The evaluator ***shall examine*** the functional specification to determine that the method of use for each TSFI is given.

The method of use for a TSFI summarizes how the interface is manipulated in order to invoke the actions and obtain the results associated with the TSFI. The evaluator is expected to be able to determine, from reading this material in the functional specification, how to use each interface. This does not necessarily mean that a separate method of use for each TSFI is required, as it is possible to describe in general how kernel calls are invoked, for instance, and then identify each interface using that general style. Different types of interfaces will require different method of use specifications. APIs, network protocol interfaces, system configuration parameters, and hardware bus interfaces all have very different methods of use, and this should be taken into account by the developer when developing the functional specification, as well as by the evaluator evaluating the functional specification.

For administrative interfaces whose functionality is documented as being inaccessible to untrusted users, the evaluator ensures that the method of making the functions inaccessible is described in the functional specification. This inaccessibility should be tested by the developer in their test suite.

The evaluator should not only determine that the set of method of use descriptions exist, but also that they accurately cover each TSFI.

12.4.4.4.7 Work unit ADV_FSP.4-4

The evaluator ***shall examine*** the functional specification to determine the completeness of the TSFIs

The evaluator shall use the design documentation to identify the possible types of interfaces. The evaluator shall search the design documentation and the guidance documentation for potential TSFIs not contained in the developer's documentation, thus indicating that the set of TSFI defined by the developer is incomplete. The evaluator ***shall examine*** the arguments presented by the developer that the TSFI is complete and check down to the lowest level of design or with the implementation representation that no additional TSFIs exist.

12.4.4.4.8 Content requirement ADV_FSP.4.3C (ISO/IEC 15408-3:2026, 10.3.7)

The functional specification shall identify and describe all parameters associated with each TSFI.

12.4.4.4.9 Work unit ADV_FSP.4-5

The evaluator ***shall examine*** the presentation of the TSFIs to determine that they completely identify all parameters associated with every TSFI.

The evaluator examines the functional specification to ensure that all of the parameters are described for each TSFI. Parameters are explicit inputs or outputs to an interface that control the behaviour of that interface. For example, parameters include the arguments supplied to an API, the various fields in a packet

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for a given network protocol, the individual key values in an operating system registry and the signals across a set of pins on a chip.

In order to determine that all of the parameters are present in the TSFI, the evaluator should examine the rest of the interface description (actions, error messages, etc.) to determine if the effects of the parameter are accounted for in the description. The evaluator should also check other evidence provided for the evaluation (e.g. TOE design, security architecture description, operational user guidance, implementation representation) to see if behaviour or additional parameters are described there but not in the functional specification.

12.4.4.4.10 Work unit ADV_FSP.4-6

The evaluator ***shall examine*** the presentation of the TSFIs to determine that they completely and accurately describe all parameters associated with every TSFI.

Once all of the parameters have been identified, the evaluator ***shall ensure*** that they are accurately described, and that the description of the parameters is complete. A parameter description tells what the parameter is in some meaningful way. For instance, the interface foo(*i*) can be described as having "parameter *i* which is an integer"; this is not an acceptable parameter description. A description such as "parameter *i* is an integer that indicates the number of users currently logged in to the system" is much more acceptable.

In order to determine that the description of the parameters is complete, the evaluator should examine the rest of the interface description (purpose, method of use, actions, error messages, etc.) to determine if the descriptions of the parameter(s) are accounted for in the description. The evaluator should also check other evidence provided (e.g. TOE design, architectural design, operational user guidance, implementation representation) to see if behaviour or additional parameters are described there but not in the functional specification.

12.4.4.4.11 Content requirement ADV_FSP.4.4C (ISO/IEC 15408-3:2026, 10.3.7)

The functional specification shall describe all actions associated with each TSFI.

12.4.4.4.12 Work unit ADV_FSP.4-7

The evaluator ***shall examine*** the presentation of the TSFIs to determine that they completely and accurately describe all actions associated with every TSFI.

The evaluator checks to ensure that all of the actions are described. Actions available through an interface describe what the interface does (as opposed to the TOE design, which describes how the actions are provided by the TSF).

Actions of an interface describe functionality that can be invoked through the interface, and can be categorised as regular actions, and SFR-related actions. Regular actions are descriptions of what the interface does. The amount of information provided for this description is dependent on the complexity of the interface. The SFR-related actions are those that are visible at any external interface. For instance, audit activity caused by the invocation of an interface, assuming audit requirements are included in the ST, should be described, even though the result of that action is generally not visible through the invoked interface. Depending on the parameters of an interface, there can be many different actions able to be invoked through the interface. For instance, an API can have the first parameter be a "subcommand", and the following parameters be specific to that subcommand. The IOCTL API in some Unix-like systems is an example of such an interface.

In order to determine that the description of the actions of a TSFI is complete, the evaluator should review the rest of the interface description (parameter descriptions, error messages, etc.) to determine if the actions described are accounted for. The evaluator should also analyse other evidence provided for the evaluation (e.g. TOE design, security architecture description, operational user guidance, implementation representation) to see if there is evidence of actions that are described there but not in the functional specification.

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12.4.4.4.13 Content requirement ADV_FSP.4.5C (ISO/IEC 15408-3:2026, 10.3.7)

The functional specification shall describe all direct error messages that can result from an invocation of each TSFI.

12.4.4.4.14 Work unit ADV_FSP.4-8

The evaluator ***shall examine*** the presentation of the TSFIs to determine that they completely and accurately describe all error messages resulting from an invocation of each TSFI.

Errors can take many forms, depending on the interface being described. For an API, the interface itself can return an error code; set a global error condition, or set a certain parameter with an error code. For a configuration file, an incorrectly configured parameter can cause an error message to be written to a log file. For a hardware PCI card, an error condition can raise a signal on the bus, or trigger an exception condition to the CPU.

Errors (and the associated error messages) come about through the invocation of an interface. The processing that occurs in response to the interface invocation can encounter error conditions, which trigger (through an implementation-specific mechanism) an error message to be generated. In some instances the error message can be a return value from the interface itself; in other instances a global value can be set and checked after the invocation of an interface. It is likely that a TOE has a number of low-level error messages that can result from fundamental resource conditions, such as "disk full" or "resource locked". While these error messages can map to a large number of TSFIs, they can be used to detect instances where detail from an interface description has been omitted. For instance, a TSFI that produces a "disk full" message, but has no obvious description of why that TSFI should cause an access to the disk in its description of actions, can cause the evaluator to examine other evidence from ADV_ARC (Security architecture) (12.3), ADV_TDS (TOE design) (12.8) related to that TSFI to determine if the description is complete and accurate.

The evaluator determines that, for each TSFI, the exact set of error messages that can be returned on invoking that interface can be determined. The evaluator reviews the evidence provided for the interface to determine if the set of errors seems complete. They cross-check this information with other evidence provided for the evaluation (e.g. TOE design, security architecture description, operational user guidance, implementation representation) to ensure that there are no errors stemming from processing mentioned that are not included in the functional specification.

12.4.4.4.15 Work unit ADV_FSP.4-9

The evaluator ***shall examine*** the presentation of the TSFIs to determine that they completely and accurately describe the meaning of all error messages resulting from an invocation of each TSFI.

In order to determine accuracy, the evaluator is required to be able to understand meaning of the error. For example, if an interface returns a numeric code of 0, 1, or 2, the evaluator would not be able to understand the error if the functional specification only listed: "possible errors resulting from invocation of the foo() interface are 0, 1, or 2". Instead the evaluator checks to ensure that the errors are described such as: "possible errors resulting from invocation of the foo() interface are 0 (processing successful), 1 (file not found), or 2 (incorrect filename specification)".

In order to determine that the description of the errors due to invoking a TSFI is complete, the evaluator examines the rest of the interface description (parameter descriptions, actions, etc.) to determine if potential error conditions that can be caused by using such an interface are accounted for. The evaluator also checks other evidence provided for the evaluation (e.g. TOE design, security architecture description, operational user guidance, implementation representation) to see if error processing related to the TSFI is described there but is not described in the functional specification.

12.4.4.4.16 Content requirement ADV_FSP.4.6C (ISO/IEC 15408-3:2026, 10.3.7)

The tracing shall demonstrate that the SFRs trace to TSFIs in the functional specification.

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12.4.4.4.17 Work unit ADV_FSP.4-10

The evaluator ***shall check*** that the tracing links the SFRs to the corresponding TSFIs.

The tracing is provided by the developer to serve as a guide to which SFRs are related to which TSFIs. This tracing can be as simple as a table; it is used as input to the evaluator for use in the following work units, in which the evaluator verifies its completeness and accuracy.

12.4.4.5 Action ADV_FSP.4.2E

12.4.4.5.1 Evaluator action (ISO/IEC 15408-3:2026, 10.3.7)

The evaluator shall determine that the functional specification is an accurate and complete instantiation of the SFRs.

12.4.4.5.2 Work unit ADV_FSP.4-11

The evaluator ***shall examine*** the functional specification to determine that it is a complete instantiation of the SFRs.

To ensure that all SFRs are covered by the functional specification, as well as the test coverage analysis, the evaluator can build upon the developer's tracing (see ADV_FSP.4-10 (12.4.4.4.17)) a map between the TOE security functional requirements and the TSFIs. It can be necessary for this map to be at a level of detail below the component or even element level of the requirements, because of operations (assignments, refinements, selections) performed on the functional requirement by the ST author.

For example, the FDP_ACC.1 (Subset access control) (see ISO/IEC 15408-2:2026, 11.3.6) component contains an element with assignments. If the ST contained, for instance, ten rules in the FDP_ACC.1 (Subset access control) (see ISO/IEC 15408-2:2026, 11.3.6) assignment, and these ten rules were covered by three different TSFIs, it would be inadequate for the evaluator to map FDP_ACC.1 (Subset access control) (see ISO/IEC 15408-2:2026, 11.3.6) to TSFIs A, B, and C and claim they had completed the work unit. Instead, the evaluator would map FDP_ACC.1 (Subset access control) (see ISO/IEC 15408-2:2026, 11.3.6) (rule 1) to TSFI A; FDP_ACC.1 (Subset access control) (see ISO/IEC 15408-2:2026, 11.3.6) (rule 2) to TSFI B; etc. It can also be the case that the interface is a wrapper interface (e.g. IOCTL), in which case the mapping would only be required to be specific to certain set of parameters for a given interface.

The evaluator should recognise that for requirements that have little or no manifestation at the TSF boundary (e.g. FDP_RIP (Residual information protection) (see ISO/IEC 15408-2:2026, 11.12)) it is not expected that they completely map those requirements to the TSFIs. The analysis for those requirements will be performed in the analysis for the ADV_TDS (TOE design) (12.8) when included in the ST. It is also important to note that since the parameters, actions, and error messages associated with TSFIs are required to be fully specified, the evaluator is expected to be able to determine if all aspects of an SFR appear to be implemented at the interface level.

12.4.4.5.3 Work unit ADV_FSP.4-12

The evaluator ***shall examine*** the functional specification to determine that it is an accurate instantiation of the SFRs.

For each functional requirement in the ST that results in effects visible at the TSF boundary, the evaluator ***shall examine*** the information in the associated TSFI to determine that it describes the required functionality. For example, if the ST contains a requirement for access control lists, and the only TSFIs that map to that requirement specify functionality for Unix-like protection bits, then the functional specification is not accurate with respect to the requirements.

The evaluator should recognise that for requirements that have little or no manifestation at the TSF boundary (e.g. FDP_RIP (Residual information protection) (see ISO/IEC 15408-2:2026, 11.12)) it is not expected that the evaluator completely map those requirements to the TSFIs. The analysis for those requirements will be performed in the analysis for the ADV_TDS (TOE design) (12.8) when included in the ST.

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12.4.5 Evaluation of sub-activity (ADV_FSP.5)

12.4.5.1 Objectives

The objective of this sub-activity is to determine whether the developer has completely described all of the TSFIs in a manner such that the evaluator is able to determine whether the TSFIs are completely and accurately described, and appears to implement the security functional requirements of the ST. The completeness of the interfaces is judged based upon the implementation representation.

12.4.5.2 Input

Input for ADV_FSP.5 consists of the following:

— the ST;

— the functional specification;

— the TOE design;

— the implementation representation.

The evaluation evidence for this sub-activity that is used if included in the ST for the TOE is:

— the security architecture description;

— the TSF internals description;

— the formal security policy model;

— the operational user guidance.

12.4.5.3 Action ADV_FSP.5.1E

12.4.5.3.1 Evaluator action (ISO/IEC 15408-3:2026, 10.3.8)

The evaluator shall confirm that the information provided meets all requirements for content and presentation of evidence.

12.4.5.3.2 Content requirement ADV_FSP.5.1C (ISO/IEC 15408-3:2026, 10.3.8)

The functional specification shall completely represent the TSF.

12.4.5.3.3 Work unit ADV_FSP.5-1

The evaluator ***shall examine*** the functional specification to determine that the TSF is fully represented.

The identification of the TSFIs is a requirement as a foundation for all other activities in this sub-activity. The TSF shall be identified (done as part of ADV_TDS (TOE design) (12.8) work units) in order to identify the TSFIs. This activity can be done at a high level to ensure that no large groups of interfaces have been missed (network protocols, hardware interfaces, configuration files), or at a low level as the evaluation of the functional specification proceeds.

In making an assessment for this work unit, the evaluator determines that all portions of the TSF are addressed in terms of the interfaces listed in the functional specification. All portions of the TSF should have a corresponding interface description, or if there are no corresponding interfaces for a portion of the TSF, the evaluator determines that that is acceptable.

12.4.5.3.4 Content requirement ADV_FSP.5.2C (ISO/IEC 15408-3:2026, 10.3.8)

The functional specification shall describe the TSFIs using a semi-formal style.

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12.4.5.3.5 Work unit ADV_FSP.5-2

The evaluator ***shall examine*** the functional specification to determine that it is presented using a semi-formal style.

A semi-formal presentation is characterised by a standardised format with a well-defined syntax that reduces ambiguity that can occur in informal presentations. Since the intent of the semi-formal format is to enhance the reader's ability to understand the presentation, use of certain structured presentation methods (pseudo-code, flow charts, block diagrams) are appropriate, though not required.

For the purposes of this activity, the evaluator should ensure that the interface descriptions are formatted in a structured, consistent manner and use common terminology. A semi-formal presentation of the interfaces also implies that the level of detail of the presentation for the interfaces is largely consistent across all TSFIs. For the functional specification, it is acceptable to refer to external specifications for portions of the interface as long as those external specifications are themselves semi-formal.

12.4.5.3.6 Content requirement ADV_FSP.5.3C (ISO/IEC 15408-3:2026, 10.3.8)

The functional specification shall describe the purpose and method of use for all TSFIs.

12.4.5.3.7 Work unit ADV_FSP.5-3

The evaluator ***shall examine*** the functional specification to determine that it states the purpose of each TSFI.

The purpose of a TSFI is a general statement summarising the functionality provided by the interface. It is not intended to be a complete statement of the actions and results related to the interface, but rather a statement to help the reader understand in general what the interface is intended to be used for. The evaluator should not only determine that the purpose exists, but also that it accurately reflects the TSFI by taking into account other information about the interface, such as the description of actions and error messages.

12.4.5.3.8 Work unit ADV_FSP.5-4

The evaluator ***shall examine*** the functional specification to determine that the method of use for each TSFI is given.

The method of use for a TSFI summarizes how the interface is manipulated in order to invoke the actions and obtain the results associated with the TSFI. The evaluator is expected to be able to determine, from reading this material in the functional specification, how to use each interface. This does not necessarily mean that a separate method of use is required for each TSFI, as it is possible to describe in general how kernel calls are invoked, for instance, and then identify each interface using that general style. Different types of interfaces will require different method of use specifications. APIs, network protocol interfaces, system configuration parameters, and hardware bus interfaces all have very different methods of use, and this should be taken into account by the developer when developing the functional specification, as well as by the evaluator evaluating the functional specification.

For administrative interfaces whose functionality is documented as being inaccessible to untrusted users, the evaluator ensures that the method of making the functions inaccessible is described in the functional specification. This inaccessibility should be tested by the developer in their test suite.

The evaluator should not only determine that the set of method of use descriptions exist, but also that they accurately cover each TSFI.

12.4.5.3.9 Work unit ADV_FSP.5-5

The evaluator ***shall examine*** the functional specification to determine the completeness of the TSFIs.

The evaluator shall use the design documentation to identify the possible types of interfaces. The evaluator shall search the design documentation and the guidance documentation for potential TSFIs not contained in

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the developer's documentation, thus indicating that the set of TSFIs defined by the developer is incomplete. The evaluator ***shall examine*** the arguments presented by the developer that the TSFI is complete and check down to the lowest level of design or with the implementation representation that no additional TSFIs exist.

12.4.5.3.10 Content requirement ADV_FSP.5.4C (ISO/IEC 15408-3:2026, 10.3.8)

The functional specification shall identify and describe all parameters associated with each TSFI.

12.4.5.3.11 Work unit ADV_FSP.5-6

The evaluator ***shall examine*** the presentation of the TSFIs to determine that it completely identifies all parameters associated with every TSFI.

The evaluator examines the functional specification to ensure that all of the parameters are described for each TSFI. Parameters are explicit inputs or outputs to an interface that control the behaviour of that interface. For example, parameters include the arguments supplied to an API, the various fields in a packet for a given network protocol, the individual key values in an operating system registry and the signals across a set of pins on a chip.

In order to determine that all of the parameters are present in the TSFI, the evaluator should examine the rest of the interface description (actions, error messages, etc.) to determine if the effects of the parameter are accounted for in the description. The evaluator should also check other evidence provided for the evaluation (e.g. TOE design, security architecture description, operational user guidance, implementation representation) to see if behaviour or additional parameters are described there but not in the functional specification.

12.4.5.3.12 Work unit ADV_FSP.5-7

The evaluator ***shall examine*** the presentation of the TSFIs to determine that it completely and accurately describes all parameters associated with every TSFI.

Once all of the parameters have been identified, the evaluator ***shall ensure*** that they are accurately described, and that the description of the parameters is complete. A parameter description tells what the parameter is in some meaningful way. For instance, the interface foo(*i*) can be described as having "parameter *i* which is an integer"; this is not an acceptable parameter description. A description such as "parameter *i* is an integer that indicates the number of users currently logged in to the system". is much more acceptable.

In order to determine that the description of the parameters is complete, the evaluator should examine the rest of the interface description (purpose, method of use, actions, error messages, etc.) to determine if the descriptions of the parameter(s) are accounted for in the description. The evaluator should also check other evidence provided (e.g. TOE design, architectural design, operational user guidance, implementation representation) to see if behaviour or additional parameters are described there but not in the functional specification.

12.4.5.3.13 Content requirement ADV_FSP.5.5C (ISO/IEC 15408-3:2026, 10.3.8)

The functional specification shall describe all actions associated with each TSFI.

12.4.5.3.14 Work unit ADV_FSP.5-8

The evaluator ***shall examine*** the presentation of the TSFIs to determine that it completely and accurately describes all actions associated with every TSFI.

The evaluator checks to ensure that all of the actions are described. Actions available through an interface describe what the interface does (as opposed to the TOE design, which describes how the actions are provided by the TSF).

Actions of an interface describe functionality that can be invoked through the interface, and can be categorised as regular actions, and SFR-related actions. Regular actions are descriptions of what the interface does. The amount of information provided for this description is dependent on the complexity of

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the interface. The SFR-related actions are those that are visible at any external interface. For instance, audit activity caused by the invocation of an interface, assuming audit requirements are included in the ST, should be described, even though the result of that action is generally not visible through the invoked interface. Depending on the parameters of an interface, there can be many different actions able to be invoked through the interface. For instance, an API can have the first parameter be a "subcommand", and the following parameters be specific to that subcommand. The IOCTL API in some Unix-like systems is an example of such an interface.

In order to determine that the description of the actions of a TSFI is complete, the evaluator should review the rest of the interface description (parameter descriptions, error messages, etc.) to determine if the actions described are accounted for. The evaluator should also analyse other evidence provided for the evaluation (e.g. TOE design, security architecture description, operational user guidance, implementation representation) to see if there is evidence of actions that are described there but not in the functional specification.

12.4.5.3.15 Content requirement ADV_FSP.5.6C (ISO/IEC 15408-3:2026, 10.3.8)

The functional specification shall describe all direct error messages that can result from an invocation of each TSFI.

12.4.5.3.16 Work unit ADV_FSP.5-9

The evaluator ***shall examine*** the presentation of the TSFIs to determine that it completely and accurately describes all error messages resulting from an invocation of each TSFI.

Errors can take many forms, depending on the interface being described. For an API, the interface itself can return an error code; set a global error condition, or set a certain parameter with an error code. For a configuration file, an incorrectly configured parameter can cause an error message to be written to a log file. For a hardware PCI card, an error condition can raise a signal on the bus, or trigger an exception condition to the CPU.

Errors (and the associated error messages) come about through the invocation of an interface. The processing that occurs in response to the interface invocation can encounter error conditions, which trigger (through an implementation-specific mechanism) an error message to be generated. In some instances the error message can be a return value from the interface itself; in other instances a global value can be set and checked after the invocation of an interface. It is likely that a TOE has a number of low-level error messages that can result from fundamental resource conditions, such as "disk full" or "resource locked". While these error messages can map to a large number of TSFIs, they can be used to detect instances where detail from an interface description has been omitted. For instance, a TSFI that produces a "disk full" message, but has no obvious description of why that TSFI should cause an access to the disk in its description of actions, can cause the evaluator to examine other evidence ADV_ARC (Security architecture) (12.3), ADV_TDS (TOE design) (12.8) related that TSFI to determine if the description is complete and accurate.

The evaluator determines that, for each TSFI, the exact set of error messages that can be returned on invoking that interface can be determined. The evaluator reviews the evidence provided for the interface to determine if the set of errors seems complete. They cross-check this information with other evidence provided for the evaluation (e.g. TOE design, security architecture description, operational user guidance, implementation representation) to ensure that there are no errors steaming from processing mentioned that are not included in the functional specification.

12.4.5.3.17 Work unit ADV_FSP.5-10

The evaluator ***shall examine*** the presentation of the TSFIs to determine that they completely and accurately describe the meaning of all error messages resulting from an invocation of each TSFI.

In order to determine accuracy, the evaluator shall be able to understand meaning of the error. For example, if an interface returns a numeric code of 0, 1, or 2, the evaluator would not be able to understand the error if the functional specification only listed: "possible errors resulting from invocation of the foo() interface are 0, 1, or 2". Instead the evaluator checks to ensure that the errors are described such as: "possible

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errors resulting from invocation of the foo() interface are 0 (processing successful), 1 (file not found), or 2 (incorrect filename specification)".

In order to determine that the description of the errors due to invoking a TSFI is complete, the evaluator examines the rest of the interface description (parameter descriptions, actions, etc.) to determine if potential error conditions that can be caused by using such an interface are accounted for. The evaluator also checks other evidence provided for the evaluation (e.g. TOE design, security architecture description, operational user guidance, implementation representation) to see if error processing related to the TSFI is described there but is not described in the functional specification.

12.4.5.3.18 Content requirement ADV_FSP.5.7C (ISO/IEC 15408-3:2026, 10.3.8)

The functional specification shall describe all error messages that do not result from an invocation of a TSFI.

12.4.5.3.19 Work unit ADV_FSP.5-11

The evaluator ***shall examine*** the functional specification to determine that it completely and accurately describes all error messages that do not result from an invocation of any TSFI.

This work unit complements work unit ADV_FSP.5-9 (12.4.5.3.16), which describes those error messages that result from an invocation of the TSFI. Taken together, these work units cover all error messages that can be generated by the TSF.

The evaluator assesses the completeness and accuracy of the functional specification by comparing its contents to instances of error message generation within the implementation representation. Most of these error messages are already covered by work unit ADV_FSP.5-9 (12.4.5.3.16).

The error messages related to this work unit are typically those that are not expected to be generated, but are constructed as a matter of good programming practises. For example, a case statement that defines actions resulting from each of a list of cases can end with a final else statement to apply to anything that cannot be expected; this practise ensures the TSF does not get into an undefined state. However, it is not expected that the path of execution would ever get to this else statement; therefore, any error message generation within this else statement would never be generated. Although it would not get generated, it shall still be included in the functional specification.

12.4.5.3.20 Content requirement ADV_FSP.5.8C (ISO/IEC 15408-3:2026, 10.3.8)

The functional specification shall provide a rationale for each error message contained in the TSF implementation yet does not result from an invocation of a TSFI.

12.4.5.3.21 Work unit ADV_FSP.5-12

The evaluator ***shall examine*** the functional specification to determine that it provides a rationale for each error message contained in the TSF implementation yet does not result from an invocation of a TSFI.

The evaluator ensures that every error message found under work unit ADV_FSP.5-11 (12.4.5.3.19) contains a rationale describing why it cannot be invoked from the TSFI.

As was described in the previous work unit, this rationale can be as straightforward as the fact that the error message in question is provided for completeness of execution logic and that it is never expected to be generated. The evaluator ensures that the rationale for each such error message is logical.

12.4.5.3.22 Content requirement ADV_FSP.5.9C (ISO/IEC 15408-3:2026, 10.3.8)

The tracing shall demonstrate that the SFRs trace to TSFIs in the functional specification.

12.4.5.3.23 Work unit ADV_FSP.5-13

The evaluator ***shall check*** that the tracing links the SFRs to the corresponding TSFIs.

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The tracing is provided by the developer to serve as a guide to which SFRs are related to which TSFIs. This tracing can be as simple as a table; it is used as input to the evaluator for use in the following work units, in which the evaluator verifies its completeness and accuracy.

12.4.5.4 Action ADV_FSP.5.2E

12.4.5.4.1 Evaluator action (ISO/IEC 15408-3:2026, 10.3.8)

The evaluator shall determine that the functional specification is an accurate and complete instantiation of the SFRs.

12.4.5.4.2 Work unit ADV_FSP.5-14

The evaluator ***shall examine*** the functional specification to determine that it is a complete instantiation of the SFRs.

To ensure that all SFRs are covered by the functional specification, as well as the test coverage analysis, the evaluator can build upon the developer's tracing (see ADV_FSP.5-13 (12.4.5.3.23)) a map between the TOE security functional requirements and the TSFIs. It can be necessary for this map to be at a level of detail below the component or even element level of the requirements, because of operations (assignments, refinements, selections) performed on the functional requirement by the ST author.

For example, the FDP_ACC.1 (Subset access control) (see ISO/IEC 15408-2:2026, 11.3.6) component contains an element with assignments. If the ST contained, for instance, ten rules in the FDP_ACC.1 (Subset access control) (see ISO/IEC 15408-2:2026, 11.3.6) assignment, and these ten rules were covered by three different TSFIs, it would be inadequate for the evaluator to map FDP_ACC.1 (Subset access control) (see ISO/IEC 15408-2:2026, 11.3.6) to TSFIs A, B, and C and claim they had completed the work unit. Instead, the evaluator would map FDP_ACC.1 (Subset access control) (see ISO/IEC 15408-2:2026, 11.3.6) (rule 1) to TSFI A; FDP_ACC.1 (Subset access control) (see ISO/IEC 15408-2:2026, 11.3.6) (rule 2) to TSFI B; etc. It can also be the case that the interface is a wrapper interface (e.g. IOCTL), in which case the mapping would only be required to be specific to certain set of parameters for a given interface.

The evaluator should recognise that for requirements that have little or no manifestation at the TSF boundary (e.g. FDP_RIP (Residual information protection) (see ISO/IEC 15408-2:2026, 11.12)) it is not expected that they completely map those requirements to the TSFIs. The analysis for those requirements will be performed in the analysis for the ADV_TDS (TOE design) (12.8) when included in the ST. It is also important to note that since the parameters, actions, and error messages associated with TSFIs are required to be fully specified, the evaluator is expected to be able to determine if all aspects of an SFR appear to be implemented at the interface level.

12.4.5.4.3 Work unit ADV_FSP.5-15

The evaluator ***shall examine*** the functional specification to determine that it is an accurate instantiation of the SFRs.

For each functional requirement in the ST that results in effects visible at the TSF boundary, the evaluator ***shall examine*** the information in the associated TSFI to determine that it describes the required functionality. For example, if the ST contains a requirement for access control lists, and the only TSFI that map to that requirement specify functionality for Unix-like protection bits, then the functional specification is not accurate with respect to the requirements.

The evaluator should recognise that for requirements that have little or no manifestation at the TSF boundary (e.g. FDP_RIP (Residual information protection) (see ISO/IEC 15408-2:2026, 11.12)) it is not expected that the evaluator completely map those requirements to the TSFIs. The analysis for those requirements will be performed in the analysis for the ADV_TDS (TOE design) (12.8) when included in the ST.

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12.5 Implementation representation (ADV_IMP)

12.5.1 Evaluation of sub-activity (ADV_IMP.1)

12.5.1.1 Objectives

The objective of this sub-activity is to determine that the implementation representation made available by the developer is suitable for use in other analysis activities; suitability is judged by its conformance to the requirements for this component.

12.5.1.2 Application notes

The entire implementation representation is made available to ensure that analysis activities are not curtailed due to lack of information. This does not, however, imply that all the representation is examined when the analysis activities are being performed. This is likely impractical in almost all cases, in addition to the fact that it most likely will not result in a higher-assurance TOE vs. targeted sampling of the implementation representation. For this sub-activity, this is even truer. It would not be productive for the evaluator to spend large amounts of time verifying the requirements for one portion of the implementation representation, and then use a different portion of the implementation representation in performing analysis for other work units. Therefore, the evaluator is recommended to select the sample of the implementation representation from the areas of the TOE that will be of most interest during the analysis performed during work units from other families (e.g. ATE_IND (Independent testing) (15.6), AVA_VAN (Vulnerability analysis) (16.3) and ADV_INT (TSF internals) (12.6)).

12.5.1.3 Input

Input for ADV_IMP.1 consists of the following:

— the implementation representation;

— the documentation of the development tools, as resulting from ALC_TAT (Tools and techniques) (14.10);

— TOE design description.

12.5.1.4 Action ADV_IMP.1.1E

12.5.1.4.1 Evaluator action (ISO/IEC 15408-3:2026, 10.4.4)

The evaluator shall confirm that, for the selected sample of the implementation representation, the information provided meets all requirements for content and presentation of evidence.

12.5.1.4.2 Content requirement ADV_IMP.1.1C (ISO/IEC 15408-3:2026, 10.4.4)

The implementation representation shall define the TSF to a level of detail such that the TSF can be generated without further design decisions.

12.5.1.4.3 Work unit ADV_IMP.1-1

The evaluator ***shall check*** that the implementation representation defines the TSF to a level of detail such that the TSF can be generated without further design decisions.

Source code, hardware diagrams, IC hardware design language code and layout data that are used to build the actual hardware are examples of parts of an implementation representation. The evaluator samples the implementation representation to gain confidence that it is at the appropriate level and not, for instance, a pseudo-code level which requires additional design decisions to be made. The evaluator is recommended to perform a quick check when first looking at the implementation representation to assure themselves that the developer has supplied all the required information. However, the evaluator is also recommended to

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perform the bulk of this check while working on other work units that call for examining the implementation; this will ensure the sample examined for this work unit is relevant.

If the evaluator has the possibility to actually execute or witness the "built" procedure used to transfer the implementation representation into the actual implementation, and to compare the result to the TOE as delivered, this can provide an easier and at the same time more reliable check for this work unit (and possibly also for the following one).

12.5.1.4.4 Content requirement ADV_IMP.1.2C (ISO/IEC 15408-3:2026, 10.4.4)

The implementation representation shall be in the form used by the development personnel.

12.5.1.4.5 Work unit ADV_IMP.1-2

The evaluator ***shall check*** that the implementation representation is in the form used by development personnel.

The implementation representation is manipulated by the developer in a form that is suitable for transformation to the actual implementation. For instance, the developer can work with files containing source code, which is eventually compiled to become part of the TSF. The developer makes available the implementation representation in the form they use, so that the evaluator can use automated techniques in the analysis. This also increases the confidence that the implementation representation examined is actually the one used in the production of the TSF (as opposed to the case where it is supplied in an alternate presentation format, such as a word processor document). It should be noted that other forms of the implementation representation can also be used by the developer; these forms are supplied as well. The overall goal is to supply the evaluator with the information that will maximise the evaluator's analysis efforts.

The evaluator samples the implementation representation to gain confidence that it is the version that is usable by the developer. The sample is such that the evaluator has assurance that all areas of the implementation representation are in conformance with the requirement; however, a complete examination of the entire implementation representation is unnecessary.

Conventions in some forms of the implementation representation can make it difficult or impossible to determine from just the implementation representation itself what the actual result of the compilation or run-time interpretation will be. For example, compiler directives for C language compilers will cause the compiler to exclude or include entire portions of the code.

Some forms of the implementation representation can require additional information because they introduce significant barriers to understanding and analysis. Examples include shrouded source code or source code that has been obfuscated in other ways such that it prevents either understanding or analysis, or both. These forms of implementation representation typically result from by taking a version of the implementation representation that is used by the TOE developer and running a shrouding or obfuscation program on it. While the shrouded representation is what is compiled and can be closer to the implementation (in terms of structure) than the original, un-shrouded representation, supplying such obfuscated code can cause significantly more time to be spent in analysis tasks involving the representation. When such forms of representation are created, the components require details on the shrouding tools and algorithms used so that the un-shrouded representation can be supplied, and the additional information can be used to gain confidence that the shrouding process does not compromise any security mechanisms.

The evaluator samples the implementation representation to gain confidence that all of the information needed to interpret the implementation representation has been supplied. Note that the tools are among those referenced by ALC_TAT (Tools and techniques) (14.10) components. The evaluator is recommended to perform a quick check when first looking at the implementation representation to assure themselves that the developer is on the right track. However, the evaluator is also recommended to perform the bulk of this check while working on other work units that call for examining the implementation; this will ensure the sample examined for this work unit is relevant.

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12.5.1.4.6 Content requirement ADV_IMP.1.3C (ISO/IEC 15408-3:2026, 10.4.4)

The mapping between the TOE design description and the sample of the implementation representation shall demonstrate their correspondence.

12.5.1.4.7 Work unit ADV_IMP.1-3

The evaluator ***shall examine*** the mapping between the TOE design description and the sample of the implementation representation to determine that it is accurate.

The evaluator augments the determination of existence (specified in work unit ADV_IMP.1-1 (12.5.1.4.3)) by verifying the accuracy of a portion of the implementation representation and the TOE design description. For parts of the TOE design description that are interesting, the evaluator should verify that the implementation representation accurately reflects the description provided in the TOE design description.

For example, the TOE design description can identify a login module that is used to identify and authenticate users. If user authentication is sufficiently significant, the evaluator would verify that the corresponding code in fact implements that service as described in the TOE design description. It can also be worthwhile to verify that the code accepts the parameters as described in the functional specification.

It is worth pointing out the developer can choose whether to perform the mapping for the entire implementation representation, thereby guaranteeing that the chosen sample will be covered, or wait for the sample to be chosen before performing the mapping. The first option is likely to involve more work, but can be completed before the evaluation begins. The second option is more efficient, but will produce a suspension of evaluation activity while the necessary evidence is being produced.

12.5.2 Evaluation of sub-activity (ADV_IMP.2)

12.5.2.1 Objectives

The objective of this sub-activity is to determine that the implementation representation made available by the developer is suitable for use in other analysis activities; suitability is judged by its conformance to the requirements for this component.

12.5.2.2 Application notes

The entire implementation representation is made available to ensure that analysis activities are not curtailed due to lack of information. This does not, however, imply that all the representation is examined in detail when the analysis activities are being performed. This is likely impractical in almost all cases, in addition to the fact that it most likely will not result in a higher-assurance TOE.

The new aspect for ADV_IMP.2 (Complete mapping of the implementation representation of the TSF) in comparison to ADV_IMP.1 (Implementation representation of the TSF) (12.5.1) is that the developer shall demonstrate and the evaluator shall confirm that the complete implementation representation is mapped to the TOE design description. This does not, however, imply that all other work units need an examination of the complete implementation representation. Aspects such as appropriate level of detail and form of the implementation representation can be covered by sampling as for ADV_IMP.1 (Implementation representation of the TSF) (12.5.1).

12.5.2.3 Input

Input for ADV_IMP.2 consists of the following:

— the implementation representation;

— the documentation of the development tools, as resulting from ALC_TAT (Tools and techniques) (14.10);

— the TOE design description.

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12.5.2.4 Action ADV_IMP.2.1E

12.5.2.4.1 Evaluator action (ISO/IEC 15408-3:2026, 10.4.5)

The evaluator shall confirm that the information provided meets all requirements for content and presentation of evidence.

12.5.2.4.2 Content requirement ADV_IMP.2.1C (ISO/IEC 15408-3:2026, 10.4.5)

The implementation representation shall define the TSF to a level of detail such that the TSF can be generated without further design decisions.

12.5.2.4.3 Work unit ADV_IMP.2-1

The evaluator ***shall check*** that the implementation representation defines the TSF to a level of detail such that the TSF can be generated without further design decisions.

Source code, hardware diagrams, IC hardware design language code and layout data that are used to build the actual hardware are examples of parts of an implementation representation. The evaluator samples the implementation representation to gain confidence that it is at the appropriate level and not, for instance, a pseudo-code level which requires additional design decisions to be made. The evaluator is recommended to perform a quick check when first looking at the implementation representation to assure themselves that the developer has supplied all the required information. However, the evaluator is also recommended to perform the bulk of this check while working on other work units that call for examining the implementation; this will ensure the sample examined for this work unit is relevant.

If the evaluator has the possibility to actually execute or witness the "build" procedure used to transfer the implementation representation into the actual implementation, and to compare the result to the TOE as delivered, this can provide an easier and at the same time more reliable check for this work unit (and possibly also for the following one).

12.5.2.4.4 Content requirement ADV_IMP.2.2C (ISO/IEC 15408-3:2026, 10.4.5)

The implementation representation shall be in the form used by the development personnel.

12.5.2.4.5 Work unit ADV_IMP.2-2

The evaluator ***shall check*** that the implementation representation is in the form used by development personnel.

The implementation representation is manipulated by the developer in a form that is suitable for transformation to the actual implementation. For instance, the developer can work with files containing source code, which is eventually compiled to become part of the TSF. The developer makes available the implementation representation in the form they use, so that the evaluator can use automated techniques in the analysis. This also increases the confidence that the implementation representation examined is actually the one used in the production of the TSF (as opposed to the case where it is supplied in an alternate presentation format, such as a word processor document). It should be noted that other forms of the implementation representation can also be used by the developer; these forms are supplied as well. The overall goal is to supply the evaluator with the information that will maximize the evaluator's analysis efforts.

The evaluator samples the implementation representation to gain confidence that it is the version that is usable by the developer. The sample is such that the evaluator has assurance that all areas of the implementation representation are in conformance with the requirement; however, a complete examination of the entire implementation representation is unnecessary.

Conventions in some forms of the implementation representation can make it difficult or impossible to determine from just the implementation representation itself what the actual result of the compilation or

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run-time interpretation will be. For example, compiler directives for C language compilers will cause the compiler to exclude or include entire portions of the code.

Some forms of the implementation representation can require additional information because they introduce significant barriers to understanding and analysis. Examples include shrouded source code or source code that has been obfuscated in other ways such that it prevents either understanding or analysis, or both. These forms of implementation representation typically result from taking a version of the implementation representation that is used by the TOE developer and running a shrouding or obfuscation program on it. While the shrouded representation is what is compiled and can be closer to the implementation (in terms of structure) than the original, un-shrouded representation, supplying such obfuscated code can cause significantly more time to be spent in analysis tasks involving the representation. When such forms of representation are created, the components require details on the shrouding tools and algorithms used so that the un-shrouded representation can be supplied, and the additional information can be used to gain confidence that the shrouding process does not compromise any security mechanisms.

The evaluator samples the implementation representation to gain confidence that all of the information needed to interpret the implementation representation has been supplied. Note that the tools are among those referenced by ALC_TAT (Tools and techniques) (14.10) components. The evaluator is recommended to perform a quick check when first looking at the implementation representation to assure themselves that the developer is on the right track. However, the evaluator is also recommended to perform the bulk of this check while working on other work units that call for examining the implementation; this will ensure the sample examined for this work unit is relevant.

12.5.2.4.6 Content requirement ADV_IMP.2.3C (ISO/IEC 15408-3:2026, 10.4.5)

The mapping between the TOE design description and the entire implementation representation shall demonstrate their correspondence.

12.5.2.4.7 Work unit ADV_IMP.2-3

The evaluator ***shall examine*** the mapping between the TOE design description and the entire implementation representation to determine that it is accurate.

The evaluator augments the determination of existence (specified in work unit ADV_IMP.2-1 (12.5.2.4.3)) by verifying the accuracy of the implementation representation and the TOE design description. For those parts of TOE design description that are interesting, the evaluator should verify the implementation representation accurately reflects the description provided in the TOE design description.

For example, the TOE design description can identify a login module that is used to identify and authenticate users. If user authentication is sufficiently significant, the evaluator would verify that the corresponding code in fact implements that service as described in the TOE design description. It can also be worthwhile to verify that the code accepts the parameters as described in the functional specification.

Usually it will be expected that the evaluator considers at least the functionality required by the SFRs chosen in the ST and aspects described in the security architecture description as "interesting". Note however that not all aspects of the security architecture are necessarily traceable to specific parts of the implementation representation.

It is worth pointing out the developer shall perform the mapping for the entire implementation representation, thereby guaranteeing that the chosen sample will be covered.

12.5.2.4.8 Work unit ADV_IMP.2-4

The evaluator ***shall examine*** the mapping between the TOE design description and the entire implementation representation to determine that it is complete.

Completeness in this context is relevant in both directions:

— the complete TOE design shall be covered by the implementation representation; and

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— all parts of the implementation representation shall be mapped to a corresponding part of the TOE design.

In order to confirm that the entire implementation representation is covered by the mapping the evaluator is not required to examine the content of every part of the implementation representation.

In the case of a software TOE the mapping can be between each source code file and a module in the TOE design description. It will be sufficient if the evaluator can conclude that this mapping is plausible from information such as:

— the naming of the source code files,

— their grouping in subdirectories,

— their grouping in "build" procedures.

Aspects of accuracy are covered by ADV_IMP.2-3 (12.5.2.4.7).

In order to confirm that the entire design description is covered by the implementation, the evaluator may use a similar argument as in the other direction, i.e. that all modules contained in the TOE design description are mapped to parts of the implementation representation in a plausible way. In addition, if the evaluator has established in the preceding work unit that all SFRs and all applicable parts of the security architecture description are traceable to the implementation representation this may be seen as sufficient evidence that the mapping is complete.

12.6 TSF internals (ADV_INT)

12.6.1 Evaluation of sub-activity (ADV_INT.1)

12.6.1.1 Objectives

The objective of this sub-activity is to determine whether the defined subset of the TSF is designed and structured such that the likelihood of flaws is reduced and that maintenance can be more readily performed without the introduction of flaws.

12.6.1.2 Application notes

The role of the internals description is to provide evidence of the structure of the design and implementation of the TSF.

The structure of the design has two aspects: the constituent parts of the TSF and the procedures used to design the TSF. In cases where the TSF is designed in a manner consistent with the design represented by the (see ADV_TDS (TOE design) (12.8)), the assessment of the TSF design is obvious. In cases where the design procedures (see ALC_TAT (Tools and techniques) (14.10)) are being followed, the assessment of the TSF design procedures is similarly obvious.

In cases where the TSF is implemented using procedure-based software, this structure is assessed on the basis of its modularity; the modules identified in the internals description are the same as the modules identified in ADV_TDS (TOE design) (12.8). A module consists of one or more source code files that cannot be decomposed into smaller compilable units.

The use of the assignment in this component levies stricter constraints on the subset of the TSF that is explicitly identified in the assignment ADV_INT.1.1D (see ISO/IEC 15408-3:2026, 10.5.4) than on the remainder of the TSF. While the entire TSF shall be designed using good engineering principles and result in a well-structured TSF, only the specified subset is specifically analysed for this characteristic. The evaluator determines that the developer's application of coding standards result in a TSF that is understandable.

The primary goal of this component is to ensure the TSF subset's implementation representation is understandable to facilitate maintenance and analysis (of both the developer and evaluator).

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12.6.1.3 Input

Input for ADV_INT.1 consists of the following:

— the ST;

— the TOE design description;

— the implementation representation (if ADV_IMP (Implementation representation) (12.5) is part of the claimed assurance);

— the TSF internals description and justification;

— the documentation of the coding standards, as resulting from ALC_TAT (Tools and techniques) (14.10).

12.6.1.4 Action ADV_INT.1.1E

12.6.1.4.1 Evaluator action (ISO/IEC 15408-3:2026, 10.5.4)

The evaluator shall confirm that the information provided meets all requirements for content and presentation of evidence.

12.6.1.4.2 Content requirement ADV_INT.1.1C (ISO/IEC 15408-3:2026, 10.5.4)

The justification shall explain the characteristics used to judge the meaning of "well-structured".

12.6.1.4.3 Work unit ADV_INT.1-1

The evaluator ***shall examine*** the justification to determine that it identifies the basis for determining whether the TSF is well-structured.

The evaluator verifies that the criteria for determining the characteristic of being well-structured are clearly defined in the justification. Acceptable criteria typically originate from industry standards for the technology discipline. For example, procedural software that executes linearly is traditionally viewed as well-structured if it adheres to software engineering programming practises, such as those defined in the IEEE Standard (IEEE Std 610.12-1990). For example, it would identify the criteria for the procedural software portions of the TSF subset:

— the process used for modular decomposition;

— coding standards used in the development of the implementation;

— a description of the maximum acceptable level of intermodule coupling exhibited by the TSF subset;

— a description of the minimum acceptable level of cohesion exhibited the modules of the TSF subset.

For other types of technologies used in the TOE - such as non-procedural software (e.g. object-oriented programming), widespread commodity hardware (e.g. PC microprocessors), and special-purpose hardware (e.g. smart-card processors) - the evaluator should seek guidance from the evaluation authority for determining the adequacy of criteria for being "well-structured".

12.6.1.4.4 Content requirement ADV_INT.1.2C (ISO/IEC 15408-3:2026, 10.5.4)

The TSF internals description shall demonstrate that the assigned subset of the TSF is well-structured.

12.6.1.4.5 Work unit ADV_INT.1-2

The evaluator ***shall check*** the TSF internals description to determine that it identifies the assigned subset of the TSF.

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This subset can be identified in terms of the internals of the TSF at any layer of abstraction. For example, it can be in terms of the structural elements of the TSF as identified in the TOE design (e.g. the audit subsystem), or in terms of the implementation (e.g. encrypt.c and decrypt.c files, or the 6227 IC chip).

It is insufficient to identify this subset in terms of the claimed SFRs (e.g. the portion of the TSF that provide anonymity as defined in FPR_ANO.2 (Anonymity without soliciting information) (see ISO/IEC 15408-2:2026, 14.3.7)) because this does not indicate where to focus the analysis.

12.6.1.4.6 Work unit ADV_INT.1-3

The evaluator ***shall examine*** the TSF internals description to determine that it demonstrates that the assigned TSF subset is well-structured.

The evaluator examines the internals description to ensure that it provides a sound explanation of how the TSF subset meets the criteria from ADV_INT.1-1 (12.6.1.4.3)

For example, it would explain how the procedural software portions of the TSF subset meets the following:

— that there is a one-to-one correspondence between the modules identified in the TSF subset and the modules described in ADV_TDS (TOE design) (12.8);

— how the TSF design is a reflection of the modular decomposition process;

— a justification for all instances where the coding standards were not used or met;

— a justification for any coupling or cohesion outside the acceptable bounds.

12.6.1.5 Action ADV_INT.1.2E

12.6.1.5.1 Evaluator action (ISO/IEC 15408-3:2026, 10.5.4)

The evaluator shall perform an internals analysis on the assigned subset of the TSF.

12.6.1.5.2 Work unit ADV_INT.1-4

The evaluator ***shall determine*** that the TOE design for the assigned TSF subset is well-structured.

The evaluator examines a sample of the TOE design to verify the accuracy of the justification. For example, a sample of the TOE design is analysed to determine its adherence to the design standards, etc. As with all areas where the evaluator performs activities on a subset the evaluator provides a justification of the sample size and scope

The description of the TOE's decomposition into subsystems and modules will make the argument that the TSF subset is well-structured self-evident. Verification that the procedures for structuring the TSF (as examined in ALC_TAT (Tools and techniques) (14.10)) are being followed will make it self-evident that the TSF subset is well-structured.

12.6.1.5.3 Work unit ADV_INT.1-5

The evaluator ***shall determine*** that the assigned TSF subset is well-structured.

If ADV_IMP (Implementation representation) (12.5) is not part of the claimed assurance, then this work unit is not applicable and is therefore considered to be satisfied.

The evaluator examines a sample of the TSF subset to verify the accuracy of the internals description. For example, a sample of the procedural software portions of the TSF subset is analysed to determine its cohesion and coupling, its adherence to the coding standards, etc. As with all areas where the evaluator performs activities on a subset the evaluator provides a justification of the sample size and scope.

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12.6.2 Evaluation of sub-activity (ADV_INT.2)

12.6.2.1 Objectives

The objective of this sub-activity is to determine whether the TSF is designed and structured such that the likelihood of flaws is reduced and that maintenance can be more readily performed without the introduction of flaws.

12.6.2.2 Application notes

The role of the internals description is to provide evidence of the structure of the design and implementation of the TSF.

The structure of the design has two aspects: the constituent parts of the TSF and the procedures used to design the TSF. In cases where the TSF is designed in a manner consistent with the design represented by the (see ADV_TDS (TOE design) (12.8)), the assessment of the TSF design is obvious. In cases where the design procedures (see ALC_TAT (Tools and techniques) (14.10)) are being followed, the assessment of the TSF design procedures is similarly obvious.

In cases where the TSF is implemented using procedure-based software, this structure is assessed on the basis of its modularity; the modules identified in the internals description are the same as the modules identified in ADV_TDS (TOE design) (12.8). A module consists of one or more source code files that cannot be decomposed into smaller compilable units.

The primary goal of this component is to ensure the TSF's implementation representation is understandable to facilitate maintenance and analysis (of both the developer and evaluator).

12.6.2.3 Input

Input for ADV_INT.2 consists of the following:

— the modular design description;

— the implementation representation (if ADV_IMP (Implementation representation) (12.5) is part of the claimed assurance);

— the TSF internals description;

— the documentation of the coding standards, as resulting from ALC_TAT (Tools and techniques) (14.10).

12.6.2.4 Action ADV_INT.2.1E

12.6.2.4.1 Evaluator action (ISO/IEC 15408-3:2026, 10.5.5)

The evaluator shall confirm that the information provided meets all requirements for content and presentation of evidence.

12.6.2.4.2 Content requirement ADV_INT.2.1C (ISO/IEC 15408-3:2026, 10.5.5)

The justification shall describe the characteristics used to judge the meaning of "well-structured".

12.6.2.4.3 Work unit ADV_INT.2-1

The evaluator ***shall examine*** the justification to determine that it identifies the basis for determining whether the TSF is well-structured.

The evaluator verifies that the criteria for determining the characteristic of being well-structured are clearly defined in the justification. Acceptable criteria typically originate from industry standards for the technology discipline. For example, procedural software that executes linearly is traditionally viewed as well-structured if it adheres to software engineering programming practises, such as those defined in the

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IEEE Standard (IEEE Std 610.12-1990). For example, it would identify the criteria for the procedural software portions of the TSF:

— the process used for modular decomposition;

— coding standards used in the development of the implementation;

— a description of the maximum acceptable level of intermodule coupling exhibited by the TSF;

— a description of the minimum acceptable level of cohesion exhibited the modules of the TSF.

For other types of technologies used in the TOE - such as non-procedural software (e.g. object-oriented programming), widespread commodity hardware (e.g. PC microprocessors), and special-purpose hardware (e.g. smart-card processors) - the evaluation authority should be consulted for determining the adequacy of criteria for being "well-structured".

12.6.2.4.4 Content requirement ADV_INT.2.2C (ISO/IEC 15408-3:2026, 10.5.5)

The TSF internals description shall demonstrate that the entire TSF is well-structured.

12.6.2.4.5 Work unit ADV_INT.2-2

The evaluator ***shall examine*** the TSF internals description to determine that it demonstrates that the TSF is well-structured.

The evaluator examines the internals description to ensure that it provides a sound explanation of how the TSF meets the criteria from ADV_INT.2-1 (12.6.2.4.3)

For example, it would explain how the procedural software portions of the TSF meet the following:

— that there is a one-to-one correspondence between the modules identified in the TSF and the modules described in the ADV_TDS (TOE design) (12.8);

— how the TSF design is a reflection of the modular decomposition process;

— a justification for all instances where the coding standards were not used or met;

— a justification for any coupling or cohesion outside the acceptable bounds.

12.6.2.5 Action ADV_INT.2.2E

12.6.2.5.1 Evaluator action (ISO/IEC 15408-3:2026, 10.5.5)

The evaluator shall perform an internals analysis on the TSF.

12.6.2.5.2 Work unit ADV_INT.2-3

The evaluator ***shall determine*** that the TOE design is well-structured.

The evaluator examines the TOE design of a sample of the TSF to verify the accuracy of the justification. For example, a sample of the TOE design is analysed to determine its adherence to the design standards, etc. As with all areas where the evaluator performs activities on a subset the evaluator provides a justification of the sample size and scope

The description of the TOE's decomposition into subsystems and modules will make the argument that the TSF subset is well-structured self-evident. Verification that the procedures for structuring the TSF (as examined in ALC_TAT (Tools and techniques) (14.10)) are being followed will make it self-evident that the TSF subset is well-structured.

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12.6.2.5.3 Work unit ADV_INT.2-4

The evaluator ***shall determine*** that the TSF is well-structured.

If ADV_IMP (Implementation representation) (12.5) is not part of the claimed assurance, then this work unit is not applicable and is therefore considered to be satisfied.

The evaluator examines a sample of the TSF to verify the accuracy of the internals description. For example, a sample of the procedural software portions of the TSF is analysed to determine its cohesion and coupling, its adherence to the coding standards, etc. As with all areas where the evaluator performs activities on a subset the evaluator provides a justification of the sample size and scope.

12.6.3 Evaluation of sub-activity (ADV_INT.3)

12.6.3.1 Objectives

The objective of this sub-activity is to determine whether the TSF is designed and structured such that the likelihood of flaws is reduced and that maintenance can be more readily performed without the introduction of flaws.

12.6.3.2 Application notes

The role of the internals description is to provide evidence of the structure of the design and implementation of the TSF.

The structure of the design has two aspects: the constituent parts of the TSF and the procedures used to design the TSF. In cases where the TSF is designed in a manner consistent with the design successfully evaluated against ADV_TDS (TOE design) (12.8), the assessment of the TSF design is obvious. In cases where the design procedures (see ALC_TAT (Tools and techniques) (14.10)) are being followed, the assessment of the TSF design procedures is similarly obvious.

In cases where the TSF is implemented using procedure-based software, this structure is assessed on the basis of its modularity; the modules identified in the internals description are the same as the modules identified in ADV_TDS (TOE design) (12.8). A module consists of one or more source code files that cannot be decomposed into smaller compilable units.

The primary goal of this component is to ensure the TSF's implementation representation is understandable to facilitate maintenance and analysis (of both the developer and evaluator).

12.6.3.3 Input

Input for ADV_INT.3 consists of the following:

— the modular design description;

— the implementation representation (if ADV_IMP (Implementation representation) (12.5) is part of the claimed assurance);

— the TSF internals description;

— the documentation of the coding standards, as resulting from ALC_TAT (Tools and techniques) (14.10).

12.6.3.4 Action ADV_INT.3.1E

12.6.3.4.1 Evaluator action (ISO/IEC 15408-3:2026, 10.5.6)

The evaluator shall confirm that the information provided meets all requirements for content and presentation of evidence.

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12.6.3.4.2 Content requirement ADV_INT.3.1C (ISO/IEC 15408-3:2026, 10.5.6)

The justification shall describe the characteristics used to judge the meaning of "well-structured" and "complex".

12.6.3.4.3 Work unit ADV_INT.3-1

The evaluator ***shall examine*** the justification to determine that it identifies the basis for determining whether the TSF is "well-structured" and "not overly complex".

The evaluator verifies that the criteria for determining the characteristic of being "well-structured" and "complex" are clearly defined in the justification. Acceptable criteria typically originate from industry standards for the technology discipline. For example, procedural software that executes linearly is traditionally viewed as well-structured if it adheres to software engineering programming practises, such as those defined in the IEEE Standard (IEEE Std 610.12-1990). For example, it would identify the criteria for the procedural software portions of the TSF:

— the process used for modular decomposition;

— coding standards used in the development of the implementation;

— a description of the maximum acceptable level of intermodule coupling exhibited by the TSF;

— a description of the minimum acceptable level of cohesion exhibited the modules of the TSF.

Complexity can for example be measured in the number of decision points and logical paths of execution that code takes. Software engineering literature cites complexity as a negative characteristic of software because it impedes understanding of the logic and flow of the code. Another impediment to the understanding of code is the presence of code that is unnecessary, in that it is unused or redundant.

Design complexity minimisation is a key characteristic of a reference validation mechanism, the purpose of which is to arrive at a TSF that is easily understood so that it can be completely analysed.

See also ISO/IEC 15408-3:2026, A.3 for additional information on TSF internals.

The consideration in that annex and those made in the preceding paragraphs of this work unit are mainly derived from common knowledge about procedural software. For other types of technologies used in the TOE - such as non-procedural software (e.g. object-oriented programming), widespread commodity hardware (e.g. PC microprocessors), and special-purpose hardware (e.g. smart-card processors) - the evaluation authority should be consulted for determining the adequacy of criteria for being "well-structured" and "not overly complex".

The evaluator should be open to plausible definitions given by the developer. If. for example, a smart card developer can justify that the metrics used to measure complexity are an industry standard in their field, this can usually be sufficient for acceptance of such metrics.

12.6.3.4.4 Content requirement ADV_INT.3.2C (ISO/IEC 15408-3:2026, 10.5.6)

The TSF internals description shall demonstrate that the entire TSF is well-structured and is not overly complex.

12.6.3.4.5 Work unit ADV_INT.3-2

The evaluator ***shall examine*** the TSF internals description to determine that it demonstrates that the TSF is well-structured and not overly complex.

The evaluator examines the internals description to ensure that it provides a sound explanation of how the TSF meets the criteria from ADV_INT.3-1 (12.6.3.4.3)

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For example, it would explain how the procedural software portions of the TSF meet the following:

— that there is a one-to-one correspondence between the modules identified in the TSF and the modules described in the ADV_TDS (TOE design) (12.8);

— how the TSF design is a reflection of the modular decomposition process;

— a justification for all instances where the coding standards were not used or met;

— a justification for any coupling or cohesion outside the acceptable bounds;

— how the modular decomposition process reduces complexity.

12.6.3.5 Action ADV_INT.3.2E

12.6.3.5.1 Evaluator action (ISO/IEC 15408-3:2026, 10.5.6)

The evaluator shall perform an internals analysis on the entire TSF.

12.6.3.5.2 Work unit ADV_INT.3-3

The evaluator ***shall determine*** that the entire TOE design is well-structured and not overly complex.

The evaluator examines the TOE design description of the TSF to verify the accuracy of the justification. For example, a sample of the TOE design is analysed to determine its adherence to the design standards, etc. As with all areas where the evaluator performs activities on a subset the evaluator provides a justification of the sample size and scope

The description of the TOE's decomposition into subsystems and modules will make the argument that the TSF is well-structured self-evident. Verification that the procedures for structuring the TSF (as examined in ALC_TAT (Tools and techniques) (14.10)) are being followed will make it self-evident that the TSF is well-structured.

Using the metrics defined by the developer for measuring the complexity of the design will show if the metrics are met. If the metrics are only defined for the implementation representation and not for the TOE design, it is possible that there is no need to use the metrics in this work unit, as the complexity-issue is then covered by ADV_INT.3-4 (12.6.3.5.3).

Adequacy of the metrics was considered already in work unit ADV_INT.3-1 (12.6.3.4.3))

12.6.3.5.3 Work unit ADV_INT.3-4

The evaluator ***shall determine*** that the entire TSF is well-structured and not overly complex.

If ADV_IMP (Implementation representation) (12.5) is not part of the claimed assurance, then this work unit is not applicable and is therefore considered to be satisfied.

The evaluator examines the TSF to verify the accuracy of the internals description. For example, a sample of the procedural software portions of the TSF is analysed to determine factors such as its cohesion and coupling and its adherence to the coding standards. As with all areas where the evaluator performs activities on a subset the evaluator provides a justification of the sample size and scope.

Similarly, the evaluator applies the metric for complexity as defined by the developer and examined in work unit ADV_INT.3-1 (12.6.3.4.3) to either a sample of the implementation representation or the complete implementation representation (this can depend on the metric) and verifies that the metric is in fact met. The evaluator may choose to restrict their application of the metrics to a sample if the developer has provided the results of the application of the metrics for the entire TSF and the sampling serves as means to convince the evaluator that the application as done by the developer was correct (similar to the evaluator's sampling of functional testing already done by the developer).

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12.7 Formal TSF model (ADV_SPM)

12.7.1 Evaluation of sub-activity (ADV_SPM.1)

12.7.1.1 Objectives

The objective of this sub-activity is to determine whether the formal model and its formal properties clearly and consistently represent the TSF and the TOE, as defined by the SFRs and the security objectives for the TOE of the ST.

12.7.1.2 Application notes

This activity applies to cases where the developer has provided a formal Security Policy Model (SPM) of the TSF.

A formal security model is a formal representation of the essential aspects of security, i.e. the TSF and their relationship to the behaviour of the TOE. More specifically, the formal model is a formal representation of the TSF as defined by the complete set of SFRs described in the ST. The set of formal properties covers all the security objectives for the TOE.

The creation of a formal Security Policy Model (SPM) of the TSF shall be complete with respect to the ST; such a model helps to identify and eliminate ambiguous, inconsistent, contradictory, or unenforceable elements and to avoid any misunderstanding related to the scope. To this end, the evaluation shall determine whether the formal model and the formal properties completely cover the ST and accept only STs and SPMs that match in scope. Once the TOE has been built, the formal model serves the evaluation effort by contributing to the evaluator's judgement of how well the developer has understood the TSF being implemented and whether there are inconsistencies between the formal properties as defined by the security objectives for the TOE of the ST and the TOE itself. The confidence gained by formally proving properties of the model is accompanied by confidence gained by defining a correspondence rationale between the formal model and the TSF functional specification [as defined for ADV_FSP (Functional specification) (12.4)]. The correspondence rationale consists of a formal proof when mapping to formal aspects of the TSF functional specification and semi-formal demonstration otherwise. A combination of different formal systems (modelling languages, tools, proof systems) can be used for different parts of the ST (SFRs and Security Objectives) and correspondence rationales.

12.7.1.3 Input

Input for ADV_SPM.1 consists of the following:

— the ST;

— the functional specification;

— the formal model for the TSF and the supporting explanatory text (ADV_SPM.1.1D (see ISO/IEC 15408-3:2026, 10.6.4));

— the set of formal properties for the TOE and the supporting explanatory text (ADV_SPM.1.2D (see ISO/IEC 15408-3:2026, 10.6.4));

— the formal proof that the model satisfies the formal properties and the supporting explanatory text (ADV_SPM.1.3D (see ISO/IEC 15408-3:2026, 10.6.4));

— a correspondence rationale between the formal model and the functional specification (ADV_SPM.1.4D (see ISO/IEC 15408-3:2026, 10.6.4));

— a semi-formal demonstration of correspondence between the formal model and any semi-formal functional specification (ADV_SPM.1.5D (see ISO/IEC 15408-3:2026, 10.6.4));

— a formal proof of correspondence between the formal model and any formal functional specification (ADV_SPM.1.6D (see ISO/IEC 15408-3:2026, 10.6.4));

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— all the tools used for the formal model, the formal properties, proofs and demonstrations (ADV_SPM.1.7D (see ISO/IEC 15408-3:2026, 10.6.4)).

12.7.1.4 Action ADV_SPM.1.1E

12.7.1.4.1 Evaluator action (ISO/IEC 15408-3:2026, 10.6.4)

The evaluator shall confirm that the information provided meets all requirements for content and presentation of evidence.

12.7.1.4.2 Content requirement ADV_SPM.1.1C (ISO/IEC 15408-3:2026, 10.6.4)

The formal model, properties and proofs shall be defined using a well-founded mathematical theory.

12.7.1.4.3 Work unit ADV_SPM.1-1

The evaluator ***shall examine*** the formal model, the formal properties and the formal proofs to determine that their expression relies on a well-founded syntax and semantics.

This work unit consists of verifying and ensuring the well-foundedness of the underlying mathematical concepts used for expressing the formal model and for proving its formal properties and formal correspondence to the FSP (if applicable).

The evaluator shall identify the mathematical concepts upon which the formal model, properties and proofs are based and gather relevant scientific bibliography in the context of the evaluation, e.g. on the basis of the provided description of used tools and additional references. This literature research is expected to facilitate the identification of "pitfalls" that would allow the introduction of either paradoxes or fallacies or both.

The evaluator ***shall confirm*** that the underlying mathematical concepts are well-founded.

This work unit applies to all the different mathematical theories that are used to provide the formal model, properties and proofs.

12.7.1.4.4 Content requirement ADV_SPM.1.2C (ISO/IEC 15408-3:2026, 10.6.4)

The explanatory text shall cover the entire formal model, formal properties and proofs, including instructions for reproducing the proofs and the correspondence rationale, and it shall provide a rationale for the modelling and verification choices.

12.7.1.4.5 Work unit ADV_SPM.1-2

The evaluator ***shall examine*** the explanatory text to determine that it explains all parts of the formal model, properties and proofs including the unproven assertions, the chosen verification strategy and the instructions needed to reproduce the proofs and the correspondence rationale.

This work unit consists in examining the explanatory text to determine that it describes all parts of the formal model for all parts of the TSF, the formal properties for all the security objectives for the TOE and the formal proofs, and that it justifies the adopted modelling and verification strategy.

The explanatory text consists of supporting descriptions and clarifications, for example, the formal notation and its usage, or the formal or mathematical representation of the concepts. The explanatory text covers all the unproven assertions on which the formal model or the formal proof rely, and identifies all the formal model and formal proof elements which correspond to the security objectives concerning the TOE environment.

The explanatory text is expected to provide sufficient details to enable the identification of all parts of the formal model and all the formal properties as well as the correct understanding of the formal model, the properties, the proofs and the reasoning behind the modelling and verification choices.

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The explanatory text is expected to support the correspondence between formal and natural language concepts and properties as stated in the ST and functional specification.

Note: Comments included directly in the source code of the formal model or proofs can help but they do not exclude provision of the explanatory text itself and are instead complementary to the latter.

12.7.1.4.6 Content requirement ADV_SPM.1.3C (ISO/IEC 15408-3:2026, 10.6.4)

The formal model shall cover the complete set of SFRs that define the TSF.

12.7.1.4.7 Work unit ADV_SPM.1-3

The evaluator ***shall examine*** the formal model, the definition of the SFRs, and the explanatory text, to determine that the formal model covers the complete set of SFRs defined in the ST.

In determining completeness of the formal model, the evaluator maps the elements of the SFRs to the formal model's elements. Omission of any SFR from the formal modelling leads to a fail verdict being assigned to this work unit.

12.7.1.4.8 Work unit ADV_SPM.1-4

The evaluator ***shall examine*** the formal model, the definition of the SFRs and the explanatory text to determine that the formal model provides an accurate representation of the SFRs.

This work unit consists in determining whether the formal model provides an accurate representation of the SFRs.

The evaluator examines the SFRs, the formal model, and the explanatory text to establish the accuracy of the correspondence between the formal concepts and the definition of the SFRs.

In determining accuracy, the evaluator verifies that the definition of the SFRs is reflected within the formal model and that the explanatory text describing each formal element in the model accurately addresses the concepts and the intent of the corresponding SFR. The evaluator also ensures that the formal model specifies a representation of the TSF that is appropriate for the statement of the formal properties to be proven.

The formal model aims to cover the entire set of SFRs, which goes beyond access and flow control policies stated by means of FDP_ACC (Access control policy) (see ISO/IEC 15408-2:2026, 11.3) and FDP_IFC (Information flow control policy) (see ISO/IEC 15408-2:2026, 11.7) components. All the SFRs defined in the ST are concerned, including, for example, non-repudiation, privacy or authentication SFRs.

The formal model and the definition of the SFRs may use different abstractions. This does not affect the accuracy of the formal model if the formal properties are not affected.

A TSF that is formally modelled on the basis of state transitions would include a definition of the states, identify the initial state(s), describe the necessary conditions to move from one state to the next, and characterize the secure state(s).

In the presence of formal properties related to authentication, if SFRs state that access control is necessary to the granularity of a single individual, then a formal model describing the TSF behaviour in the context of controlling groups of users would not be accurate.

12.7.1.4.9 Content requirement ADV_SPM.1.4C (ISO/IEC 15408-3:2026, 10.6.4)

The formal properties shall cover the complete set of security objectives for the TOE.

12.7.1.4.10 Work unit ADV_SPM.1-5

The evaluator ***shall examine*** the formal properties, the security objectives for the TOE and the explanatory text to determine that the formal properties cover the complete set of security objectives for the TOE defined in the ST.

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In determining completeness of the formal properties, the evaluator maps the elements of the security objectives for the TOE to the elements of the formal properties' statements. Omission of any security objective from the formally proven properties of the TOE always leads to a fail verdict being assigned to this work unit.

12.7.1.4.11 Work unit ADV_SPM.1-6

The evaluator ***shall examine*** the definition of the formal properties to determine that they accurately represent the security objectives for the TOE as given in the ST.

This work unit consists in determining whether the formal properties provide an accurate representation of the security objectives for the TOE.

The evaluator examines the definition of the security objectives for the TOE, the formal model, the formal properties, and the explanatory text to establish the accuracy of the correspondence between the formal and the informal concepts.

12.7.1.4.12 Content requirement ADV_SPM.1.5C (ISO/IEC 15408-3:2026, 10.6.4)

The formal proof shall show that the formal model satisfies all the formal properties and that the consistency of the underlying mathematical theory is preserved.

12.7.1.4.13 Work unit ADV_SPM.1-7

The evaluator ***shall reproduce*** the formal proof by following the instructions provided by the developer as part of the explanatory text to confirm that the obtained results are identical.

This work unit consists in determining that mathematical proof of the formal properties exists and is reproducible, that is, in verifying the formal proof itself, using the instructions and tools provided by the developer.

The evaluator checks whether the explanatory text for the formal proof contains step-by-step instructions that are applicable and lead to results that are identical to those provided by the developer.

The evaluator reproduces the formal proof using the formal model, the tools and the instructions supplied by the developer, and manually checks all the formal proofs provided on paper.

12.7.1.4.14 Work unit ADV_SPM.1-8

The evaluator ***shall examine*** the formal proof to determine that the formal model satisfies all the formal properties and that the consistency of the underlying mathematical theory is preserved.

This work unit consists of determining that:

— mathematical proof exists,

— the formal model satisfies the entire set of formal properties and

— a state which does not preserve the formal properties cannot be reached.

The evaluator relies on the formal proof, the explanatory text and on the principles of the underlying formal theory and its implementation to determine that the consistency of the underlying mathematical theory is preserved.

The evaluator checks whether the explanatory text contains sufficient details for understanding the formal proof and all the unproven assertions that are used to conduct the proof.

The evaluator determines that none of the unproven assertions used in the proof invalidate the well-foundedness of the underlying formal theory. By doing this, the evaluator determines that the formal model enforces the formal properties and that the arguments used in the formal proof are valid and do not lead to contradictions.

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12.7.1.4.15 Content requirement ADV_SPM.1.6C (ISO/IEC 15408-3:2026, 10.6.4)

The correspondence rationale shall show that the formal properties proven for the formal model hold for the functional specification.

12.7.1.4.16 Work unit ADV_SPM.1-9

The evaluator ***shall examine*** the correspondence rationale to determine that all the formal properties proven to be satisfied by the formal model hold for the functional specification.

This work unit consists in verifying that the functional specification reflects all the concepts and formal properties which are modelled and proven to hold in the formal model.

The correspondence rationale provided by the developer is expected to provide tables, diagrams, explanatory text, or a combination of these, to describe the relationship between the entire functional specification and the formal model.

The evaluator examines the correspondence rationale to determine whether there is sufficient evidence to conclude that the formal properties satisfied by the formal model hold in the functional specification. Establishing whether the abstraction used for modelling the TSF is relevant is an essential part of evaluating the rationale behind the preservation of the model's formal properties by the functional specification. Therefore, the evaluator ***shall examine*** the correspondence rationale to determine whether the abstraction level used for the formal model and properties is appropriate.

This is particularly true in the context of ADV_FSP.4 (Complete functional specification) (12.4.4) in which case the evaluator shall make a judgement regarding the abstraction relevance of the formal model without the support of formal proofs.

12.7.1.4.17 Content requirement ADV_SPM.1.7C (ISO/IEC 15408-3:2026, 10.6.4)

The semi-formal demonstration of correspondence shall show that the formal properties proven for the formal model hold for any semi-formal functional specification.

12.7.1.4.18 Work unit ADV_SPM.1-10

If the functional specification does not contain a semi-formal description, this work unit is not applicable and is therefore considered to be satisfied. Otherwise, the evaluator ***shall check*** that the semi-formal demonstration of correspondence shows that the formal properties proven for the formal model hold in the semi-formal functional specification.

A semi-formal demonstration of correspondence is one that results from a structured approach with a substantial degree of rigour (in terms of completeness and correctness), but is not as rigorous as a mathematical proof. Such a semi-formal correspondence limits the subjective interpretations of its terms, and so it provides less ambiguity than would exist in an informal correspondence.

The evaluator examines the semi-formal proof of correspondence to determine whether there is sufficient evidence to conclude that the formal properties satisfied by the formal model hold in the semi-formal functional specification. To this end, the evaluator uses any tools provided by the developer.

12.7.1.4.19 Content requirement ADV_SPM.1.8C (ISO/IEC 15408-3:2026, 10.6.4)

The formal proof of correspondence shall show that the properties proven for the formal model hold for any formal functional specification.

12.7.1.4.20 Work unit ADV_SPM.1-11

If the functional specification does not contain a formal description, this work unit is not applicable and is therefore considered to be satisfied.

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Otherwise, the evaluator ***shall verify*** that the formal proof of correspondence shows that the formal properties proven for the formal model hold in the formal functional specification.

A formal proof of correspondence removes all subjective interpretations of its terms by enlisting well-established mathematical concepts to define the syntax and semantics of the formal notation and the proof rules that support logical reasoning.

The evaluator examines the formal proof of correspondence to determine whether there is sufficient evidence to conclude that the formal properties satisfied by the formal model hold in the formal functional specification. To this end, the evaluator reproduces the formal correspondence proof by using the tools provided by the developer. For a paper proof, the evaluator verifies the proof manually.

12.7.1.4.21 Content requirement ADV_SPM.1.9C (ISO/IEC 15408-3:2026, 10.6.4)

Any tool used to model or to prove the formal properties or the relationship between the formal model and the functional specification shall be well-defined and unambiguously identified and it shall be accompanied by documentation and a rationale of the tool's suitability and trustworthiness.

12.7.1.4.22 Work unit ADV_SPM.1-12

The evaluator ***shall examine*** whether an unambiguous identification of the tools used for formal modelling and proofs and semi-formal demonstrations (if applicable) is provided by the developer and determine whether the presented results can be reproduced with the identified tools.

The documentation of the tools is included in the evaluator's examination.

The evaluator verifies that the tools' versions and the environment in which they were used are unambiguously identified by the developer.

The evaluator checks that the identified tools versions are not subject to known soundness problems.

The evaluator checks whether the results obtained with the identified tools are identical to those provided by the developer.

12.7.1.4.23 Work unit ADV_SPM.1-13

The evaluator ***shall determine*** the consistency of the analysis of the suitability and trustworthiness of the formal modelling, proof and demonstration tools. The evaluator ***shall ensure*** that the tools have a sound mathematical foundation.

This work unit consists in examining the consistency of the rationale provided for the suitability and trustworthiness of the used tools.

The evaluator determines whether the formal theory is consistent with its implementation in the tools. For example, it can be the case that there are slight deviations in the interpretations of certain syntax elements between the mathematical definition and the implementation in the tools.

The evaluator examines the consistency of all the modelling and verification tools used. For example, the developer can use a modelling tool A for state-charts to express the semantics of the system and an interactive theorem prover B to verify its formal properties. In between, there is a translation from the output format of A to the representation used by (or input format of) B. In addition to examining the correctness of this twofold approach, the soundness of the mapping and translation from the output format of A to the representation used by (or input format of) B shall also be examined.

Manual insertion of modelling errors can show that the formalism is capable of detecting flaws. However, the capability to detect such flaws is necessary but not sufficient.

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12.7.1.4.24 Work unit ADV_SPM.1-14

The evaluator ***shall examine*** the documentation of the tools used for formal modelling and proofs and for semi-formal demonstrations (if applicable) to determine that it unambiguously specifies the meaning of all statements, all model- and proof-dependent options, as well as all conventions and directives used.

The tools documentation should cover all statements used in the formal models, proofs and demonstrations, and for each such statement shall provide a clear and unambiguous definition of the purpose and effect of that statement. This work should be performed in parallel with the evaluator's examination of the semi-formal and formal models and specifications. The critical test is whether the evaluator can understand the source code of the semi-formal or formal models, proofs and demonstrations (if applicable).

For any identified tool, the evaluator checks whether:

— any terms, abbreviations and acronyms that are used in a context other than that accepted by normal usage are defined;

— the notation used provides rules to determine the meaning of syntactical valid constructs.

For any identified tool used for formal modelling and proofs, the evaluator determines whether:

— its semantics is well-defined;

— it uses a formal syntax that provides rules to unambiguously recognise constructs;

— it supports logical reasoning using well-established mathematical concepts;

— it helps to prevent misuse and the introduction of contradictions by issuing warnings or hints, rejecting invalid constructions or providing specific instructions within the usage manual.

12.8 TOE design (ADV_TDS)

12.8.1 Evaluation of sub-activity (ADV_TDS.1)

12.8.1.1 Input

Input for ADV_TDS.1 consists of the following:

— the ST;

— the functional specification;

— security architecture description;

— the TOE design.

12.8.1.2 Action ADV_TDS.1.1E

12.8.1.2.1 Evaluator action (ISO/IEC 15408-3:2026, 10.7.4)

The evaluator shall confirm that the information provided meets all requirements for content and presentation of evidence.

12.8.1.2.2 Content requirement ADV_TDS.1.1C (ISO/IEC 15408-3:2026, 10.7.4)

The design shall describe the structure of the TOE in terms of subsystems.

12.8.1.2.3 Work unit ADV_TDS.1-1

The evaluator ***shall examine*** the TOE design to determine that the structure of the entire TOE is described in terms of subsystems.

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The evaluator ensures that all of the subsystems of the TOE are identified. This description of the TOE will be used as input to work unit ADV_TDS.1-2 (12.8.1.2.5), where the parts of the TOE that make up the TSF are identified. That is, this requirement is on the entire TOE rather than on only the TSF.

The TOE (and TSF) can be described in multiple layers of abstraction (i.e. subsystems and modules). Depending upon the complexity of the TOE, its design can be described in terms of subsystems and modules, as described in ISO/IEC 15408-3:2026, A.4. At this level of assurance, the decomposition may be limited to the "subsystem" level.

In performing this activity, the evaluator examines other evidence presented for the TOE (e.g. ST, operator user guidance) to determine that the description of the TOE in such evidence is consistent with the description contained in the TOE design.

12.8.1.2.4 Content requirement ADV_TDS.1.2C (ISO/IEC 15408-3:2026, 10.7.4)

The design shall identify all subsystems of the TSF.

12.8.1.2.5 Work unit ADV_TDS.1-2

The evaluator ***shall examine*** the TOE design to determine that all subsystems of the TSF are identified.

If TSFs are defined in terms of sub-TSFs for multi assurance the evaluator ***shall examine*** that the combination of all sub-TSF is consistent and does not omit relevant information for each sub-TSF considering the relevant decomposition level.

In work unit ADV_TDS.1-1 (12.8.1.2.3) all of the subsystems of the TOE were identified, and a determination made that the non-TSF subsystems were correctly characterised. Building on that work, the subsystems that were not characterised as non-TSF subsystems should be precisely identified. The evaluator determines that, of the hardware and software installed and configured according to the AGD_PRE (Preparative procedures) (13.4) guidance, each subsystem has been accounted for as either one that is part of the TSF, or one that is not.

12.8.1.2.6 Content requirement ADV_TDS.1.3C (ISO/IEC 15408-3:2026, 10.7.4)

The design shall provide the behaviour summary of each SFR-supporting or SFR-non-interfering TSF subsystem.

12.8.1.2.7 Work unit ADV_TDS.1-3

The evaluator ***shall examine*** the TOE design to determine that each SFR-supporting or SFR-non-interfering subsystem of the TSF is described such that the evaluator can determine that the subsystem is SFR-supporting or SFR-non-interfering.

SFR-supporting and SFR-non-interfering subsystems are not required to be described in detail as to how they function in the system. However, the evaluator makes a determination, based on the evidence provided by the developer, that the subsystems that do not have high-level descriptions are SFR-supporting or SFR-non-interfering. Note that if the developer provides a uniform level of detailed documentation then this work unit will be largely satisfied, since the point of categorising the subsystems is to allow the developer to provide less information for SFR-supporting and SFR-non-interfering subsystems than for SFR-enforcing subsystems.

An SFR-supporting subsystem is one that is depended on by an SFR-enforcing subsystem in order to implement an SFR, but does not play as direct a role as an SFR-enforcing subsystem. An SFR-non-interfering subsystem is one that is not depended upon, in either a supporting or enforcing role, to implement an SFR.

12.8.1.2.8 Content requirement ADV_TDS.1.4C (ISO/IEC 15408-3:2026, 10.7.4)

The design shall summarize the SFR-enforcing behaviour of the SFR-enforcing subsystems.

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12.8.1.2.9 Work unit ADV_TDS.1-4

The evaluator ***shall examine*** the TOE design to determine that it provides a complete, accurate, and high-level summary of the SFR-enforcing behaviour of the SFR-enforcing subsystems.

The developer can designate subsystems as SFR-enforcing, SFR-supporting, or SFR non-interfering. However these "tags" are used only to describe the amount and type of information the developer is required to provide. They can be used to limit the amount of information the developer is required to develop if their engineering process does not produce the documentation required. Whether the subsystems have been categorised by the developer or not, it is the evaluator's responsibility to determine that the subsystems have the appropriate information for their role (SFR-enforcing, SFR-supporting, or SFR non-interfering) in the TOE. They are also responsible for obtaining the appropriate information from the developer if the developer fails to provide the required information for a particular subsystem.

SFR-enforcing behaviour refers to how a subsystem provides the functionality that implements an SFR. The goal of evaluator's assessment is to give the evaluator with an understanding of the way each SFR-enforcing subsystem works. The information provided for the behaviour summary is not required to be as detailed as that provided by the behaviour description. For example, data structures or data items are unlikely to require detailed descriptions. It is the evaluator's determination, however, with respect to what "high-level" means for a particular TOE, and the evaluator shall obtain enough information from the developer (even if it turns out to be equivalent to information provided for subsystem behaviour) to make a sound verdict for this work unit.

The evaluator is cautioned, however, that "perfect" assurance is not a goal nor required by this work unit, so judgement shall be exercised in determining the amount and composition of the evidence required to reach a verdict on this work unit.

To determine completeness and accuracy, the evaluator examines other information available (e.g. functional specification, security architecture description). Summaries of functionality in these documents should be consistent with what is provided for evidence for this work unit.

12.8.1.2.10 Content requirement ADV_TDS.1.5C (ISO/IEC 15408-3:2026, 10.7.4)

The design shall provide a description of the interactions among SFR-enforcing subsystems of the TSF, and between the SFR-enforcing subsystems of the TSF and other subsystems of the TSF.

12.8.1.2.11 Work unit ADV_TDS.1-5

The evaluator ***shall examine*** the TOE design to determine that interactions between the subsystems of the TSF are described.

The goal of describing the interactions between the SFR-enforcing subsystems and other subsystems is to help provide the reader a better understanding of how the TSF performs it functions. These interactions are not required to be characterised at the implementation level. For example parameters passed from one routine in a subsystem to a routine in a different subsystem; global variables; hardware signals (i.e. interrupts) from a hardware subsystem to an interrupt-handling subsystem). However the data elements identified for a particular subsystem that are going to be used by another subsystem should be covered in this discussion. Any control relationships between subsystems (e.g. a subsystem responsible for configuring a rule base for a firewall system and the subsystem that actually implements these rules) should also be described.

The evaluator ***shall use*** their own judgement in assessing the completeness of the description. If the reason for an interaction is unclear, or if there are SFR-related interactions (discovered, for instance, in examining the descriptions of subsystem behaviour) that do not appear to be described, the evaluator ensures that this information is provided by the developer. However, if the evaluator can determine that interactions among a particular set of subsystems, while incompletely described by the developer, will not aid in understanding the overall functionality nor security functionality provided by the TSF, then the evaluator may choose to consider the description sufficient, and not pursue completeness for its own sake.

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12.8.1.2.12 Content requirement ADV_TDS.1.6C (ISO/IEC 15408-3:2026, 10.7.4)

The mapping shall demonstrate that all TSFIs trace to the behaviour described in the TOE design that they invoke.

12.8.1.2.13 Work unit ADV_TDS.1-6

The evaluator ***shall examine*** the TOE design to determine that it contains a complete and accurate mapping from the TSFIs described in the functional specification to the subsystems of the TSF described in the TOE design.

The subsystems described in the TOE design provide a description of how the TSF works at a detailed level for SFR-enforcing portions of the TSF, and at a higher level for other portions of the TSF. The TSFI provide a description of how the implementation is exercised. The evidence from the developer identifies the subsystem that is initially involved when an operation is requested at the TSFI, and identify the various subsystems that are primarily responsible for implementing the functionality. Note that a complete "call tree" for each TSFI is not required for this work unit.

The evaluator assesses the completeness of the mapping by ensuring that all of the TSFIs map to at least one subsystem. The verification of accuracy is more complex.

The first aspect of accuracy is that each TSFI is mapped to a subsystem at the TSF boundary. This determination can be made by reviewing the subsystem description and interactions, and from this information determining its place in the architecture. The next aspect of accuracy is that the mapping makes sense. For instance, mapping a TSFI dealing with access control to a subsystem that checks passwords is not accurate. The evaluator should again use judgement in making this determination. The goal is that this information aids the evaluator in understanding the system and implementation of the SFRs, and ways in which entities at the TSF boundary can interact with the TSF. The bulk of the assessment of whether the SFRs are described accurately by the subsystems is performed in other work units.

12.8.1.3 Action ADV_TDS.1.2E

12.8.1.3.1 Evaluator action (ISO/IEC 15408-3:2026, 10.7.4)

The evaluator shall determine that the design is an accurate and complete instantiation of all security functional requirements.

12.8.1.3.2 Work unit ADV_TDS.1-7

The evaluator ***shall examine*** the TOE security functional requirements and the TOE design, to determine that all ST security functional requirements are covered by the TOE design.

The evaluator can decide to construct a map between the TOE security functional requirements and the TOE design. This map will likely be from a functional requirement to a set of subsystems. It can be necessary for this map to be at a level of detail below the component or even element level of the requirements, because of operations (assignments, refinements, selections) performed on the functional requirement by the ST author.

For example, the FDP_ACC.1 (Subset access control) (see ISO/IEC 15408-2:2026, 11.3.6) component contains an element with assignments. If the ST contained, for instance, ten rules in the FDP_ACC.1 (Subset access control) (see ISO/IEC 15408-2:2026, 11.3.6) assignment, and these ten rules were implemented in specific places within fifteen modules, it would be inadequate for the evaluator to map FDP_ACC.1 (Subset access control) (see ISO/IEC 15408-2:2026, 11.3.6) to one subsystem and claim the work unit had been completed. Instead, the evaluator shall map FDP_ACC.1 (Subset access control) (see ISO/IEC 15408-2:2026, 11.3.6) (rule 1) to subsystem A, behaviours x, y, and z; FDP_ACC.1 (Subset access control) (see ISO/IEC 15408-2:2026, 11.3.6) (rule 2) to subsystem A, behaviours x, p, and q; etc.

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12.8.1.3.3 Work unit ADV_TDS.1-8

The evaluator ***shall examine*** the TOE design to determine that it is an accurate instantiation of all security functional requirements.

The evaluator ensures that each security requirement listed in the TOE security functional requirements section of the ST has a corresponding design description in the TOE design that accurately details how the TSF meets that requirement. This requires that the evaluator identify a collection of subsystems that are responsible for implementing a given functional requirement, and then examine those subsystems to understand how the requirement is implemented. Finally, the evaluator would assess whether the requirement was accurately implemented.

As an example, if the ST requirements specified a role-based access control mechanism, the evaluator would first identify the subsystems that contribute to this mechanism's implementation. This can be done by in-depth knowledge or understanding of the TOE design or by work done in the previous work unit. Note that this trace is only to identify the subsystems, and is not the complete analysis.

The next step would be to understand what mechanism the subsystems implemented. For instance, if the design described an implementation of access control based on Unix-like protection bits, the design would not be an accurate instantiation of role based access control requirements. If the evaluator cannot determine that the mechanism was accurately implemented because of a lack of detail, the evaluator shall assess whether all of the SFR-enforcing subsystems have been identified, or if adequate detail had been provided for those subsystems.

12.8.2 Evaluation of sub-activity (ADV_TDS.2)

12.8.2.1 Input

Input for ADV_TDS.2 consists of the following:

— the ST;

— the functional specification;

— security architecture description;

— the TOE design.

12.8.2.2 Action ADV_TDS.2.1E

12.8.2.2.1 Evaluator action (ISO/IEC 15408-3:2026, 10.7.5)

The evaluator shall confirm that the information provided meets all requirements for content and presentation of evidence.

12.8.2.2.2 Content requirement ADV_TDS.2.1C (ISO/IEC 15408-3:2026, 10.7.5)

The design shall describe the structure of the TOE in terms of subsystems.

12.8.2.2.3 Work unit ADV_TDS.2-1

The evaluator ***shall examine*** the TOE design to determine that the structure of the entire TOE is described in terms of subsystems.

The evaluator ensures that all of the subsystems of the TOE are identified. This description of the TOE will be used as input to work unit ADV_TDS.2-2 (12.8.2.2.5), where the parts of the TOE that make up the TSF are identified. That is, this requirement is on the entire TOE rather than on only the TSF.

The TOE (and TSF) can be described in multiple layers of abstraction (i.e. subsystems and modules). Depending upon the complexity of the TOE, its design can be described in terms of subsystems and modules,

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as described in ISO/IEC 15408-3:2026, A.4. At this level of assurance, the decomposition only need be at the "subsystem" level.

In performing this activity, the evaluator examines other evidence presented for the TOE (e.g. ST, operator user guidance) to determine that the description of the TOE in such evidence is consistent with the description contained in the TOE design.

12.8.2.2.4 Content requirement ADV_TDS.2.2C (ISO/IEC 15408-3:2026, 10.7.5)

The design shall identify all subsystems of the TSF.

12.8.2.2.5 Work unit ADV_TDS.2-2

The evaluator ***shall examine*** the TOE design to determine that all subsystems of the TSF are identified.

If TSFs are defined in terms of sub-TSFs for multi assurance the evaluator ***shall examine*** that the combination of all sub-TSF is consistent and does not omit relevant information for each sub-TSF considering the relevant decomposition level.

In work unit ADV_TDS.2-1 (12.8.2.2.3) all of the subsystems of the TOE were identified, and a determination made that the non-TSF subsystems were correctly characterised. Building on that work, the subsystems that were not characterised as non-TSF subsystems should be precisely identified. The evaluator determines that, of the hardware and software installed and configured according to the AGD_PRE (Preparative procedures) (13.4) guidance, each subsystem has been accounted for as either one that is part of the TSF, or one that is not.

12.8.2.2.6 Content requirement ADV_TDS.2.3C (ISO/IEC 15408-3:2026, 10.7.5)

The design shall provide the behaviour summary of each SFR non-interfering subsystem of the TSF.

12.8.2.2.7 Work unit ADV_TDS.2-3

The evaluator ***shall examine*** the TOE design to determine that each SFR-non-interfering subsystem of the TSF is described such that the evaluator can determine that the subsystem is SFR-non-interfering.

SFR-non-interfering subsystems are not required to be described in detail as to how they function in the system. However, the evaluator makes a determination, based on the evidence provided by the developer, that the subsystems that do not have detailed descriptions are SFR-non-interfering. Note that if the developer provides a uniform level of detailed documentation then this work unit will be largely satisfied, since the point of categorising the subsystems is to allow the developer to provide less information for SFR-non-interfering subsystems than for SFR-enforcing and SFR-supporting subsystems.

An SFR-non-interfering subsystem is one on which the SFR-enforcing and SFR-supporting subsystems have no dependence; that is, they play no role in implementing SFR functionality.

12.8.2.2.8 Content requirement ADV_TDS.2.4C (ISO/IEC 15408-3:2026, 10.7.5)

The design shall describe the SFR-enforcing behaviour of the SFR-enforcing subsystems.

12.8.2.2.9 Work unit ADV_TDS.2-4

The evaluator ***shall examine*** the TOE design to determine that it provides a complete, accurate, and detailed description of the SFR-enforcing behaviour of the SFR-enforcing subsystems.

The developer can designate subsystems as SFR-enforcing, SFR-supporting, or SFR non-interfering. However these "tags" are used only to describe the amount and type of information the developer is required to provide. They can be used to limit the amount of information the developer shall develop if their engineering process does not produce the documentation required. Whether the subsystems have been categorised by the developer or not, it is the evaluator's responsibility to determine that the subsystems have the appropriate information for their role (SFR-enforcing, SFR-supporting, or SFR non-interfering) in the TOE.

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They are also responsible for obtaining the appropriate information from the developer if the developer fails to provide the required information for a particular subsystem.

SFR-enforcing behaviour refers to how a subsystem provides the functionality that implements an SFR. While not at the level of an algorithmic description, a detailed description of behaviour typically discusses how the functionality is provided in terms of what key data and data structures are, what control relationships exist within a subsystem, and how these elements work together to provide the SFR-enforcing behaviour. Such a description also references SFR-supporting behaviour, which the evaluator should consider in performing subsequent work units.

To determine completeness and accuracy, the evaluator examines other information available (e.g. functional specification, security architecture description). Descriptions of functionality in these documents should be consistent with what is provided for evidence for this work unit.

12.8.2.2.10 Content requirement ADV_TDS.2.5C (ISO/IEC 15408-3:2026, 10.7.5)

The design shall summarize the SFR-supporting and SFR-non-interfering behaviour of the SFR-enforcing subsystems.

12.8.2.2.11 Work unit ADV_TDS.2-5

The evaluator ***shall examine*** the TOE design to determine that it provides a complete and accurate high-level summary of the SFR-supporting and SFR-non-interfering behaviour of the SFR-enforcing subsystems.

The developer can designate subsystems as SFR-enforcing, SFR-supporting, or SFR non-interfering. However these "tags" are used only to describe the amount and type of information the developer is required to provide. They can be used to limit the amount of information the developer shall develop if their engineering process does not produce the documentation required. Whether the subsystems have been categorised by the developer or not, it is the evaluator's responsibility to determine that the subsystems have the appropriate information for their role (SFR-enforcing, SFR-supporting, or SFR non-interfering) in the TOE, They are also responsible for obtaining the appropriate information from the developer if the developer fails to provide the required information for a particular subsystem.

In contrast to the previous work unit, this work unit calls for the evaluator to assess the information provided for SFR-enforcing subsystems that is SFR-supporting or SFR-non-interfering. The goal of this assessment is two-fold. First, it is expected to provide the evaluator with a greater understanding of the way each subsystem works. Second, this assessment will help the evaluator to determine that all SFR-enforcing behaviour exhibited by an SFR-enforcing subsystem has been described. Unlike the previous work unit, the information provided for the SFR-supporting or SFR-non-interfering behaviour is not required to be as detailed as that provided by the SFR-enforcing behaviour. For example, data structures or data items that do not pertain to SFR-enforcing functionality are unlikely to be required detailed description. It is the evaluator's determination, however, with respect to what "high-level" means for a particular TOE, and the evaluator shall obtain enough information from the developer (even if it turns out to be equivalent to information provided for the parts of the subsystem that are SFR-enforcing) to make a sound verdict for this work unit.

The evaluator is cautioned, however, that "perfect" assurance is not a goal nor required by this work unit, so judgement shall be exercised in determining the amount and composition of the evidence required to make a verdict on this work unit.

To determine completeness and accuracy, the evaluator examines other information available (e.g. functional specification, security architecture description). Summaries of functionality in these documents should be consistent with what is provided for evidence for this work unit. In particular, the functional specification should be used to determine that the behaviour required to implement the TSF Interfaces described by the functional specification are completely described by the subsystem, since the behaviour will either be SFR-enforcing, SFR-supporting or SFR-non-interfering.

12.8.2.2.12 Content requirement ADV_TDS.2.6C (ISO/IEC 15408-3:2026, 10.7.5)

The design shall summarize the behaviour of the SFR-supporting subsystems.

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12.8.2.2.13 Work unit ADV_TDS.2-6

The evaluator ***shall examine*** the TOE design to determine that it provides a complete and accurate high-level summary of the behaviour of the SFR-supporting subsystems.

The developer can designate subsystems as SFR-enforcing, SFR-supporting, or SFR non-interfering. However these "tags" are used only to describe the amount and type of information the developer is required to provide. They can be used to limit the amount of information the developer shall develop if their engineering process does not produce the documentation required. Whether the subsystems have been categorised by the developer or not, it is the evaluator's responsibility to determine that the subsystems have the appropriate information for their role (SFR-enforcing, SFR-supporting, or SFR non-interfering) in the TOE. They are also responsible for obtaining the appropriate information from the developer if the developer fails to provide the required information for a particular subsystem.

In contrast to the previous two work units, this work unit calls for the developer to provide (and the evaluator to assess) information about SFR supporting subsystems. Such subsystems should be referenced by the descriptions of the SFR-enforcing subsystems, as well as by the descriptions of interactions in work unit ADV_TDS.2-7 (12.8.2.2.15). The goal of evaluator's assessment, like that for the previous work unit, is two-fold. First, it is expected to provide the evaluator with an understanding of the way each SFR-supporting subsystem works. Second, the evaluator determines that the behaviour is summarized in enough detail so that the way in which the subsystem supports the SFR-enforcing behaviour is clear, and that the behaviour is not itself SFR-enforcing. The information provided for SFR-supporting subsystem's behaviour is not required to be as detailed as that provided by the SFR-enforcing behaviour. For example, data structures or data items that do not pertain to SFR-enforcing functionality are unlikely to require detailed description. It is the evaluator's determination, however, with respect to what "high-level" means for a particular TOE, and the evaluator shall obtain enough information from the developer (even if it turns out to be equivalent to information provided for the parts of the subsystem that are SFR-enforcing) to make a sound verdict for this work unit.

The evaluator is cautioned, however, that "perfect" assurance is not a goal nor required by this work unit, so judgement shall be exercised in determine the amount and composition of the evidence required to make a verdict on this work unit.

To determine completeness and accuracy, the evaluator examines other information available (e.g. functional specification, security architecture description). Summaries of functionality in these documents should be consistent with what is provided for evidence for this work unit.

12.8.2.2.14 Content requirement ADV_TDS.2.7C (ISO/IEC 15408-3:2026, 10.7.5)

The design shall provide a description of the interactions among all subsystems of the TSF.

12.8.2.2.15 Work unit ADV_TDS.2-7

The evaluator ***shall examine*** the TOE design to determine that interactions between the subsystems of the TSF are described.

The goal of describing the interactions between the SFR-enforcing subsystems and other subsystems is to help provide the reader a better understanding of how the TSF performs it functions. These interactions are not required to be characterised at the implementation level. For example parameters passed from one routine in a subsystem to a routine in a different subsystem; global variables; hardware signals (i.e. interrupts) from a hardware subsystem to an interrupt-handling subsystem). However the data elements identified for a particular subsystem that are going to be used by another subsystem should be covered in this discussion. Any control relationships between subsystems (e.g. a subsystem responsible for configuring a rule base for a firewall system and the subsystem that actually implements these rules) should also be described.

It should be noted while the developer should characterise all interactions between subsystems, the evaluators should use their own judgement in assessing the completeness of the description. If the reason for an interaction is unclear, or if there are SFR-related interactions (discovered, for instance, in examining the descriptions of subsystem behaviour) that do not appear to be described, the evaluator ensures that this

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information is provided by the developer. However, if the evaluator can determine that interactions among a particular set of subsystems, while incompletely described by the developer, will not aid in understanding the overall functionality nor security functionality provided by the TSF, then the evaluator may choose to consider the description sufficient, and not pursue completeness for its own sake.

12.8.2.2.16 Content requirement ADV_TDS.2.8C (ISO/IEC 15408-3:2026, 10.7.5)

The mapping shall demonstrate that all TSFIs trace to the behaviour described in the TOE design that they invoke.

12.8.2.2.17 Work unit ADV_TDS.2-8

The evaluator ***shall examine*** the TOE design to determine that it contains a complete and accurate mapping from the TSFIs described in the functional specification to the subsystems of the TSF described in the TOE design.

The subsystems described in the TOE design provide a description of how the TSF works at a detailed level for SFR-enforcing portions of the TSF, and at a higher level for other portions of the TSF. The TSFIs provide a description of how the implementation is exercised. The evidence from the developer identifies the subsystem that is initially involved when an operation is requested at the TSFI, and identify the various subsystems that are primarily responsible for implementing the functionality. Note that a complete "call tree" for each TSFI is not required for this work unit.

The evaluator assesses the completeness of the mapping by ensuring that all of the TSFIs map to at least one subsystem. The verification of accuracy is more complex.

The first aspect of accuracy is that each TSFI is mapped to a subsystem at the TSF boundary. This determination can be made by reviewing the subsystem description and interactions, and from this information determining its place in the architecture. The next aspect of accuracy is that the mapping makes sense. For instance, mapping a TSFI dealing with access control to a subsystem that checks passwords is not accurate. The evaluator should again use judgement in making this determination. The goal is that this information aids the evaluator in understanding the system and implementation of the SFRs, and ways in which entities at the TSF boundary can interact with the TSF. The bulk of the assessment of whether the SFRs are described accurately by the subsystems is performed in other work units.

12.8.2.3 Action ADV_TDS.2.2E

12.8.2.3.1 Evaluator action (ISO/IEC 15408-3:2026, 10.7.5)

The evaluator shall determine that the design is an accurate and complete instantiation of all security functional requirements.

12.8.2.3.2 Work unit ADV_TDS.2-9

The evaluator ***shall examine*** the TOE security functional requirements and the TOE design, to determine that all ST security functional requirements are covered by the TOE design.

The evaluator can construct a map between the TOE security functional requirements and the TOE design. This map will likely be from a functional requirement to a set of subsystems. It can be necessary for this map to be at a level of detail below the component or even element level of the requirements, because of operations (assignments, refinements, selections) performed on the functional requirement by the ST author.

For example, the FDP_ACC.1 (Subset access control) (see ISO/IEC 15408-2:2026, 11.3.6) component contains an element with assignments. If the ST contained, for instance, ten rules in the FDP_ACC.1 (Subset access control) (see ISO/IEC 15408-2:2026, 11.3.6) assignment, and these ten rules were implemented in specific places within fifteen modules, it would be inadequate for the evaluator to map FDP_ACC.1 (Subset access control) (see ISO/IEC 15408-2:2026, 11.3.6) to one subsystem and claim the work unit had been completed. Instead, the evaluator would map FDP_ACC.1 (Subset access control) (see ISO/IEC 15408-2:2026, 11.3.6)

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(rule 1) to subsystem A, behaviours x, y, and z; FDP_ACC.1 (Subset access control) (see ISO/IEC 15408-2:2026, 11.3.6) (rule 2) to subsystem A, behaviours x, p, and q; etc.

12.8.2.3.3 Work unit ADV_TDS.2-10

The evaluator ***shall examine*** the TOE design to determine that it is an accurate instantiation of all security functional requirements.

The evaluator ensures that each security requirement listed in the TOE security functional requirements section of the ST has a corresponding design description in the TOE design that accurately details how the TSF meets that requirement. This requires that the evaluator identify a collection of subsystems that are responsible for implementing a given functional requirement, and then examine those subsystems to understand how the requirement is implemented. Finally, the evaluator would assess whether the requirement was accurately implemented.

As an example, if the ST requirements specified a role-based access control mechanism, the evaluator would first identify the subsystems that contribute to this mechanism's implementation. This can be done by in-depth knowledge or understanding of the TOE design or by work done in the previous work unit. Note that this trace is only to identify the subsystems, and is not the complete analysis. The next step would be to understand what mechanism the subsystems implemented. For instance, if the design described an implementation of access control based on Unix-like protection bits, the design would not be an accurate instantiation of those access control requirements present in the ST. If the evaluator cannot determine that the mechanism was accurately implemented because of a lack of detail, the evaluator shall assess whether all of the SFR-enforcing subsystems have been identified, and if adequate detail had been provided for those subsystems.

12.8.3 Evaluation of sub-activity (ADV_TDS.3)

12.8.3.1 Objectives

The objective of this sub-activity is to determine whether the TOE design provides a description of the TOE in terms of subsystems sufficient to determine the TSF boundary, and provides a description of the TSF internals in terms of modules (and optionally higher-level abstractions). It provides a detailed description of the SFR-enforcing modules and enough information about the SFR-supporting and SFR-non-interfering modules for the evaluator to determine that the SFRs are completely and accurately implemented; as such, the TOE design provides an explanation of the implementation representation.

12.8.3.2 Application notes

There are three types of activity that the evaluator shall undertake with respect to the TOE design:

a) the evaluator determines that the TSF boundary has been adequately described;

b) the evaluator determines that the developer has provided documentation that conforms to the content and presentation requirements for this subsystem, and that is consistent with other documentation provided for the TOE;

c) the evaluator analyses the design information provided for the SFR-enforcing modules (at a detailed level) and the SFR-supporting and SFR-non-interfering modules (at a less detailed level) to understand how the system is implemented. With that knowledge the evaluator shall ensure that the TSFIs in the functional specification are adequately described, and that the test information adequately tests the TSF (done in class ATE (Tests) (Clause 15) work units).

It is important to note that while the developer is obligated to provide a complete description of the TSF (although SFR-enforcing modules can have more detail than the SFR-supporting or SFR-non-interfering modules), the evaluator is expected to use their judgement in performing their analysis. While the evaluator is expected to look at every module, the detail to which they examine each module may vary. The evaluator analyses each module in order to gain enough understanding to determine the effect of the functionality of the module on the security of the system, and the depth to which they shall analyse the module can vary depending on the module's role in the system. An important aspect of this analysis is that the evaluator should

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use the other documentation provided (TSS, functional specification, security architecture description, and the TSF internal document) in order to determine that the functionality that is described is correct, and that the implicit designation of SFR-supporting or SFR-non-interfering modules (see below) is supported by their role in the system architecture.

The developer can designate modules as SFR-enforcing, SFR-supporting, and SFR non-interfering, but these "tags" are used only to describe the amount and type of information the developer is required to provide, and can be used to limit the amount of information the developer shall develop if their engineering process does not produce the documentation required. Whether the modules have been categorised by the developer or not, it is the evaluator's responsibility to determine that the modules have the appropriate information for their role (SFR-enforcing, SFR-supporting, or SFR non-interfering) in the TOE. module.

12.8.3.3 Input

Input for ADV_TDS.3 consists of the following:

— the ST;

— the functional specification;

— security architecture description;

— the TOE design.

12.8.3.4 Action ADV_TDS.3.1E

12.8.3.4.1 Evaluator action (ISO/IEC 15408-3:2026, 10.7.6)

The evaluator shall confirm that the information provided meets all requirements for content and presentation of evidence.

12.8.3.4.2 Content requirement ADV_TDS.3.1C (ISO/IEC 15408-3:2026, 10.7.6)

The design shall describe the structure of the TOE in terms of subsystems.

12.8.3.4.3 Work unit ADV_TDS.3-1

The evaluator ***shall examine*** the TOE design to determine that the structure of the entire TOE is described in terms of subsystems.

The evaluator ensures that all of the subsystems of the TOE are identified. This description of the TOE will be used as input to work unit ADV_TDS.3-2 (12.8.3.4.5), where the parts of the TOE that make up the TSF are identified. That is, this requirement is on the entire TOE rather than on only the TSF.

The TOE (and TSF) can be described in multiple layers of abstraction (i.e. subsystems and modules). Depending upon the complexity of the TOE, its design can be described in terms of subsystems and modules, as described in ISO/IEC 15408-3:2026, A.4. For a very simple TOE that can be described solely at the "module" level (see ADV_TDS.3-2 (12.8.3.4.5)), this work unit is not applicable and therefore considered to be satisfied.

In performing this activity, the evaluator examines other evidence presented for the TOE (e.g. ST, operator user guidance) to determine that the description of the TOE in such evidence is consistent with the description contained in the TOE design.

12.8.3.4.4 Content requirement ADV_TDS.3.2C (ISO/IEC 15408-3:2026, 10.7.6)

The design shall describe the TSF in terms of modules.

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12.8.3.4.5 Work unit ADV_TDS.3-2

The evaluator ***shall examine*** the TOE design to determine that the entire TSF is described in terms of modules.

The evaluator will examine the modules for specific properties in other work units; in this work unit the evaluator determines that the modular description covers the entire TSF, and not just a portion of the TSF. The evaluator uses other evidence provided for the evaluation (e.g. functional specification, security architecture description) in making this determination. For example, if the functional specification contains interfaces to functionality that does not appear to be described in the TOE design description, it can be the case that a portion of the TSF has not been included appropriately. Making this determination will likely be an iterative process. However if more analysis is done on the other evidence, more confidence can be gained with respect to the completeness of the documentation.

Unlike subsystems, modules describe the implementation in a level of detail that can serve as a guide to reviewing the implementation representation. A description of a module is should be such that one can create an implementation of the module from the description, and the resulting implementation would be:

a) identical to the actual TSF implementation in terms of the interfaces presented,

b) identical in the use of interfaces that are mentioned in the design, and

c) functionally equivalent to the description of the purpose of the TSF module. For instance, RFC 793 provides a high-level description of the TCP protocol.

A module description is necessarily implementation independent. While it provides a wealth of detail, it is not a suitable design description because it is not specific to an implementation. An actual implementation can add to the protocol specified in the RFC, and implementation choices (e.g. the use of global data vs. local data in various parts of the implementation) can have an impact on the analysis that is performed. The design description of the TCP module would list the interfaces presented by the implementation (rather than just those defined in RFC 793), as well as an algorithm description of the processing associated with the modules implementing TCP (assuming it was part of the TSF).

12.8.3.4.6 Content requirement ADV_TDS.3.3C (ISO/IEC 15408-3:2026, 10.7.6)

The design shall identify all subsystems of the TSF.

12.8.3.4.7 Work unit ADV_TDS.3-3

The evaluator ***shall examine*** the TOE design to determine that all subsystems of the TSF are identified.

If TSFs are defined in terms of sub-TSFs for multi assurance the evaluator ***shall examine*** that the combination of all sub-TSF is consistent and does not omit relevant information for each sub-TSF considering the relevant decomposition level.

If the design is presented solely in terms of modules, then subsystems in these requirements are equivalent to modules and the activity shall be performed at the module level.

In work unit ADV_TDS.3-1 (12.8.3.4.3) all of the subsystems of the TOE were identified, and a determination made that the non-TSF subsystems were correctly characterised. Building on that work, the subsystems that were not characterised as non-TSF subsystems should be precisely identified. The evaluator determines that, of the hardware and software installed and configured according to the AGD_PRE (Preparative procedures) (13.4) guidance, each subsystem has been accounted for as either one that is part of the TSF, or one that is not.

12.8.3.4.8 Content requirement ADV_TDS.3.4C (ISO/IEC 15408-3:2026, 10.7.6)

The design shall provide a description of each subsystem of the TSF.

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12.8.3.4.9 Work unit ADV_TDS.3-4

The evaluator ***shall examine*** the TOE design to determine that each subsystem of the TSF describes its role in the enforcement of SFRs described in the ST.

If the design is presented solely in terms of modules, then this work unit will be considered satisfied by the assessment done in subsequent work units; no explicit action on the part of the evaluator is necessary in this case.

On systems that are complex enough to warrant a subsystem-level description of the TSF in addition to the modular description, the goal of the subsystem-level description is to give the evaluator context for the modular description that follows. Therefore, the evaluator ensures that the subsystem-level description contains a description of how the security functional requirements are achieved in the design, but at a level of abstraction above the modular description. This description should discuss the mechanisms used at a level that is aligned with the module description; this will provide the evaluators the road map needed to intelligently assess the information contained in the module description. A well-written set of subsystem descriptions will help guide the evaluator in determining the modules that are most important to examine, thus focusing the evaluation activity on the portions of the TSF that have the most relevance with respect to the enforcement of the SFRs.

The evaluator ensures that all subsystems of the TSF have a description. While the description should focus on the role that the subsystem plays in enforcing or supporting the implementation of the SFRs, enough information shall be present so that a context for understanding the SFR-related functionality is provided.

12.8.3.4.10 Work unit ADV_TDS.3-5

The evaluator ***shall examine*** the TOE design to determine that each SFR-non-interfering subsystem of the TSF is described such that the evaluator can determine that the subsystem is SFR-non-interfering.

If the design is presented solely in terms of modules, then this work unit will be considered satisfied by the assessment done in subsequent work units; no explicit action on the part of the evaluator is necessary in this case.

An SFR-non-interfering subsystem is one on which the SFR-enforcing and SFR-supporting subsystems have no dependence; that is, they play no role in implementing SFR functionality.

The evaluator ensures that all subsystems of the TSF have a description. While the description should focus on the role that the subsystem does not play in enforcing or supporting the implementation of the SFRs, enough information shall be present so that a context for understanding the SFR-non-interfering functionality is provided.

12.8.3.4.11 Content requirement ADV_TDS.3.5C (ISO/IEC 15408-3:2026, 10.7.6)

The design shall provide a description of the interactions among all subsystems of the TSF.

12.8.3.4.12 Work unit ADV_TDS.3-6

The evaluator ***shall examine*** the TOE design to determine that interactions between the subsystems of the TSF are described.

If the design is presented solely in terms of modules, then this work unit will be considered satisfied by the assessment done in subsequent work units; no explicit action on the part of the evaluator is necessary in this case.

On systems that are complex enough to warrant a subsystem-level description of the TSF in addition to the modular description, the goal of describing the interactions between the subsystems is to help provide the reader a better understanding of how the TSF performs its functions.

These interactions are not required to be characterised at the implementation level. For example parameters passed from one routine in a subsystem to a routine in a different subsystem; global variables; hardware signals (i.e. interrupts) from a hardware subsystem to an interrupt-handling subsystem). However the data

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elements identified for a particular subsystem that are going to be used by another subsystem should be covered in this discussion. Any control relationships between subsystems (e.g. a subsystem responsible for configuring a rule base for a firewall system and the subsystem that actually implements these rules) should also be described.

It should be noted while the developer should characterise all interactions between subsystems, the evaluators should use their own judgement in assessing the completeness of the description. If the reason for an interaction is unclear, or if there are SFR-related interactions (discovered, for instance, in examining the module-level documentation) that do not appear to be described, the evaluator ensures that this information is provided by the developer. However, if the evaluator can determine that interactions among a particular set of subsystems, while incompletely described by the developer, and a complete description will not aid in understanding the overall functionality nor security functionality provided by the TSF, then the evaluator may choose to consider the description sufficient, and not pursue completeness for its own sake.

12.8.3.4.13 Content requirement ADV_TDS.3.6C (ISO/IEC 15408-3:2026, 10.7.6)

The design shall provide a mapping from the subsystems of the TSF to the modules of the TSF.

12.8.3.4.14 Work unit ADV_TDS.3-7

The evaluator ***shall examine*** the TOE design to determine that the mapping between the subsystems of the TSF and the modules of the TSF is complete.

If the design is presented solely in terms of modules, then this work unit is considered satisfied.

For TOEs that are complex enough to warrant a subsystem-level description of the TSF in addition to the modular description, the developer provides a simple mapping showing how the modules of the TSF are allocated to the subsystems. This will provide the evaluator a guide in performing their module-level assessment. To determine completeness, the evaluator examines each mapping and determines that all subsystems map to at least one module, and that all modules map to exactly one subsystem.

12.8.3.4.15 Work unit ADV_TDS.3-8

The evaluator ***shall examine*** the TOE design to determine that the mapping between the subsystems of the TSF and the modules of the TSF is accurate.

If the design is presented solely in terms of modules, then this work unit is considered satisfied.

For TOEs that are complex enough to warrant a subsystem-level description of the TSF in addition to the modular description, the developer provides a simple mapping showing how the modules of the TSF are allocated to the subsystems. This will provide the evaluator a guide in performing their module-level assessment. The evaluator may choose to check the accuracy of the mapping in conjunction with performing other work units. An "inaccurate" mapping is one where the module is mistakenly associated with a subsystem where its functions are not used within the subsystem. Because the mapping is intended to be a guide supporting more detailed analysis, the evaluator should only apply appropriate effort to this work unit. Expending extensive evaluator resources verifying the accuracy of the mapping is not necessary. Inaccuracies that lead to misunderstandings related to the design that are uncovered as part of this or other work units are the ones that shall be associated with this work unit and corrected.

12.8.3.4.16 Content requirement ADV_TDS.3.7C (ISO/IEC 15408-3:2026, 10.7.6)

The design shall describe each SFR-enforcing module in terms of its purpose and relationship with other modules.

12.8.3.4.17 Work unit ADV_TDS.3-9

The evaluator ***shall examine*** the TOE design to determine that the description of the purpose of each SFR-enforcing module and relationship with other modules is complete and accurate.

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The developer can designate modules as SFR-enforcing, SFR-supporting, and SFR non-interfering, but these "tags" are used only to describe the amount and type of information the developer is required to provide, and can be used to limit the amount of information the developer shall develop if their engineering process does not produce the documentation required. Whether the modules have been categorised by the developer or not, it is the evaluator's responsibility to determine that the modules have the appropriate information for their role (SFR-enforcing, SFR-supporting, or SFR non-interfering) in the TOE. They are also responsible for obtaining the appropriate information from the developer if the developer fails to provide the required information for a particular module.

The purpose of a module provides a description indicating what function the module is fulfilling. A word of caution to evaluator is in order. The focus of this work unit is to provide the evaluator an understanding of how the module works so that determinations can be made about the soundness of the implementation of the SFRs, as well as to support architectural analysis performed for ADV_ARC (Security architecture) (12.3) component. As long as the evaluator has a sound understanding of the module's operation, and its relationship to other modules and the TOE as a whole, the evaluator should consider the objective of the work achieved and not engage in a documentation exercise for the developer (by requiring, for example, a complete algorithmic description for a self-evident implementation representation).

Since the modules are at such a low level, it can be difficult to determine completeness and accuracy impacts from other documentation, such as operational user guidance, the functional specification, the TSF internals, or the security architecture description. However, the evaluator uses the information present in those documents to the extent possible to help ensure that the purpose is accurately and completely described. This analysis can be aided by the analysis performed for the work units for the ADV_TDS.3.10C (see ISO/IEC 15408-3:2026, 10.7.6) element, which maps the TSFIs in the functional specification to the modules of the TSF.

12.8.3.4.18 Content requirement ADV_TDS.3.8C (ISO/IEC 15408-3:2026, 10.7.6)

The design shall describe each SFR-enforcing module in terms of its SFR-related interfaces, return values from those interfaces, interaction with other modules and called SFR-related interfaces to other SFR-enforcing modules.

12.8.3.4.19 Work unit ADV_TDS.3-10

The evaluator ***shall examine*** the TOE design to determine that the description of the interfaces presented by each SFR-enforcing module contain an accurate and complete description of the SFR-related parameters, the calling conventions for each interface, and any values returned directly by the interface.

The SFR-related interfaces of a module are those interfaces used by other modules as a means to invoke the SFR-related operations provided, and to provide inputs to or receive outputs from the module. The purpose in the specification of these interfaces is to permit the exercise of them during testing. Inter-module interfaces that are not SFR-related are not required to be specified or described, since they are not a factor in testing. Likewise, other internal interfaces that are not a factor in traversing SFR-related paths of execution (such as those internal paths that are fixed) are not required to be specified or described, since they are not a factor in testing.

SFR-related interfaces are described in terms of how they are invoked, and any values that are returned. This description would include a list of SFR-related parameters, and descriptions of these parameters. Global data would also be considered parameters if used by the module (either as inputs or outputs) when invoked. If a parameter were expected to take on a set of values (e.g. a "flag" parameter), the complete set of values the parameter can take on that would have an effect on module processing would be specified. Likewise, parameters representing data structures are described such that each field of the data structure is identified and described. Different programming languages can have additional "interfaces" that would be non-obvious; an example would be operator or function overloading in C++. This "implicit interface" in the class description would also be described as part of the low-level TOE design. Although a module can present only one interface, it is more common that a module presents a small set of related interfaces.

In terms of the assessment of parameters (inputs and outputs) to a module, any use of global data shall also be considered. A module "uses" global data if it either reads or writes the data. In order to assure the description of such parameters (if used) is complete, the evaluator uses other information provided

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about the module in the TOE design (interfaces, algorithmic description, etc.), as well as the description of the particular set of global data assessed in work unit ADV_TDS.3-10. For instance, the evaluator can first determine the processing the module performs by examining its function and interfaces presented (particularly the parameters of the interfaces). They can then check to see if the processing appears to "touch" any of the global data areas identified in the TOE design. The evaluator then determines that, for each global data area that appears to be "touched", that global data area is listed as a means of input or output by the module the evaluator is examining.

Invocation conventions are a programming-reference-type description that can be used to correctly invoke a module's interface if writing a program to make use of the module's functionality through that interface. This includes necessary inputs and outputs, including any set-up to be performed with respect to global variables.

Values returned through the interface refer to:

— values that are either passed through parameters or messages;

— values that the function call itself returns in the style of a "C" program function call;

— or values passed through global means (such as certain error routines in Unix-like operating systems).

In order to assure the description is complete, the evaluator uses other information provided about the module in the TOE design (e.g. algorithmic description, global data used) to ensure that it appears all data necessary for performing the functions of the module is presented to the module, and that any values that other modules expect the module under examination to provide are identified as being returned by the module. The evaluator determines accuracy by ensuring that the description of the processing matches the information listed as being passed to or from an interface.

12.8.3.4.20 Content requirement ADV_TDS.3.9C (ISO/IEC 15408-3:2026, 10.7.6)

The design shall describe each SFR-supporting and SFR-non-interfering module in terms of its purpose and interaction with other modules.

12.8.3.4.21 Work unit ADV_TDS.3-11

The evaluator ***shall examine*** the TOE design to determine that SFR-supporting and SFR-non-interfering modules are correctly categorised.

In the cases where the developer has provided different amounts of information for different modules, an implicit categorisation has been done. That is, modules (for instance) with detail presented on their SFR-related interfaces (see ADV_TDS.3.10C (see ISO/IEC 15408-3:2026, 10.7.6)) are candidate SFR-enforcing modules, although examination by the evaluator can lead to a determination that some set of them are SFR-supporting or SFR-non-interfering. Those with only a description of their purpose and interaction with other modules (for instance) are "implicitly categorised" as SFR-supporting or SFR-non-interfering.

In these cases, a key focus of the evaluator for this work unit is attempting to determine whether the module is indeed SFR-supporting or SFR-non-interfering. This is done using the evidence provided for each module implicitly categorised as SFR-supporting or SFR-non-interfering and the evaluation information about other modules (in the TOE design, the functional specification, the security architecture description, and the operational user guidance). At this level of assurance some error should be tolerated. The evaluator is not required to be absolutely sure that a given module is SFR-supporting or SFR-non-interfering, even though it is labelled as such. However, if the evidence provided indicates that an SFR-supporting or SFR-non-interfering module is SFR-enforcing, the evaluator requests additional information from the developer in order to resolve the apparent inconsistency. For instance, suppose the documentation for Module A (an SFR-enforcing module) indicates that it calls Module B to perform an access check on a certain type of construct. When the evaluator examines the information associated with Module B, they find that all the developer has provided is a purpose and a set of interactions (thus implicitly categorising Module B as SFR-supporting or SFR-non-interfering). On examining the purpose and interactions from Module A, the evaluator finds no mention of Module B performing any access checks, and Module A is not listed as a module with which

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Module B interacts. At this point the evaluator should approach the developer to resolve the discrepancies between the information provided in Module A and that in Module B.

Another example would be where the evaluator examines the mapping of the TSFIs to the modules as provided by ADV_TDS.3.2D (see ISO/IEC 15408-3:2026, 10.7.6). This examination shows that Module C is associated with an SFR requiring identification of the user. Again, when the evaluator examines the information associated with Module C, they find that all the developer has provided is a purpose and a set of interactions (thus implicitly categorising Module C as SFR-supporting or SFR-non-interfering). Examining the purpose and interactions presented for Module C, the evaluator is unable to determine why Module C, listed as mapping to a TSFI concerned with user identification, would not be classified as SFR-enforcing. Again, the evaluator should approach the developer to resolve this discrepancy.

A final example is from the opposite point of view. As before, the developer has provided information associated with Module D consisting of a purpose and a set of interactions (thus implicitly categorising Module D as SFR-supporting or SFR-non-interfering). The evaluator examines all of the evidence provided, including the purpose and interactions for Module D. The purpose appears to give a meaningful description of Module D's function in the TOE, the interactions are consistent with that description, and there is nothing to indicate that Module D is SFR-enforcing. In this case, the evaluator should not demand more information about Module D "just to be sure" it is correctly categorised. The developer has met their obligations and the resulting assurance the evaluator has in the implicit categorisation of Module D is (by definition) appropriate for this assurance level.

12.8.3.4.22 Work unit ADV_TDS.3-12

The evaluator ***shall examine*** the TOE design to determine that the description of the purpose of each SFR-supporting or SFR-non-interfering module is complete and accurate.

The description of the purpose of a module indicates what function the module is fulfilling. From the description, the evaluator is expected to be able to obtain a general idea of the module's role. In order to assure the description is complete, the evaluator uses the information provided about the module's interactions with other modules to assess whether the reasons for the module being called are consistent with the module's purpose. If the interaction description contains functionality that is not apparent from, or in conflict with, the module's purpose, the evaluator ***shall determine*** whether the problem is one of accuracy or of completeness. The evaluator should be wary of purposes that are too short, since meaningful analysis based on a one-sentence purpose is likely to be impossible.

Since the modules are at such a low level, it can be difficult to determine completeness and accuracy impacts from other documentation, such as operational user guidance, the functional specification, the TSF internals, or the security architecture description. However, the evaluator uses the information present in those documents to the extent possible to help ensure that the function is accurately and completely described. This analysis can be aided by the analysis performed for the work units for the ADV_TDS.3.10C (see ISO/IEC 15408-3:2026, 10.7.6) element, which maps the TSFIs in the functional specification to the modules of the TSF.

12.8.3.4.23 Work unit ADV_TDS.3-13

The evaluator ***shall examine*** the TOE design to determine that the description of an SFR-supporting or SFR-non-interfering module's interaction with other modules is complete and accurate.

It is important to note that, in terms of the ISO/IEC 15408-3 requirement and this work unit, the term interaction is intended to convey less rigour than interface. An interaction is not required to be characterised at the implementation level. For example parameters passed from one routine in a module to a routine in a different module; global variables; hardware signals (i.e. interrupts) from a hardware subsystem to an interrupt-handling subsystem). However the data elements identified for a particular module that are going to be used by another module should be covered in this discussion. Any control relationships between modules (e.g. a module responsible for configuring a rule base for a firewall system and the module that actually implements these rules) should also be described.

Since the modules are at such a low level, it can be difficult to determine completeness and accuracy impacts from other documentation, such as operational user guidance, the functional specification, the TSF

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internals, or the security architecture description. However, the evaluator uses the information present in those documents to the extent possible to help ensure that the function is accurately and completely described. This analysis can be aided by the analysis performed for the work units for the ADV_TDS.3.10C (see ISO/IEC 15408-3:2026, 10.7.6) element, which maps the TSFIs in the functional specification to the modules of the TSF.

A module's interaction with other modules goes beyond just a call-tree-type document. The interaction is described from a functional perspective of why a module interacts with other modules. The module's purpose describes what functions the module provides to other modules; the interactions should describe what the module depends on from other modules in order to accomplish this function.

12.8.3.4.24 Content requirement ADV_TDS.3.10C (ISO/IEC 15408-3:2026, 10.7.6)

The mapping shall demonstrate that all TSFIs trace to the behaviour described in the TOE design that they invoke.

12.8.3.4.25 Work unit ADV_TDS.3-14

The evaluator ***shall examine*** the TOE design to determine that it contains a complete and accurate mapping from the TSFIs described in the functional specification to the modules of the TSF described in the TOE design.

The modules described in the TOE design provide a description of the implementation of the TSF. The TSFIs provide a description of how the implementation is exercised. The evidence from the developer identifies:

— the module that is initially invoked when an operation is requested at the TSFIs;

— the chain of modules invoked up to the module that is primarily responsible for implementing the functionality.

However, a complete call tree for each TSFI is not required for this work unit. The cases in which more than one module shall be identified are where there are "entry point" modules or wrapper modules that have no functionality other than conditioning inputs or de-multiplexing an input. Mapping to one of these modules would not provide any useful information to the evaluator.

The evaluator assesses the completeness of the mapping by ensuring that all of the TSFIs map to at least one module. The verification of accuracy is more complex.

The first aspect of accuracy is that each TSFI is mapped to a module at the TSF boundary. This determination can be made by reviewing the module description and its interfaces and interactions. The next aspect of accuracy is that each TSFI identifies a chain of modules between the initial module identified and a module that is primarily responsible for implementing the function presented at the TSF. Note that this can be the initial module, or there can be several modules, depending on how much pre-conditioning of the inputs is done. It should be noted that one indicator of a pre-conditioning module is that it is invoked for a large number of the TSFIs, where the TSFIs are all of similar type (e.g. system call). The final aspect of accuracy is that the mapping makes sense. For instance, mapping a TSFI dealing with access control to a module that checks passwords is not accurate. The evaluator should again use judgement in making this determination. The goal is that this information aids the evaluator in understanding the system and implementation of the SFRs, and ways in which entities at the TSF boundary can interact with the TSF. The bulk of the assessment of whether the SFRs are described accurately by the modules is performed in other work units.

12.8.3.5 Action ADV_TDS.3.2E

12.8.3.5.1 Evaluator action (ISO/IEC 15408-3:2026, 10.7.6)

The evaluator shall determine that the design is an accurate and complete instantiation of all security functional requirements.

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12.8.3.5.2 Work unit ADV_TDS.3-15

The evaluator ***shall examine*** the TOE security functional requirements and the TOE design, to determine that all ST security functional requirements are covered by the TOE design.

The evaluator can construct a map between the TOE security functional requirements and the TOE design. This map will likely be from a functional requirement to a set of subsystems, and later to modules. It can be necessary for this map to be at a level of detail below the component or even element level of the requirements, because of operations (assignments, refinements, selections) performed on the functional requirement by the ST author.

For example, the FDP_ACC.1 (Subset access control) (see ISO/IEC 15408-2:2026, 11.3.6) component contains an element with assignments. If the ST contained, for instance, ten rules in the FDP_ACC.1 (Subset access control) (see ISO/IEC 15408-2:2026, 11.3.6) assignment, and these ten rules were implemented in specific places within fifteen modules, it would be inadequate for the evaluator to map FDP_ACC.1 (Subset access control) (see ISO/IEC 15408-2:2026, 11.3.6) to one subsystem and claim the work unit had been completed. Instead, the evaluator would map FDP_ACC.1 (Subset access control) (see ISO/IEC 15408-2:2026, 11.3.6) (rule 1) to modules x, y, and z of subsystem A; FDP_ACC.1 (Subset access control) (see ISO/IEC 15408-2:2026, 11.3.6) (rule 2) to modules x, p, and q of subsystem A; etc.

12.8.3.5.3 Work unit ADV_TDS.3-16

The evaluator ***shall examine*** the TOE design to determine that it is an accurate instantiation of all security functional requirements.

The evaluator can construct a map between the TOE security functional requirements and the TOE design. This map will likely be from a functional requirement to a set of subsystems. It can be necessary for this map to be at a level of detail below the component or even element level of the requirements, because of operations (assignments, refinements, selections) performed on the functional requirement by the ST author.

As an example, if the ST requirements specified a role-based access control mechanism, the evaluator would first identify the subsystems, and modules that contribute to this mechanism's implementation. This can be done by in-depth knowledge or understanding of the TOE design or by work done in the previous work unit. Note that this trace is only to identify the subsystems, and modules, and is not the complete analysis.

The next step would be to understand what mechanism the subsystems, and modules implemented. For instance, if the design described an implementation of access control based on Unix-like protection bits, the design would not be an accurate instantiation of those access control requirements present in the ST example used above. If the evaluator cannot determine that the mechanism was accurately implemented because of a lack of detail, the evaluator shall assess whether all of the SFR-enforcing subsystems and modules have been identified, or if adequate detail had been provided for those subsystems and modules.

12.8.4 Evaluation of sub-activity (ADV_TDS.4)

12.8.4.1 Objectives

The objective of this sub-activity is to determine whether the TOE design provides a description of the TOE in terms of subsystems sufficient to determine the TSF boundary, and provides a description of the TSF internals in terms of modules (and optionally higher-level abstractions). It provides a detailed description of the SFR-enforcing and SFR-supporting modules and enough information about the SFR-non-interfering modules for the evaluator to determine that the SFRs are completely and accurately implemented; as such, the TOE design provides an explanation of the implementation representation.

12.8.4.2 Application notes

There are three types of activity that the evaluator shall undertake with respect to the TOE design:

a) the evaluator determines that the TSF boundary has been adequately described;

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b) the evaluator determines that the developer has provided documentation that conforms to the content and presentation requirements this subsystem, and that is consistent with other documentation provided for the TOE;

c) the evaluator shall analyse the design information provided for the SFR-enforcing modules (at a detailed level) and the SFR-supporting and SFR-non-interfering modules (at a less detailed level) to understand how the system is implemented. With that knowledge the evaluator shall ensure that the TSFIs in the functional specification are adequately described, and that the test information adequately tests the TSF (done in the class ATE (Tests) (Clause 15) work units).

12.8.4.3 Input

Input for ADV_TDS.4 consists of the following:

— the ST;

— the functional specification;

— security architecture description;

— the TOE design.

12.8.4.4 Action ADV_TDS.4.1E

12.8.4.4.1 Evaluator action (ISO/IEC 15408-3:2026, 10.7.7)

The evaluator shall confirm that the information provided meets all requirements for content and presentation of evidence.

12.8.4.4.2 Content requirement ADV_TDS.4.1C (ISO/IEC 15408-3:2026, 10.7.7)

The design shall describe the structure of the TOE in terms of subsystems.

12.8.4.4.3 Work unit ADV_TDS.4-1

The evaluator ***shall examine*** the TOE design to determine that the structure of the entire TOE is described in terms of subsystems.

The evaluator ensures that all of the subsystems of the TOE are identified. This description of the TOE will be used as input to work unit ADV_TDS.4-4 (12.8.4.4.8), where the parts of the TOE that make up the TSF are identified. That is, this requirement is on the entire TOE rather than on only the TSF.

The TOE (and TSF) can be described in multiple layers of abstraction (i.e. subsystems and modules). Depending upon the complexity of the TOE, its design can be described in terms of subsystems and modules, as described in ISO/IEC 15408-3:2026, A.4. For a very simple TOE that can be described solely at the "module" level (see ADV_TDS.4-2 (12.8.4.4.5)), this work unit is not applicable and therefore considered to be satisfied.

In performing this activity, the evaluator examines other evidence presented for the TOE (e.g. ST, operator user guidance) to determine that the description of the TOE in such evidence is consistent with the description contained in the TOE design.

12.8.4.4.4 Content requirement ADV_TDS.4.2C (ISO/IEC 15408-3:2026, 10.7.7)

The design shall describe the TSF in terms of modules, designating each module as SFR-enforcing, SFR-supporting, or SFR-non-interfering.

12.8.4.4.5 Work unit ADV_TDS.4-2

The evaluator ***shall examine*** the TOE design to determine that the entire TSF is described in terms of modules.

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The evaluator will examine the modules for specific properties in other work units; in this work unit the evaluator determines that the modular description covers the entire TSF, and not just a portion of the TSF. The evaluator uses other evidence provided for the evaluation (e.g. functional specification, security architecture description) in making this determination. For example, if the functional specification contains interfaces to functionality that does not appear to be described in the TOE design description, it can be the case that a portion of the TSF has not been included appropriately. Making this determination will likely be an iterative process. However if more analysis is done on the other evidence, more confidence can be gained with respect to the completeness of the documentation.

Unlike subsystems, modules describe the implementation in a level of detail that can serve as a guide to reviewing the implementation representation. A description of a module should be such that one can create an implementation of the module from the description, and the resulting implementation would be:

a) identical to the actual TSF implementation in terms of the interfaces presented,

b) identical in the use of interfaces that are mentioned in the design, and

c) functionally equivalent to the description of the purpose of the TSF module. For instance, RFC 793 provides a high-level description of the TCP protocol.

A module description is necessarily implementation independent. While it provides a wealth of detail, it is not a suitable design description because it is not specific to an implementation. An actual implementation can add to the protocol specified in the RFC, and implementation choices (for instance, the use of global data vs. local data in various parts of the implementation) can have an impact on the analysis that is performed. The design description of the TCP module would list the interfaces presented by the implementation (rather than just those defined in RFC 793), as well as an algorithm description of the processing associated with the modules implementing TCP (assuming it was part of the TSF).

12.8.4.4.6 Work unit ADV_TDS.4-3

The evaluator ***shall check*** the TOE design to determine that the TSF modules are identified as either SFR-enforcing, SFR-supporting, or SFR-non-interfering.

The purpose of designating each module (according to the role a particular module plays in the enforcement of the SFRs) is to allow developers to provide less information about the parts of the TSF that have little role in security. It is always permissible for the developer to provide more information or detail than the requirements demand, as can occur when the information has been gathered outside the evaluation context. In such cases the developer shall still designate the modules as either SFR-enforcing, SFR-supporting, or SFR-non-interfering.

The accuracy of these designations is continuously reviewed as the evaluation progresses. The concern is the mis-designation of modules as being less important (and hence, having less information) than is really the case. While blatant mis-designations can be immediately apparent (e.g. designating an authentication module as anything but SFR-enforcing when FIA_UID (User identification) (see ISO/IEC 15408-2:2026, 12.8) is one of the SFRs being claimed), it is possible that other mis-designations are not discovered until the TSF is better understood. The evaluator shall therefore keep in mind that these designations are the developer's initial best effort, but are subject to change. Further guidance and requirements are provided under work unit ADV_TDS.4-17 (12.8.4.5.2), which examines the accuracy of these designations.

12.8.4.4.7 Content requirement ADV_TDS.4.3C (ISO/IEC 15408-3:2026, 10.7.7)

The design shall identify all subsystems of the TSF.

12.8.4.4.8 Work unit ADV_TDS.4-4

The evaluator ***shall examine*** the TOE design to determine that all subsystems of the TSF are identified.

If TSFs are defined in terms of sub-TSFs for multi assurance the evaluator ***shall examine*** that the combination of all sub-TSF is consistent and does not omit relevant information for each sub-TSF considering the relevant decomposition level.

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If the design is presented solely in terms of modules, then subsystems in these requirements are equivalent to modules and the activity should be performed at the module level.

In work unit ADV_TDS.4-1 (12.8.4.4.3) all of the subsystems of the TOE were identified, and a determination made that the non-TSF subsystems were correctly characterised. Building on that work, the subsystems that were not characterised as non-TSF subsystems should be precisely identified. The evaluator determines that, of the hardware and software installed and configured according to the AGD_PRE (Preparative procedures) (13.4) guidance, each subsystem has been accounted for as either one that is part of the TSF, or one that is not.

12.8.4.4.9 Content requirement ADV_TDS.4.4C (ISO/IEC 15408-3:2026, 10.7.7)

The design shall provide a semi-formal description of each subsystem of the TSF, supported by informal, explanatory text where appropriate.

12.8.4.4.10 Work unit ADV_TDS.4-5

The evaluator ***shall examine*** the TDS documentation to determine that the semi-formal notation used for describing the subsystems, modules and their interfaces is defined or referenced.

A semi-formal notation can be either defined by the sponsor or a corresponding standard be referenced. The evaluator should provide a mapping of security functions and their interfaces outlining in what part of the documentation a function or interface is semi-formally described and what notation is used. The evaluator examines all semi-formal notations used to make sure that they are of a semi-formal style and to justify the appropriateness of the manner in which the semi-formal notations are used for the TOE.

The evaluator should keep in mind that a semi-formal presentation is characterized by a standardised format with a well-defined syntax that reduces ambiguity that can occur in informal presentations. The syntax of all semi-formal notations used in the functional specification shall be defined; alternatively a corresponding standard can be referenced. The evaluator verifies that the semi-formal notations used for expressing the functional specification are capable of expressing features relevant to security. In order to determine this, the evaluator can refer to the SFR and compare the TSF security features stated in the ST and those described in the FSP using the semi-formal notations.

12.8.4.4.11 Work unit ADV_TDS.4-6

The evaluator ***shall examine*** the TOE design to determine that each subsystem of the TSF describes its role in the enforcement of SFRs described in the ST.

If the design is presented solely in terms of modules, then this work unit will be considered satisfied by the assessment done in subsequent work units; no explicit action on the part of the evaluator is necessary in this case.

On systems that are complex enough to warrant a subsystem-level description of the TSF in addition to the modular description, the goal of the subsystem-level description is to give the evaluator context for the modular description that follows. Therefore, the evaluator ensures that the subsystem-level description contains a description of how the security functional requirements are achieved in the design, but at a level of abstraction above the modular description. This description should discuss the mechanisms used at a level that is aligned with the module description; this will provide the evaluators the road map needed to intelligently assess the information contained in the module description. A well-written set of subsystem descriptions will help guide the evaluator in determining the modules that are most important to examine, thus focusing the evaluation activity on the portions of the TSF that have the most relevance with respect to the enforcement of the SFRs.

The evaluator ensures that all subsystems of the TSF have a description. While the description should focus on the role that the subsystem plays in enforcing or supporting the implementation of the SFRs, enough information shall be present so that a context for understanding the SFR-related functionality is provided.

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12.8.4.4.12 Work unit ADV_TDS.4-7

The evaluator ***shall examine*** the TOE design to determine that each SFR-non-interfering subsystem of the TSF is described such that the evaluator can determine that the subsystem is SFR-non-interfering.

If the design is presented solely in terms of modules, then this work unit will be considered satisfied by the assessment done in subsequent work units; no explicit action on the part of the evaluator is necessary in this case.

An SFR-non-interfering subsystem is one on which the SFR-enforcing and SFR-supporting subsystems have no dependence; that is, they play no role in implementing SFR functionality.

The evaluator ensures that all subsystems of the TSF have a description. While the description should focus on the role that the subsystem does not play in enforcing or supporting the implementation of the SFRs, enough information shall be present so that a context for understanding the SFR-non-interfering functionality is provided.

12.8.4.4.13 Content requirement ADV_TDS.4.5C (ISO/IEC 15408-3:2026, 10.7.7)

The design shall provide a description of the interactions among all subsystems of the TSF.

12.8.4.4.14 Work unit ADV_TDS.4-8

The evaluator ***shall examine*** the TOE design to determine that interactions between the subsystems of the TSF are described.

If the design is presented solely in terms of modules, then this work unit will be considered satisfied by the assessment done in subsequent work units; no explicit action on the part of the evaluator is necessary in this case.

On systems that are complex enough to warrant a subsystem-level description of the TSF in addition to the modular description, the goal of describing the interactions between the subsystems is to help provide the reader a better understanding of how the TSF performs it functions. These interactions are not required to be characterised at the implementation level. For example parameters passed from one routine in a subsystem to a routine in a different subsystem; global variables; hardware signals (i.e. interrupts) from a hardware subsystem to an interrupt-handling subsystem). However the data elements identified for a particular subsystem that are going to be used by another subsystem should be covered in this discussion. Any control relationships between subsystems (e.g. a subsystem responsible for configuring a rule base for a firewall system and the subsystem that actually implements these rules) should also be described.

It should be noted that, while the developer should characterise all interactions between subsystems, the evaluators should use their own judgement in assessing the completeness of the description. If the reason for an interaction is unclear, or if there are SFR-related interactions (discovered, for instance, in examining the module-level documentation) that do not appear to be described, the evaluator ensures that this information is provided by the developer. However, if the evaluator can determine that interactions among a particular set of subsystems, while incompletely described by the developer, and a complete description will not aid in understanding the overall functionality nor security functionality provided by the TSF, then the evaluator may choose to consider the description sufficient, and not pursue completeness for its own sake.

12.8.4.4.15 Content requirement ADV_TDS.4.6C (ISO/IEC 15408-3:2026, 10.7.7)

The design shall provide a mapping from the subsystems of the TSF to the modules of the TSF.

12.8.4.4.16 Work unit ADV_TDS.4-9

The evaluator ***shall examine*** the TOE design to determine that the mapping between the subsystems of the TSF and the modules of the TSF is complete.

If the design is presented solely in terms of modules, then this work unit is considered satisfied.

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For TOEs that are complex enough to warrant a subsystem-level description of the TSF in addition to the modular description, the developer provides a simple mapping showing how the modules of the TSF are allocated to the subsystems. This will provide the evaluator a guide in performing their module-level assessment. To determine completeness, the evaluator examines each mapping and determines that all subsystems map to at least one module, and that all modules map to exactly one subsystem.

12.8.4.4.17 Work unit ADV_TDS.4-10

The evaluator ***shall examine*** the TOE design to determine that the mapping between the subsystems of the TSF and the modules of the TSF is accurate.

If the design is presented solely in terms of modules, then this work unit is considered satisfied.

For TOEs that are complex enough to warrant a subsystem-level description of the TSF in addition to the modular description, the developer provides a simple mapping showing how the modules of the TSF are allocated to the subsystems. This will provide the evaluator a guide in performing their module-level assessment. The evaluator may choose to check the accuracy of the mapping in conjunction with performing other work units. An "inaccurate" mapping is one where the module is mistakenly associated with a subsystem where its functions are not used within the subsystem. Because the mapping is intended to be a guide supporting more detailed analysis, the evaluator should only apply appropriate effort to this work unit. Expending extensive evaluator resources verifying the accuracy of the mapping is not necessary. Inaccuracies that lead to misunderstandings related to the design that are uncovered as part of this or other work units are the ones that shall be associated with this work unit and corrected.

12.8.4.4.18 Content requirement ADV_TDS.4.7C (ISO/IEC 15408-3:2026, 10.7.7)

The design shall describe each SFR-enforcing and SFR-supporting module in terms of its purpose and relationship with other modules.

12.8.4.4.19 Work unit ADV_TDS.4-11

The evaluator ***shall examine*** the TOE design to determine that the description of the purpose of each SFR-enforcing and SFR-supporting module, and relationship with other modules is complete and accurate.

The developer can designate modules as SFR-enforcing, SFR-supporting, and SFR non-interfering, but these "tags" are used only to describe the amount and type of information the developer is required to provide, and can be used to limit the amount of information the developer shall develop if their engineering process does not produce the documentation required. Whether the modules have been categorised by the developer or not, it is the evaluator's responsibility to determine that the modules have the appropriate information for their role (SFR-enforcing, SFR-supporting, or SFR non-interfering) in the TOE. They are also responsible for obtaining the appropriate information from the developer if the developer fails to provide the required information for a particular module.

The purpose of a module provides a description indicating what function the module is fulfilling. A word of caution to evaluator is in order. The focus of this work unit is to provide the evaluator an understanding of how the module works so that determinations can be made about the soundness of the implementation of the SFRs, as well as to support architectural analysis performed for ADV_ARC (Security architecture) (12.3) subsystems. As long as the evaluator has a sound understanding of the module's operation, and its relationship to other modules and the TOE as a whole, the evaluator should consider the objective of the work achieved and not engage in a documentation exercise for the developer (by requiring, for example, a complete algorithmic description for a self-evident implementation representation).

Since the modules are at such a low level, it can be difficult to determine completeness and accuracy impacts from other documentation, such as operational user guidance, the functional specification, the TSF internals, or the security architecture description. However, the evaluator uses the information present in those documents to the extent possible to help ensure that the purpose is accurately and completely described. This analysis can be aided by the analysis performed for the work units for the ADV_TDS.4.10C (see ISO/IEC 15408-3:2026, 10.7.7) element, which maps the TSFIs in the functional specification to the modules of the TSF.

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12.8.4.4.20 Content requirement ADV_TDS.4.8C (ISO/IEC 15408-3:2026, 10.7.7)

The design shall describe each SFR-enforcing and SFR-supporting module in terms of its SFR-related interfaces, return values from those interfaces, interaction with other modules and called SFR-related interfaces to other SFR-enforcing or SFR-supporting modules.

12.8.4.4.21 Work unit ADV_TDS.4-12

The evaluator ***shall examine*** the TOE design to determine that the description of the interfaces presented by each SFR-enforcing and SFR-supporting module contain an accurate and complete description of the SFR-related parameters, the invocation conventions for each interface, and any values returned directly by the interface.

The SFR-related interfaces of a module are those interfaces used by other modules as a means to invoke the SFR-related operations provided, and to provide inputs to or receive outputs from the module. The purpose in the specification of these interfaces is to permit the exercise of them during testing. Inter-module interfaces that are not SFR-related are not required to be specified or described, since they are not a factor in testing. Likewise, other internal interfaces that are not a factor in traversing SFR-related paths of execution (such as those internal paths that are fixed).

SFR-related interfaces of SFR-supporting modules are all interfaces of SFR-supporting modules that are called directly or indirectly from SFR-enforcing modules. Those interfaces shall be described with all the parameter used in such a call. This allows the evaluator to understand the purpose of the call to the SFR-supporting module in the context of operation of the SFR-enforcing modules.

SFR-related interfaces are described in terms of how they are invoked, and any values that are returned. This description would include a list of parameters, and descriptions of these parameters. Global data would also be considered parameters if used by the module (either as inputs or outputs) when invoked. If a parameter were expected to take on a set of values (e.g. a "flag" parameter), the complete set of values the parameter can take on that would have an effect on module processing would be specified. Likewise, parameters representing data structures are described such that each field of the data structure is identified and described. Different programming languages can have additional "interfaces" that would be non-obvious; an example would be operator or function overloading in C++. This "implicit interface" in the class description would also be described as part of the low-level TOE design. Although a module can present only one interface, it is more common that a module presents a small set of related interfaces.

In terms of the assessment of parameters (inputs and outputs) to a module, any use of global data shall also be considered. A module "uses" global data if it either reads or writes the data. In order to assure the description of such parameters (if used) is complete, the evaluator uses other information provided about the module in the TOE design (interfaces, algorithmic description, etc.), as well as the description of the particular set of global data assessed in work unit ADV_TDS.4-12. For instance, the evaluator can first determine the processing the module performs by examining its function and interfaces presented (particularly the parameters of the interfaces). They can then check to see if the processing appears to "touch" any of the global data areas identified in the TDS design. The evaluator then determines that, for each global data area that appears to be "touched", that global data area is listed as a means of input or output by the module the evaluator is examining.

Invocation conventions are a programming-reference-type description that can be used to correctly invoke a module's interface when writing a program to make use of the module's functionality through that interface. This includes necessary inputs and outputs, including any set-up to be performed with respect to global variables.

Values returned through the interface refer to:

— values that are either passed through parameters or messages;

— values that the function call itself returns in the style of a "C" program function call;

— or values passed through global means (such as certain error routines in Unix-like operating systems).

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In order to assure the description is complete, the evaluator uses other information provided about the module in the TOE design (e.g. algorithmic description, global data used) to ensure that it appears all data necessary for performing the functions of the module is presented to the module, and that any values that other modules expect the module under examination to provide are identified as being returned by the module. The evaluator determines accuracy by ensuring that the description of the processing matches the information listed as being passed to or from an interface.

12.8.4.4.22 Content requirement ADV_TDS.4.9C (ISO/IEC 15408-3:2026, 10.7.7)

The design shall describe each SFR-non-interfering module in terms of its purpose and interaction with other modules.

12.8.4.4.23 Work unit ADV_TDS.4-13

The evaluator ***shall examine*** the TOE design to determine that SFR-non-interfering modules are correctly categorised.

As mentioned in work unit ADV_TDS.4-2 (12.8.4.4.5), less information is required about modules that are SFR-non-interfering. A key focus of the evaluator for this work unit is attempting to determine whether the module is indeed SFR-non-interfering. This is done using the evidence provided for each module implicitly categorised as SFR-non-interfering and the evaluation (information about other modules in the TOE design, the functional specification, the security architecture description, the operational user guidance, the TSF internals document, and perhaps even the implementation representation. At this level of assurance some error should be tolerated; the evaluator does not have to be absolutely sure that a given module is SFR-non-interfering, even though it is labelled as such. However, if the evidence provided indicates that an SFR-non-interfering module is SFR-enforcing or SFR-supporting, the evaluator requests additional information from the developer in order to resolve the apparent inconsistency. For example, suppose the documentation for Module A (an SFR-enforcing module) indicates that it calls Module B to perform an access check on a certain type of construct. When the evaluator examines the information associated with Module B, it is discovered that the only information the developer has provided is a purpose and a set of interactions (thus implicitly categorising Module B as SFR-supporting or SFR-non-interfering). On examining the purpose and interactions from Module A, the evaluator finds no mention of Module B performing any access checks, and Module A is not listed as a module with which Module B interacts. At this point the evaluator should approach the developer to resolve the discrepancies between the information provided in Module A and that in Module B.

Another example would be where the evaluator examines the mapping of the TSFIs to the modules as provided by ADV_TDS.4.2D (see ISO/IEC 15408-3:2026, 10.7.7). This examination shows that Module C is associated with an SFR requiring identification of the user. Again, when the evaluator examines the information associated with Module C, they find that all the developer has provided is a purpose and a set of interactions (thus implicitly categorising Module C as SFR-non-interfering). Examining the purpose and interactions presented for Module C, the evaluator is unable to determine why Module C, listed as mapping to a TSFI concerned with user identification, would not be classified as SFR-enforcing or SFR-supporting. Again, the evaluator should approach the developer to resolve this discrepancy.

A final example illustrates the opposite situation. As before, the developer has provided information associated with Module D consisting of a purpose and a set of interactions (thus implicitly categorising Module D as SFR-non-interfering). The evaluator examines all of the evidence provided, including the purpose and interactions for Module D. The purpose appears to give a meaningful description of Module D's function in the TOE, the interactions are consistent with that description, and there is nothing to indicate that Module D is SFR-enforcing or SFR-supporting. In this case, the evaluator should not demand more information about Module D "just to be sure" it is correctly categorised. The developer has met the obligations and the resulting assurance of the evaluator in the implicit categorization of Module D is (by definition) appropriate for this assurance level.

12.8.4.4.24 Work unit ADV_TDS.4-14

The evaluator ***shall examine*** the TOE design to determine that the description of the purpose of each SFR-non-interfering module is complete and accurate.

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The description of the purpose of a module indicates what function the module is fulfilling. From the description, the evaluator is expected to be able to obtain a general idea of the module's role. In order to assure the description is complete, the evaluator uses the information provided about the module's interactions with other modules to assess whether the reasons for the module being called are consistent with the module's purpose. If the interaction description contains functionality that is not apparent from, or in conflict with, the module's purpose, the evaluator ***shall determine*** whether the problem is one of accuracy or of completeness. The evaluator should be wary of purposes that are too short, since meaningful analysis based on a one-sentence purpose is likely to be impossible.

Since the modules are at such a low level, it can be difficult to determine completeness and accuracy impacts from other documentation, such as operational user guidance, the functional specification, the TSF internals, or the security architecture description. However, the evaluator uses the information present in those documents to the extent possible to help ensure that the function is accurately and completely described. This analysis can be aided by the analysis performed for the work units for the ADV_TDS.4.10C (see ISO/IEC 15408-3:2026, 10.7.7) element, which maps the TSFIs in the functional specification to the modules of the TSF.

12.8.4.4.25 Work unit ADV_TDS.4-15

The evaluator ***shall examine*** the TOE design to determine that the description of an SFR-non-interfering module's interaction with other modules is complete and accurate.

It is important to note that, in terms of the ISO/IEC 15408-3 requirement and this work unit, the term interaction is intended to convey less rigour than interface. An interaction is not required to be characterised at the implementation level. For example parameters passed from one routine in a module to a routine in a different module; global variables; hardware signals (i.e. interrupts) from a hardware subsystem to an interrupt-handling subsystem). However the data elements identified for a particular module that are going to be used by another module should be covered in this discussion. Any control relationships between modules (e.g. a module responsible for configuring a rule base for a firewall system and the module that actually implements these rules) should also be described.

A module's interaction with other modules can be captured in many ways. The intent for the TOE design is to allow the evaluator to understand (in part through analysis of module interactions) the role of the SFR-supporting and SFR-non-interfering modules in the overall TOE design. Understanding of this role will aid the evaluator in performing work unit ADV_TDS.4-8 (12.8.4.4.14).

A module's interaction with other modules goes beyond just a call-tree-type document. The interaction is described from a functional perspective of why a module interacts with other modules. The module's purpose describes what functions the module provides to other modules; the interactions are expected to describe what the module depends on from other modules in order to accomplish this function.

Since the modules are at such a low level, it can be difficult to determine completeness and accuracy impacts from other documentation, such as operational user guidance, the functional specification, the TSF internals, or the security architecture description. However, the evaluator uses the information present in those documents to the extent possible to help ensure that the interactions are accurately an d completely described.

12.8.4.4.26 Content requirement ADV_TDS.4.10C (ISO/IEC 15408-3:2026, 10.7.7)

The mapping shall demonstrate that all TSFIs trace to the behaviour described in the TOE design that they invoke.

12.8.4.4.27 Work unit ADV_TDS.4-16

The evaluator ***shall examine*** the TOE design to determine that it contains a complete and accurate mapping from the TSFIs described in the functional specification to the modules of the TSF described in the TOE design.

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The modules described in the TOE design provide a description of the implementation of the TSF. The TSFIs provide a description of how the implementation is exercised. The evidence from the developer identifies:

— the module that is initially invoked when an operation is requested at the TSFIs;

— the chain of modules invoked up to the module that is primarily responsible for implementing the functionality.

However, a complete call tree for each TSFI is not required for this work unit. The cases in which more than one module would shall be identified are where there are "entry point" modules or wrapper modules that have no functionality other than conditioning inputs or de-multiplexing an input. Mapping to one of these modules would not provide any useful information to the evaluator.

The evaluator assesses the completeness of the mapping by ensuring that all of the TSFIs map to at least one module. The verification of accuracy is more complex.

The first aspect of accuracy is that each TSFI is mapped to a module at the TSF boundary. This determination can be made by reviewing the module description and its interfaces and interactions. The next aspect of accuracy is that each TSFI identifies a chain of modules between the initial module identified and a module that is primarily responsible for implementing the function presented at the TSF. Note that this can be the initial module, or there can be several modules, depending on how much pre-conditioning of the inputs is done. It should be noted that one indicator of a pre-conditioning module is that it is invoked for a large number of the TSFIs, where the TSFIs are all of similar type (e.g. system call). The final aspect of accuracy is that the mapping makes sense. For instance, mapping a TSFI dealing with access control to a module that checks passwords is not accurate. The evaluator should again use judgement in making this determination. The goal is that this information aids the evaluator in understanding the system and implementation of the SFRs, and ways in which entities at the TSF boundary can interact with the TSF. The bulk of the assessment of whether the SFRs are described accurately by the modules is performed in other work units.

12.8.4.5 Action ADV_TDS.4.2E

12.8.4.5.1 Evaluator action (ISO/IEC 15408-3:2026, 10.7.7)

The evaluator shall determine that the design is an accurate and complete instantiation of all security functional requirements.

12.8.4.5.2 Work unit ADV_TDS.4-17

The evaluator ***shall examine*** the TOE security functional requirements and the TOE design, to determine that all ST security functional requirements are covered by the TOE design.

The evaluator can construct a map between the TOE security functional requirements and the TOE design. This map will likely be from a functional requirement to a set of subsystems, and later to modules. It can be necessary for this map to be at a level of detail below the component or even element level of the requirements, because of operations (assignments, refinements, selections) performed on the functional requirement by the ST author.

For example, the FDP_ACC.1 (Subset access control) (see ISO/IEC 15408-2:2026, 11.3.6) component contains an element with assignments. If the ST contained, for instance, ten rules in the FDP_ACC.1 (Subset access control) (see ISO/IEC 15408-2:2026, 11.3.6) assignment, and these ten rules were implemented in specific places within fifteen modules, it would be inadequate for the evaluator to map FDP_ACC.1 (Subset access control) (see ISO/IEC 15408-2:2026, 11.3.6) to one subsystem and claim the work unit had been completed. Instead, the evaluator would map FDP_ACC.1 (Subset access control) (see ISO/IEC 15408-2:2026, 11.3.6) (rule 1) to modules x, y and z of subsystem A; FDP_ACC.1 (Subset access control) (see ISO/IEC 15408-2:2026, 11.3.6) (rule 2) to x, p, and q of subsystem A; etc.

12.8.4.5.3 Work unit ADV_TDS.4-18

The evaluator ***shall examine*** the TOE design to determine that it is an accurate instantiation of all security functional requirements.

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The evaluator can construct a map between the TOE security functional requirements and the TOE design. This map will likely be from a functional requirement to a set of subsystems. It can be necessary for this map to be at a level of detail below the component or even element level of the requirements, because of operations (assignments, refinements, selections) performed on the functional requirement by the ST author.

As an example, if the ST requirements specified a role-based access control mechanism, the evaluator would first identify the subsystems, and modules that contribute to this mechanism's implementation. This can be done by in-depth knowledge or understanding of the TOE design or by work done in the previous work unit. Note that this trace is only to identify the subsystems, and modules, and is not the complete analysis.

The next step would be to understand what mechanism the subsystems, and modules implemented. For instance, if the design described an implementation of access control based on Unix-like protection bits, the design would not be an accurate instantiation of those access control requirements present in the ST example used above. If the evaluator cannot determine that the mechanism was accurately implemented because of a lack of detail, the evaluator shall assess whether all of the SFR-enforcing subsystems and modules have been identified, or if adequate detail had been provided for those subsystems and modules.

12.8.5 Evaluation of sub-activity (ADV_TDS.5)

12.8.5.1 Objectives

The objectives of this sub-activity are to determine whether the TOE design provides a description of the TOE in terms of subsystems sufficient to determine the TSF boundary, and provides a description of the TSF internals in terms of modules (and optionally higher-level abstractions). It provides enough information about the modules for the evaluator to determine that the SFRs are completely and accurately implemented; as such, the TOE design provides an explanation of the implementation representation.

12.8.5.2 Application notes

There are three types of activity that the evaluator shall undertake with respect to the TOE design:

a) the evaluator determines that the TSF boundary has been adequately described;

b) the evaluator determines that the developer has provided documentation that conforms to the content and presentation requirements for this subsystem, and that is consistent with other documentation provided for the TOE;

c) the evaluator analyses the design information provided for the SFR-enforcing modules (at a detailed level) and the SFR-supporting and SFR-non-interfering modules (at a less detailed level) to understand how the system is implemented. With that knowledge the evaluator shall ensure that the TSFIs in the functional specification are adequately described, and that the test information adequately tests the TSF (done in class ATE (Tests) (Clause 15) work units).

12.8.5.3 Input

Input for ADV_TDS.5 consists of the following:

— the ST;

— the functional specification;

— security architecture description;

— the TOE design.

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12.8.5.4 Action ADV_TDS.5.1E

12.8.5.4.1 Evaluator action (ISO/IEC 15408-3:2026, 10.7.8)

The evaluator shall confirm that the information provided meets all requirements for content and presentation of evidence.

12.8.5.4.2 Content requirement ADV_TDS.5.1C (ISO/IEC 15408-3:2026, 10.7.8)

The design shall describe the structure of the TOE in terms of subsystems.

12.8.5.4.3 Work unit ADV_TDS.5-1

The evaluator ***shall examine*** the TOE design to determine that the structure of the entire TOE is described in terms of subsystems.

The evaluator ensures that all of the subsystems of the TOE are identified. This description of the TOE will be used as input to work unit ADV_TDS.5-4 (12.8.5.4.8), where the parts of the TOE that make up the TSF are identified. That is, this requirement is on the entire TOE rather than on only the TSF.

The TOE (and TSF) can be described in multiple layers of abstraction (i.e. subsystems and modules). Depending upon the complexity of the TOE, its design can be described in terms of subsystems and modules, as described in ISO/IEC 15408-3:2026, A.4. For a very simple TOE that can be described solely at the "module" level (see ADV_TDS.5-2 (12.8.5.4.5)), this work unit is not applicable and therefore considered to be satisfied.

In performing this activity, the evaluator examines other evidence presented for the TOE (e.g. ST, operator user guidance) to determine that the description of the TOE in such evidence is consistent with the description contained in the TOE design.

12.8.5.4.4 Content requirement ADV_TDS.5.2C (ISO/IEC 15408-3:2026, 10.7.8)

The design shall describe the TSF in terms of modules, designating each module as SFR-enforcing, SFR-supporting, or SFR-non-interfering.

12.8.5.4.5 Work unit ADV_TDS.5-2

The evaluator ***shall examine*** the TOE design to determine that the entire TSF is described in terms of modules.

The evaluator will examine the modules for specific properties in other work units; in this work unit the evaluator determines that the modular description covers the entire TSF, and not just a portion of the TSF. The evaluator uses other evidence provided for the evaluation (e.g. functional specification, architectural description) in making this determination. For example, if the functional specification contains interfaces to functionality that does not appear to be described in the TOE design description, it is possible that a portion of the TSF has not been included appropriately. Making this determination will likely be an iterative process. However if more analysis is done on the other evidence, more confidence can be gained with respect to the completeness of the documentation.

Unlike subsystems, modules describe the implementation in a level of detail that can serve as a guide to reviewing the implementation representation. A description of a module is should be such that one can create an implementation of the module from the description, and the resulting implementation would be:

a) identical to the actual TSF implementation in terms of the interfaces presented,

b) identical in the use of interfaces that are mentioned in the design, and

c) functionally equivalent to the description of the purpose of the TSF module. For instance, RFC 793 provides a high-level description of the TCP protocol.

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A module description is necessarily implementation independent. While it provides a wealth of detail, it is not a suitable design description because it is not specific to an implementation. An actual implementation can add to the protocol specified in the RFC, and implementation choices (for instance, the use of global data vs. local data in various parts of the implementation) can have an impact on the analysis that is performed. The design description of the TCP module would list the interfaces presented by the implementation (rather than just those defined in RFC 793), as well as an algorithm description of the processing associated with the modules implementing TCP (assuming it was part of the TSF).

12.8.5.4.6 Work unit ADV_TDS.5-3

The evaluator ***shall check*** the TOE design to determine that the TSF modules are identified as either SFR-enforcing, SFR-supporting, or SFR-non-interfering.

The purpose of designating each module (according to the role a particular module plays in the enforcement of the SFRs) is to allow developers to provide less information about the parts of the TSF that have little role in security. It is always permissible for the developer to provide more information or detail than the requirements demand, as can occur when the information has been gathered outside the evaluation context. In such cases the developer shall still designate the modules as either SFR-enforcing, SFR-supporting, or SFR-non-interfering.

The accuracy of these designations is continuously reviewed as the evaluation progresses. The concern is the mis-designation of modules as being less important (and hence, having less information) than is really the case. While blatant mis-designations can be immediately apparent (e.g. designating an authentication module as anything but SFR-enforcing when FIA_UID (User identification) (see ISO/IEC 15408-2:2026, 12.8) is one of the SFRs being claimed), it is possible that other mis-designations are not discovered until the TSF is better understood. The evaluator shall therefore keep in mind that these designations are the developer's initial best effort, but are subject to change. Further guidance and requirements are provided under work unit ADV_TDS.5-15 (12.8.5.5.3), which examines the accuracy of these designations.

12.8.5.4.7 Content requirement ADV_TDS.5.3C (ISO/IEC 15408-3:2026, 10.7.8)

The design shall identify all subsystems of the TSF.

12.8.5.4.8 Work unit ADV_TDS.5-4

The evaluator ***shall examine*** the TOE design to determine that all subsystems of the TSF are identified.

If TSFs are defined in terms of sub-TSFs for multi assurance the evaluator ***shall examine*** that the combination of all sub-TSF is consistent and does not omit relevant information for each sub-TSF considering the relevant decomposition level.

If the design is presented solely in terms of modules, then subsystems in these requirements are equivalent to modules and the activity shall be performed at the module level.

In work unit ADV_TDS.5-1 (12.8.5.4.3) all of the subsystems of the TOE were identified, and a determination made that the non-TSF subsystems were correctly characterised. Building on that work, the subsystems that were not characterised as non-TSF subsystems should be precisely identified. The evaluator determines that, of the hardware and software installed and configured according to the AGD_PRE (Preparative procedures) (13.4) guidance, each subsystem has been accounted for as either one that is part of the TSF, or one that is not.

12.8.5.4.9 Content requirement ADV_TDS.5.4C (ISO/IEC 15408-3:2026, 10.7.8)

The design shall provide a semi-formal description of each subsystem of the TSF, supported by informal, explanatory text where appropriate.

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12.8.5.4.10 Work unit ADV_TDS.5-5

The evaluator ***shall examine*** the TDS documentation to determine that the semi-formal notation used for describing the subsystems, modules and their interfaces is defined or referenced.

A semi-formal notation can be either defined by the sponsor or a corresponding standard be referenced. The evaluator should provide a mapping of security functions and their interfaces outlining in what part of the documentation a function or interface is semi-formally described and what notation is used. The evaluator examines all semi-formal notations used to make sure that they are of a semi-formal style and to justify the appropriateness of the manner in which the semi-formal notations are used for the TOE.

The evaluator should keep in mind that a semi-formal presentation is characterized by a standardised format with a well-defined syntax that reduces ambiguity that can occur in informal presentations. The syntax of all semi-formal notations used in the functional specification shall be defined alternatively a corresponding standard can be referenced. The evaluator verifies that the semi-formal notations used for expressing the functional specification are capable of expressing features relevant to security. In order to determine this, the evaluator can refer to the SFR and compare the TSF security features stated in the ST and those described in the FSP using the semi-formal notations.

Note that ADV_TDS.5.7C (see ISO/IEC 15408-3:2026, 10.7.8) requires the module description to be semi-formal. This work unit therefore applies also to that description.

12.8.5.4.11 Work unit ADV_TDS.5-6

The evaluator ***shall examine*** the TOE design to determine that each subsystem of the TSF describes its role in the enforcement of SFRs described in the ST.

If the design is presented solely in terms of modules, then this work unit will be considered satisfied by the assessment done in subsequent work units; no explicit action on the part of the evaluator is necessary in this case.

On systems that are complex enough to warrant a subsystem-level description of the TSF in addition to the modular description, the goal of the subsystem-level description is to give the evaluator context for the modular description that follows. Therefore, the evaluator ensures that the subsystem-level description contains a description of how the security functional requirements are achieved in the design, but at a level of abstraction above the modular description. This description should discuss the mechanisms used at a level that is aligned with the module description; this will provide the evaluators the road map needed to intelligently assess the information contained in the module description. A well-written set of subsystem descriptions will help guide the evaluator in determining the modules that are most important to examine, thus focusing the evaluation activity on the portions of the TSF that have the most relevance with respect to the enforcement of the SFRs.

The evaluator ensures that all subsystems of the TSF have a description. While the description should focus on the role that the subsystem plays in enforcing or supporting the implementation of the SFRs, enough information shall be present so that a context for understanding the SFR-related functionality is provided.

12.8.5.4.12 Work unit ADV_TDS.5-7

The evaluator ***shall examine*** the TOE design to determine that each SFR-non-interfering subsystem of the TSF is described such that the evaluator can determine that the subsystem is SFR-non-interfering.

If the design is presented solely in terms of modules, then this work unit will be considered satisfied by the assessment done in subsequent work units; no explicit action on the part of the evaluator is necessary in this case.

An SFR-non-interfering subsystem is one on which the SFR-enforcing and SFR-supporting subsystems have no dependence; that is, they play no role in implementing SFR functionality.

The evaluator ensures that all subsystems of the TSF have a description. While the description should focus on the role that the subsystem does not play in enforcing or supporting the implementation of the

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SFRs, enough information shall be present so that a context for understanding the SFR-non-interfering functionality is provided.

12.8.5.4.13 Content requirement ADV_TDS.5.5C (ISO/IEC 15408-3:2026, 10.7.8)

The design shall provide a description of the interactions among all subsystems of the TSF.

12.8.5.4.14 Work unit ADV_TDS.5-8

The evaluator ***shall examine*** the TOE design to determine that interactions between the subsystems of the TSF are described.

If the design is presented solely in terms of modules, then this work unit will be considered satisfied by the assessment done in subsequent work units; no explicit action on the part of the evaluator is necessary in this case.

On systems that are complex enough to warrant a subsystem-level description of the TSF in addition to the modular description, the goal of describing the interactions between the subsystems is to help provide the reader a better understanding of how the TSF performs it functions. These interactions are not required to be characterised at the implementation level. For example parameters passed from one routine in a subsystem to a routine in a different subsystem; global variables; hardware signals (i.e. interrupts) from a hardware subsystem to an interrupt-handling subsystem). However the data elements identified for a particular subsystem that are going to be used by another subsystem should be covered in this discussion. Any control relationships between subsystems (e.g. a subsystem responsible for configuring a rule base for a firewall system and the subsystem that actually implements these rules) should also be described.

It should be noted while the developer should characterise all interactions between subsystems, the evaluators should use their own judgement in assessing the completeness of the description. If the reason for an interaction is unclear, or if there are SFR-related interactions (discovered, for instance, in examining the module-level documentation) that do not appear to be described, the evaluator ensures that this information is provided by the developer. However, if the evaluator can determine that interactions among a particular set of subsystems, while incompletely described by the developer, and a complete description will not aid in understanding the overall functionality nor security functionality provided by the TSF, then the evaluator may choose to consider the description sufficient, and not pursue completeness for its own sake.

12.8.5.4.15 Content requirement ADV_TDS.5.6C (ISO/IEC 15408-3:2026, 10.7.8)

The design shall provide a mapping from the subsystems of the TSF to the modules of the TSF.

12.8.5.4.16 Work unit ADV_TDS.5-9

The evaluator ***shall examine*** the TOE design to determine that the mapping between the subsystems of the TSF and the modules of the TSF is complete.

If the design is presented solely in terms of modules, then this work unit is considered satisfied.

For TOEs that are complex enough to warrant a subsystem-level description of the TSF in addition to the modular description, the developer provides a simple mapping showing how the modules of the TSF are allocated to the subsystems. This will provide the evaluator a guide in performing their module-level assessment. To determine completeness, the evaluator examines each mapping and determines that all subsystems map to at least one module, and that all modules map to exactly one subsystem.

12.8.5.4.17 Work unit ADV_TDS.5-10

The evaluator ***shall examine*** the TOE design to determine that the mapping between the subsystems of the TSF and the modules of the TSF is accurate.

If the design is presented solely in terms of modules, then this work unit is considered satisfied.

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For TOEs that are complex enough to warrant a subsystem-level description of the TSF in addition to the modular description, the developer provides a simple mapping showing how the modules of the TSF are allocated to the subsystems. This will provide the evaluator a guide in performing their module-level assessment. The evaluator may choose to check the accuracy of the mapping in conjunction with performing other work units. An "inaccurate" mapping is one where the module is mistakenly associated with a subsystem where its functions are not used within the subsystem. Because the mapping is intended to be a guide supporting more detailed analysis, the evaluator should apply appropriate effort to this work unit. Expending extensive evaluator resources verifying the accuracy of the mapping is not necessary. Inaccuracies that lead to misunderstandings related to the design that are uncovered as part of this or other work units are the ones that shall be associated with this work unit and corrected.

12.8.5.4.18 Content requirement ADV_TDS.5.7C (ISO/IEC 15408-3:2026, 10.7.8)

The design shall provide a semi-formal description of each module in terms of its purpose, interaction, interfaces, return values from those interfaces, and called interfaces to other modules, supported by informal, explanatory text where appropriate.

12.8.5.4.19 Work unit ADV_TDS.5-11

The evaluator ***shall examine*** the TOE design to determine that the semi-formal description of the purpose of each module, and its relationship with other modules is complete and accurate.

The developer can designate modules as SFR-enforcing, SFR-supporting, and SFR non-interfering, but these "tags" are used only to describe the amount and type of information the developer is required to provide, and can be used to limit the amount of information the developer shall develop if their engineering process does not produce the documentation required. Whether the modules have been categorised by the developer or not, it is the evaluator's responsibility to determine that the modules have the appropriate information for their role (SFR-enforcing, SFR-supporting, or SFR non-interfering) in the TOE. They are also responsible for obtaining the appropriate information from the developer if the developer fails to provide the required information for a particular module.

The purpose of a module provides a description indicating what function the module is fulfilling. A word of caution to the evaluator is in order. The focus of this work unit should be to provide the evaluator an understanding of how the module works so that determinations can be made about the soundness of the implementation of the SFRs, as well as to support architectural analysis performed for ADV_ARC (Security architecture) (12.3) subsystems. As long as the evaluator has a sound understanding of the module's operation, and its relationship to other modules and the TOE as a whole, the evaluator should consider the objective of the work achieved and not engage in a documentation exercise for the developer (by requiring, for example, a complete algorithmic description for a self-evident implementation representation).

Since the modules are at such a low level, it can be difficult to determine completeness and accuracy impacts from other documentation, such as operational user guidance, the functional specification, the TSF internals, or the security architecture description. However, the evaluator uses the information present in those documents to the extent possible to help ensure that the purpose is accurately and completely described. This analysis can be aided by the analysis performed for the work units for the ADV_TDS.5.8C (see ISO/IEC 15408-3:2026, 10.7.8) element, which maps the TSFIs in the functional specification to the modules of the TSF.

12.8.5.4.20 Work unit ADV_TDS.5-12

The evaluator ***shall examine*** the TOE design to determine that the semi-formal description of the interfaces presented by each module contain an accurate and complete description of the related parameters, the invocation conventions for each interface, and any values returned directly by the interface.

The interfaces of a module are those interfaces used by other modules as a means to invoke the operations provided, and to provide inputs to or receive outputs from the module. The purpose in the specification of these interfaces is to permit the exercise of them during testing.

The focus of this work unit lies on the modules and their SFR-related interfaces by using a semi-formal description. Sufficiently detailed information about the modules and their interfaces should be provided so

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that the evaluator is able to determine that the SFRs are completely and accurately implemented and that the provided module information supports as preparatory work further evaluation activities in ADV_FSP (Functional specification) (12.4), ADV_ARC (Security architecture) (12.3), ADV_INT (TSF internals) (12.6), class ATE (Tests) (Clause 15) and class AVA (Vulnerability assessment) (Clause 16). Refer as well to the explanations for work unit ADV_TDS.5-11 (12.8.5.4.19).

SFR-related interfaces are all interfaces that are called directly or indirectly from SFR-enforcing modules. Those interfaces shall be described with all the parameter used in such a call. This allows the evaluator to understand the purpose of the call in the context of operation of the SFR-enforcing modules.

SFR-related interfaces are described in terms of how they are invoked, and any values that are returned. This description would include a list of parameters, and descriptions of these parameters. Global data would also be considered parameters if used by the module (either as inputs or outputs) when invoked. If a parameter were expected to take on a set of values (e.g. a "flag" parameter), the complete set of values the parameter can take on, that would have an effect on module processing, would be specified. Likewise, parameters representing data structures are described such that each field of the data structure is identified and described. Different programming languages can have additional "interfaces" that would be non-obvious; an example would be operator or function overloading in C++. This "implicit interface" in the class description would also be described as part of the low-level TOE design. Although a module can present only one interface, it is more common that a module presents a small set of related interfaces.

In terms of the assessment of parameters (inputs and outputs) to a module, any use of global data shall also be considered. A module "uses" global data if it either reads or writes the data. In order to assure the description of such parameters (if used) is complete, the evaluator uses other information provided about the module in the TOE design (interfaces, algorithmic description, etc.), as well as the description of the particular set of global data assessed in this work unit. For instance, the evaluator can first determine the processing the module performs by examining its function and interfaces presented (particularly the parameters of the interfaces). They can then check to see if the processing appears to "touch" any of the global data areas identified in the TDS design. The evaluator then determines that, for each global data area that appears to be "touched", that global data area is listed as a means of input or output by the module the evaluator is examining.

Invocation conventions are a programming-reference-type description that can be used to correctly invoke a module's interface when writing a program to make use of the module's functionality through that interface. This includes necessary inputs and outputs, including any set-up to be performed with respect to global variables.

Values returned through the interface refer to values that are either:

— passed through parameters or messages;

— values that the function call itself returns in the style of a "C" program function call;

— values passed through global means (such as certain error routines in Unix-like operating systems).

In order to assure the description is complete, the evaluator ***shall use*** other information provided about the module in the TOE design (e.g. algorithmic description, global data used) to ensure that it appears all data necessary for performing the functions of the module is presented to the module, and that any values that other modules expect the module under examination to provide are identified as being returned by the module. The evaluator determines accuracy by ensuring that the description of the processing matches the information listed as being passed to or from an interface.

12.8.5.4.21 Content requirement ADV_TDS.5.8C (ISO/IEC 15408-3:2026, 10.7.8)

The mapping shall demonstrate that all TSFIs trace to the behaviour described in the TOE design that they invoke.

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12.8.5.4.22 Work unit ADV_TDS.5-13

The evaluator ***shall examine*** the TOE design to determine that it contains a complete and accurate mapping from the TSFIs described in the functional specification to the modules of the TSF described in the TOE design.

The modules described in the TOE design provide a description of the implementation of the TSF. The TSFIs provide a description of how the implementation is exercised. The evidence from the developer identifies:

— the module that is initially invoked when an operation is requested at the TSFIs;

— the chain of modules invoked up to the module that is primarily responsible for implementing the functionality.

However, a complete call tree for each TSFI is not required for this work unit. The cases in which more than one module shall be identified are where there are "entry point" modules or wrapper modules that have no functionality other than conditioning inputs or de-multiplexing an input. Mapping to one of these modules would not provide any useful information to the evaluator.

The evaluator assesses the completeness of the mapping by ensuring that all of the TSFIs map to at least one module. The verification of accuracy is more complex.

The first aspect of accuracy is that each TSFI is mapped to a module at the TSF boundary. This determination can be made by reviewing the module description and its interfaces and interactions. The next aspect of accuracy is that each TSFI identifies a chain of modules between the initial module identified and a module that is primarily responsible for implementing the function presented at the TSF. Note that this can be the initial module, or there can be several modules, depending on how much pre-conditioning of the inputs is done. It should be noted that one indicator of a pre-conditioning module is that it is invoked for a large number of the TSFIs, where the TSFIs are all of similar type (e.g. system call). The final aspect of accuracy is that the mapping makes sense. For instance, mapping a TSFI dealing with access control to a module that checks passwords is not accurate. The evaluator should again use judgement in making this determination. The goal is that this information aids the evaluator in understanding the system and implementation of the SFRs, and ways in which entities at the TSF boundary can interact with the TSF. The bulk of the assessment of whether the SFRs are described accurately by the modules is performed in other work units.

12.8.5.5 Action ADV_TDS.5.2E

12.8.5.5.1 Evaluator action (ISO/IEC 15408-3:2026, 10.7.8)

The evaluator shall determine that the design is an accurate and complete instantiation of all security functional requirements.

12.8.5.5.2 Work unit ADV_TDS.5-14

The evaluator ***shall examine*** the TOE security functional requirements and the TOE design, to determine that all ST security functional requirements are covered by the TOE design.

To ensure that all SFRs are covered by the functional specification, as well as the test coverage analysis, the evaluator may build upon the developer's tracing (see ADV_FSP.1-5 (12.4.1.3.10)) to construct a map between the TOE security functional requirements and the TSFIs. It can be necessary for this map to be at a level of detail below the component or even element level of the requirements, because of operations (assignments, refinements, selections) performed on the functional requirement by the ST author.

For example, the FDP_ACC.1 (Subset access control) (see ISO/IEC 15408-2:2026, 11.3.6) component contains an element with assignments. If the ST contained, for instance, ten rules in the FDP_ACC.1 (Subset access control) (see ISO/IEC 15408-2:2026, 11.3.6) assignment, and these ten rules were implemented in specific places within fifteen modules, it would be inadequate for the evaluator to map FDP_ACC.1 (Subset access control) (see ISO/IEC 15408-2:2026, 11.3.6) to one subsystem and claim the work unit had been completed. Instead, the evaluator would map FDP_ACC.1 (Subset access control) (see ISO/IEC 15408-2:2026, 11.3.6)

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(rule 1) to modules x, y and z of subsystem A; FDP_ACC.1 (Subset access control) (see ISO/IEC 15408-2:2026, 11.3.6) (rule 2) to x, p, and q of subsystem A; etc.

12.8.5.5.3 Work unit ADV_TDS.5-15

The evaluator ***shall examine*** the TOE design to determine that it is an accurate instantiation of all security functional requirements.

The evaluator can construct a map between the TOE security functional requirements and the TOE design. This map will likely be from a functional requirement to a set of subsystems and modules. It can be necessary for this map to be at a level of detail below the component or even element level of the requirements, because of operations (assignments, refinements, selections) performed on the functional requirement by the ST author.

As an example, if the ST requirements specified a role-based access control mechanism, the evaluator would first identify the subsystems, and modules that contribute to this mechanism's implementation. This can be done by in-depth knowledge or understanding of the TOE design or by work done in the previous work unit. Note that this trace is only to identify the subsystems, and modules, and is not the complete analysis.

The next step would be to understand what mechanism the subsystems, and modules implemented. For instance, if the design described an implementation of access control based on Unix-like protection bits, the design would not be an accurate instantiation of those access control requirements present in the ST example used above. If the evaluator cannot determine that the mechanism was accurately implemented because of a lack of detail, the evaluator shall assess whether all of the SFR-enforcing subsystems and modules have been identified, or if adequate detail had been provided for those subsystems and modules.

12.9 Composite design compliance (ADV_COMP)

12.9.1 Evaluation of sub-activity (ADV_COMP.1)

12.9.1.1 Objectives

The aim of this activity is to determine whether the requirements on the dependent component, imposed by the related base component, are fulfilled in the composite product.

12.9.1.2 Application notes

The requirements on the dependent component, imposed by the related base component, can be formulated in the relevant base component-related user guidance, ETR for composite evaluation (e.g. in form of observations and recommendations) and amendments to the base component evaluation as contained in the corresponding report of the base component evaluation authority (e.g. in form of further constraints, stipulations and recommendations). The developer of the dependent component shall regard each of these sources, if available, and implement the dependent component in such a way that the applicable requirements are appropriately implemented and accordingly fulfilled. The composite product evaluator shall verify that all the relevant requirements for the dependent component that are imposed by the base component and provided in its evaluation related documentation have been taken into account by the dependent component developer and are fulfilled by the composite product.

The composite product evaluation sponsor shall ensure that the following is made available for the composite product evaluator:

— the base component-related user guidance;

— the base component-related ETR for composite evaluation prepared by the base component evaluator;

— the base component's report of the base component evaluation authority;

— a rationale for secure composite product implementation including evidence prepared by the dependent component developer.

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The TSF of the composite product are represented at various levels of abstraction in the families of ADV (Development). From experience, the appropriate levels of design representation for examining, whether the requirements of the base component are fulfilled by the composite product, are the ADV_TDS (TOE design) (12.8), security architecture ADV_ARC (Security architecture) (12.3) and the implementation ADV_IMP (Implementation representation) (12.5). In case that these design representation levels are not available (e.g. due to the assurance package chosen is EAL1 (see ISO/IEC 15408-5:2026, 4.4)), the current family is not applicable (see the next paragraph for the reason).

Due to the definition of the composite product the interface between its base component and dependent component is the internal one, hence, a ADV_FSP (Functional specification) (12.4) as representation level is not appropriate for analysing the design compliance.

Security architecture ADV_ARC (Security architecture) (12.3) as an assurance family is dedicated to ensuring that integrated security services like domain separation, self-protection and non-bypassability properly work. It is impossible and not the purpose of the composite evaluation to have an insight into the architectural internals of the related base component (that is a matter for the base component evaluation). In the context of ADV_ARC (Security architecture) (12.3) the composite product evaluator shall determine whether the dependent component uses services of the related base component within its own composite product ST to provide domain separation, self-protection, non-bypassability and protected start-up.

— If this is not the case then there are no further composite activities for ADV_ARC (Security architecture) (12.3);

— if this is the case then the evaluator shall determine whether the dependent component uses these services of the base component in an appropriate and secure way (see the base component user guidance and any other relevant developer documentation for requirements).

As consistency of the composite product security policy has already been considered in the context of the Security Target in the assurance family ASE_COMP (Consistency of composite product Security Target) (11.10), there is no necessity to consider the compatibility of the security policy model ADV_SPM (Formal TSF model) (12.7) of the composite product and the security policy model of its related base component.

12.9.1.3 Action ADV_COMP.1.1E

12.9.1.3.1 Evaluator action (ISO/IEC 15408-3:2026, 10.8.4)

The evaluator shall confirm that the rationale for design compliance is complete, coherent, and internally consistent.

12.9.1.3.2 Content requirement ADV_COMP.1.1C (ISO/IEC 15408-3:2026, 10.8.4)

The design compliance justification shall provide a rationale for design compliance - on an appropriate representation level - of how the requirements on the dependent component that are imposed by the related base component are fulfilled in the composite product.

12.9.1.3.3 Work unit ADV_COMP.1-1

The evaluator ***shall examine*** the rationale for design compliance to determine that all applicable requirements on the dependent component that are imposed by the base component are fulfilled by the composite product.

In order to perform this work unit the evaluator ***shall use*** the rationale for design compliance as well as the TSF representation on the ADV_TDS (TOE design) (12.8), ADV_ARC (Security architecture) (12.3) and ADV_IMP (Implementation representation) (12.5) levels on the one side and the input of the base component in form of the base component-related user guidance, ETR for composite evaluation, and report of the base component evaluation authority on the other side. The evaluator shall analyse which base component requirements are applicable for the current composite product, based on the identified RP_SFR-MECH and RP_SFR-SERV (refer to ASE_COMP (Consistency of composite product Security Target) (11.10)). The evaluator ***shall compare*** each of the applicable requirements with either the actual specification or implementation

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of the composite product, or both, and determine whether each requirement is fulfilled. As a result, the evaluator confirms or disproves the rationale for design compliance.

For example, the base component guidance can require the dependent component to perform a special start-up sequence testing the current state of the base component and initialising its self-protection mechanisms. Such information can be found in the description of security architecture ADV_ARC (Security architecture) (12.3) of the composite product.

As a second example, the base component guidance can require the dependent component to perform a DFA check on the DES operation, while the dependent component is implementing BAC in an e-passport MRTD. The ADV_ARC (Security architecture) (12.3) will explain whether the base component guidance is followed up or not, and, in case that the requirements in the base component guidance are not followed, a corresponding reasoning will be provided. The arguments of the developer explain why a non-compliancy will not introduce vulnerabilities.

The appropriate representation level ADV_TDS (TOE design) (12.8), ADV_ARC (Security architecture) (12.3), ADV_IMP (Implementation representation) (12.5), on which the analysis is being performed, can be chosen and mixed flexibly depending on the concrete composite product and the requirement in question. The evaluator shall justify why the representation level chosen is appropriate.

The evaluator activities in the context of this work unit can be spread over different single evaluation aspects (e.g. over ADV_TDS (TOE design) (12.8) and ADV_IMP (Implementation representation) (12.5)). In this case the evaluator performs the partial activity in the context of the corresponding single evaluation aspect. Then the notation for this work unit shall be ADV_COMP.1-1 -TDS, ADV_COMP.1-1 -ARC and ADV_COMP.1-1 -IMP, respectively.

If the assurance package chosen does not contain the families ADV_TDS (TOE design) (12.8), ADV_ARC (Security architecture) (12.3) or ADV_IMP (Implementation representation) (12.5) (e.g. EAL1 (see ISO/IEC 15408-5:2026, 4.4)), this work unit is not applicable.

The result of this work unit shall be integrated to the result of ADV_TDS.1.2E (12.8.1.3)/ADV_TDS.1-7 (12.8.1.3.2), ADV_ARC.1.1E (12.3.1.4)/ADV_ARC.1-1 (12.3.1.4.3), and ADV_IMP.1.1E (12.5.1.4)/ADV_IMP.1-1 (12.5.1.4.3) (or the equivalent higher components if a higher assurance level is selected).

13 Guidance documents

13.1 Introduction

The purpose of the guidance document activity is to judge the adequacy of the documentation describing how the user can handle the TOE in a secure manner. Such documentation should take into account the various types of users (e.g. those who accept, install, administrate or operate the TOE) whose incorrect actions can adversely affect the security of the TOE or of their own data.

The guidance documents class is subdivided into two families which are concerned firstly with the preparative procedures (all conditions and activities that are required to transform the delivered TOE into its evaluated configuration in the environment as described in the ST, i.e. accepting and installing the TOE) and secondly with the operational user guidance (all conditions and activities that are required during the operation of the TOE in its evaluated configuration, i.e. operation and administration).

13.2 Application notes

The guidance documents activity applies to those functions and interfaces which are related to the security of the TOE. The secure configuration of the TOE is described in the ST.

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13.3 Operational user guidance (AGD_OPE)

13.3.1 Evaluation of sub-activity (AGD_OPE.1)

13.3.1.1 Objectives

The objectives of this sub-activity are to determine whether the user guidance:

— describes for each user role the security functionality and interfaces provided by the TSF;

— provides instructions and guidelines for the secure use of the TOE;

— addresses secure procedures for all modes of operation;

— facilitates prevention and detection of insecure TOE states;

— is not misleading nor unreasonable.

13.3.1.2 Input

Input for AGD_OPE.1 consists of the following:

— the ST;

— the functional specification;

— the TOE design, if applicable;

— the user guidance.

13.3.1.3 Action AGD_OPE.1.1E

13.3.1.3.1 Evaluator action (ISO/IEC 15408-3:2026, 11.2.4)

The evaluator shall confirm that the information provided meets all requirements for content and presentation of evidence.

13.3.1.3.2 Content requirement AGD_OPE.1.1C (ISO/IEC 15408-3:2026, 11.2.4)

The operational user guidance shall describe, for each user role, the user-accessible functions and privileges that should be controlled in a secure processing environment, including appropriate warnings.

13.3.1.3.3 Work unit AGD_OPE.1-1

The evaluator ***shall examine*** the operational user guidance to determine that it describes, for each user role, the user-accessible functions and privileges that should be controlled in a secure processing environment, including appropriate warnings.

The configuration of the TOE may allow different user roles to have dissimilar privileges in making use of the different functions of the TOE. This means that some users are authorized to perform certain functions, while it is possible that other users are not. These functions and privileges should be described, for each user role, by the user guidance.

The user guidance identifies, for each user role, the functions and privileges that shall be controlled, the types of commands required for them, and the reasons for such commands. The user guidance shall contain warnings regarding the use of these functions and privileges. Warnings should address expected effects, possible side effects, and possible interactions with other functions and privileges.

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13.3.1.3.4 Content requirement AGD_OPE.1.2C (ISO/IEC 15408-3:2026, 11.2.4)

The operational user guidance shall describe, for each user role, how to use the available interfaces provided by the TOE in a secure manner.

13.3.1.3.5 Work unit AGD_OPE.1-2

The evaluator ***shall examine*** the operational user guidance to determine that it describes, for each user role, the secure use of the available interfaces provided by the TOE.

The user guidance should provide advice regarding effective use of the TSF (e.g. reviewing password composition practises, suggested frequency of user file backups, discussion on the effects of changing user access privileges).

13.3.1.3.6 Content requirement AGD_OPE.1.3C (ISO/IEC 15408-3:2026, 11.2.4)

The operational user guidance shall describe, for each user role, the available functions and interfaces, in particular all security parameters under the control of the user, indicating secure values as appropriate.

13.3.1.3.7 Work unit AGD_OPE.1-3

The evaluator ***shall examine*** the operational user guidance to determine that it describes, for each user role, the available security functionality and interfaces, in particular all security parameters under the control of the user, indicating secure values as appropriate.

The user guidance should contain an overview of the security functionality that is visible at the user interfaces.

The user guidance should identify and describe the purpose, behaviour, and interrelationships of the security interfaces and functionality.

For each user-accessible interface, the user guidance shall:

— describe the method(s) by which the interface is invoked (e.g. command-line, programming-language system call, menu selection, command button);

— describe the parameters to be set by the user, their particular purposes, valid and default values, and secure and insecure use settings of such parameters, both individually and in combination;

— describe the immediate TSF response, message, or code returned.

The evaluator should consider the functional specification and the ST to determine that the TSF described in these documents is consistent with the operational user guidance. The evaluator ***shall ensure*** that the operational user guidance is complete to allow the secure use through the TSFIs available to all types of human users. The evaluator may, as an aid, prepare an informal mapping between the guidance and these documents. Any omissions in this mapping are likely to indicate incompleteness.

13.3.1.3.8 Content requirement AGD_OPE.1.4C (ISO/IEC 15408-3:2026, 11.2.4)

The operational user guidance shall, for each user role, clearly present each type of security-relevant event relative to the user-accessible functions that must be performed, including changing the security characteristics of entities under the control of the TSF.

13.3.1.3.9 Work unit AGD_OPE.1-4

The evaluator ***shall examine*** the operational user guidance to determine that it describes, for each user role, each type of security-relevant event relative to the user functions that are performed, including changing the security characteristics of entities under the control of the TSF and operation following failure or operational error.

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All types of security-relevant events are detailed for each user role, such that each user knows what events can occur and what action (if any) they can then take in order to maintain security. Security-relevant events that can occur during operation of the TOE (e.g. audit trail overflow, system crash, updates to user records, such as when a user account is removed when the user leaves the organisation) are adequately defined to allow user intervention to maintain secure operation.

13.3.1.3.10 Content requirement AGD_OPE.1.5C (ISO/IEC 15408-3:2026, 11.2.4)

The operational user guidance shall identify all possible modes of operation of the TOE (including operation following failure or operational error), their consequences and implications for maintaining secure operation.

13.3.1.3.11 Work unit AGD_OPE.1-5

The evaluator ***shall examine*** the operational user guidance and other evaluation evidence to determine that the guidance identifies all possible modes of operation of the TOE (including, if applicable, operation following failure or operational error), their consequences and implications for maintaining secure operation.

Other evaluation evidence, particularly the functional specification, provide an information source that the evaluator should use to determine that the guidance contains sufficient guidance information.

If test documentation is included in the assurance package, then the information provided in this evidence can also be used to determine that the guidance contains sufficient guidance documentation. The detail provided in the test steps can be used to confirm that the guidance provided is sufficient for the use and administration of the TOE.

The evaluator should focus on a single human visible TSFI at a time, comparing the guidance for securely using the TSFI with other evaluation evidence, to determine that the guidance related to the TSFI is sufficient for the secure usage (i.e. consistent with the SFRs) of that TSFI. The evaluator should also consider the relationships between interfaces, searching for potential conflicts.

13.3.1.3.12 Content requirement AGD_OPE.1.6C (ISO/IEC 15408-3:2026, 11.2.4)

The operational user guidance shall, for each user role, describe the security controls to be followed in order to fulfil the security objectives for the operational environment as described in the ST.

13.3.1.3.13 Work unit AGD_OPE.1-6

The evaluator ***shall examine*** the operational user guidance to determine that it describes, for each user role, the security controls to be followed in order to fulfil the security objectives for the operational environment as described in the ST.

The evaluator analyses the security objectives for the operational environment in the ST and determines that for each user role, the relevant security controls are described appropriately in the user guidance.

The security measures described in the user guidance should include all relevant external procedural, physical, personnel and connectivity controls.

Note that those controls relevant for secure installation of the TOE are examined in AGD_PRE (Preparative procedures) (13.4).

13.3.1.3.14 Content requirement AGD_OPE.1.7C (ISO/IEC 15408-3:2026, 11.2.4)

The operational user guidance shall be clear and reasonable.

13.3.1.3.15 Work unit AGD_OPE.1-7

The evaluator ***shall examine*** the operational user guidance to determine that it is clear.

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The guidance is unclear if it can reasonably be misconstrued by an administrator or user, and used in a way detrimental to the TOE, or to the security provided by the TOE.

13.3.1.3.16 Work unit AGD_OPE.1-8

The evaluator ***shall examine*** the operational user guidance to determine that it is reasonable.

The guidance is unreasonable if it makes demands on the TOE's usage or operational environment that are inconsistent with the ST or unduly onerous to maintain security.

13.4 Preparative procedures (AGD_PRE)

13.4.1 Evaluation of sub-activity (AGD_PRE.1)

13.4.1.1 Objectives

The objective of this sub-activity is to determine whether the procedures and steps for the secure preparation of the TOE have been documented and result in a secure configuration.

13.4.1.2 Application notes

The preparative procedures refer to all acceptance and installation procedures, that are necessary to progress the TOE to the secure configuration as described in the ST.

13.4.1.3 Input

Input for AGD_PRE.1 consists of the following:

— the ST;

— the TOE including its preparative procedures;

— the description of developer's delivery procedures, if applicable.

13.4.1.4 Action AGD_PRE.1.1E

13.4.1.4.1 Evaluator action (ISO/IEC 15408-3:2026, 11.3.4)

The evaluator shall confirm that the information provided meets all requirements for content and presentation of evidence.

13.4.1.4.2 Content requirement AGD_PRE.1.1C (ISO/IEC 15408-3:2026, 11.3.4)

The preparative procedures shall describe all the steps necessary for secure acceptance of the delivered TOE in accordance with the developer's delivery procedures.

13.4.1.4.3 Work unit AGD_PRE.1-1

The evaluator ***shall examine*** the provided acceptance procedures to determine that they describe the steps necessary for secure acceptance of the TOE in accordance with the developer's delivery procedures.

If it is not anticipated by the developer's delivery procedures that acceptance procedures will or can be applied, this work unit is not applicable, and is therefore considered to be satisfied.

The acceptance procedures should include as a minimum, that the user ia required to check that all parts of the TOE as indicated in the ST have been delivered in the correct version.

The acceptance procedures should reflect the steps the user ia required to perform in order to accept the delivered TOE that are implied by the developer's delivery procedures.

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The acceptance procedures should provide detailed information about the following, if applicable:

— making sure that the delivered TOE is the complete evaluated instance;

— detecting modification or masquerading of the delivered TOE.

13.4.1.4.4 Content requirement AGD_PRE.1.2C (ISO/IEC 15408-3:2026, 11.3.4)

The preparative procedures shall describe all the steps necessary for secure installation of the TOE and for the secure preparation of the operational environment in accordance with the security objectives for the operational environment as described in the ST.

13.4.1.4.5 Work unit AGD_PRE.1-2

The evaluator ***shall examine*** the provided installation procedures to determine that they describe the steps necessary for secure installation of the TOE and the secure preparation of the operational environment in accordance with the security objectives in the ST.

If it is not anticipated that installation procedures will or can be applied (e.g. because the TOE is already delivered in an operational state), this work unit is not applicable, and is therefore considered to be satisfied.

The installation procedures shall provide detailed information about the following, if applicable:

— minimum system requirements for secure installation;

— requirements for the operational environment in accordance with the security objectives provided by the ST;

— the steps the user is expected to perform in order to get to an operational TOE being commensurate with its evaluated configuration. Such a description shall include - for each step - a clear scheme for the decision on the next step depended on success, failure or problems at the current step;

— changing the installation specific security characteristics of entities under the control of the TSF (e.g. parameters, settings, passwords);

— handling exceptions and problems.

13.4.1.5 Action AGD_PRE.1.2E

13.4.1.5.1 Evaluator action (ISO/IEC 15408-3:2026, 11.3.4)

The evaluator shall apply the preparative procedures to confirm that the TOE can be prepared securely for operation.

13.4.1.5.2 Work unit AGD_PRE.1-3

The evaluator ***shall perform*** all user procedures necessary to prepare the TOE to determine that the TOE and its operational environment can be prepared securely using only the supplied preparative procedures.

Preparation requires the evaluator to advance the TOE from a deliverable state to the state in which it is operational, including acceptance and installation of the TOE, and enforcing the SFRs consistent with the security objectives for the TOE specified in the ST.

The evaluator should follow only the developer's procedures and perform the activities that customers are usually expected to perform to accept and install the TOE, using the supplied preparative procedures only. Any difficulties encountered during such an exercise can be indicative of incomplete, unclear or unreasonable guidance.

This work unit may be performed in conjunction with the evaluation activities under ATE_IND (Independent testing) (15.6).

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If it is known that the TOE will be used as a dependent component for a composed TOE evaluation, then the evaluator should ensure that the operational environment is satisfied by the base component used in the composed TOE.

14 life cycle support

14.1 Introduction

The purpose of the life cycle support activity is to determine the adequacy of the security procedures that the developer uses during the development and maintenance of the TOE. These procedures include the life cycle model used by the developer, the configuration management, the security measures used throughout TOE development, the tools used by the developer throughout the life cycle of the TOE, the handling of security flaws, and the delivery activity.

Poorly controlled development and maintenance of the TOE can result in vulnerabilities in the implementation. Conformance to a defined life cycle model can help to improve controls in this area. A measurable life cycle model used for the TOE can remove ambiguity in assessing the development progress of the TOE.

The purpose of the configuration management activity is to assist the consumer in identifying the evaluated TOE, to ensure that configuration items are uniquely identified, and the adequacy of the procedures that are used by the developer to control and track changes that are made to the TOE. This includes details on what changes are tracked, how potential changes are incorporated, and the degree to which automation is used to reduce the scope for error.

Developer security procedures are intended to protect the TOE and its associated design information from interference or disclosure. Interference in the development process allows the deliberate introduction of vulnerabilities. Disclosure of design information can allow vulnerabilities to be more easily exploited. The adequacy of the procedures will depend on the nature of the TOE and the development process.

The use of well-defined development tools and the application of implementation standards by the developer and by third parties involved in the development process help to ensure that vulnerabilities are not inadvertently introduced during refinement.

The flaw remediation activity is intended to track security flaws, to identify corrective actions, and to distribute the corrective action information to TOE users.

The purpose of the delivery activity is to judge the adequacy of the documentation of the procedures used to ensure that the TOE is delivered to the consumer without modification.

14.2 Application notes

14.2.1 Composition

The composite-specific work units defined here are intended to be integrated as refinements to the evaluation activities of ALC (life cycle support) listed in Table 3. The other activities of ALC (life cycle support) do not require composite-specific work units.

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Table 3 — Integration of composition parts and consistency check of delivery procedures

Assurance family	Evaluation activity	Evaluation work unit	Composite-specific work unit
ALC_CMS (CM scope) (14.4)	ALC_CMS.1.1E (14.4.1.3)	ALC_CMS.1-2 (14.4.1.3.5)	ALC_COMP.1-1 (14.11.1.3.3)
AGD_PRE (Preparative procedures) (13.4)	AGD_PRE.1.1E (13.4.1.4)	AGD_PRE.1-2 (13.4.1.4.5)	ALC_COMP.1-2 (14.11.1.4.3)
ALC_CMC (CM capabilities) (14.3)	ALC_CMC.4.1E (14.3.4.3)	ALC_CMC.4-10 (14.3.4.3.19)	ALC_COMP.1-2 (14.11.1.4.3)
NOTE If the level of the assurance requirement chosen is higher than those identified in this table, the composite-specific work unit is also applicable.			

14.3 CM capabilities (ALC_CMC)

14.3.1 Evaluation of sub-activity (ALC_CMC.1)

14.3.1.1 Objectives

The objectives of this sub-activity are to determine whether the developer has clearly identified the TOE.

14.3.1.2 Input

Input for ALC_CMC.1 consists of the following:

— the ST;

— the TOE suitable for testing.

14.3.1.3 Action ALC_CMC.1.1E

14.3.1.3.1 Evaluator action (ISO/IEC 15408-3:2026, 12.2.4)

The evaluator shall confirm that the information provided meets all requirements for content and presentation of evidence.

14.3.1.3.2 Content requirement ALC_CMC.1.1C (ISO/IEC 15408-3:2026, 12.2.4)

The TOE shall be labelled with its unique reference.

14.3.1.3.3 Work unit ALC_CMC.1-1

The evaluator ***shall check*** that the TOE provided for evaluation is labelled with its reference.

The evaluator ***shall ensure*** that the TOE contains the unique reference which is stated in the ST. This can be achieved through labelled packaging or media, or by a label displayed by the operational TOE. This is required in order to ensure that it is possible for consumers to identify the TOE (e.g. at the point of purchase or use).

The TOE can provide a method by which it can be easily identified. For example, a software TOE can display its name and version number during the start up routine, or in response to a command line entry. A hardware or firmware TOE can be identified by a part number physically stamped on the TOE.

Alternatively, the unique reference provided for the TOE can be the combination of the unique reference of each component from which the TOE is comprised (e.g. in the case of a composed TOE).

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14.3.1.3.4 Work unit ALC_CMC.1-2

The evaluator ***shall check*** that the TOE references used are consistent.

If the TOE is labelled more than once then the labels shall be consistent. For example, it should be possible to relate any labelled guidance documentation supplied as part of the TOE to the evaluated operational TOE. This ensures that consumers can be confident that they have:

— purchased the evaluated version of the TOE;

— installed this version;

— have the correct version of the guidance to operate the TOE in accordance with its ST.

The evaluator also verifies that the TOE reference is consistent with the ST.

If this work unit is applied to a composed TOE, the composed IT TOE will not be labelled with its unique (composite) reference, but only the individual components will be labelled with their appropriate TOE reference. Labelling the IT TOE would require further development, i.e. during start-up or operation, with the composite reference. If the composed TOE is delivered as the constituent component TOEs, then the TOE items delivered will not contain the composite reference. However, the composed TOE ST will include the unique reference for the composed TOE and will identify the components comprising the composed TOE through which the consumers will be able to determine whether they have the appropriate items.

14.3.2 Evaluation of sub-activity (ALC_CMC.2)

14.3.2.1 Objectives

The objectives of this sub-activity are to determine whether the developer uses a CM system that uniquely identifies all configuration items.

14.3.2.2 Application notes

This component contains an implicit evaluator action to determine that the CM system is being used. As the requirements here are limited to identification of the TOE and provision of a configuration list, this action is already covered by, and limited to, the existing work units. At ALC_CMC.3 (Authorization controls) (14.3.3) the requirements are expanded and more explicit evidence of operation is required.

14.3.2.3 Input

Input for ALC_CMC.2 consists of the following:

— the ST;

— the TOE suitable for testing;

— the configuration management documentation.

14.3.2.4 Action ALC_CMC.2.1E

14.3.2.4.1 Evaluator action (ISO/IEC 15408-3:2026, 12.2.5)

The evaluator shall confirm that the information provided meets all requirements for content and presentation of evidence.

14.3.2.4.2 Content requirement ALC_CMC.2.1C (ISO/IEC 15408-3:2026, 12.2.5)

The TOE shall be labelled with its unique reference.

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14.3.2.4.3 Work unit ALC_CMC.2-1

The evaluator ***shall check*** that the TOE provided for evaluation is labelled with its reference.

The evaluator ***shall ensure*** that the TOE contains the unique reference which is stated in the ST. This can be achieved through labelled packaging or media, or by a label displayed by the operational TOE. This is required in order to ensure that it is possible for consumers to identify the TOE (e.g. at the point of purchase or use).

The TOE can provide a method by which it can be easily identified. For example, a software TOE can display its name and version number during the start up routine, or in response to a command line entry. A hardware or firmware TOE can be identified by a part number physically stamped on the TOE.

Alternatively, the unique reference provided for the TOE can be the combination of the unique reference of each component from which the TOE is comprised (e.g. in the case of a composed TOE).

14.3.2.4.4 Work unit ALC_CMC.2-2

The evaluator ***shall check*** that the TOE references used are consistent.

If the TOE is labelled more than once then the labels shall be consistent. For example, it should be possible to relate any labelled guidance documentation supplied as part of the TOE to the evaluated operational TOE. This ensures that consumers can be confident that they have:

— purchased the evaluated version of the TOE,

— installed this version, and

— have the correct version of the guidance to operate the TOE in accordance with its ST.

The evaluator also verifies that the TOE reference is consistent with the ST.

If this work unit is applied to a composed TOE, the composed IT TOE will not be labelled with its unique (composite) reference, but only the individual components will be labelled with their appropriate TOE reference. Labelling the IT TOE would require further development, i.e. during start-up or operation, with the composite reference. If the composed TOE is delivered as the constituent component TOEs, then the TOE items delivered will not contain the composite reference. However, the composed TOE ST will include the unique reference for the composed TOE and will identify the components comprising the composed TOE through which the consumers will be able to determine whether they have the appropriate items.

14.3.2.4.5 Content requirement ALC_CMC.2.2C (ISO/IEC 15408-3:2026, 12.2.5)

The CM documentation shall describe the method used to uniquely identify the configuration items.

14.3.2.4.6 Work unit ALC_CMC.2-3

The evaluator ***shall examine*** the method of identifying configuration items to determine that it describes how configuration items are uniquely identified.

Procedures should describe how the status of each configuration item can be tracked throughout the life cycle of the TOE. The procedures can be detailed in the CM plan or throughout the CM documentation. The information included should describe:

— the method how each configuration item is uniquely identified, such that it is possible to track versions of the same configuration item;

— the method how configuration items are assigned unique identifiers and how they are entered into the CM system;

— the method to be used to identify superseded versions of a configuration item.

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14.3.2.4.7 Content requirement ALC_CMC.2.3C (ISO/IEC 15408-3:2026, 12.2.5)

The CM system shall uniquely identify all configuration items.

14.3.2.4.8 Work unit ALC_CMC.2-4

The evaluator ***shall examine*** the configuration items to determine that they are identified in a way that is consistent with the CM documentation.

The evaluator can gain assurance that the CM system uniquely identifies all configuration items by examining the identifiers for the configuration items. For both configuration items that comprise the TOE, and drafts of configuration items that are submitted by the developer as evaluation evidence, the evaluator confirms that each configuration item possesses a unique identifier in a manner consistent with the unique identification method that is described in the CM documentation.

14.3.3 Evaluation of sub-activity (ALC_CMC.3)

14.3.3.1 Objectives

The objectives of this sub-activity are to determine whether the developer uses a CM system that uniquely identifies all configuration items, and whether the ability to modify these items is properly controlled.

14.3.3.2 Input

Input for ALC_CMC.3 consists of the following:

— the ST;

— the TOE suitable for testing;

— the configuration management documentation.

14.3.3.3 Action ALC_CMC.3.1E

14.3.3.3.1 Evaluator action (ISO/IEC 15408-3:2026, 12.2.6)

The evaluator shall confirm that the information provided meets all requirements for content and presentation of evidence.

14.3.3.3.2 Content requirement ALC_CMC.3.1C (ISO/IEC 15408-3:2026, 12.2.6)

The TOE shall be labelled with its unique reference.

14.3.3.3.3 Work unit ALC_CMC.3-1

The evaluator ***shall check*** that the TOE provided for evaluation is labelled with its reference.

The evaluator ***shall ensure*** that the TOE contains the unique reference which is stated in the ST. This can be achieved through labelled packaging or media, or by a label displayed by the operational TOE. This is required in order to ensure that it is possible for consumers to identify the TOE (e.g. at the point of purchase or use).

The TOE can provide a method by which it can be easily identified. For example, a software TOE can display its name and version number during the start up routine, or in response to a command line entry. A hardware or firmware TOE can be identified by a part number physically stamped on the TOE.

Alternatively, the unique reference provided for the TOE can be the combination of the unique reference of each component from which the TOE is comprised (e.g. in the case of a composed TOE).

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14.3.3.3.4 Work unit ALC_CMC.3-2

The evaluator ***shall check*** that the TOE references used are consistent.

If the TOE is labelled more than once then the labels shall be consistent. For example, it should be possible to relate any labelled guidance documentation supplied as part of the TOE to the evaluated operational TOE. This ensures that consumers can be confident that they have:

— purchased the evaluated version of the TOE,

— installed this version, and

— have the correct version of the guidance to operate the TOE in accordance with its ST.

The evaluator also verifies that the TOE reference is consistent with the ST.

If this work unit is applied to a composed TOE, the composed IT TOE will not be labelled with its unique (composite) reference, but only the individual components will be labelled with their appropriate TOE reference. Labelling the IT TOE would require further development, i.e. during start-up or operation, with the composite reference. If the composed TOE is delivered as the constituent component TOEs, then the TOE items delivered will not contain the composite reference. However, the composed TOE ST will include the unique reference for the composed TOE and will identify the components comprising the composed TOE through which the consumers will be able to determine whether they have the appropriate items.

14.3.3.3.5 Content requirement ALC_CMC.3.2C (ISO/IEC 15408-3:2026, 12.2.6)

The CM documentation shall describe the method used to uniquely identify the configuration items.

14.3.3.3.6 Work unit ALC_CMC.3-3

The evaluator ***shall examine*** the method of identifying configuration items to determine that it describes how configuration items are uniquely identified.

Procedures should describe how the status of each configuration item can be tracked throughout the life cycle of the TOE. The procedures can be detailed in the CM plan or throughout the CM documentation. The information included should describe:

— the method how each configuration item is uniquely identified, such that it is possible to track versions of the same configuration item;

— the method how configuration items are assigned unique identifiers and how they are entered into the CM system;

— the method to be used to identify superseded versions of a configuration item.

14.3.3.3.7 Content requirement ALC_CMC.3.3C (ISO/IEC 15408-3:2026, 12.2.6)

The CM system shall uniquely identify all configuration items.

14.3.3.3.8 Work unit ALC_CMC.3-4

The evaluator ***shall examine*** the configuration items to determine that they are identified in a way that is consistent with the CM documentation.

The evaluator can gain assurance that the CM system uniquely identifies all configuration items by examining the identifiers for the configuration items. For both configuration items that comprise the TOE, and drafts of configuration items that are submitted by the developer as evaluation evidence, the evaluator confirms that each configuration item possesses a unique identifier in a manner consistent with the unique identification method that is described in the CM documentation.

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14.3.3.3.9 Content requirement ALC_CMC.3.4C (ISO/IEC 15408-3:2026, 12.2.6)

The CM system shall provide controls such that only authorized changes are made to the configuration items.

14.3.3.3.10 Work unit ALC_CMC.3-5

The evaluator ***shall examine*** the CM access control measures described in the CM plan to determine that they are effective in preventing unauthorized access to the configuration items.

The evaluator can use a number of methods to determine that the CM access control measures are effective. For example, the evaluator can exercise the access control measures to ensure that the procedures cannot be bypassed. The evaluator can use the outputs generated by the CM system procedures required by ALC_CMC.3.8C (see ISO/IEC 15408-3:2026, 12.2.6). The evaluator can also witness a demonstration of the CM system to ensure that the access control measures employed are operating effectively.

14.3.3.3.11 Content requirement ALC_CMC.3.5C (ISO/IEC 15408-3:2026, 12.2.6)

The CM documentation shall include a CM plan.

14.3.3.3.12 Work unit ALC_CMC.3-6

The evaluator ***shall check*** that the CM documentation provided includes a CM plan.

The CM plan needs not to be a connected document, but it is recommended that there is a single document that describes where the various parts of the CM plan can be found. If the CM plan is no single document, the list in the following work unit gives hints regarding which context is expected.

14.3.3.3.13 Content requirement ALC_CMC.3.6C (ISO/IEC 15408-3:2026, 12.2.6)

The CM plan shall describe how the CM system is used for the development of the TOE.

14.3.3.3.14 Work unit ALC_CMC.3-7

The evaluator ***shall examine*** the CM plan to determine that it describes how the CM system is used for the development of the TOE.

The descriptions contained in a CM plan include, if applicable:

— all activities performed in the TOE development that are subject to configuration management procedures (e.g. creation, modification or deletion of a configuration item, data-backup, archiving);

— which means (e.g. CM tools, forms) shall be made available;

— the usage of the CM tools: the necessary details for a user of the CM system to be able to operate the CM tools correctly in order to maintain the integrity of the TOE;

— which other objects (development components, tools, assessment environments) are taken under CM control;

— the roles and responsibilities of individuals required to perform operations on individual configuration items (different roles can be identified for different types of configuration items, e.g. design documentation or source code);

— how CM instances (e.g. change control boards, interface control working groups) are introduced and staffed;

— the description of the change management, including the process of verifying that the proposed change is necessary and the consequence would be acceptable;

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— the procedures that are used to ensure that only authorized individuals can make changes to configuration items;

— the procedures that are used to ensure that concurrency problems do not occur as a result of simultaneous changes to configuration items;

— the evidence that is generated as a result of application of the procedures. For example, for a change to a configuration item, the CM system can record a description of the change, accountability for the change, identification of all configuration items affected, status (e.g. pending or completed), and date and time of the change. This can be recorded in an audit trail of changes made or change control records;

— the approach to version control and unique referencing of TOE versions (e.g. covering the release of patches in operating systems, and the subsequent detection of their application).

14.3.3.3.15 Content requirement ALC_CMC.3.7C (ISO/IEC 15408-3:2026, 12.2.6)

The evidence shall demonstrate that all configuration items are being maintained under the CM system.

14.3.3.3.16 Work unit ALC_CMC.3-8

The evaluator ***shall check*** that the configuration items identified in the configuration list are being maintained by the CM system.

The CM system employed by the developer should maintain the integrity of the TOE. The evaluator should check that for each type of configuration item (e.g. design documents or source code modules) contained in the configuration list there are examples of the evidence generated by the procedures described in the CM plan. In this case, the approach to sampling will depend upon the level of granularity used in the CM system to control CM items. Where, for example, 10,000 source code modules are identified in the configuration list, a different sampling strategy shall be applied compared to the case in which there are only 5, or even 1. The emphasis of this activity should be on ensuring that the CM system is being operated correctly, rather than on the detection of any minor error.

For requirements and guidance on sampling, see A.2.

14.3.3.3.17 Content requirement ALC_CMC.3.8C (ISO/IEC 15408-3:2026, 12.2.6)

The evidence shall demonstrate that the CM system is being operated in accordance with the CM plan.

14.3.3.3.18 Work unit ALC_CMC.3-9

The evaluator ***shall check*** the CM documentation to ascertain that it includes the CM system records identified by the CM plan.

The output produced by the CM system is expected to provide the evidence that the evaluator requires in order to be confident that the CM plan is being applied, and also that all configuration items are being maintained by the CM system as required by ALC_CMC.3.7C (see ISO/IEC 15408-3:2026, 12.2.6). Example output can include change control forms, or configuration item access approval forms.

14.3.3.3.19 Work unit ALC_CMC.3-10

The evaluator ***shall examine*** the evidence to determine that the CM system is being operated in accordance with the CM plan.

The evaluator should select and examine a sample of evidence covering each type of CM-relevant operation that has been performed on a configuration item (e.g. creation, modification, deletion, reversion to an earlier version) to confirm that all operations of the CM system have been carried out in line with documented procedures. The evaluator confirms that the evidence includes all the information identified for that operation in the CM plan. Examination of the evidence can require access to a CM tool that is used. The evaluator can choose to sample the evidence.

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For requirements and guidance on sampling, see A.2.

Further confidence in the correct operation of the CM system and the effective maintenance of configuration items can be established by means of interviews with selected development staff. In conducting such interviews, the evaluator aims to gain a deeper understanding of how the CM system is used in practise as well as to confirm that the CM procedures are being applied as described in the CM documentation. Note that such interviews should complement rather than replace the examination of documentary evidence, and are possibly unnecessary if the documentary evidence alone satisfies the requirement. However, given the wide scope of the CM plan, it is possible that some aspects (e.g. roles and responsibilities) are not clear from the CM plan and records alone. This is one case where clarification can be necessary through interviews.

It is expected that the evaluator will visit the development site in support of this activity. Alternatively, with the approval of the relevant evaluation authority, a remote audit can be performed.

For requirements and guidance on site visits, see A.4.

14.3.4 Evaluation of sub-activity (ALC_CMC.4)

14.3.4.1 Objectives

The objectives of this sub-activity are to determine whether the developer has clearly identified the TOE and its associated configuration items, and whether the ability to modify these items is properly controlled by automated tools, thus making the CM system less susceptible to human error or negligence.

14.3.4.2 Input

Input for ALC_CMC.4 consists of the following:

— the ST;

— the TOE suitable for testing;

— the configuration management documentation.

14.3.4.3 Action ALC_CMC.4.1E

14.3.4.3.1 Evaluator action (ISO/IEC 15408-3:2026, 12.2.7)

The evaluator shall confirm that the information provided meets all requirements for content and presentation of evidence.

14.3.4.3.2 Content requirement ALC_CMC.4.1C (ISO/IEC 15408-3:2026, 12.2.7)

The TOE shall be labelled with its unique reference.

14.3.4.3.3 Work unit ALC_CMC.4-1

The evaluator ***shall check*** that the TOE provided for evaluation is labelled with its reference.

The evaluator ***shall ensure*** that the TOE contains the unique reference which is stated in the ST. This can be achieved through labelled packaging or media, or by a label displayed by the operational TOE. This is required in order to ensure that consumers can identify the TOE (e.g. at the point of purchase or use).

The TOE can provide a method by which it can be easily identified. For example, a software TOE can display its name and version number during the start up routine, or in response to a command line entry. A hardware or firmware TOE can be identified by a part number physically stamped on the TOE.

Alternatively, the unique reference provided for the TOE can be the combination of the unique reference of each component from which the TOE is comprised (e.g. in the case of a composed TOE).

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14.3.4.3.4 Work unit ALC_CMC.4-2

The evaluator ***shall check*** that the TOE references used are consistent.

If the TOE is labelled more than once then the labels shall be consistent. For example, it should be possible to relate any labelled guidance documentation supplied as part of the TOE to the evaluated operational TOE. This ensures that consumers can be confident that they have:

— purchased the evaluated version of the TOE,

— installed this version, and

— have the correct version of the guidance to operate the TOE in accordance with its ST.

The evaluator also verifies that the TOE reference is consistent with the ST.

If this work unit is applied to a composed TOE, the composed IT TOE will not be labelled with its unique (composite) reference, but only the individual components will be labelled with their appropriate TOE reference. Labelling the IT TOE would require further development, i.e. during start-up or operation, with the composite reference. If the composed TOE is delivered as the constituent component TOEs, then the TOE items delivered will not contain the composite reference. However, the composed TOE ST will include the unique reference for the composed TOE and will identify the components comprising the composed TOE through which the consumers will be able to determine whether they have the appropriate items.

14.3.4.3.5 Content requirement ALC_CMC.4.2C (ISO/IEC 15408-3:2026, 12.2.7)

The CM documentation shall describe the method or methods used to uniquely identify the configuration items.

14.3.4.3.6 Work unit ALC_CMC.4-3

The evaluator ***shall examine*** the method of identifying configuration items to determine that it describes how configuration items are uniquely identified.

Procedures should describe how the status of each configuration item can be tracked throughout the life cycle of the TOE. The procedures can be detailed in the CM plan or throughout the CM documentation. The information included should describe:

— the method how each configuration item is uniquely identified, such that it is possible to track versions of the same configuration item;

— the method how configuration items are assigned unique identifiers and how they are entered into the CM system;

— the method to be used to identify superseded versions of a configuration item.

14.3.4.3.7 Content requirement ALC_CMC.4.3C (ISO/IEC 15408-3:2026, 12.2.7)

The CM system shall uniquely identify all configuration items.

14.3.4.3.8 Work unit ALC_CMC.4-4

The evaluator ***shall examine*** the configuration items to determine that they are identified in a way that is consistent with the CM documentation.

The evaluator can gain assurance that the CM system uniquely identifies all configuration items by examining the identifiers for the configuration items. For configuration items identified under ALC_CMS (CM scope) (14.4), the evaluator confirms that each configuration item possesses a unique identifier in a manner consistent with the unique identification method that is described in the CM documentation.

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14.3.4.3.9 Content requirement ALC_CMC.4.4C (ISO/IEC 15408-3:2026, 12.2.7)

The CM system shall provide automated controls such that only authorized changes are made to the configuration items.

14.3.4.3.10 Work unit ALC_CMC.4-5

The evaluator ***shall examine*** the CM access control measures described in the CM plan (see ALC_CMC.4.6C (see ISO/IEC 15408-3:2026, 12.2.7)) to determine that they are automated and effective in preventing unauthorized access to the configuration items.

The evaluator can use a number of methods to determine that the CM access control measures are effective. For example, the evaluator can exercise the access control measures to ensure that the procedures cannot be bypassed. The evaluator can use the outputs generated by the CM system procedures required by ALC_CMC.4.10C (see ISO/IEC 15408-3:2026, 12.2.7). The evaluator can also witness a demonstration of the CM system to ensure that the access control measures employed are operating effectively.

14.3.4.3.11 Content requirement ALC_CMC.4.5C (ISO/IEC 15408-3:2026, 12.2.7)

The CM system shall support the production of the TOE by automated means.

14.3.4.3.12 Work unit ALC_CMC.4-6

The evaluator ***shall check*** the CM plan (see ALC_CMC.4.6C (see ISO/IEC 15408-3:2026, 12.2.7)) for automated procedures for supporting the production of the TOE.

The term "production" applies to those processes adopted by the developer to progress the TOE from the implementation representation to a state acceptable for delivery to the end customer.

The evaluator verifies the existence of automated production support procedures within the CM plan.

The following are examples for automated means supporting the production of the TOE:

— a "make" tool (as provided with many software development tools) in the case of a software TOE;

— a tool ensuring automatically (for example by means of bar codes) that only parts are combined which indeed belong together in the case of a hardware TOE.

14.3.4.3.13 Work unit ALC_CMC.4-7

The evaluator ***shall examine*** the TOE production support procedures to determine that they are effective in ensuring that a TOE is generated that reflects its implementation representation.

The production support procedures should describe which tools are used to produce the final TOE from the implementation representation in a clearly defined way. The conventions, directives, or other necessary constructs are described under ALC_TAT (Tools and techniques) (14.10).

The evaluator determines that by following the production support procedures the correct configuration items would be used to generate the TOE. For example, in a software TOE this can include checking that the automated production procedures ensure that all source files and related libraries are included in the compiled object code. Moreover, the procedures should ensure that compiler options and comparable other options are defined uniquely. For a hardware TOE, this work unit can include checking that the automatic production procedures ensure that the belonging parts are built together and no parts are missing.

The customer can then be confident that the version of the TOE delivered for installation is derived from the implementation representation in an unambiguous way and implements the SFRs as described in the ST.

The evaluator should bear in mind that the CM system is not required to possess the capability to produce the TOE, but it shall provide support for the process that will help reduce the probability of human error.

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14.3.4.3.14 Content requirement ALC_CMC.4.6C (ISO/IEC 15408-3:2026, 12.2.7)

The CM documentation shall include a CM plan.

14.3.4.3.15 Work unit ALC_CMC.4-8

The evaluator ***shall check*** that the CM documentation provided includes a CM plan.

The CM plan is not required to be contained within a single document, but it is recommended that there is a separate document that describes where the various parts of the CM plan can be found. If the CM plan is provided by a set of documents, the list in the following work unit gives requirements and guidance regarding the required content.

14.3.4.3.16 Content requirement ALC_CMC.4.7C (ISO/IEC 15408-3:2026, 12.2.7)

The CM plan shall describe how the CM system is used for the development of the TOE.

14.3.4.3.17 Work unit ALC_CMC.4-9

The evaluator ***shall examine*** the CM plan to determine that it describes how the CM system is used for the development of the TOE.

The descriptions contained in a CM plan include, if applicable:

— all activities performed in the TOE development that are subject to configuration management procedures (e.g. creation, modification or deletion of a configuration item, data-backup, archiving);

— the means (e.g. CM tools, forms) that shall be made available;

— the usage of the CM tools: the necessary details for a user of the CM system to be able to operate the CM tools correctly in order to maintain the integrity of the TOE;

— the production support procedures;

— the other objects (development components, tools, assessment environments) that are taken under CM control;

— the roles and responsibilities of individuals required to perform operations on individual configuration items (different roles can be identified for different types of configuration items, e.g. design documentation or source code);

— how CM instances (e.g. change control boards, interface control working groups) are introduced and staffed;

— the description of the change management, including the process of verifying that the proposed change is necessary and the consequence would be acceptable;

— the procedures that are used to ensure that only authorized individuals can make changes to configuration items;

— the procedures that are used to ensure that concurrency problems do not occur as a result of simultaneous changes to configuration items;

— the evidence that is generated as a result of application of the procedures. For example, for a change to a configuration item, the CM system can record a description of the change, accountability for the change, identification of all configuration items affected, status (e.g. pending or completed), and date and time of the change. This can be recorded in an audit trail of changes made or change control records;

— the approach to version control and unique referencing of TOE versions (e.g. covering the release of patches in operating systems, and the subsequent detection of their application).

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14.3.4.3.18 Content requirement ALC_CMC.4.8C (ISO/IEC 15408-3:2026, 12.2.7)

The CM plan shall describe the procedures used to accept modified or newly created configuration items as part of the TOE.

14.3.4.3.19 Work unit ALC_CMC.4-10

The evaluator ***shall examine*** the CM plan to determine that it describes the procedures used to accept modified or newly created configuration items as parts of the TOE.

The descriptions of the acceptance procedures in the CM plan shall include the developer roles or individuals responsible for the acceptance and the criteria to be used for acceptance. In order to meet the desired assurance level, the acceptance criteria can include a suite of tests that determines whether the required security objective or the performance objective is met, or both. The criteria shall take into account all acceptance situations that can occur, in particular:

— accepting an item into the CM system for the first time, in particular inclusion of software, firmware and hardware components from other manufacturers into the TOE ("integration");

— moving configuration items to the next life cycle phase at each stage of the construction of the TOE (e.g. module, subsystem, system);

— subsequent to transports between different development sites.

If this work unit is applied to a dependent component that is going to be integrated in a composed TOE, the CM plan should consider the control of base components obtained by the dependent TOE developer.

When obtaining the components, the evaluators shall verify the following:

— the transfer of each base component from the base component developer to the integrator (dependent TOE developer) was performed in accordance with the base component TOE's secure delivery procedures, as reported in the base component TOE certification report.

— the component received has the same identifiers as those stated in the ST and Certification Report for the component TOE.

— all additional material required by a developer for composition (integration) is provided. This shall include the necessary extract of the component TOE's functional specification.

14.3.4.3.20 Content requirement ALC_CMC.4.9C (ISO/IEC 15408-3:2026, 12.2.7)

The evidence shall demonstrate that all configuration items are being maintained under the CM system.

14.3.4.3.21 Work unit ALC_CMC.4-11

The evaluator ***shall check*** that the configuration items identified in the configuration list are being maintained by the CM system.

The CM system employed by the developer should maintain the integrity of the TOE. The evaluator should check that for each type of configuration item (e.g. design documents or source code modules) contained in the configuration list there are examples of the evidence generated by the procedures described in the CM plan. In this case, the approach to sampling will depend upon the level of granularity used in the CM system to control CM items. Where, for example, 10,000 source code modules are identified in the configuration list, a different sampling strategy shall be applied compared to the case in which there are only 5, or even 1. The emphasis of this activity should be on ensuring that the CM system is being operated correctly, rather than on the detection of any minor error.

For requirements and guidance on sampling see A.2.

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14.3.4.3.22 Content requirement ALC_CMC.4.10C (ISO/IEC 15408-3:2026, 12.2.7)

The evidence shall demonstrate that the CM system is being operated in accordance with the CM plan.

14.3.4.3.23 Work unit ALC_CMC.4-12

The evaluator ***shall check*** the CM documentation to ascertain that it includes the CM system records identified by the CM plan.

The output produced by the CM system is expected to provide the evidence that the evaluator requires in order to be confident that the CM plan is being applied, and also that all configuration items are being maintained by the CM system as required by ALC_CMC.4.9C (see ISO/IEC 15408-3:2026, 12.2.7). Example output can include change control forms, or configuration item access approval forms.

14.3.4.3.24 Work unit ALC_CMC.4-13

The evaluator ***shall examine*** the evidence to determine that the CM system is being operated in accordance with the CM plan.

The evaluator should select and examine a sample of evidence covering each type of CM-relevant operation that has been performed on a configuration item (e.g. creation, modification, deletion, reversion to an earlier version) to confirm that all operations of the CM system have been carried out in line with documented procedures. The evaluator confirms that the evidence includes all the information identified for that operation in the CM plan. Examination of the evidence can require access to a CM tool that is used. The evaluator can choose to sample the evidence.

For requirements and guidance on sampling see A.2.

Further confidence in the correct operation of the CM system and the effective maintenance of configuration items can be established by means of interviews with selected development staff. In conducting such interviews, the evaluator aims to gain a deeper understanding of how the CM system is used in practise as well as to confirm that the CM procedures are being applied as described in the CM documentation. Note that such interviews should complement rather than replace the examination of documentary evidence, and are not necessary if the documentary evidence alone satisfies the requirement. However, given the wide scope of the CM plan, it is possible that some aspects (e.g. roles and responsibilities) are not clear from the CM plan and records alone. This is one case where clarification can be necessary through interviews.

A development site visit is a useful means of gaining confidence in the measures being used. Any decision not to make such a visit shall be determined in consultation with the evaluation authority.

For requirements and guidance on site visits see A.4.

14.3.5 Evaluation of sub-activity (ALC_CMC.5)

14.3.5.1 Objectives

The objectives of this sub-activity are to determine whether the developer has clearly identified the TOE and its associated configuration items, and whether the ability to modify these items is properly controlled by automated tools, thus making the CM system less susceptible to human error or negligence.

14.3.5.2 Input

Input for ALC_CMC.5 consists of the following:

— the ST;

— the TOE suitable for testing;

— the configuration management documentation.

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14.3.5.3 Action ALC_CMC.5.1E

14.3.5.3.1 Evaluator action (ISO/IEC 15408-3:2026, 12.2.8)

The evaluator shall confirm that the information provided meets all requirements for content and presentation of evidence.

14.3.5.3.2 Content requirement ALC_CMC.5.1C (ISO/IEC 15408-3:2026, 12.2.8)

The TOE shall be labelled with its unique reference.

14.3.5.3.3 Work unit ALC_CMC.5-1

The evaluator ***shall check*** that the TOE provided for evaluation is labelled with its reference.

The evaluator ***shall ensure*** that the TOE contains the unique reference which is stated in the ST. This can be achieved through labelled packaging or media, or by a label displayed by the operational TOE. This is required in order to ensure that it is possible for consumers to identify the TOE (e.g. at the point of purchase or use).

The TOE can provide a method by which it can be easily identified. For example, a software TOE can display its name and version number during the start up routine, or in response to a command line entry. A hardware or firmware TOE can be identified by a part number physically stamped on the TOE.

Alternatively, the unique reference provided for the TOE can be the combination of the unique reference of each component from which the TOE is comprised (e.g. in the case of a composed TOE).

14.3.5.3.4 Work unit ALC_CMC.5-2

The evaluator ***shall check*** that the TOE references used are consistent.

If the TOE is labelled more than once then the labels shall be consistent. For example, it should be possible to relate any labelled guidance documentation supplied as part of the TOE to the evaluated operational TOE. This ensures that consumers can be confident that they have:

— purchased the evaluated version of the TOE,

— installed this version, and

— have the correct version of the guidance to operate the TOE in accordance with its ST.

The evaluator also verifies that the TOE reference is consistent with the ST.

If this work unit is applied to a composed TOE, the composed IT TOE will not be labelled with its unique (composite) reference, but only the individual components will be labelled with their appropriate TOE reference. Labelling the IT TOE would require further development, i.e. during start-up or operation, with the composite reference. If the composed TOE is delivered as the constituent component TOEs, then the TOE items delivered will not contain the composite reference. However, the composed TOE ST will include the unique reference for the composed TOE and will identify the components comprising the composed TOE through which the consumers will be able to determine whether they have the appropriate items.

14.3.5.3.5 Content requirement ALC_CMC.5.2C (ISO/IEC 15408-3:2026, 12.2.8)

The CM documentation shall describe the method used to uniquely identify the configuration items.

14.3.5.3.6 Work unit ALC_CMC.5-3

The evaluator ***shall examine*** the method of identifying configuration items to determine that it describes how configuration items are uniquely identified.

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Procedures should describe how the status of each configuration item can be tracked throughout the life cycle of the TOE. The procedures can be detailed in the CM plan or throughout the CM documentation. The information included should describe:

— the method how each configuration item is uniquely identified, such that it is possible to track versions of the same configuration item;

— the method how configuration items are assigned unique identifiers and how they are entered into the CM system;

— the method to be used to identify superseded versions of a configuration item.

14.3.5.3.7 Content requirement ALC_CMC.5.3C (ISO/IEC 15408-3:2026, 12.2.8)

The CM documentation shall justify that the acceptance procedures provide for an adequate and appropriate review of changes to all configuration items.

14.3.5.3.8 Work unit ALC_CMC.5-4

The evaluator ***shall examine*** the CM documentation to determine that it justifies that the acceptance procedures provide for an adequate and appropriate review of changes to all configuration items.

The CM documentation should make it sufficiently clear that by following the acceptance procedures only parts of adequate quality are incorporated into the TOE.

14.3.5.3.9 Content requirement ALC_CMC.5.4C (ISO/IEC 15408-3:2026, 12.2.8)

The CM system shall uniquely identify all configuration items.

14.3.5.3.10 Work unit ALC_CMC.5-5

The evaluator ***shall examine*** the configuration items to determine that they are identified in a way that is consistent with the CM documentation.

The evaluator can gain assurance that the CM system uniquely identifies all configuration items by examining the identifiers for the configuration items. For both configuration items that comprise the TOE, and drafts of configuration items that are submitted by the developer as evaluation evidence, the evaluator confirms that each configuration item possesses a unique identifier in a manner consistent with the unique identification method that is described in the CM documentation.

14.3.5.3.11 Content requirement ALC_CMC.5.5C (ISO/IEC 15408-3:2026, 12.2.8)

The CM system shall provide automated controls such that only authorized changes are made to the configuration items.

14.3.5.3.12 Work unit ALC_CMC.5-6

The evaluator ***shall examine*** the CM access control measures described in the CM plan (see ALC_CMC.5.12C (see ISO/IEC 15408-3:2026, 12.2.8)) to determine that they are automated and effective in preventing unauthorized access to the configuration items.

The evaluator can use a number of methods to determine that the CM access control measures are effective. For example, the evaluator can exercise the access control measures to ensure that the procedures cannot be bypassed. The evaluator can use the outputs generated by the CM system procedures required by ALC_CMC.5.16C (see ISO/IEC 15408-3:2026, 12.2.8). The evaluator can also witness a demonstration of the CM system to ensure that the access control measures employed are operating effectively.

14.3.5.3.13 Content requirement ALC_CMC.5.6C (ISO/IEC 15408-3:2026, 12.2.8)

The CM system shall support the production of the TOE by automated means.

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14.3.5.3.14 Work unit ALC_CMC.5-7

The evaluator ***shall check*** the CM plan (see ALC_CMC.5.12C (see ISO/IEC 15408-3:2026, 12.2.8)) for automated procedures for supporting the production of the TOE.

The term "production" applies to those processes adopted by the developer to progress the TOE from the implementation representation to a state acceptable for delivery to the end customer.

The evaluator verifies the existence of automated production support procedures within the CM plan.

The following are examples for automated means supporting the production of the TOE:

— a "make" tool (as provided with many software development tools) in the case of a software TOE;

— a tool ensuring automatically (for example by means of bar codes) that only parts are combined which indeed belong together in the case of a hardware TOE.

14.3.5.3.15 Work unit ALC_CMC.5-8

The evaluator ***shall examine*** the TOE production support procedures to determine that they are effective in ensuring that a TOE is generated that reflects its implementation representation.

The production support procedures should describe which tools are used to produce the final TOE from the implementation representation in a clearly defined way. The conventions, directives, or other necessary constructs are described under ALC_TAT (Tools and techniques) (14.10).

The evaluator determines that by following the production support procedures the correct configuration items would be used to generate the TOE. For example, in a software TOE this can include checking that the automated production procedures ensure that all source files and related libraries are included in the compiled object code. Moreover, the procedures should ensure that compiler options and comparable other options are defined uniquely. For a hardware TOE, this work unit can include checking that the automatic production procedures ensure that the belonging parts are built together and no parts are missing.

The customer can then be confident that the version of the TOE delivered for installation is derived from the implementation representation in an unambiguous way and implements the SFRs as described in the ST.

The evaluator should bear in mind that the CM system is not required to possess the capability to produce the TOE, but it shall provide support for the process that will help reduce the probability of human error.

14.3.5.3.16 Content requirement ALC_CMC.5.7C (ISO/IEC 15408-3:2026, 12.2.8)

The CM system shall ensure that the person responsible for accepting a configuration item into CM is not the person who developed it.

14.3.5.3.17 Work unit ALC_CMC.5-9

The evaluator ***shall examine*** the CM system to determine that it ensures that the person responsible for accepting a configuration item is not the person who developed it.

The acceptance procedures describe who is responsible for accepting a configuration item. From these descriptions, the evaluator should be able to determine that the person who developed a configuration item is in no case responsible for its acceptance.

14.3.5.3.18 Content requirement ALC_CMC.5.8C (ISO/IEC 15408-3:2026, 12.2.8)

The CM system shall identify the configuration items that comprise the TSF.

14.3.5.3.19 Work unit ALC_CMC.5-10

The evaluator ***shall examine*** the CM system to determine that it identifies the configuration items that comprise the TSF.

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The CM documentation should describe how the CM system identifies the configuration items that comprise the TSF. The evaluator shall select a sample of configuration items covering each type of items, particularly containing TSF and non-TSF items, and check that they are correctly classified by the CM system.

For requirements and guidance on sampling see A.2.

14.3.5.3.20 Content requirement ALC_CMC.5.9C (ISO/IEC 15408-3:2026, 12.2.8)

The CM system shall support the audit of all changes to the TOE by automated means, including the originator, date, and time in the audit trail.

14.3.5.3.21 Work unit ALC_CMC.5-11

The evaluator ***shall examine*** the CM system to determine that it supports the audit of all changes to the TOE by automated means, including the originator, date, and time in the audit trail.

The evaluator should inspect a sample of audit trails and check, if they contain at least the minimum required information.

14.3.5.3.22 Content requirement ALC_CMC.5.10C (ISO/IEC 15408-3:2026, 12.2.8)

The CM system shall provide an automated means to identify all other configuration items that are affected by the change of a given configuration item.

14.3.5.3.23 Work unit ALC_CMC.5-12

The evaluator ***shall examine*** the CM system to determine that it provides an automated means to identify all other configuration items that are affected by the change of a given configuration item.

The CM documentation should describe how the CM system identifies all other configuration items that are affected by the change of a given configuration item. The evaluator should select a sample of configuration items, covering all types of items, and exercise the automated means to determine that it identifies all items that are affected by the change of the selected item.

For requirements and guidance on sampling see A.2.

14.3.5.3.24 Content requirement ALC_CMC.5.11C (ISO/IEC 15408-3:2026, 12.2.8)

The CM system shall be able to identify the version of the implementation representation from which the TOE is generated.

14.3.5.3.25 Work unit ALC_CMC.5-13

The evaluator ***shall examine*** the CM system to determine that it is able to identify the version of the implementation representation from which the TOE is generated.

The CM documentation should describe how the CM system identifies the version of the implementation representation from which the TOE is generated. The evaluator should select a sample of the parts used to produce the TOE and shall apply the CM system to verify that it identifies the corresponding implementation representation in the correct version.

For requirements and guidance on sampling see A.2.

14.3.5.3.26 Content requirement ALC_CMC.5.12C (ISO/IEC 15408-3:2026, 12.2.8)

The CM documentation shall include a CM plan.

14.3.5.3.27 Work unit ALC_CMC.5-14

The evaluator ***shall check*** that the CM documentation provided includes a CM plan.

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The CM plan needs not to be a connected document, but it is recommended that there is a single document that describes where the various parts of the CM plan can be found. If the CM plan is no single document, the list in the following work unit gives hints regarding which context is expected.

14.3.5.3.28 Content requirement ALC_CMC.5.13C (ISO/IEC 15408-3:2026, 12.2.8)

The CM plan shall describe how the CM system is used for the development of the TOE.

14.3.5.3.29 Work unit ALC_CMC.5-15

The evaluator ***shall examine*** the CM plan to determine that it describes how the CM system is used for the development of the TOE.

The descriptions contained in a CM plan include, if applicable:

— all activities performed in the TOE development that are subject to configuration management procedures (e.g. creation, modification or deletion of a configuration item, data-backup, archiving);

— which means (e.g. CM tools, forms) shall be made available;

— the usage of the CM tools: the necessary details for a user of the CM system to be able to operate the CM tools correctly in order to maintain the integrity of the TOE;

— the production support procedures;

— which other objects (development components, tools, assessment environments) are taken under CM control;

— the roles and responsibilities of individuals required to perform operations on individual configuration items (different roles can be identified for different types of configuration items, e.g. design documentation or source code);

— how CM instances (e.g. change control boards, interface control working groups) are introduced and staffed;

— the description of the change management, including the process of verifying that the proposed change is necessary and the consequence would be acceptable;

— the procedures that are used to ensure that only authorized individuals can make changes to configuration items;

— the procedures that are used to ensure that concurrency problems do not occur as a result of simultaneous changes to configuration items;

— the evidence that is generated as a result of application of the procedures. For example, for a change to a configuration item, the CM system can record a description of the change, accountability for the change, identification of all configuration items affected, status (e.g. pending or completed), and date and time of the change. This can be recorded in an audit trail of changes made or change control records;

— the approach to version control and unique referencing of TOE versions (e.g. covering the release of patches in operating systems, and the subsequent detection of their application).

14.3.5.3.30 Content requirement ALC_CMC.5.14C (ISO/IEC 15408-3:2026, 12.2.8)

The CM plan shall describe the procedures used to accept modified or newly created configuration items as part of the TOE.

14.3.5.3.31 Work unit ALC_CMC.5-16

The evaluator ***shall examine*** the CM plan to determine that it describes the procedures used to accept modified or newly created configuration items as parts of the TOE.

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The descriptions of the acceptance procedures in the CM plan shall include the developer roles or individuals responsible for the acceptance and the criteria to be used for acceptance. In order to meet the desired assurance level, the acceptance criteria can include a suite of tests that determines whether the required security objective or performance objective or both are met. The criteria should take into account all acceptance situations that can occur, in particular:

— accepting an item into the CM system for the first time, in particular inclusion of software, firmware and hardware components from other manufacturers into the TOE ("integration");

— moving configuration items to the next life cycle phase at each stage of the construction of the TOE (e.g. module, subsystem, system);

— subsequent to transports between different development sites.

If this work unit is applied to a dependent component that is going to be integrated in a composed TOE, the CM plan should consider the control of base components obtained by the dependent TOE developer.

When obtaining the components, the evaluators shall verify whether:

— the transfer of each base component from the base component developer to the integrator (dependent TOE developer) was performed in accordance with the base component TOE's secure delivery procedures, as reported in the base component TOE certification report;

— the component received has the same identifiers as those stated in the ST and Certification Report for the component TOE;

— all additional material required by a developer for composition (integration) is provided. This shall include the necessary extract of the component TOE's functional specification.

14.3.5.3.32 Content requirement ALC_CMC.5.15C (ISO/IEC 15408-3:2026, 12.2.8)

The evidence shall demonstrate that all configuration items are being maintained under the CM system.

14.3.5.3.33 Work unit ALC_CMC.5-17

The evaluator ***shall check*** that the configuration items identified in the configuration list are being maintained by the CM system.

The CM system employed by the developer should maintain the integrity of the TOE. The evaluator should check that for each type of configuration item (e.g. design documents or source code modules) contained in the configuration list there are examples of the evidence generated by the procedures described in the CM plan. In this case, the approach to sampling will depend upon the level of granularity used in the CM system to control CM items. Where, for example, 10,000 source code modules are identified in the configuration list, a different sampling strategy shall be applied compared to the case in which there are only 5, or even 1. The emphasis of this activity should be on ensuring that the CM system is being operated correctly, rather than on the detection of any minor error.

For requirements and guidance on sampling, see A.2.

14.3.5.3.34 Content requirement ALC_CMC.5.16C (ISO/IEC 15408-3:2026, 12.2.8)

The evidence shall demonstrate that the CM system is being operated in accordance with the CM plan.

14.3.5.3.35 Work unit ALC_CMC.5-18

The evaluator ***shall check*** the CM documentation to ascertain that it includes the CM system records identified by the CM plan.

The output produced by the CM system is expected to provide the evidence that the evaluator requires in order to be confident that the CM plan is being applied, and also that all configuration items are being

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maintained by the CM system as required by ALC_CMC.5.15C (see ISO/IEC 15408-3:2026, 12.2.8). Example output can include change control forms, or configuration item access approval forms.

14.3.5.3.36 Work unit ALC_CMC.5-19

The evaluator ***shall examine*** the evidence to determine that the CM system is being operated in accordance with the CM plan.

The evaluator should select and examine a sample of evidence covering each type of CM-relevant operation that has been performed on a configuration item (e.g. creation, modification, deletion, reversion to an earlier version) to confirm that all operations of the CM system have been carried out in line with documented procedures. The evaluator confirms that the evidence includes all the information identified for that operation in the CM plan. Examination of the evidence can require access to a CM tool that is used. The evaluator can choose to sample the evidence.

For requirements and guidance on sampling, see A.2.

Further confidence in the correct operation of the CM system and the effective maintenance of configuration items can be established by means of interviews with selected development staff. In conducting such interviews, the evaluator aims to gain a deeper understanding of how the CM system is used in practise as well as to confirm that the CM procedures are being applied as described in the CM documentation. Such interviews should complement rather than replace the examination of documentary evidence, and are not necessary if the documentary evidence alone satisfies the requirement. However, given the wide scope of the CM plan, it is possible that some aspects (e.g. roles and responsibilities) are not clear from the CM plan and records alone. This is one case where clarification can be necessary through interviews.

It is expected that the evaluator will visit the development site in support of this activity. Alternatively, with the approval of the relevant evaluation authority, a remote audit can be performed.

For requirements and guidance on site visits, see A.4.

14.3.5.4 Action ALC_CMC.5.2E

14.3.5.4.1 Evaluator action (ISO/IEC 15408-3:2026, 12.2.8)

The evaluator shall determine that the application of the production support procedures results in a TOE as provided by the developer for testing activities.

14.3.5.4.2 Work unit ALC_CMC.5-20

The evaluator ***shall examine*** the production support procedures to determine that by following these procedures a TOE would be produced like the one provided by the developer for testing activities.

If the TOE is a small software TOE and production consists of compiling and linking, the evaluator can confirm the adequacy of the production support procedures by reapplying them.

If the production process of the TOE is more complicated (e.g. in the case of a smart card), but has already started, the evaluator should inspect the application of the production support procedures during a visit to the development site. They can compare a copy of the TOE produced in their presence with the samples used for their testing activities.

For requirements and guidance on site visits, see A.4.

Otherwise the evaluator's determination should be based on the documentary evidence provided by the developer.

This work unit can be performed in conjunction with the evaluation activities under ADV_IMP (Implementation representation) (12.5).

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14.4 CM scope (ALC_CMS)

14.4.1 Evaluation of sub-activity (ALC_CMS.1)

14.4.1.1 Objectives

The objective of this sub-activity is to determine whether the developer performs configuration management on the TOE and the evaluation evidence. These configuration items are controlled in accordance with ALC_CMC (CM capabilities) (14.3).

14.4.1.2 Input

Input for ALC_CMS.1 consists of the following:

— the ST;

— the configuration list.

14.4.1.3 Action ALC_CMS.1.1E

14.4.1.3.1 Evaluator action (ISO/IEC 15408-3:2026, 12.3.4)

The evaluator shall confirm that the information provided meets all requirements for content and presentation of evidence.

14.4.1.3.2 Content requirement ALC_CMS.1.1C (ISO/IEC 15408-3:2026, 12.3.4)

The configuration list shall include:

— the TOE itself;

— the evaluation evidence required by the SARs.

14.4.1.3.3 Work unit ALC_CMS.1-1

The evaluator ***shall check*** that the configuration list includes the following set of items:

— the TOE itself;

— the evaluation evidence required by the SARs in the ST.

14.4.1.3.4 Content requirement ALC_CMS.1.2C (ISO/IEC 15408-3:2026, 12.3.4)

The configuration list shall uniquely identify the configuration items.

14.4.1.3.5 Work unit ALC_CMS.1-2

The evaluator ***shall examine*** the configuration list to determine that it uniquely identifies each configuration item.

The configuration list contains sufficient information to uniquely identify which version of each item has been used (typically a version number). Use of this list will enable the evaluator to check that the correct configuration items, and the correct version of each item, have been used during the evaluation.

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14.4.2 Evaluation of sub-activity (ALC_CMS.2)

14.4.2.1 Objectives

The objective of this sub-activity is to determine whether the configuration list includes the TOE, the parts that comprise the TOE, and the evaluation evidence. These configuration items are controlled in accordance with ALC_CMC (CM capabilities) (14.3).

14.4.2.2 Input

Input for ALC_CMS.2 consists of the following:

— the ST;

— the configuration list.

14.4.2.3 Action ALC_CMS.2.1E

14.4.2.3.1 Evaluator action (ISO/IEC 15408-3:2026, 12.3.5)

The evaluator shall confirm that the information provided meets all requirements for content and presentation of evidence.

14.4.2.3.2 Content requirement ALC_CMS.2.1C (ISO/IEC 15408-3:2026, 12.3.5)

The configuration list shall include the following:

— the TOE itself;

— the evaluation evidence required by the SARs;

— the parts that comprise the TOE.

14.4.2.3.3 Work unit ALC_CMS.2-1

The evaluator ***shall check*** that the configuration list includes the following set of items:

— the TOE itself;

— the evaluation evidence required by the SARs;

— the parts that comprise the TOE.

14.4.2.3.4 Content requirement ALC_CMS.2.2C (ISO/IEC 15408-3:2026, 12.3.5)

The configuration list shall uniquely identify the configuration items.

14.4.2.3.5 Work unit ALC_CMS.2-2

The evaluator ***shall examine*** the configuration list to determine that it uniquely identifies each configuration item.

The configuration list contains sufficient information to uniquely identify which version of each item has been used (typically a version number). Use of this list will enable the evaluator to check that the correct configuration items, and the correct version of each item, have been used during the evaluation.

14.4.2.3.6 Content requirement ALC_CMS.2.3C (ISO/IEC 15408-3:2026, 12.3.5)

For each TSF relevant configuration item, the configuration list shall indicate the developer of the item.

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14.4.2.3.7 Work unit ALC_CMS.2-3

The evaluator ***shall check*** that the configuration list indicates the developer of each TSF relevant configuration item.

If only one developer is involved in the development of the TOE, this work unit is not applicable, and is therefore considered to be satisfied.

14.4.3 Evaluation of sub-activity (ALC_CMS.3)

14.4.3.1 Objectives

The objective of this sub-activity is to determine whether the configuration list includes the TOE, the parts that comprise the TOE, the TOE implementation representation, and the evaluation evidence. These configuration items are controlled in accordance with ALC_CMC (CM capabilities) (14.3).

14.4.3.2 Input

Input for ALC_CMS.3 consists of the following:

— the ST;

— the configuration list.

14.4.3.3 Action ALC_CMS.3.1E

14.4.3.3.1 Evaluator action (ISO/IEC 15408-3:2026, 12.3.6)

The evaluator shall confirm that the information provided meets all requirements for content and presentation of evidence.

14.4.3.3.2 Content requirement ALC_CMS.3.1C (ISO/IEC 15408-3:2026, 12.3.6)

The configuration list shall include the following:

— the TOE itself;

— the evaluation evidence required by the SARs;

— the parts that comprise the TOE;

— the implementation representation.

14.4.3.3.3 Work unit ALC_CMS.3-1

The evaluator ***shall check*** that the configuration list includes the following set of items:

— the TOE itself;

— the evaluation evidence required by the SARs in the ST;

— the parts that comprise the TOE;

— the implementation representation.

14.4.3.3.4 Content requirement ALC_CMS.3.2C (ISO/IEC 15408-3:2026, 12.3.6)

The configuration list shall uniquely identify the configuration items.

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14.4.3.3.5 Work unit ALC_CMS.3-2

The evaluator ***shall examine*** the configuration list to determine that it uniquely identifies each configuration item.

The configuration list contains sufficient information to uniquely identify which version of each item has been used (typically a version number). Use of this list will enable the evaluator to check that the correct configuration items, and the correct version of each item, have been used during the evaluation.

14.4.3.3.6 Content requirement ALC_CMS.3.3C (ISO/IEC 15408-3:2026, 12.3.6)

For each TSF relevant configuration item, the configuration list shall indicate the developer of the item.

14.4.3.3.7 Work unit ALC_CMS.3-3

The evaluator ***shall check*** that the configuration list indicates the developer of each TSF relevant configuration item.

If only one developer is involved in the development of the TOE, this work unit is not applicable, and is therefore considered to be satisfied.

14.4.4 Evaluation of sub-activity (ALC_CMS.4)

14.4.4.1 Objectives

The objective of this sub-activity is to determine whether the configuration list includes the TOE, the parts that comprise the TOE, the TOE implementation representation, security flaws, and the evaluation evidence. These configuration items are controlled in accordance with ALC_CMC (CM capabilities) (14.3).

14.4.4.2 Input

Input for ALC_CMS.4 consists of the following:

— the ST;

— the configuration list.

14.4.4.3 Action ALC_CMS.4.1E

14.4.4.3.1 Evaluator action (ISO/IEC 15408-3:2026, 12.3.7)

The evaluator shall confirm that the information provided meets all requirements for content and presentation of evidence.

14.4.4.3.2 Content requirement ALC_CMS.4.1C (ISO/IEC 15408-3:2026, 12.3.7)

The configuration list shall include the following:

— the TOE itself;

— the evaluation evidence required by the SARs;

— the parts that comprise the TOE;

— the implementation representation;

— security flaw reports and resolution status.

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14.4.4.3.3 Work unit ALC_CMS.4-1

The evaluator ***shall check*** that the configuration list includes the following set of items:

— the TOE itself;

— the evaluation evidence required by the SARs in the ST;

— the parts that comprise the TOE;

— the TOE implementation representation;

— the documentation used to record details of reported security flaws associated with the implementation (e.g. problem status reports derived from a developer's problem database).

14.4.4.3.4 Content requirement ALC_CMS.4.2C (ISO/IEC 15408-3:2026, 12.3.7)

The configuration list shall uniquely identify the configuration items.

14.4.4.3.5 Work unit ALC_CMS.4-2

The evaluator ***shall examine*** the configuration list to determine that it uniquely identifies each configuration item.

The configuration list contains sufficient information to uniquely identify which version of each item has been used (typically a version number). Use of this list will enable the evaluator to check that the correct configuration items, and the correct version of each item, have been used during the evaluation.

14.4.4.3.6 Content requirement ALC_CMS.4.3C (ISO/IEC 15408-3:2026, 12.3.7)

For each TSF relevant configuration item, the configuration list shall indicate the developer of the item.

14.4.4.3.7 Work unit ALC_CMS.4-3

The evaluator ***shall check*** that the configuration list indicates the developer of each TSF relevant configuration item.

If only one developer is involved in the development of the TOE, this work unit is not applicable, and is therefore considered to be satisfied.

14.4.5 Evaluation of sub-activity (ALC_CMS.5)

14.4.5.1 Objectives

The objective of this sub-activity is to determine whether the configuration list includes the TOE, the parts that comprise the TOE, the TOE implementation representation, security flaws, development tools and related information, and the evaluation evidence. These configuration items are controlled in accordance with ALC_CMC (CM capabilities) (14.3).

14.4.5.2 Input

Input for ALC_CMS.5 consists of the following:

— the ST;

— the configuration list.

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14.4.5.3 Action ALC_CMS.5.1E

14.4.5.3.1 Evaluator action (ISO/IEC 15408-3:2026, 12.3.8)

The evaluator shall confirm that the information provided meets all requirements for content and presentation of evidence.

14.4.5.3.2 Content requirement ALC_CMS.5.1C (ISO/IEC 15408-3:2026, 12.3.8)

The configuration list shall include the following:

— the TOE itself;

— the evaluation evidence required by the SARs;

— the parts that comprise the TOE;

— the implementation representation;

— security flaw reports and resolution status;

— development tools and related information.

14.4.5.3.3 Work unit ALC_CMS.5-1

The evaluator ***shall check*** that the configuration list includes the following set of items:

— the TOE itself;

— the evaluation evidence required by the SARs in the ST;

— the parts that comprise the TOE;

— the TOE implementation representation;

— the documentation used to record details of reported security flaws associated with the implementation (e.g. problem status reports derived from a developer's problem database);

— all tools (including test software, if applicable) involved in the development and production of the TOE including the names, versions, configurations and roles of each development tool, and related documentation.

For a software TOE, "development tools" are usually programming languages and compiler and "related documentation" comprises compiler and linker options. For a hardware TOE, "development tools" can be hardware design languages, simulation and synthesis tools, compilers, and "related documentation" can comprise compiler options again.

14.4.5.3.4 Content requirement ALC_CMS.5.2C (ISO/IEC 15408-3:2026, 12.3.8)

The configuration list shall uniquely identify the configuration items.

14.4.5.3.5 Work unit ALC_CMS.5-2

The evaluator ***shall examine*** the configuration list to determine that it uniquely identifies each configuration item.

The configuration list contains sufficient information to uniquely identify which version of each item has been used (typically a version number). Use of this list will enable the evaluator to check that the correct configuration items, and the correct version of each item, have been used during the evaluation.

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14.4.5.3.6 Content requirement ALC_CMS.5.3C (ISO/IEC 15408-3:2026, 12.3.8)

For each TSF relevant configuration item, the configuration list shall indicate the developer of the item.

14.4.5.3.7 Work unit ALC_CMS.5-3

The evaluator ***shall check*** that the configuration list indicates the developer of each TSF relevant configuration item.

If only one developer is involved in the development of the TOE, this work unit is not applicable, and is therefore considered to be satisfied.

14.5 Delivery (ALC_DEL)

14.5.1 Evaluation of sub-activity (ALC_DEL.1)

14.5.1.1 Objectives

The objective of this sub-activity is to determine whether the delivery documentation describes all procedures used to maintain security of the TOE when distributing the TOE to the user.

14.5.1.2 Input

Input for ALC_DEL.1 consists of the following:

— the ST;

— the delivery documentation.

14.5.1.3 Action ALC_DEL.1.1E

14.5.1.3.1 Evaluator action (ISO/IEC 15408-3:2026, 12.4.4)

The evaluator shall confirm that the information provided meets all requirements for content and presentation of evidence.

14.5.1.3.2 Content requirement ALC_DEL.1.1C (ISO/IEC 15408-3:2026, 12.4.4)

The delivery documentation shall describe all procedures that are necessary to maintain security when distributing versions of the TOE to the recipient.

14.5.1.3.3 Work unit ALC_DEL.1-1

The evaluator ***shall examine*** the delivery documentation to determine that it describes all procedures that are necessary to maintain security when distributing versions of the TOE or parts of it to the recipient.

The delivery documentation describes proper procedures to maintain security of the TOE during transfer of the TOE or its component parts and to determine the identification of the TOE.

The delivery documentation should cover the entire TOE, but can contain different procedures for different parts of the TOE. The evaluation shall consider the totality of procedures.

The delivery procedures should be applicable across all phases of delivery from the production environment to the installation environment (e.g. packaging, storage and distribution). Standard commercial practise for packaging and delivery can be acceptable. This includes shrink wrapped packaging, a security tape or a sealed envelope. For the distribution, physical (e.g. public mail or a private distribution service) or electronic (e.g. electronic mail or downloading off the Internet) procedures can be used.

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Cryptographic checksums or a software signature can be used by the developer to ensure that tampering or masquerading can be detected. Tamper proof seals additionally indicate if the confidentiality has been broken. For software TOEs, confidentiality can be assured by using encryption. If availability is of concern, it is possible that a secure transportation mechanism is required.

Interpretation of the term "necessary to maintain security" shall consider:

— the nature of the TOE (e.g. whether it is software or hardware);

— the overall security level stated for the TOE by the chosen level of the Vulnerability Assessment. If the TOE is required to be resistant against attackers of a certain potential in its intended environment, this should also apply to the delivery of the TOE. The evaluator should determine that a balanced approach has been taken, such that delivery does not present a weak point in an otherwise secure development process;

— the security objectives provided by the ST. The emphasis in the delivery documentation is likely to be on measures related to integrity, as integrity of the TOE is always important. However, confidentiality and availability of the delivery will be of concern in the delivery of some TOEs; procedures relating to these aspects of the secure delivery should also be discussed in the procedures.

14.6 Developer environment security (ALC_DVS)

14.6.1 Evaluation of sub-activity (ALC_DVS.1)

14.6.1.1 Objectives

The objective of this sub-activity is to determine whether the developer's security controls on the development environment are adequate to provide the confidentiality and integrity of the TOE design and implementation that is necessary to ensure that secure operation of the TOE is not compromised.

14.6.1.2 Input

Input for ALC_DVS.1 consists of the following:

— the ST;

— the developer environment security documentation.

In addition, the evaluator shall examine other deliverables to determine that the security controls are well-defined and followed. Specifically, the evaluator shall examine the developer's configuration management documentation (the input for ALC_CMC.4 (Production support, acceptance procedures and automation) (14.3.4) and ALC_CMS.4 (Problem tracking CM coverage) (14.4.4)). Evidence that the procedures are being applied is also required.

14.6.1.3 Action ALC_DVS.1.1E

14.6.1.3.1 Evaluator action (ISO/IEC 15408-3:2026, 12.5.4)

The evaluator shall confirm that the information provided meets all requirements for content and presentation of evidence.

14.6.1.3.2 Content requirement ALC_DVS.1.1C (ISO/IEC 15408-3:2026, 12.5.4)

The developer environment security documentation shall describe all the physical, logical, procedural, personnel, and other security controls that are necessary to protect the confidentiality and integrity of the TOE design and implementation in its development environment.

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14.6.1.3.3 Work unit ALC_DVS.1-1

The evaluator ***shall examine*** the developer environment security documentation to determine that it details all security controls used in the development environment that are necessary to protect the confidentiality and integrity of the TOE design and implementation.

The evaluator determines what is necessary by first referring to the ST for any information that can assist in the determination of necessary protection.

If no explicit information is available from the ST the evaluator shall make a determination of the necessary measures. In cases where the developer's measures are considered less than what is necessary, a clear justification should be provided for the assessment, based on a potentially exploitable vulnerability.

The following types of security measures are considered by the evaluator when examining the documentation:

— physical, for example physical access controls used to prevent unauthorised access to the TOE development environment (during normal working hours and at other times);

— procedural, for example covering:

  — granting of access to the development environment or to specific parts of the environment such as development machines,

  — revocation of access rights when a person leaves the development team,

  — transfer of protected material within and out of the development environment and between different development sites in accordance with defined acceptance procedures,

  — admitting and escorting visitors to the development environment,

  — roles and responsibilities in ensuring the continued application of security measures, and the detection of security breaches;

— personnel, for example any controls or checks made to establish the trustworthiness of new development staff;

— other security measures, for example the logical protections on any development machines.

The developer environment security documentation should identify the locations at which development occurs, and describe the aspects of development performed, along with the security controls applied at each location and for transports between different locations. For example, development can occur at multiple facilities within a single building, multiple buildings at the same site, or at multiple sites. Transports of parts of the TOE or the unfinished TOE between different development sites shall be covered by developer environment security ALC_DVS (Developer environment security), whereas the transport of the finished TOE to the recipient is dealt with in ALC_DEL (Delivery) (14.5).

Development includes the production of the TOE.

14.6.1.3.4 Work unit ALC_DVS.1-2

The evaluator ***shall examine*** the developer environment confidentiality and integrity policies in order to determine the sufficiency of the security measures employed.

The evaluator should examine whether the following is included in the policies:

— what information relating to the TOE development shall be kept confidential, and which members of the development staff are allowed to access such material;

— what material shall be protected from unauthorized modification in order to preserve the integrity of the TOE, and which members of the development staff are allowed to modify such material.

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The evaluator should determine that these policies are described in the developer environment security documentation, that the security controls employed are consistent with the policies, and that they are complete.

It should be noted that configuration management procedures will help protect the integrity of the TOE and the evaluator should avoid overlap with the work-units conducted for the ALC_CMC (CM capabilities) (14.3). For example, the CM documentation can describe the security procedures necessary for controlling the roles or individuals who have access to the development environment and who can modify the TOE.

Whereas the ALC_CMC (CM capabilities) (14.3) requirements are fixed, those for ALC_DVS (Developer environment security), mandating only necessary controls, are dependent on the nature of the TOE, and on information provided in the ST. The evaluators would then determine that such a policy had been applied under this sub-activity.

14.6.1.4 Action ALC_DVS.1.2E

14.6.1.4.1 Evaluator action (ISO/IEC 15408-3:2026, 12.5.4)

The evaluator shall confirm that the security controls are being applied.

14.6.1.4.2 Work unit ALC_DVS.1-3

The evaluator ***shall examine*** the developer environment security documentation and associated evidence to determine that the security controls are being applied.

This work unit requires the evaluator to determine that the security controls described in the developer environment security documentation are being followed, such that the integrity of the TOE and the confidentiality of associated documentation is being adequately protected. For example, this can be determined by examination of the documentary evidence provided. Documentary evidence should be supplemented by visiting the development environment. A visit to the development environment will allow the evaluator to:

— observe the application of security controls (e.g. physical measures);

— examine documentary evidence of application of procedures;

— interview development staff to check awareness of the development security policies and procedures, and their responsibilities.

A development site visit is a useful means of gaining confidence in the measures being used. Any decision not to make such a visit shall be determined in consultation with the evaluation authority.

For requirements and guidance on site visits, see A.4.

14.6.2 Evaluation of sub-activity (ALC_DVS.2)

14.6.2.1 Objectives

The objective of this sub-activity is to determine whether the developer's security controls on the development environment are adequate to provide the confidentiality and integrity of the TOE design and implementation that is necessary to ensure that secure operation of the TOE is not compromised. Additionally, sufficiency of the measures as applied is intended be justified.

14.6.2.2 Input

Input for ALC_DVS.2 consists of the following:

— the ST;

— the developer environment security documentation.

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In addition, the evaluator shall examine other deliverables to determine that the security controls are well-defined and followed. Specifically, the evaluator shall examine the developer's configuration management documentation (the input for ALC_CMC.4 (Production support, acceptance procedures and automation) (14.3.4) and ALC_CMS.4 (Problem tracking CM coverage) (14.4.4)). Evidence that the procedures are being applied is also required.

14.6.2.3 Action ALC_DVS.2.1E

14.6.2.3.1 Evaluator action (ISO/IEC 15408-3:2026, 12.5.5)

The evaluator shall confirm that the information provided meets all requirements for content and presentation of evidence.

14.6.2.3.2 Content requirement ALC_DVS.2.1C (ISO/IEC 15408-3:2026, 12.5.5)

The developer environment security documentation shall describe all the physical, logical, procedural, personnel, and other security controls that are necessary to protect the confidentiality and integrity of the TOE design and implementation in its development environment.

14.6.2.3.3 Work unit ALC_DVS.2-1

The evaluator ***shall examine*** the developer environment security documentation to determine that it details all security controls used in the development environment that are necessary to protect the confidentiality and integrity of the TOE design and implementation.

The evaluator determines what is necessary by first referring to the ST for any information that can assist in the determination of necessary protection.

If no explicit information is available from the ST the evaluator shall make a determination of the necessary measures. In cases where the developer's measures are considered less than what is necessary, a clear justification should be provided for the assessment, based on a potentially exploitable vulnerability.

The following types of security controls are considered by the evaluator when examining the documentation:

— physical, for example physical access controls used to prevent unauthorized access to the TOE development environment (during normal working hours and at other times);

— procedural, for example covering:

  — granting of access to the development environment or to specific parts of the environment such as development machines,

  — revocation of access rights when a person leaves the development team,

  — transfer of protected material out of the development environment and between different development sites in accordance with defined acceptance procedures,

  — admitting and escorting visitors to the development environment;

— roles and responsibilities in ensuring the continued application of security measures, and the detection of security breaches;

— personnel, for example any controls or checks made to establish the trustworthiness of new development staff;

— other security measures, for example the logical protections on any development machines.

The developer environment security documentation shall identify the locations at which development occurs, and describe the aspects of development performed, along with the security measures applied at each location and for transports between different locations. For example, development can occur at multiple facilities within a single building, multiple buildings at the same site, or at multiple sites. Transports

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of parts of the TOE or the unfinished TOE between different development sites shall be covered by ALC_DVS (Developer environment security), whereas the transport of the finished TOE to the recipient is dealt with in the ALC_DEL (Delivery) (14.5).

Development includes the production of the TOE.

14.6.2.3.4 Content requirement ALC_DVS.2.2C (ISO/IEC 15408-3:2026, 12.5.5)

The developer environment security documentation shall justify that the security controls provide the necessary level of protection to maintain the confidentiality and integrity of the TOE.

14.6.2.3.5 Work unit ALC_DVS.2-2

The evaluator ***shall examine*** the developer environment security documentation to determine that an appropriate justification is given why the security controls provide the necessary level of protection to maintain the confidentiality and integrity of the TOE.

Since attacks on the TOE or its related information are assumed in different design and production stages, measures and procedures shall have an appropriate level necessary to prevent those attacks or to make them more difficult.

Since this level depends on the overall attack potential claimed for the TOE (i.e. the AVA_VAN (Vulnerability analysis) (16.3) component chosen), the developer environment security documentation should justify the necessary level of protection to maintain the confidentiality and integrity of the TOE. This level shall be achieved by the security controls applied.

The concept of protection measures should be consistent, and the justification should include an analysis of how the measures are mutually supportive. All aspects of development and production on all the different sites with all roles involved up to delivery of the TOE shall be analysed.

Justification can include an analysis of potential vulnerabilities taking the applied security measures into account.

Examples where convincing arguments can be required as part of an appropriate justification are where:

— the technical controls and mechanisms of the developer's infrastructure are sufficient for keeping the appropriate security level (e.g. cryptographic mechanisms as well as physical protection mechanisms, properties of the CM system (see ALC_CMC.4-5 (14.3.4.3.10));

— the system containing the implementation representation of the TOE (including all related guidance documents) provides effective protection against logical attacks e.g. by "Trojan" code or viruses. It can be adequate, if the implementation representation is kept on an isolated system where only the software necessary to maintain it is installed and where no additional software is installed afterwards;

— data brought into this system is carefully considered to prevent the installation of hidden functionality onto the system. The effectiveness of these measures shall be tested, e.g. by independently trying to get access to the machine, installing some additional executable or getting some information out of the machine using logical attacks;

— the appropriate organizational (procedural and personal) measures are unconditionally enforced.

14.6.2.3.6 Work unit ALC_DVS.2-3

The evaluator ***shall examine*** the developer environment confidentiality and integrity policies in order to determine the sufficiency of the security measures employed.

The evaluator should examine whether the following is included in the policies:

— what information relating to the TOE development shall be kept confidential, and which members of the development staff are allowed to access such material;

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— what material shall be protected from unauthorized modification in order to preserve the integrity of the TOE, and which members of the development staff are allowed to modify such material.

The evaluator should determine that these policies are described in the developer environment security documentation, that the security controls employed are consistent with the policies, and that they are complete.

It should be noted that configuration management procedures will help protect the integrity of the TOE and the evaluator should avoid overlap with the work-units conducted for the ALC_CMC (CM capabilities) (14.3). For example, the CM documentation can describe the security procedures necessary for controlling the roles or individuals who have access to the development environment and who can modify the TOE.

Whereas the ALC_CMC (CM capabilities) (14.3) requirements are fixed, those for ALC_DVS (Developer environment security), mandating only necessary measures, are dependent on the nature of the TOE, and on information provided in the ST. For example, the ST can identify a security objective for the development environment that requires the TOE to be developed by staff that have security clearance. The evaluators would then determine that such a policy had been applied under this sub-activity.

14.6.2.4 Action ALC_DVS.2.2E

14.6.2.4.1 Evaluator action (ISO/IEC 15408-3:2026, 12.5.5)

The evaluator shall confirm that the security controls are being applied.

14.6.2.4.2 Work unit ALC_DVS.2-4

The evaluator ***shall examine*** the developer environment security documentation and associated evidence to determine that the security controls are being applied.

This work unit requires the evaluator to determine that the security controls described in the developer environment security documentation are being followed, such that the integrity of the TOE and the confidentiality of associated documentation is being adequately protected. For example, this can be determined by examination of the documentary evidence provided. Documentary evidence should be supplemented by visiting the development environment. A visit to the development environment will allow the evaluator to:

— observe the application of security measures (e.g. physical measures);

— examine documentary evidence of application of procedures;

— interview development staff to check awareness of the development security policies and procedures, and their responsibilities.

A development site visit is a useful means of gaining confidence in the measures being used. Any decision not to make such a visit shall be determined in consultation with the evaluation authority.

For requirements and guidance on site visits, see A.4.

14.7 Flaw remediation (ALC_FLR)

14.7.1 Evaluation of sub-activity (ALC_FLR.1)

14.7.1.1 Objectives

The objective of this sub-activity is to determine whether the developer has established flaw remediation procedures that describe the tracking of security flaws, the identification of corrective actions, and the distribution of corrective action information to TOE users.

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14.7.1.2 Input

Input for ALC_FLR.1 consists of the following:

— documentation of the flaw remediation procedures.

14.7.1.3 Action ALC_FLR.1.1E

14.7.1.3.1 Evaluator action (ISO/IEC 15408-3:2026, 12.6.4)

The evaluator shall confirm that the information provided meets all requirements for content and presentation of evidence.

14.7.1.3.2 Content requirement ALC_FLR.1.1C (ISO/IEC 15408-3:2026, 12.6.4)

The documentation of the flaw remediation procedures shall describe the procedures used to track all reported security flaws in each release of the TOE.

14.7.1.3.3 Work unit ALC_FLR.1-1

The evaluator ***shall examine*** the flaw remediation procedures documentation to determine that it describes the procedures used to track all reported security flaws in each release of the TOE.

The procedures describe the actions that are taken by the developer from the time each suspected security flaw is reported to the time that it is resolved. This includes the flaw's entire time frame, from initial detection through ascertaining that the flaw is a security flaw, to resolution of the security flaw.

If a flaw is discovered not to be security-relevant, there is no need (for the purposes of the ALC_FLR (Flaw remediation) requirements) for the flaw remediation procedures to track it further; only that there be an explanation of why the flaw is not security-relevant.

While these requirements do not mandate that there be a publicised means for TOE users to report security flaws, they do mandate that all security flaws that are reported be tracked. That is, a reported security flaw cannot be ignored simply because it comes from outside the developer's organisation.

14.7.1.3.4 Content requirement ALC_FLR.1.2C (ISO/IEC 15408-3:2026, 12.6.4)

The flaw remediation procedures shall require that a description of the nature and effect of each security flaw be provided, as well as the status of finding a correction to that flaw.

14.7.1.3.5 Work unit ALC_FLR.1-2

The evaluator ***shall examine*** the flaw remediation procedures to determine that the application of these procedures would produce a description of each security flaw in terms of its nature and effects.

The procedures identify the actions that are taken by the developer to describe the nature and effects of each security flaw in sufficient detail to be able to reproduce it. The description of the nature of a security flaw addresses whether it is an error in the documentation, a flaw in the design of the TSF, a flaw in the implementation of the TSF, etc. The description of the security flaw's effects identifies the portions of the TSF that are affected and how those portions are affected. For example, a security flaw in the implementation can be found that affects the identification and authentication enforced by the TSF by permitting authentication with the password "BACKDOOR".

14.7.1.3.6 Work unit ALC_FLR.1-3

The evaluator ***shall examine*** the flaw remediation procedures to determine that the application of these procedures would identify the status of finding a correction to each security flaw.

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The flaw remediation procedures identify the different stages of security flaws. This differentiation includes at least:

— suspected security flaws that have been reported,

— suspected security flaws that have been confirmed to be security flaws,

— security flaws whose solutions have been implemented.

It is permissible that additional stages be included, such as:

— flaws that have been reported but not yet investigated,

— flaws that are under investigation,

— security flaws for which a solution has been found but not yet implemented.

14.7.1.3.7 Content requirement ALC_FLR.1.3C (ISO/IEC 15408-3:2026, 12.6.4)

The flaw remediation procedures shall require that corrective actions be identified for each of the security flaws.

14.7.1.3.8 Work unit ALC_FLR.1-4

The evaluator ***shall check*** the flaw remediation procedures to determine that the application of these procedures would identify the corrective action for each security flaw.

Corrective action can consist of a repair to the hardware, firmware, or software portions of the TOE, a modification of TOE guidance, or both. Corrective action that constitutes modifications to TOE guidance (e.g. details of procedural measures to be taken to obviate the security flaw) includes both those measures serving as only an interim solution (until the repair is issued) as well as those serving as a permanent solution (where it is determined that the procedural measure is the best solution).

If the source of the security flaw is a documentation error, the corrective action consists of an update of the affected TOE guidance. If the corrective action is a procedural measure, this measure will include an update made to the affected TOE guidance to reflect these corrective procedures.

14.7.1.3.9 Content requirement ALC_FLR.1.4C (ISO/IEC 15408-3:2026, 12.6.4)

The documentation of the flaw remediation procedures shall describe the methods used to provide flaw information, corrections and guidance on corrective actions to TOE users.

14.7.1.3.10 Work unit ALC_FLR.1-5

The evaluator ***shall examine*** the flaw remediation procedures documentation to determine that it describes a means of providing the TOE users with the necessary information on each security flaw.

The necessary information about each security flaw consists of its description (not necessarily at the same level of detail as that provided as part of work unit ALC_FLR.1-2 (14.7.1.3.5)), the prescribed corrective action, and any associated guidance on implementing the correction.

TOE users can be provided with such information, correction, and documentation updates in any of several ways, such as their posting to a website, their being sent to TOE users, or arrangements made for the developer to install the correction. In cases where the means of providing this information requires action to be initiated by the TOE user, the evaluator examines any TOE guidance to ensure that it contains instructions for retrieving the information.

The only metric for assessing the adequacy of the method used for providing the information, corrections and guidance is that there be a reasonable expectation that TOE users can obtain or receive it. For example, consider the method of dissemination where the requisite data is posted to a website for one month, and the TOE users know that this will happen and when this will happen. This will not be especially reasonable

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or effective, when compared to a permanent posting to the website, yet it is feasible that the TOE user can obtain the necessary information. On the other hand, if the information were posted to the website for only one hour, yet TOE users had no way of knowing this or when it would be posted, it is infeasible that they would ever get the necessary information.

14.7.2 Evaluation of sub-activity (ALC_FLR.2)

14.7.2.1 Objectives

The objective of this sub-activity is to determine whether the developer has established flaw remediation procedures that describe the tracking of security flaws, the identification of corrective actions, and the distribution of corrective action information to TOE users. Additionally, this sub-activity determines whether the developer's procedures provide for the corrections of security flaws, for the receipt of flaw reports from TOE users, and for assurance that the corrections introduce no new security flaws.

In order for the developer to be able to act appropriately upon security flaw reports from TOE users, it is necessary for TOE users to understand how to submit security flaw reports to the developer, and developers to know how to receive these reports. Flaw remediation guidance addressed to the TOE user ensures that TOE users are aware of how to communicate with the developer. Flaw remediation procedures shall also describe any expected responses and associated actions from the developer.

14.7.2.2 Input

Input for ALC_FLR.2 consists of the following:

— documentation of the flaw remediation procedures;

— flaw remediation guidance documentation.

14.7.2.3 Action ALC_FLR.2.1E

14.7.2.3.1 Evaluator action (ISO/IEC 15408-3:2026, 12.6.5)

The evaluator shall confirm that the information provided meets all requirements for content and presentation of evidence.

14.7.2.3.2 Content requirement ALC_FLR.2.1C (ISO/IEC 15408-3:2026, 12.6.5)

The documentation of the flaw remediation procedures shall describe the procedures used to track all reported security flaws in each release of the TOE.

14.7.2.3.3 Work unit ALC_FLR.2-1

The evaluator ***shall examine*** the flaw remediation procedures documentation to determine that it describes the procedures used to track all reported security flaws in each release of the TOE.

The procedures describe the actions that are taken by the developer from the time each suspected security flaw is reported to the time that it is resolved. This includes the flaw's entire time frame, from initial detection through ascertaining that the flaw is a security flaw, to resolution of the security flaw.

If a flaw is discovered not to be security-relevant, there is no need (for the purposes of the ALC_FLR (Flaw remediation) requirements) for the flaw remediation procedures to track it further; only that there be an explanation of why the flaw is not security-relevant.

14.7.2.3.4 Content requirement ALC_FLR.2.2C (ISO/IEC 15408-3:2026, 12.6.5)

The flaw remediation procedures shall require that a description of the nature and effect of each security flaw be provided, as well as the status of finding a correction to that flaw.

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14.7.2.3.5 Work unit ALC_FLR.2-2

The evaluator ***shall examine*** the flaw remediation procedures to determine that the application of these procedures would produce a description of each security flaw in terms of its nature and effects.

The procedures identify the actions that are taken by the developer to describe the nature and effects of each security flaw in sufficient detail to be able to reproduce it. The description of the nature of a security flaw addresses whether it is an error in the documentation, a flaw in the design of the TSF, a flaw in the implementation of the TSF, etc. The description of the security flaw's effects identifies the portions of the TSF that are affected and how those portions are affected. For example, a security flaw in the implementation can be found that affects the identification and authentication enforced by the TSF by permitting authentication with the password "BACKDOOR".

14.7.2.3.6 Work unit ALC_FLR.2-3

The evaluator ***shall examine*** the flaw remediation procedures to determine that the application of these procedures would identify the status of finding a correction to each security flaw.

The flaw remediation procedures identify the different stages of security flaws. This differentiation includes at least:

— suspected security flaws that have been reported,

— suspected security flaws that have been confirmed to be security flaws,

— security flaws whose solutions have been implemented.

It is permissible that additional stages be included such as:

— flaws that have been reported but not yet investigated,

— flaws that are under investigation,

— security flaws for which a solution has been found but not yet implemented.

14.7.2.3.7 Content requirement ALC_FLR.2.3C (ISO/IEC 15408-3:2026, 12.6.5)

The flaw remediation procedures shall require that corrective actions be identified for each of the security flaws.

14.7.2.3.8 Work unit ALC_FLR.2-4

The evaluator ***shall check*** the flaw remediation procedures to determine that the application of these procedures would identify the corrective action for each security flaw.

Corrective action can consist of a repair to the hardware, firmware, or software portions of the TOE, a modification of TOE guidance, or both. Corrective action that constitutes modifications to TOE guidance (e.g. details of procedural measures to be taken to obviate the security flaw) includes both those measures serving as only an interim solution (until the repair is issued) as well as those serving as a permanent solution (where it is determined that the procedural measure is the best solution).

If the source of the security flaw is a documentation error, the corrective action consists of an update of the affected TOE guidance. If the corrective action is a procedural measure, this measure will include an update made to the affected TOE guidance to reflect these corrective procedures.

14.7.2.3.9 Content requirement ALC_FLR.2.4C (ISO/IEC 15408-3:2026, 12.6.5)

The documentation of the flaw remediation procedures shall describe the methods used to provide flaw information, corrections and guidance on corrective actions to TOE users.

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14.7.2.3.10 Work unit ALC_FLR.2-5

The evaluator ***shall examine*** the flaw remediation procedures documentation to determine that it describes a means of providing the TOE users with the necessary information on each security flaw.

The necessary information about each security flaw consists of its description (not necessarily at the same level of detail as that provided as part of work unit ALC_FLR.2-2 (14.7.2.3.5)), the prescribed corrective action, and any associated guidance on implementing the correction.

TOE users can be provided with such information, correction, and documentation updates in any of several ways, such as their posting to a website, their being sent to TOE users, or arrangements made for the developer to install the correction. In cases where the means of providing this information requires action to be initiated by the TOE user, the evaluator examines any TOE guidance to ensure that it contains instructions for retrieving the information.

The only metric for assessing the adequacy of the method used for providing the information, corrections and guidance is that there be a reasonable expectation that TOE users can obtain or receive it. For example, consider the method of dissemination where the requisite data is posted to a website for one month, and the TOE users know that this will happen and when this will happen. This will not be especially reasonable or effective, when compared to a permanent posting to the website, yet it is feasible that the TOE user can obtain the necessary information. On the other hand, if the information were posted to the website for only one hour, yet TOE users had no way of knowing this or when it would be posted, it is infeasible that they would ever get the necessary information.

14.7.2.3.11 Content requirement ALC_FLR.2.5C (ISO/IEC 15408-3:2026, 12.6.5)

The flaw remediation procedures shall describe a means by which the developer receives from TOE users reports and enquiries of suspected security flaws in the TOE.

14.7.2.3.12 Work unit ALC_FLR.2-6

The evaluator ***shall examine*** the flaw remediation procedures to determine that they describe procedures for the developer to accept reports of security flaws or requests for corrections to such flaws.

The procedures ensure that TOE users have a means by which they can communicate with the TOE developer. By having a means of contact with the developer, the user can report security flaws, enquire about the status of security flaws, or request corrections to flaws. This means of contact can be part of a more general contact facility for reporting non-security related problems.

The use of these procedures is not restricted to TOE users; however, only the TOE users are actively supplied with the details of these procedures. Others who can have access to or familiarity with the TOE can use the same procedures to submit reports to the developer, who is then expected to process them. Any means of submitting reports to the developer, other than those identified by the developer, are beyond the scope of this work unit; reports generated by other means are not required to be addressed.

14.7.2.3.13 Content requirement ALC_FLR.2.6C (ISO/IEC 15408-3:2026, 12.6.5)

The procedures for processing reported security flaws shall ensure that any reported flaws are remediated and the remediation procedures issued to TOE users.

14.7.2.3.14 Work unit ALC_FLR.2-7

The evaluator ***shall examine*** the flaw remediation procedures to determine that the application of these procedures would help to ensure every reported flaw is corrected.

The flaw remediation procedures cover not only those security flaws discovered and reported by developer personnel, but also those reported by TOE users. The procedures are sufficiently detailed so that they describe how it is ensured that each reported security flaw is corrected. The procedures contain reasonable steps that show progress leading to the eventual, inevitable resolution.

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The procedures describe the process that is taken from the point at which the suspected security flaw is determined to be a security flaw to the point at which it is resolved.

14.7.2.3.15 Work unit ALC_FLR.2-8

The evaluator ***shall examine*** the flaw remediation procedures to determine that the application of these procedures would help to ensure that the TOE users are issued remediation procedures for each security flaw.

The procedures describe the process that is taken from the point at which a security flaw is resolved to the point at which the remediation procedures are provided. The procedures for delivering corrective actions should be consistent with the security objectives; it is not necessary that they be identical to the procedures used for delivering the TOE, as documented to meet ALC_DEL (Delivery) (14.5), if included in the assurance requirements. For example, if the hardware portion of a TOE were originally delivered by bonded courier, updates to hardware resulting from flaw remediation would likewise be expected to be distributed by bonded courier. Updates unrelated to flaw remediation would follow the procedures set forth in the documentation meeting the ALC_DEL (Delivery) (14.5) requirements.

14.7.2.3.16 Content requirement ALC_FLR.2.7C (ISO/IEC 15408-3:2026, 12.6.5)

The procedures for processing reported security flaws shall provide safeguards that any corrections to these security flaws do not introduce any new flaws.

14.7.2.3.17 Work unit ALC_FLR.2-9

The evaluator ***shall examine*** the flaw remediation procedures to determine that the application of these procedures would result in safeguards that the potential correction contains no adverse effects.

Through analysis, testing, or a combination of the two, the developer can reduce the likelihood that adverse effects will be introduced when a security flaw is corrected. The evaluator assesses whether the procedures provide sufficient detail of how the necessary mix of analysis and testing actions can be determined for a given correction.

The evaluator also determines that, for instances where the source of the security flaw is a documentation problem, the procedures include the means of safeguarding against the introduction of contradictions with other documentation.

14.7.2.3.18 Content requirement ALC_FLR.2.8C (ISO/IEC 15408-3:2026, 12.6.5)

The flaw remediation guidance shall describe a means by which TOE users report to the developer any suspected security flaws in the TOE.

14.7.2.3.19 Work unit ALC_FLR.2-10

The evaluator ***shall examine*** the flaw remediation guidance to determine that the application of these procedures would result in a means for the TOE user to provide reports of suspected security flaws or requests for corrections to such flaws.

The guidance ensures that TOE users have a means by which they can communicate with the TOE developer. By having a means of contact with the developer, the user can report security flaws, enquire about the status of security flaws, or request corrections to flaws.

14.7.3 Evaluation of sub-activity (ALC_FLR.3)

14.7.3.1 Objectives

The objective of this sub-activity is to determine whether the developer has established flaw remediation procedures that describe the tracking of security flaws, the identification of corrective actions, and the distribution of corrective action information to TOE users. Additionally, this sub-activity determines whether

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the developer's procedures provide for the corrections of security flaws, for the receipt of flaw reports from TOE users, for assurance that the corrections introduce no new security flaws, for the establishment of a point of contact for each TOE user, and for the timely issue of corrective actions to TOE users.

In order for the developer to be able to act appropriately upon security flaw reports from TOE users, it is necessary for TOE users to understand how to submit security flaw reports to the developer, and for developers to know how to receive these reports. Flaw remediation guidance addressed to the TOE user ensures that TOE users are aware of how to communicate with the developer; flaw remediation procedures describe the developer's role is such communication.

14.7.3.2 Input

Input for ALC_FLR.3 consists of the following:

— documentation of the flaw remediation procedures;

— flaw remediation guidance documentation.

14.7.3.3 Action ALC_FLR.3.1E

14.7.3.3.1 Evaluator action (ISO/IEC 15408-3:2026, 12.6.6)

The evaluator shall confirm that the information provided meets all requirements for content and presentation of evidence.

14.7.3.3.2 Content requirement ALC_FLR.3.1C (ISO/IEC 15408-3:2026, 12.6.6)

The documentation of the flaw remediation procedures shall describe the procedures used to track all reported security flaws in each release of the TOE.

14.7.3.3.3 Work unit ALC_FLR.3-1

The evaluator ***shall examine*** the flaw remediation procedures documentation to determine that it describes the procedures used to track all reported security flaws in each release of the TOE.

The procedures describe the actions that are taken by the developer from the time each suspected security flaw is reported to the time that it is resolved. This includes the flaw's entire time frame, from initial detection through ascertaining that the flaw is a security flaw, to resolution of the security flaw.

If a flaw is discovered not to be security-relevant, there is no need (for the purposes of the ALC_FLR (Flaw remediation) requirements) for the flaw remediation procedures to track it further; only that there be an explanation of why the flaw is not security-relevant.

14.7.3.3.4 Content requirement ALC_FLR.3.2C (ISO/IEC 15408-3:2026, 12.6.6)

The flaw remediation procedures shall require that a description of the nature and effect of each security flaw be provided, as well as the status of finding a correction to that flaw.

14.7.3.3.5 Work unit ALC_FLR.3-2

The evaluator ***shall examine*** the flaw remediation procedures to determine that the application of these procedures would produce a description of each security flaw in terms of its nature and effects.

The procedures identify the actions that are taken by the developer to describe the nature and effects of each security flaw in sufficient detail to be able to reproduce it. The description of the nature of a security flaw addresses whether it is an error in the documentation, a flaw in the design of the TSF, a flaw in the implementation of the TSF, etc. The description of the security flaw's effects identifies the portions of the TSF that are affected and how those portions are affected. For example, a security flaw in the implementation can

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be found that affects the identification and authentication enforced by the TSF by permitting authentication with the password "BACKDOOR".

14.7.3.3.6 Work unit ALC_FLR.3-3

The evaluator ***shall examine*** the flaw remediation procedures to determine that the application of these procedures would identify the status of finding a correction to each security flaw.

The flaw remediation procedures identify the different stages of security flaws. This differentiation includes at least:

— suspected security flaws that have been reported,

— suspected security flaws that have been confirmed to be security flaws,

— security flaws whose solutions have been implemented.

It is permissible that additional stages be included such as:

— flaws that have been reported but not yet investigated,

— flaws that are under investigation,

— security flaws for which a solution has been found but not yet implemented.

14.7.3.3.7 Content requirement ALC_FLR.3.3C (ISO/IEC 15408-3:2026, 12.6.6)

The flaw remediation procedures shall require that corrective actions be identified for each of the security flaws.

14.7.3.3.8 Work unit ALC_FLR.3-4

The evaluator ***shall check*** the flaw remediation procedures to determine that the application of these procedures would identify the corrective action for each security flaw.

Corrective action can consist of a repair to the hardware, firmware, or software portions of the TOE, a modification of TOE guidance, or both. Corrective action that constitutes modifications to TOE guidance (e.g. details of procedural measures to be taken to obviate the security flaw) includes both those measures serving as only an interim solution (until the repair is issued) as well as those serving as a permanent solution (where it is determined that the procedural measure is the best solution).

If the source of the security flaw is a documentation error, the corrective action consists of an update of the affected TOE guidance. If the corrective action is a procedural measure, this measure will include an update made to the affected TOE guidance to reflect these corrective procedures.

14.7.3.3.9 Content requirement ALC_FLR.3.4C (ISO/IEC 15408-3:2026, 12.6.6)

The documentation of the flaw remediation procedures shall describe the methods used to provide flaw information, corrections and guidance on corrective actions to TOE users.

14.7.3.3.10 Work unit ALC_FLR.3-5

The evaluator ***shall examine*** the flaw remediation procedures documentation to determine that it describes a means of providing the TOE users with the necessary information on each security flaw.

The necessary information about each security flaw consists of its description (not necessarily at the same level of detail as that provided as part of work unit ALC_FLR.3-2 (14.7.3.3.5)), the prescribed corrective action, and any associated guidance on implementing the correction.

TOE users can be provided with such information, correction, and documentation updates in any of several ways, such as their posting to a website, their being sent to TOE users, or arrangements made for

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the developer to install the correction. In cases where the means of providing this information requires action to be initiated by the TOE user, the evaluator examines any TOE guidance to ensure that it contains instructions for retrieving the information.

The only metric for assessing the adequacy of the method used for providing the information, corrections and guidance is that there be a reasonable expectation that TOE users can obtain or receive it. For example, consider the method of dissemination where the requisite data is posted to a website for one month, and the TOE users know that this will happen and when this will happen. This will not be especially reasonable or effective (as, say, a permanent posting to the website), yet it is feasible that the TOE user can obtain the necessary information. On the other hand, if the information were posted to the website for only one hour, yet TOE users had no way of knowing this or when it would be posted, it is infeasible that they would ever get the necessary information.

For TOE users who register with the developer (see work unit ALC_FLR.3-12 (14.7.3.3.22)), the passive availability of this information is not sufficient. Developers shall actively send the information (or a notification of its availability) to registered TOE users.

14.7.3.3.11 Content requirement ALC_FLR.3.5C (ISO/IEC 15408-3:2026, 12.6.6)

The flaw remediation procedures shall describe a means by which the developer receives from TOE users reports and enquiries of suspected security flaws in the TOE.

14.7.3.3.12 Work unit ALC_FLR.3-6

The evaluator ***shall examine*** the flaw remediation procedures to determine that the application of these procedures would result in a means for the developer to receive from TOE user reports of suspected security flaws or requests for corrections to such flaws.

The procedures ensure that TOE users have a means by which they can communicate with the TOE developer. By having a means of contact with the developer, the user can report security flaws, enquire about the status of security flaws, or request corrections to flaws. This means of contact can be part of a more general contact facility for reporting non-security related problems.

The use of these procedures is not restricted to TOE users; however, only the TOE users are actively supplied with the details of these procedures. Others who can have access to or familiarity with the TOE can use the same procedures to submit reports to the developer, who is then expected to process them. Any means of submitting reports to the developer, other than those identified by the developer, are beyond the scope of this work unit; reports generated by other means are not required to be addressed.

14.7.3.3.13 Content requirement ALC_FLR.3.6C (ISO/IEC 15408-3:2026, 12.6.6)

The flaw remediation procedures shall include a procedure requiring timely response and the automatic distribution of security flaw reports and the associated corrections to registered users who can be affected by the security flaw.

14.7.3.3.14 Work unit ALC_FLR.3-7

The evaluator ***shall examine*** the flaw remediation procedures to determine that the application of these procedures would result in a timely means of providing the registered TOE users who can be affected with reports about, and associated corrections to, each security flaw.

The issue of timeliness applies to the issuance of both security flaw reports and the associated corrections. However, these are not required to issued at the same time. It is recognised that flaw reports should be generated and issued as soon as an interim solution is found, even if that solution is as drastic as turn off the TOE. Likewise, when a more permanent (and less drastic) solution is found, it should be issued without undue delay.

It is unnecessary to restrict the recipients of the reports and associated corrections to only those TOE users who can be affected by the security flaw; it is permissible that all TOE users be given such reports and corrections for all security flaws, provided such is done in a timely manner.

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14.7.3.3.15 Work unit ALC_FLR.3-8

The evaluator ***shall examine*** the flaw remediation procedures to determine that the application of these procedures would result in automatic distribution of the reports and associated corrections to the registered TOE users who can be affected.

Automatic distribution does not mean that human interaction with the distribution method is not permitted. In fact, the distribution method can consist entirely of manual procedures, perhaps through a closely monitored procedure with prescribed escalation upon the lack of issue of reports or corrections.

It is unnecessary to restrict the recipients of the reports and associated corrections to only those TOE users who can be affected by the security flaw; it is permissible that all TOE users be given such reports and corrections for all security flaws, provided such is done automatically.

14.7.3.3.16 Content requirement ALC_FLR.3.7C (ISO/IEC 15408-3:2026, 12.6.6)

The procedures for processing reported security flaws shall ensure that any reported flaws are remediated and the remediation procedures issued to TOE users.

14.7.3.3.17 Work unit ALC_FLR.3-9

The evaluator ***shall examine*** the flaw remediation procedures to determine that the application of these procedures would help to ensure that every reported flaw is corrected.

The flaw remediation procedures cover not only those security flaws discovered and reported by developer personnel, but also those reported by TOE users. The procedures are sufficiently detailed so that they describe how it is ensured that each reported security flaw is remediated. The procedures contain reasonable steps that show progress leading to the eventual, inevitable resolution.

The procedures describe the process that is taken from the point at which the suspected security flaw is determined to be a security flaw to the point at which it is resolved.

14.7.3.3.18 Work unit ALC_FLR.3-10

The evaluator ***shall examine*** the flaw remediation procedures to determine that the application of these procedures would help to ensure that the TOE users are issued remediation procedures for each security flaw.

The procedures describe the process that is taken from the point at which a security flaw is resolved to the point at which the remediation procedures are provided. The procedures for delivering remediation procedures should be consistent with the security objectives; it is not necessary that they be identical to the procedures used for delivering the TOE, as documented to meet ALC_DEL (Delivery) (14.5), if included in the assurance requirements. For example, if the hardware portion of a TOE were originally delivered by bonded courier, updates to hardware resulting from flaw remediation would likewise be expected to be distributed by bonded courier. Updates unrelated to flaw remediation would follow the procedures set forth in the documentation meeting the ALC_DEL (Delivery) (14.5) requirements.

14.7.3.3.19 Content requirement ALC_FLR.3.8C (ISO/IEC 15408-3:2026, 12.6.6)

The procedures for processing reported security flaws shall provide safeguards that any corrections to these security flaws do not introduce any new flaws.

14.7.3.3.20 Work unit ALC_FLR.3-11

The evaluator ***shall examine*** the flaw remediation procedures to determine that the application of these procedures would result in safeguards that the potential correction contains no adverse effects.

Through analysis, testing, or a combination of the two, the developer can reduce the likelihood that adverse effects will be introduced when a security flaw is corrected. The evaluator assesses whether the procedures

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provide detail of how the necessary mix of analysis and testing actions can be determined for a given correction.

The evaluator also determines that, for instances where the source of the security flaw is a documentation problem, the procedures include the means of safeguarding against the introduction of contradictions with other documentation.

14.7.3.3.21 Content requirement ALC_FLR.3.9C (ISO/IEC 15408-3:2026, 12.6.6)

The flaw remediation guidance shall describe a means by which TOE users report to the developer any suspected security flaws in the TOE.

14.7.3.3.22 Work unit ALC_FLR.3-12

The evaluator ***shall examine*** the flaw remediation guidance to determine that the application of these procedures would result in a means for the TOE user to provide reports of suspected security flaws or requests for corrections to such flaws.

The guidance ensures that TOE users have a means by which they can communicate with the TOE developer. By having a means of contact with the developer, the user can report security flaws, enquire about the status of security flaws, or request corrections to flaws.

14.7.3.3.23 Content requirement ALC_FLR.3.10C (ISO/IEC 15408-3:2026, 12.6.6)

The flaw remediation guidance shall describe a means by which TOE users can register with the developer, to be eligible to receive security flaw reports and corrections.

14.7.3.3.24 Work unit ALC_FLR.3-13

The evaluator ***shall examine*** the flaw remediation guidance to determine that it describes a means of enabling the TOE users to register with the developer.

Enabling the TOE users to register with the developer simply means having a way for each TOE user to provide the developer with a point of contact; this point of contact can be used to provide the TOE user with information related to security flaws that can affect that TOE user, along with any corrections to the security flaw. Registering the TOE user can be accomplished as part of the standard procedures that TOE users undergo to identify themselves to the developer, for the purposes of registering a software licence, or for obtaining update and other useful information.

It is not required that there be one registered TOE user per installation of the TOE; it would be sufficient if there were one registered TOE user for an organisation. For example, it is possible that a corporate TOE user has a centralised acquisition office for all of its sites. In this case, the acquisition office can be a sufficient point of contact for all of that TOE user's sites, so that all of the TOE user's installations of the TOE have a registered point of contact.

In either case, it shall be possible to associate each TOE that is delivered with an organisation in order to ensure that there is a registered user for each TOE. For organisations that have many different addresses, this assures that there will be no user who is erroneously presumed to be covered by a registered TOE user.

It should be noted that although TOE users are not required to register, they shall be provided with a means of doing so. Users who choose to register shall be directly sent the information (or a notification of its availability).

14.7.3.3.25 Content requirement ALC_FLR.3.11C (ISO/IEC 15408-3:2026, 12.6.6)

The flaw remediation guidance shall identify the specific points of contact for all reports and enquiries about security issues involving the TOE.

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14.7.3.3.26 Work unit ALC_FLR.3-14

The evaluator ***shall examine*** the flaw remediation guidance to determine that it identifies specific points of contact for user reports and enquiries about security issues involving the TOE.

The guidance includes a means whereby registered TOE users can interact with the developer to report discovered security flaws in the TOE or to make enquiries regarding discovered security flaws in the TOE.

14.8 Development life cycle definition (ALC_LCD)

14.8.1 Evaluation of sub-activity (ALC_LCD.1)

14.8.1.1 Objectives

The objective of this sub-activity is to determine whether the developer has used a documented model of the TOE life cycle.

14.8.1.2 Input

Input for ALC_LCD.1 consists of the following:

— the ST;

— the life cycle definition documentation.

14.8.1.3 Action ALC_LCD.1.1E

14.8.1.3.1 Evaluator action (ISO/IEC 15408-3:2026, 12.7.4)

The evaluator shall confirm that the information provided meets all requirements for content and presentation of evidence.

14.8.1.3.2 Content requirement ALC_LCD.1.1C (ISO/IEC 15408-3:2026, 12.7.4)

The life cycle definition documentation shall describe the processes used to develop and maintain the TOE.

14.8.1.3.3 Work unit ALC_LCD.1-1

The evaluator ***shall examine*** the documented description of the life cycle model used to determine that it covers the development and maintenance process.

The description of the life cycle model should include:

— information on the life cycle phases of the TOE and the boundaries between the subsequent phases;

— information on the procedures, tools and techniques used by the developer (e.g. for design, coding, testing, bug-fixing);

— overall management structure governing the application of the procedures (e.g. an identification and description of the individual responsibilities for each of the procedures required by the development and maintenance process covered by the life cycle model);

— information on which parts of the TOE are delivered by subcontractors, if subcontractors are involved.

Evaluation of this sub-activity does not require the model used to conform to any standard life cycle model.

14.8.1.3.4 Content requirement ALC_LCD.1.2C (ISO/IEC 15408-3:2026, 12.7.4)

The life cycle model shall provide for the necessary control over the development and maintenance of the TOE.

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14.8.1.3.5 Work unit ALC_LCD.1-2

The evaluator ***shall examine*** the life cycle model to determine that use of the procedures, tools and techniques described by the life cycle model will make the necessary positive contribution to the development and maintenance of the TOE.

The information provided in the life cycle model gives the evaluator assurance that the development and maintenance procedures adopted would minimise the likelihood of security flaws. For example, if the life cycle model described the review process, but did not make provision for recording changes to components, then the evaluator can be less confident that errors will not be introduced into the TOE. The evaluator can gain further assurance by comparing the description of the model against an understanding of the development process gleaned from performing other evaluator actions relating to the TOE development (e.g. those covered under the ALC_CMC (CM capabilities) (14.3)). Identified deficiencies in the life cycle model will be of concern if they can reasonably be expected to give rise to the introduction of flaws into the TOE, either accidentally or deliberately.

ISO/IEC 15408 series does not mandate any particular development approach, and each should be judged on merit. For example, spiral, rapid-prototyping and waterfall approaches to design can all be used to produce a quality TOE if applied in a controlled environment.

14.8.2 Evaluation of sub-activity (ALC_LCD.2)

14.8.2.1 Objectives

The objective of this sub-activity is to determine whether the developer has used a documented and measurable model of the TOE life cycle.

14.8.2.2 Input

Input for ALC_LCD.2 consists of the following:

— the ST;

— the life cycle definition documentation;

— information about the standard used;

— the life cycle output documentation.

14.8.2.3 Action ALC_LCD.2.1E

14.8.2.3.1 Evaluator action (ISO/IEC 15408-3:2026, 12.7.5)

The evaluator shall confirm that the information provided meets all requirements for content and presentation of evidence.

14.8.2.3.2 Content requirement ALC_LCD.2.1C (ISO/IEC 15408-3:2026, 12.7.5)

The life cycle definition documentation shall describe the processes used to develop and maintain the TOE including the details of its arithmetic parameters, metrics, or a combination, used to measure the quality of either the TOE or its development, or both.

14.8.2.3.3 Work unit ALC_LCD.2-1

The evaluator ***shall examine*** the documented description of the life cycle model used to determine that it covers the development and maintenance process, including the details of its arithmetic parameters, metrics, or a combination of these, used to measure the TOE development.

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The description of the life cycle model includes:

— information on the life cycle phases of the TOE and the boundaries between the subsequent phases;

— information on the procedures, tools and techniques used by the developer (e.g. for design, coding, testing, bug-fixing);

— overall management structure governing the application of the procedures (e.g. an identification and description of the individual responsibilities for each of the procedures required by the development and maintenance process covered by the life cycle model);

— information on which parts of the TOE are delivered by subcontractors, if subcontractors are involved;

— information on the parameters and metrics that are used to measure the TOE development. Metrics standards typically include guides for measuring and producing reliable products and cover the aspects reliability, quality, performance, complexity and cost. For the evaluation all those metrics are of relevance, which are used to increase quality by decreasing the probability of faults and thereby in turn increase assurance in the security of the TOE.

14.8.2.3.4 Content requirement ALC_LCD.2.2C (ISO/IEC 15408-3:2026, 12.7.5)

The life cycle model shall provide for the necessary control over the development and maintenance of the TOE.

14.8.2.3.5 Work unit ALC_LCD.2-2

The evaluator ***shall examine*** the life cycle model to determine that use of the procedures, tools and techniques described by the life cycle model will make the necessary positive contribution to the development and maintenance of the TOE.

The information provided in the life cycle model gives the evaluator assurance that the development and maintenance procedures adopted would minimise the likelihood of security flaws. For example, if the life cycle model described the review process, but did not make provision for recording changes to components, then the evaluator can be less confident that errors will not be introduced into the TOE. The evaluator can gain further assurance by comparing the description of the model against an understanding of the development process gleaned from performing other evaluator actions relating to the TOE development (e.g. those covered under the ALC_CMC (CM capabilities) (14.3)). Identified deficiencies in the life cycle model will be of concern if they can reasonably be expected to give rise to the introduction of flaws into the TOE, either accidentally or deliberately.

The ISO/IEC 15408 series does not mandate any particular development approach, and each should be judged on merit. For example, spiral, rapid-prototyping and waterfall approaches to design can all be used to produce a quality TOE if applied in a controlled environment.

For the metrics and measurements used in the life cycle model, evidence shall be provided that shows how those metrics and measurements usefully contribute to the minimisation of the likelihood of flaws. This can be viewed as the overall goal for measurement the context of ALC (life cycle support). As a consequence, the metrics and measurements shall be selected based on their capability to achieve that overall goal or contribute to that. In the first place, a metric or measure is suitable with respect to ALC (life cycle support) if a correlation between the metric or measure and the number of flaws can be stated with a certain degree of reliability. Furthermore, a metric or measure useful for management purposes as for planning and monitoring the TOE development are helpful since badly managed projects are likely to produce bad quality and to introduce flaws.

It is possible to use metrics for quality improvement, in a way which is not immediately obvious. For example, a metric to estimate the expected cost of a product development can help quality, if the developer can show that this is used to provide an adequate budget for development projects and that this helps to avoid quality problems arising from resource shortages.

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It is not required that every single step in the life cycle of the TOE is measurable. However, the evaluator is expected to determine from the description of the measures and procedures that the metrics are appropriate to control the overall quality of the TOE and minimise possible security flaws.

14.8.2.3.6 Content requirement ALC_LCD.2.3C (ISO/IEC 15408-3:2026, 12.7.5)

The life cycle output documentation shall provide the results of the measurements of the TOE development using the measurable life cycle model.

14.8.2.3.7 Work unit ALC_LCD.2-3

The evaluator ***shall examine*** the life cycle output documentation to determine that it provides the results of the measurements of the TOE development using the measurable life cycle model.

The results of the measurements and the life cycle progress of the TOE shall be in accordance with the life cycle model.

The output documentation not only includes numeric values of the metrics but also documents actions taken as a result of the measurements and in accordance with the model. For example, there can be a requirement that a certain design phase shall be repeated, if some error rates measured during testing are outside of a defined threshold. In this case the documentation should show that such action was taken, if indeed the thresholds were not met.

If the evaluation is conducted in parallel with the development of the TOE it is possible that quality measurements have not been used in the past. In this case the evaluator should use the documentation of the planned procedures in order to gain confidence that corrective actions are defined if results of quality measurements deviate from some threshold.

14.8.2.4 Action ALC_LCD.2.2E

14.8.2.4.1 Evaluator action (ISO/IEC 15408-3:2026, 12.7.5)

The evaluator shall confirm that the measurements of the TOE development processes and security relevant properties of the TOE support improvements either in the development processes or the TOE itself, or both.

14.8.2.4.2 Work unit ALC_LCD.2-4

The evaluator ***shall examine*** the measurements of the TOE development processes and security relevant properties of the TOE to determine that they support improvements either in the development processes or the TOE itself, or both.

Using as a basis:

— the life cycle definition documentation that describes the model used to develop and maintain the TOE including the details of its arithmetic parameters, metrics, or a combination of these, used to measure the quality of the TOE or its development, or both (refer to ALC_LCD.2.1C (see ISO/IEC 15408-3:2026, 12.7.5) and ALC_LCD.2.2C (see ISO/IEC 15408-3:2026, 12.7.5)), and

— the life cycle output documentation that provides the results of the measurements of the TOE development using the measurable life cycle model (refer to ALC_LCD.2.3C (see ISO/IEC 15408-3:2026, 12.7.5))

and, in continuation of the work units ALC_LCD.2-2 (14.8.2.3.5) and ALC_LCD.2-3 (14.8.2.3.7) the evaluator analyses whether improvements in either the development processes, or the TOE itself, or both, take place in practice. This work unit requires the evaluator to determine if the documented procedures for quality improvement of either the development processes or the TOE itself, or both, as defined for the TOE's measurable life cycle model are being followed and whether the intended improvement (if applicable) is achieved.

If the evaluation is conducted in parallel with the development of the TOE, it is possible that quality measurements have not been used in the past. In this case the evaluator should refer to work unit ALC_

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LCD.2-3 (14.8.2.3.7) and use the documentation of the planned procedures in order to gain confidence that improvement actions are defined and being continuously followed.

14.9 TOE development artefacts (ALC_TDA)

14.9.1 Evaluation of sub-activity (ALC_TDA.1)

14.9.1.1 Objectives

The objectives of this sub-activity are to determine whether the developer has recorded the unique identifiers of the implementation representation which has been used to generate the TOE.

14.9.1.2 Input

Input for ALC_TDA.1 consists of the following:

— the ST;

— the list of TOE implementation representation identifiers as output from the developer action of ALC_TDA.1.1D (see ISO/IEC 15408-3:2026, 12.8.4);

— the list of TOE implementation representation element names;

— the timestamp of the list of TOE implementation representation identifiers as output from the developer action of ALC_TDA.1.2D (see ISO/IEC 15408-3:2026, 12.8.4);

— the (author) origination information of the list of TOE implementation representation identifiers;

— the developer documentation describing the following as required in ALC_TDA.1.6D (see ISO/IEC 15408-3:2026, 12.8.4):

  — the developer's creation of the list of unique TOE implementation representation identifiers as recorded during the TOE generation time,

  — the developer's timestamp being applied to the list of unique TOE implementation representation identifiers as recorded during the TOE generation time,

  — the maintenance of the (author) origination information of the list of unique TOE implementation representation identifiers as recorded during the TOE generation time,

  — the maintenance of the integrity of the list of unique TOE implementation representation identifiers as recorded during the TOE generation time and its associated timestamp and (author) origination information,

  — the developer's mechanism to trace from the TOE to the list of unique TOE implementation representation identifiers as recorded during the TOE generation time;

— the developer's mechanism to trace from the TOE to the list of unique TOE implementation representation identifiers as recorded during the TOE generation time;

— the user manual of the developer's development tool which use the TOE implementation representation.

14.9.1.3 Action ALC_TDA.1.1E

14.9.1.3.1 Evaluator action (ISO/IEC 15408-3:2026, 12.8.4)

The evaluator shall confirm that the information provided meets all requirements for content and presentation of evidence.

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14.9.1.3.2 Content requirement ALC_TDA.1.1C (ISO/IEC 15408-3:2026, 12.8.4)

The list of unique TOE implementation representation identifiers as recorded during the TOE generation time shall demonstrate the correspondence between the TOE implementation representation element identifiers and the TOE implementation representation element names.

14.9.1.3.3 Work unit ALC_TDA.1-1

The evaluator ***shall examine*** the developer documentation describing the developer's creation of the list of unique TOE implementation representation identifiers as recorded during the TOE generation time to determine that there is a correspondence between the TOE implementation representation identifiers and the TOE implementation representation element names.

If the developer simply uses the unique TOE implementation representation identifiers as the TOE implementation representation element names, then the correspondence is trivial. Otherwise, the correspondence should have the following effect. If two elements within the TOE implementation representation share the same name, then either they are the same or they are separately identified by two distinct identifiers.

If the TOE implementation representation elements are data files residing in a repository such as a hard drive or in the cloud, then the TOE implementation representation element names are just file names. In that case, it is possible that those two files in the hard drive or in the cloud share the same name, but they have different contents. As a result, two distinct identifiers are used to distinguish them. The correspondence between the TOE implementation representation element identifiers and the TOE implementation representation element names therefore maps or links the two distinct identifiers to the same file name.

14.9.1.4 Action ALC_TDA.1.2E

14.9.1.4.1 Evaluator action (ISO/IEC 15408-3:2026, 12.8.4)

The evaluator shall confirm that the development tool for generating the TOE is capable to use or reference the implementation representation element names.

14.9.1.4.2 Content requirement ALC_TDA.1.2C (ISO/IEC 15408-3:2026, 12.8.4)

The TOE implementation representation element names shall be in the same form as used or referenced by the development tool to generate the TOE.

14.9.1.4.3 Work unit ALC_TDA.1-2

The evaluator ***shall examine*** the user manual of the developer's development tool used to generate the TOE to determine that the development tool accepts the TOE implementation representation element names as its input parameters.

If the TOE implementation representation elements are data files residing in a repository such as a hard drive or in the cloud, then the evaluator can discover from the development tool user manual that the development tool accepts local or remote file names as its input parameters.

14.9.1.5 Action ALC_TDA.1.3E

14.9.1.5.1 Evaluator action (ISO/IEC 15408-3:2026, 12.8.4)

The evaluator shall confirm that the timestamp of the list of unique TOE implementation representation identifiers as recorded during the TOE generation time is consistent with the creation time of the TOE.

14.9.1.5.2 Content requirement ALC_TDA.1.3C (ISO/IEC 15408-3:2026, 12.8.4)

The timestamp of the list of unique TOE implementation representation identifiers as recorded during the TOE generation time shall be consistent with the creation time of the TOE.

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14.9.1.5.3 Work unit ALC_TDA.1-3

The evaluator ***shall check*** the timestamp of the list of TOE implementation representation identifiers as output from the developer action of ALC_TDA.1.2D (see ISO/IEC 15408-3:2026, 12.8.4) to ensure that it is consistent with the creation time of the TOE as referenced in the ST.

Consistency is confirmed by determining that the timestamp on the list of TOE implementation representation identifiers is earlier than the TOE creation time as referenced in the ST, and consistent with the time interval expected from the developer's build process (e.g. as described in deliverables for ALC_LCD (Development life cycle definition) (14.8)).

14.9.1.6 Action ALC_TDA.1.4E

14.9.1.6.1 Evaluator action (ISO/IEC 15408-3:2026, 12.8.4)

The evaluator shall confirm that the (author) origination information of the list of unique TOE implementation representation identifiers as recorded during the TOE generation time is consistent with the (author) origination information of the TOE.

14.9.1.6.2 Content requirement ALC_TDA.1.4C (ISO/IEC 15408-3:2026, 12.8.4)

The (author) origination information of the list of unique TOE implementation representation identifiers as recorded during the TOE generation time shall be consistent with the (author) origination information of the TOE. The author origination information can be the name of an affiliate of an organization.

14.9.1.6.3 Work unit ALC_TDA.1-4

The evaluator ***shall check*** the (author) origination information of the list of unique TOE implementation representation identifiers that it is consistent with the (author) origination information of the TOE as referenced in the ST.

This consistence means that the (author) origination of the list of unique TOE implementation representation identifiers is related to the (author) origination of the TOE in a reasonable manner.

A reasonable relationship is that the (author) origination of the list of unique TOE implementation representation identifiers is an employee, a contractor, a supplier, a subsidiary, or an organizational division of, or is identical to the (author) origination of the TOE.

14.9.1.7 Action ALC_TDA.1.5E

14.9.1.7.1 Evaluator action (ISO/IEC 15408-3:2026, 12.8.4)

The evaluator shall check the integrity of the list of unique TOE implementation representation identifiers as recorded during the TOE generation time and its associated timestamp and (author) origination information.

14.9.1.7.2 Work unit ALC_TDA.1-5

The evaluator ***shall check*** the integrity of the list of unique TOE implementation representation identifiers as recorded during the TOE generation time and its associated timestamp and (author) origination information by examining the developer documentation describing the maintenance of this integrity characteristic.

It is necessary that the developer documentation explains an applicable scenario where none of the following items is freely modified without any proper authorization after its initial existence:

— the list of unique TOE implementation representation identifiers;

— its associated timestamp;

— its associated (author) origination information.

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Applicable scenarios include the following:

— these items reside in an access-controlled location and the associated access log record indicates that these items have not been changed since their initial creation;

— these items are written in a read only media;

— these items are digitally signed and are verifiable with a valid public key.

14.9.1.8 Action ALC_TDA.1.6E

14.9.1.8.1 Evaluator action (ISO/IEC 15408-3:2026, 12.8.4)

The evaluator shall confirm the developer's ability to trace from the TOE to the list of unique TOE implementation representation identifiers as recorded during the TOE generation time.

14.9.1.8.2 Work unit ALC_TDA.1-6

The evaluator ***shall examine*** the developer documentation describing the developer's mechanism to trace from the TOE to the list of unique TOE implementation representation identifiers as recorded during the TOE generation time, so as to confirm the developer's ability to trace from the TOE to the list of unique TOE implementation representation identifiers.

It is necessary that the evaluator follows the developer documentation to find a list of identifiers using the TOE as its input and the evaluator checks that this list of identifiers matches the list of TOE implementation representation identifiers as output from the developer action ALC_TDA.1.1D (see ISO/IEC 15408-3:2026, 12.8.4).

It is acceptable that the developer uses a tracing mechanism that directly or indirectly writes the list of TOE implementation representation identifiers or its representation to the TOE. Alternatively, it is also acceptable that the developer uses a bill of materials database as a tracing mechanism to maintain the correspondence between the TOE and the list of TOE implementation representation identifiers.

14.9.2 Evaluation of sub-activity (ALC_TDA.2)

14.9.2.1 Objectives

The objectives of this sub-activity are to determine whether the elements of implementation representation maintained under the configuration scope of ALC_CMS.3 (Implementation representation CM coverage) (14.4.3) are identifiable using the developer's unique identifiers of the implementation representation as recorded during the TOE generation time.

14.9.2.2 Input

Input for ALC_TDA.2 consists of the following:

— the ST;

— the list of TOE implementation representation identifiers as output from the developer action of ALC_TDA.1.1D (see ISO/IEC 15408-3:2026, 12.8.4) or ALC_TDA.2.1D (see ISO/IEC 15408-3:2026, 12.8.5);

— the list of TOE implementation representation element names;

— the timestamp of the list of TOE implementation representation identifiers as output from the developer action of ALC_TDA.1.2D (see ISO/IEC 15408-3:2026, 12.8.4) or ALC_TDA.2.2D (see ISO/IEC 15408-3:2026, 12.8.5);

— the (author) origination information of the list of TOE implementation representation identifiers;

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— the developer documentation describing the following as required in ALC_TDA.1.6D (see ISO/IEC 15408-3:2026, 12.8.4) or ALC_TDA.2.6D (see ISO/IEC 15408-3:2026, 12.8.5):

  — the developer's creation of the list of unique TOE implementation representation identifiers as recorded during the TOE generation time,

  — the developer's timestamp being applied to the list of unique TOE implementation representation identifiers as recorded during the TOE generation time,

  — the maintenance of the (author) origination information of the list of unique TOE implementation representation identifiers as recorded during the TOE generation time,

  — the maintenance of the integrity of the list of unique TOE implementation representation identifiers as recorded during the TOE generation time and its associated timestamp and (author) origination information,

  — the developer's mechanism to trace from the TOE to the list of unique TOE implementation representation identifiers as recorded during the TOE generation time;

— the user manual of the developer's development tool which use the TOE implementation representation;

— the element names of implementation representation (as parts of the configuration list) under the configuration scope of ALC_CMS.3 (Implementation representation CM coverage) (14.4.3).

14.9.2.3 Action ALC_TDA.2.1E

14.9.2.3.1 Evaluator action (ISO/IEC 15408-3:2026, 12.8.5)

The evaluator shall confirm that the information provided meets all requirements for content and presentation of evidence.

14.9.2.3.2 Content requirement ALC_TDA.2.1C (ISO/IEC 15408-3:2026, 12.8.5)

The list of unique TOE implementation representation identifiers as recorded during the TOE generation time shall demonstrate the correspondence between the TOE implementation representation element identifiers and the TOE implementation representation element names.

14.9.2.3.3 Work unit ALC_TDA.2-1

The evaluator ***shall examine*** the developer documentation describing the developer's creation of the list of unique TOE implementation representation identifiers as recorded during the TOE generation time to determine that there is a correspondence between the TOE implementation representation identifiers and the TOE implementation representation element names.

If the developer simply uses the unique TOE implementation representation identifiers as the TOE implementation representation element names, then the correspondence is trivial. Otherwise, the correspondence should have the following effect. If two elements within the TOE implementation representation share the same name, then either they are the same or they are separately identified by two distinct identifiers.

If the TOE implementation representation elements are data files residing in a repository such as a hard drive or in the cloud, then the TOE implementation representation element names are just file names. In that case, it is possible that those two files in the hard drive or in the cloud share the same name, but they have different contents. As a result, two distinct identifiers are necessary to distinguish them apart. The correspondence between the TOE implementation representation element identifiers and the TOE implementation representation element names therefore maps or links the two distinct identifiers to the same file name.

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14.9.2.4 Action ALC_TDA.2.2E

14.9.2.4.1 Evaluator action (ISO/IEC 15408-3:2026, 12.8.5)

The evaluator shall confirm that the development tool for generating the TOE is capable to use or reference the implementation representation element names.

14.9.2.4.2 Content requirement ALC_TDA.2.2C (ISO/IEC 15408-3:2026, 12.8.5)

The TOE implementation representation element names shall be in the same form as used or referenced by the development tool to generate the TOE.

14.9.2.4.3 Work unit ALC_TDA.2-2

The evaluator ***shall examine*** the user manual of the developer's development tool used to generate the TOE to determine that the development tool accepts the TOE implementation representation element names as its input parameters.

If the TOE implementation representation elements are data files residing in a repository such as a hard drive or in the cloud, then the evaluator can discover from the development tool user manual whether the development tool accepts local or remote file names as its input parameters.

14.9.2.5 Action ALC_TDA.2.3E

14.9.2.5.1 Evaluator action (ISO/IEC 15408-3:2026, 12.8.5)

The evaluator shall confirm that the timestamp of the list of unique TOE implementation representation identifiers as recorded during the TOE generation time is consistent with the creation time of the TOE.

14.9.2.5.2 Content requirement ALC_TDA.2.3C (ISO/IEC 15408-3:2026, 12.8.5)

The timestamp of the list of unique TOE implementation representation identifiers as recorded during the TOE generation time shall be consistent with the creation time of the TOE.

14.9.2.5.3 Work unit ALC_TDA.2-3

The evaluator ***shall check*** the timestamp of the list of TOE implementation representation identifiers as output from the developer action of ALC_TDA.2.2D (see ISO/IEC 15408-3:2026, 12.8.5) to ensure that it is consistent with the creation time of the TOE as referenced in the ST.

Consistency is confirmed by determining that the timestamp on the list of TOE implementation representation identifiers is earlier than the TOE creation time as referenced in the ST, and consistent with the time interval expected from the developer's build process (e.g. as described in deliverables for ALC_LCD (Development life cycle definition) (14.8)).

14.9.2.6 Action ALC_TDA.2.4E

14.9.2.6.1 Evaluator action (ISO/IEC 15408-3:2026, 12.8.5)

The evaluator shall confirm that the (author) origination information of the list of unique TOE implementation representation identifiers as recorded during the TOE generation time is consistent with the (author) origination information of the TOE.

14.9.2.6.2 Content requirement ALC_TDA.2.4C (ISO/IEC 15408-3:2026, 12.8.5)

The (author) origination information of the list of unique TOE implementation representation identifiers as recorded during the TOE generation time shall be consistent with the (author) origination information of the TOE. The author origination information can be the name of an affiliate of an organization.

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14.9.2.6.3 Work unit ALC_TDA.2-4

The evaluator ***shall check*** the (author) origination information of the list of unique TOE implementation representation identifiers that it is consistent with the (author) origination information of the TOE as referenced in the ST.

This consistence means that the (author) origination of the list of unique TOE implementation representation identifiers is related to the (author) origination of the TOE in a justifiable manner.

A reasonable relationship is that the (author) origination of the list of unique TOE implementation representation identifiers is an employee, a contractor, a supplier, a subsidiary, or an organizational division of, or is identical to the (author) origination of the TOE.

14.9.2.7 Action ALC_TDA.2.5E

14.9.2.7.1 Evaluator action (ISO/IEC 15408-3:2026, 12.8.5)

The evaluator shall check the integrity of the list of unique TOE implementation representation identifiers as recorded during the TOE generation time and its associated timestamp and (author) origination information.

14.9.2.7.2 Work unit ALC_TDA.2-5

The evaluator ***shall check*** the integrity of the list of unique TOE implementation representation identifiers as recorded during the TOE generation time and its associated timestamp and (author) origination information by examining the developer documentation describing the maintenance of this integrity characteristic.

It is necessary that the developer documentation explains how unauthorized modification of any of the following items is prevented:

— the list of unique TOE implementation representation identifiers;

— its associated timestamp;

— its associated (author) origination information.

Possible approaches include the following:

— these items reside in an access-controlled location and the associated access log record indicates that these items have not been changed since their initial creation;

— these items are written in a read only media;

— these items are digitally signed and are verifiable with a valid public key.

14.9.2.8 Action ALC_TDA.2.6E

14.9.2.8.1 Evaluator action (ISO/IEC 15408-3:2026, 12.8.5)

The evaluator shall confirm the developer's ability to trace from the TOE to the list of unique TOE implementation representation identifiers as recorded during the TOE generation time.

14.9.2.8.2 Work unit ALC_TDA.2-6

The evaluator ***shall examine*** the developer documentation describing the developer's mechanism to trace from the TOE to the list of unique TOE implementation representation identifiers as recorded during the TOE generation time, so as to confirm the developer's ability to trace from the TOE to the list of unique TOE implementation representation identifiers.

It is necessary that the evaluator follows the developer documentation to find a list of identifiers using the TOE as its input and the evaluator checks that this list of identifiers matches the list of TOE implementation

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representation identifiers as output from the developer action of ALC_TDA.2.1D (see ISO/IEC 15408-3:2026, 12.8.5).

It is acceptable that the developer uses a tracing mechanism that directly or indirectly writes the list of TOE implementation representation identifiers or its representation to the TOE. Alternatively, it is also acceptable that the developer uses a bill of materials database as a tracing mechanism to maintain the correspondence between the TOE and the list of TOE implementation representation identifiers.

14.9.2.9 Action ALC_TDA.2.7E

14.9.2.9.1 Evaluator action (ISO/IEC 15408-3:2026, 12.8.5)

The evaluator shall confirm that the list of identifiers of the elements of implementation representation under the configuration scope of ALC_CMS.3 (Implementation representation CM coverage) (14.4.3) matches with the list of unique TOE implementation representation identifiers as recorded during the TOE generation time.

14.9.2.9.2 Content requirement ALC_TDA.2.5C (ISO/IEC 15408-3:2026, 12.8.5)

The list of identifiers of the elements of implementation representation under the configuration scope of ALC_CMS.3 (Implementation representation CM coverage) (14.4.3) shall match with the list of unique TOE implementation representation identifiers as recorded during the TOE generation time.

14.9.2.9.3 Work unit ALC_TDA.2-7

The evaluator ***shall check*** that the TOE implementation representation identifiers in the correspondence as determined in Work unit ALC_TDA.2-1 (14.9.2.3.3) are capable to identify the element names of implementation representation (as parts of the configuration list) under the configuration scope of ALC_CMS.3 (Implementation representation CM coverage) (14.4.3).

14.9.3 Evaluation of sub-activity (ALC_TDA.3)

14.9.3.1 Objectives

A regenerated TOE copy is a TOE regeneration from another copy of the TOE implementation representation according to the developer's unique identifiers of the implementation representation as recorded during the TOE generation time. The objectives of this sub-activity are to determine that the developer's explanation of any functional differences between the regenerated TOE copy and the original TOE takes into account any visible differences between the regenerated TOE copy and the original TOE.

14.9.3.2 Input

Input for ALC_TDA.3 consists of the following:

— the ST;

— the list of TOE implementation representation identifiers as output from the developer action of ALC_TDA.1.1D (see ISO/IEC 15408-3:2026, 12.8.4) or ALC_TDA.2.1D (see ISO/IEC 15408-3:2026, 12.8.5) or ALC_TDA.3.1D (see ISO/IEC 15408-3:2026, 12.8.6);

— the list of TOE implementation representation element names;

— the timestamp of the list of TOE implementation representation identifiers as output from the developer action of ALC_TDA.1.2D (see ISO/IEC 15408-3:2026, 12.8.4) or ALC_TDA.2.2D (see ISO/IEC 15408-3:2026, 12.8.5) or ALC_TDA.3.2D (see ISO/IEC 15408-3:2026, 12.8.6);

— the (author) origination information of the list of TOE implementation representation identifiers;

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— the developer documentation describing the following as required in ALC_TDA.1.6D (see ISO/IEC 15408-3:2026, 12.8.4) or ALC_TDA.2.6D (see ISO/IEC 15408-3:2026, 12.8.5) or ALC_TDA.3.6D (see ISO/IEC 15408-3:2026, 12.8.6):

  — the developer's creation of the list of unique TOE implementation representation identifiers as recorded during the TOE generation time,

  — the developer's timestamp being applied to the list of unique TOE implementation representation identifiers as recorded during the TOE generation time,

  — the maintenance of the (author) origination information of the list of unique TOE implementation representation identifiers as recorded during the TOE generation time,

  — the maintenance of the integrity of the list of unique TOE implementation representation identifiers as recorded during the TOE generation time and its associated timestamp and (author) origination information,

  — the developer's mechanism to trace from the TOE to the list of unique TOE implementation representation identifiers as recorded during the TOE generation time;

— the user manual of the developer's development tool which use the TOE implementation representation;

— the element names of implementation representation (as parts of the configuration list) under the configuration scope of ALC_CMS.3 (Implementation representation CM coverage) (14.4.3);

  — the inputs for the evaluation of ADV_IMP.1 (Implementation representation of the TSF) (12.5.1) sub-activity, which are:

  — the implementation representation;

  — the documentation of the development tools, as resulting from ALC_TAT (Tools and techniques) (14.10);

  — TOE design description.

— the developer's explanation of any functional differences between the regenerated TOE copy and the original TOE as output from the developer action of ALC_TDA.3.9D (see ISO/IEC 15408-3:2026, 12.8.6).

14.9.3.3 Action ALC_TDA.3.1E

14.9.3.3.1 Evaluator action (ISO/IEC 15408-3:2026, 12.8.6)

The evaluator shall confirm that the information provided meets all requirements for content and presentation of evidence.

14.9.3.3.2 Content requirement ALC_TDA.3.1C (ISO/IEC 15408-3:2026, 12.8.6)

The list of unique TOE implementation representation identifiers as recorded during the TOE generation time shall demonstrate the correspondence between the TOE implementation representation element identifiers and the TOE implementation representation element names.

14.9.3.3.3 Work unit ALC_TDA.3-1

The evaluator ***shall examine*** the developer documentation describing the developer's creation of the list of unique TOE implementation representation identifiers as recorded during the TOE generation time to determine that there is a correspondence between the TOE implementation representation identifiers and the TOE implementation representation element names.

If the developer simply uses the unique TOE implementation representation identifiers as the TOE implementation representation element names, then the correspondence is trivial. Otherwise, the correspondence should have the following effect. If two elements within the TOE implementation

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representation share the same name, then either they are the same or they are separately identified by two distinct identifiers.

If the TOE implementation representation elements are data files residing in a repository such as a hard drive or in the cloud, then the TOE implementation representation element names are just file names. In that case, it is possible that those two files in the hard drive or in the cloud share the same name, but they have different contents. As a result, two distinct identifiers are necessary to distinguish them apart. The correspondence between the TOE implementation representation element identifiers and the TOE implementation representation element names therefore maps or links the two distinct identifiers to the same file name.

14.9.3.4 Action ALC_TDA.3.2E

14.9.3.4.1 Evaluator action (ISO/IEC 15408-3:2026, 12.8.6)

The evaluator shall confirm that the development tool for generating the TOE is capable to use or reference the implementation representation element names.

14.9.3.4.2 Content requirement ALC_TDA.3.2C (ISO/IEC 15408-3:2026, 12.8.6)

The TOE implementation representation element names shall be in the same form as used or referenced by the development tool to generate the TOE.

14.9.3.4.3 Work unit ALC_TDA.3-2

The evaluator ***shall examine*** the user manual of the developer's development tool used to generate the TOE to determine that the development tool accepts the TOE implementation representation element names as its input parameters.

If the TOE implementation representation elements are data files residing in a repository such as a hard drive or in the cloud, then the evaluator can discover from the development tool user manual whether the development tool accepts local or remote file names as its input parameters.

14.9.3.5 Action ALC_TDA.3.3E

14.9.3.5.1 Evaluator action (ISO/IEC 15408-3:2026, 12.8.6)

The evaluator shall confirm that the timestamp of the list of unique TOE implementation representation identifiers as recorded during the TOE generation time is consistent with the creation time of the TOE.

14.9.3.5.2 Content requirement ALC_TDA.3.3C (ISO/IEC 15408-3:2026, 12.8.6)

The timestamp of the list of unique TOE implementation representation identifiers as recorded during the TOE generation time shall be consistent with the creation time of the TOE.

14.9.3.5.3 Work unit ALC_TDA.3-3

The evaluator ***shall check*** the timestamp of the list of TOE implementation representation identifiers as output from the developer action of ALC_TDA.3.2D (see ISO/IEC 15408-3:2026, 12.8.6) to ensure that it is consistent with the creation time of the TOE as referenced in the ST.

Consistency is confirmed by determining that the timestamp on the list of TOE implementation representation identifiers is earlier than the TOE creation time as referenced in the ST, and consistent with the time interval expected from the developer's build process (e.g. as described in deliverables for ALC_LCD (Development life cycle definition) (14.8)).

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14.9.3.6 Action ALC_TDA.3.4E

14.9.3.6.1 Evaluator action (ISO/IEC 15408-3:2026, 12.8.6)

The evaluator shall confirm that the (author) origination information of the list of unique TOE implementation representation identifiers as recorded during the TOE generation time is consistent with the (author) origination information of the TOE.

14.9.3.6.2 Content requirement ALC_TDA.3.4C (ISO/IEC 15408-3:2026, 12.8.6)

The (author) origination information of the list of unique TOE implementation representation identifiers as recorded during the TOE generation time shall be consistent with the (author) origination information of the TOE. The author origination information can be the name of an affiliate of an organization.

14.9.3.6.3 Work unit ALC_TDA.3-4

The evaluator ***shall check*** the (author) origination information of the list of unique TOE implementation representation identifiers that it is consistent with the (author) origination information of the TOE as referenced in the ST.

This consistency means that the (author) origination of the list of unique TOE implementation representation identifiers is related to the (author) origination of the TOE professionally.

A reasonable relationship is that the (author) origination of the list of unique TOE implementation representation identifiers is an employee, a contractor, a supplier, a subsidiary, or an organizational division of, or is identical to the (author) origination of the TOE.

14.9.3.7 Action ALC_TDA.3.5E

14.9.3.7.1 Evaluator action (ISO/IEC 15408-3:2026, 12.8.6)

The evaluator shall check the integrity of the list of unique TOE implementation representation identifiers as recorded during the TOE generation time and its associated timestamp and (author) origination information.

14.9.3.7.2 Work unit ALC_TDA.3-5

The evaluator ***shall check*** the integrity of the list of unique TOE implementation representation identifiers as recorded during the TOE generation time and its associated timestamp and (author) origination information by examining the developer documentation describing the maintenance of this integrity characteristic.

It is necessary that the developer documentation explains an applicable scenario where none of the following items is freely modified without any proper authorization after its initial existence:

— the list of unique TOE implementation representation identifiers;

— its associated timestamp;

— its associated (author) origination information.

Applicable scenarios include the following:

— these items reside in an access-controlled location and the associated access log record indicates that these items have not been changed since their initial creation;

— these items are written in a read only media;

— these items are digitally signed and are verifiable with a valid public key.

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14.9.3.8 Action ALC_TDA.3.6E

14.9.3.8.1 Evaluator action (ISO/IEC 15408-3:2026, 12.8.6)

The evaluator shall confirm the developer's ability to trace from the TOE to the list of unique TOE implementation representation identifiers as recorded during the TOE generation time.

14.9.3.8.2 Work unit ALC_TDA.3-6

The evaluator ***shall examine*** the developer documentation describing the developer's mechanism to trace from the TOE to the list of unique TOE implementation representation identifiers as recorded during the TOE generation time, so as to confirm the developer's ability to trace from the TOE to the list of unique TOE implementation representation identifiers.

It is necessary that the evaluator follows the developer documentation to find a list of identifiers using the TOE as its input and the evaluator checks that this list of identifiers matches the list of TOE implementation representation identifiers as output from the developer action of ALC_TDA.3.1D (see ISO/IEC 15408-3:2026, 12.8.6).

It is acceptable that the developer uses a tracing mechanism that directly or indirectly writes the list of TOE implementation representation identifiers or its representation to the TOE. Alternatively, it is also acceptable that the developer uses a bill of materials database as a tracing mechanism to maintain the correspondence between the TOE and the list of TOE implementation representation identifiers.

14.9.3.9 Action ALC_TDA.3.7E

14.9.3.9.1 Evaluator action (ISO/IEC 15408-3:2026, 12.8.6)

The evaluator shall confirm that the list of identifiers of the elements of implementation representation under the configuration scope of ALC_CMS.3 (Implementation representation CM coverage) (14.4.3) matches with the list of unique TOE implementation representation identifiers as recorded during the TOE generation time.

14.9.3.9.2 Content requirement ALC_TDA.3.5C (ISO/IEC 15408-3:2026, 12.8.6)

The list of identifiers of the elements of implementation representation under the configuration scope of ALC_CMS.3 (Implementation representation CM coverage) (14.4.3) shall match with the list of unique TOE implementation representation identifiers as recorded during the TOE generation time.

14.9.3.9.3 Work unit ALC_TDA.3-7

The evaluator ***shall check*** that the TOE implementation representation identifiers in the correspondence as determined in Work unit ALC_TDA.3-1 (14.9.3.3.3) are capable to identify the element names of implementation representation (as parts of the configuration list) under the configuration scope of ALC_CMS.3 (Implementation representation CM coverage) (14.4.3).

14.9.3.10 Action ALC_TDA.3.8E

14.9.3.10.1 Evaluator action (ISO/IEC 15408-3:2026, 12.8.6)

The evaluator shall check that the developer's explanation of any functional differences between the regenerated TOE copy and the original TOE takes into account any visible differences between the regenerated TOE copy and the original TOE.

14.9.3.10.2 Content requirement ALC_TDA.3.6C (ISO/IEC 15408-3:2026, 12.8.6)

The developer's explanation of any functional differences between the regenerated TOE copy and the original TOE shall take into account any visible differences between the regenerated TOE copy and the original TOE.

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14.9.3.10.3 Work unit ALC_TDA.3-8

The evaluator ***shall check*** that the developer's explanation of any functional differences between the regenerated TOE copy and the original TOE takes into account any visible differences between the regenerated TOE copy and the original TOE.

If parts of the TOE consist of software such as a collection of binary executable files, then it is possible to observe the corresponding differences between the regenerated TOE copy and the original TOE using a binary file editor or viewer or other applicable software diagnostic or testing tools.

If parts of the TOE consist of hardware such as integrated circuits, then it is possible to observe the corresponding differences between the regenerated TOE copy and the original TOE using a microscope or other applicable hardware diagnostic or testing tools.

In either case, if there is no visible difference between the regenerated TOE copy and the original TOE, then there is no functional difference for the developer to explain.

14.10 Tools and techniques (ALC_TAT)

14.10.1 Evaluation of sub-activity (ALC_TAT.1)

14.10.1.1 Objectives

The objective of this sub-activity is to determine whether the developer has used well-defined development tools (e.g. programming languages or computer-aided design (CAD) systems) that yield consistent and predictable results.

14.10.1.2 Application notes

This work can be performed in parallel with the evaluation activities under ADV_IMP (Implementation representation) (12.5), specifically with regard to determining the use of features in the tools that will affect the object code (e.g. compilation options).

14.10.1.3 Input

Input for ALC_TAT.1 consists of the following:

— the development tool documentation;

— the subset of the implementation representation.

14.10.1.4 Action ALC_TAT.1.1E

14.10.1.4.1 Evaluator action (ISO/IEC 15408-3:2026, 12.9.4)

The evaluator shall confirm that the information provided meets all requirements for content and presentation of evidence.

14.10.1.4.2 Content requirement ALC_TAT.1.1C (ISO/IEC 15408-3:2026, 12.9.4)

Each development tool used for implementation shall be well-defined.

14.10.1.4.3 Work unit ALC_TAT.1-1

The evaluator ***shall examine*** the development tool documentation provided to determine that each development tools is well-defined.

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For example, a well-defined language, compiler or CAD system can be considered to be one that conforms to a recognized standard, such as International Standards. A well-defined language is one that has a clear and complete description of its syntax, and a detailed description of the semantics of each construct.

14.10.1.4.4 Content requirement ALC_TAT.1.2C (ISO/IEC 15408-3:2026, 12.9.4)

The documentation of each development tool shall unambiguously define the meaning of all statements as well as all conventions and directives used in the implementation.

14.10.1.4.5 Work unit ALC_TAT.1-2

The evaluator ***shall examine*** the documentation of each development tool to determine that it unambiguously defines the meaning of all statements as well as all conventions and directives used in the implementation.

The development tool documentation (e.g. programming language specifications and user manuals) should cover all statements used in the implementation representation of the TOE, and for each such statement shall provide a clear and unambiguous definition of the purpose and effect of that statement. This work can be performed in parallel with the evaluator's examination of the implementation representation performed during the ADV_IMP (Implementation representation) (12.5) sub-activity. The key test the evaluator shall apply is whether or not the documentation is sufficiently clear for the evaluator to be able to understand the implementation representation. The documentation should not assume for example that the reader is an expert in the programming language used.

Reference to the use of a relevant, documented standard (international, national, or industry) is an acceptable approach to meet this requirement, provided that the standard is available to the evaluator. Any differences from the standard should be documented.

The critical test is whether the evaluator can understand the TOE source code when performing source code analysis covered in the ADV_IMP (Implementation representation) (12.5) sub-activity. However, the following checklist can additionally be used in searching for problem areas:

— in the language definition, phrases such as "the effect of this construct is undefined" and terms such as "implementation dependent" or "erroneous" can indicate ill-defined areas;

— aliasing (allowing the same piece of memory to be referenced in different ways) is a common source of ambiguity problems;

— exception handling (e.g. what happens after memory exhaustion or stack overflow) is often poorly defined.

Most languages in common use, however well designed, have some potentially problematic constructs. If the implementation language is mostly well defined, but some problematic constructs exist, then an inconclusive verdict should be assigned, pending examination of the source code.

The implementation standards description should include at least following:

— how to implement TOE so as to avoid problematic constructs inherent in either the programming language used or in the development tool, or both;

— how to implement TOE so as to avoid unwanted behaviour from security perspective (or vulnerabilities) introduced by the development tool. Sometimes developers face the situation that the code generated by the development tool used by the developer does not fulfil the desired security property;

— how to implement TOE so as to meet the rules imposed by third-party developers.

Information required under ADV_COMP.1.1C (see ISO/IEC 15408-3:2026, 10.8.4) shall be a part of the rules when a composite evaluation approach is selected.

It is not sufficient to describe just naming rules which do no harm to the security in the light of modern compilers.

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The evaluator should verify, during the examination of source code, that any use of the problematic constructs does not introduce vulnerabilities. The evaluator should also ensure that constructs precluded by the documented standard are not used.

The development tool documentation should define all conventions and directives used in the implementation.

14.10.1.4.6 Content requirement ALC_TAT.1.3C (ISO/IEC 15408-3:2026, 12.9.4)

The documentation of each development tool shall unambiguously define the meaning of all implementation-dependent options.

14.10.1.4.7 Work unit ALC_TAT.1-3

The evaluator ***shall examine*** the development tool documentation to determine that it unambiguously defines the meaning of all implementation-dependent options.

The documentation of software development tools should include definitions of implementation-dependent options that can affect the meaning of the executable code, and those that are different from the standard language as documented. Where source code is provided to the evaluator, information should also be provided on compilation and linking options used.

The documentation for hardware design and development tools shall describe the use of all options that affect the output from the tools (e.g. detailed hardware specifications, or actual hardware).

14.10.2 Evaluation of sub-activity (ALC_TAT.2)

14.10.2.1 Objectives

The objective of this sub-activity is to determine whether the developer has used well-defined development tools (e.g. programming languages or computer-aided design (CAD) systems) that yield consistent and predictable results, and whether implementation standards have been applied.

14.10.2.2 Application notes

This work can be performed in parallel with the evaluation activities under ADV_IMP (Implementation representation) (12.5), specifically with regard to determining the use of features in the tools that will affect the object code (e.g. compilation options).

14.10.2.3 Input

Input for ALC_TAT.2 consists of the following:

— the development tool documentation;

— the implementation standards description;

— the provided implementation representation of the TSF.

14.10.2.4 Action ALC_TAT.2.1E

14.10.2.4.1 Evaluator action (ISO/IEC 15408-3:2026, 12.9.5)

The evaluator shall confirm that the information provided meets all requirements for content and presentation of evidence.

14.10.2.4.2 Content requirement ALC_TAT.2.1C (ISO/IEC 15408-3:2026, 12.9.5)

Each development tool used for implementation shall be well-defined.

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14.10.2.4.3 Work unit ALC_TAT.2-1

The evaluator ***shall examine*** the development tool documentation provided to determine that each development tool is well-defined.

For example, a well-defined language, compiler or CAD system can be considered to be one that conforms to a recognized standard, such as International Standards. A well-defined language is one that has a clear and complete description of its syntax, and a detailed description of the semantics of each construct.

14.10.2.4.4 Content requirement ALC_TAT.2.2C (ISO/IEC 15408-3:2026, 12.9.5)

The documentation of each development tool shall unambiguously define the meaning of all statements as well as all conventions and directives used in the implementation.

14.10.2.4.5 Work unit ALC_TAT.2-2

The evaluator ***shall examine*** the documentation of each development tool to determine that it unambiguously defines the meaning of all statements as well as all conventions and directives used in the implementation.

The development tool documentation (e.g. programming language specifications and user manuals) should cover all statements used in the implementation representation of the TOE, and for each such statement shall provide a clear and unambiguous definition of the purpose and effect of that statement. This work can be performed in parallel with the evaluator's examination of the implementation representation performed during the ADV_IMP (Implementation representation) (12.5) sub-activity. The key test the evaluator shall apply is whether or not the documentation is sufficiently clear for the evaluator to be able to understand the implementation representation. The documentation should not assume (for example) that the reader is an expert in the programming language used.

Reference to the use of a relevant, documented standard (international, national, or industry) is an acceptable approach to meet this requirement, provided that the standard is available to the evaluator. Any differences from the standard should be documented.

The critical test is whether the evaluator can understand the TOE source code when performing source code analysis covered in the ADV_IMP (Implementation representation) (12.5) sub-activity. However, the following checklist can additionally be used in searching for problem areas:

— in the language definition, phrases such as "the effect of this construct is undefined" and terms such as "implementation dependent" or "erroneous" can indicate ill-defined areas;

— aliasing (allowing the same piece of memory to be referenced in different ways) is a common source of ambiguity problems;

— exception handling (e.g. what happens after memory exhaustion or stack overflow) is often poorly defined.

Most languages in common use, however well designed, have some potentially problematic constructs. If the implementation language is mostly well defined, but some problematic constructs exist, then an inconclusive verdict should be assigned, pending examination of the source code.

The implementation standards description should include at least following:

— how to implement TOE so as to avoid problematic constructs either inherent in the programming language used or in the development tool, or both;

— how to implement TOE so as to avoid unwanted behaviour from security perspective (or vulnerabilities) introduced by the development tool. Sometimes developers face the situation that the code generated by the development tool used by the developer does not fulfil the desired security property;

— how to implement TOE so as to meet the rules imposed by third-party developers.

Information required under ADV_COMP.1.1C (see ISO/IEC 15408-3:2026, 10.8.4) will be a part of the rules when composite evaluation approach is selected.

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It is not sufficient to describe just naming rules which do no harm to the security in the light of modern compilers.

The evaluator should verify, during the examination of source code, that any use of the problematic constructs does not introduce vulnerabilities. The evaluator should also ensure that constructs precluded by the documented standard are not used.

The development tool documentation should define all conventions and directives used in the implementation.

14.10.2.4.6 Content requirement ALC_TAT.2.3C (ISO/IEC 15408-3:2026, 12.9.5)

The documentation of each development tool shall unambiguously define the meaning of all implementation-dependent options.

14.10.2.4.7 Work unit ALC_TAT.2-3

The evaluator ***shall examine*** the development tool documentation to determine that it unambiguously defines the meaning of all implementation-dependent options.

The documentation of software development tools should include definitions of implementation-dependent options that can affect the meaning of the executable code, and those that are different from the standard language as documented. Where source code is provided to the evaluator, information should also be provided on compilation and linking options used.

The documentation for hardware design and development tools shall describe the use of all options that affect the output from the tools (e.g. detailed hardware specifications, or actual hardware).

14.10.2.5 Action ALC_TAT.2.2E

14.10.2.5.1 Evaluator action (ISO/IEC 15408-3:2026, 12.9.5)

The evaluator shall confirm that the implementation standards have been applied.

14.10.2.5.2 Work unit ALC_TAT.2-4

The evaluator ***shall examine*** aspects of the implementation process to determine that documented implementation standards have been applied.

This work unit requires the evaluator to analyse the provided implementation representation of the TOE to determine whether the documented implementation standards have been applied.

The evaluator should verify that constructs excluded by the documented standard are not used.

Additionally, the evaluator should verify the developer's procedures which ensure the application of the documented implementation standards within the design and implementation process of the TOE. Therefore, documentary evidence should be supplemented by visiting the development environment. A visit to the development environment can allow the evaluator to:

— observe the application of documented implementation standards;

— examine documentary evidence of application of procedures describing the use of documented implementation standards;

— interview development staff to check awareness of the application of documented implementation standards and procedures.

A development site visit is a useful means of gaining confidence in the procedures being used. Any decision not to make such a visit shall be determined in consultation with the evaluation authority.

The evaluator compares the provided implementation representation with the description of the applied implementation standards and verifies their use.

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At this level it is not required that the complete provided implementation representation of the TSF be based on implementation standards, but only those parts that are developed by the TOE developer. The evaluator can consult the configuration list required by the ALC_CMS (CM scope) (14.4) to obtain the information regarding which parts are developed by the TOE developer, and which by third-party developers.

If the referenced implementation standards are not applied for at least parts of the provided implementation representation, the evaluator action related to this work unit is assigned a fail verdict.

Note that parts of the TOE which are not TSF relevant do not require examination.

This work unit can be performed in conjunction with the evaluation activities under ADV_IMP (Implementation representation) (12.5).

14.10.3 Evaluation of sub-activity (ALC_TAT.3)

14.10.3.1 Objectives

The objective of this sub-activity is to determine whether the developer and their subcontractors have used well-defined development tools (e.g. programming languages or computer-aided design (CAD) systems) that yield consistent and predictable results, and whether implementation standards have been applied.

14.10.3.2 Application notes

This work can be performed in parallel with the evaluation activities under ADV_IMP (Implementation representation) (12.5), specifically with regard to determining the use of features in the tools that will affect the object code (e.g. compilation options).

14.10.3.3 Input

Input for ALC_TAT.3 consists of the following:

— the development tool documentation;

— the implementation standards description;

— the provided implementation representation of the TSF.

14.10.3.4 Action ALC_TAT.3.1E

14.10.3.4.1 Evaluator action (ISO/IEC 15408-3:2026, 12.9.6)

The evaluator shall confirm that the information provided meets all requirements for content and presentation of evidence.

14.10.3.4.2 Content requirement ALC_TAT.3.1C (ISO/IEC 15408-3:2026, 12.9.6)

Each development tool used for implementation shall be well-defined.

14.10.3.4.3 Work unit ALC_TAT.3-1

The evaluator ***shall examine*** the development tool documentation provided to determine that each development tool is well-defined.

For example, a well-defined language, compiler or CAD system can be considered to be one that conforms to a recognised standard, such as International standards. A well-defined language is one that has a clear and complete description of its syntax, and a detailed description of the semantics of each construct.

At this level, the documentation of development tools used by third-party contributors to the TOE shall be included in the evaluator's examination.

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14.10.3.4.4 Content requirement ALC_TAT.3.2C (ISO/IEC 15408-3:2026, 12.9.6)

The documentation of each development tool shall unambiguously define the meaning of all statements as well as all conventions and directives used in the implementation.

14.10.3.4.5 Work unit ALC_TAT.3-2

The evaluator ***shall examine*** the documentation of each development tool to determine that it unambiguously defines the meaning of all statements as well as all conventions and directives used in the implementation.

The development tool documentation (e.g. programming language specifications and user manuals) should cover all statements used in the implementation representation of the TOE, and for each such statement shall provide a clear and unambiguous definition of the purpose and effect of that statement. This work can be performed in parallel with the evaluator's examination of the implementation representation performed during the ADV_IMP (Implementation representation) (12.5) sub-activity. The key test the evaluator shall apply is whether or not the documentation is sufficiently clear for the evaluator to be able to understand the implementation representation. The documentation should not assume (for example) that the reader is an expert in the programming language used.

Reference to the use of a relevant, documented standard (international, national, or industry) is an acceptable approach to meet this requirement, provided that the standard is available to the evaluator. Any differences from the standard should be documented.

The critical test is whether the evaluator can understand the TOE source code when performing source code analysis covered in the ADV_IMP (Implementation representation) (12.5) sub-activity. However, the following checklist can additionally be used in searching for problem areas:

— in the language definition, phrases such as "the effect of this construct is undefined" and terms such as "implementation dependent" or "erroneous" can indicate ill-defined areas;

— aliasing (allowing the same piece of memory to be referenced in different ways) is a common source of ambiguity problems;

— exception handling (e.g. what happens after memory exhaustion or stack overflow) is often poorly defined.

Most languages in common use, however well designed, have some potentially problematic constructs. If the implementation language is mostly well defined, but some problematic constructs exist, then an inconclusive verdict should be assigned, pending examination of the source code.

The implementation standards description should include at least following:

— how to implement TOE so as to avoid problematic constructs inherent either in the programming language used or in the development tool, or both;

— how to implement TOE so as to avoid unwanted behaviour from security perspective (or vulnerabilities) introduced by the development tool. Sometimes developers face the situation that the code generated by the development tool used by the developer does not fulfil the desired security property;

— how to implement TOE so as to meet the rules imposed by third-party developers.

Information required under ADV_COMP.1.1C (see ISO/IEC 15408-3:2026, 10.8.4) will be a part of the rules when composite evaluation approach is selected.

It is not sufficient to describe just naming rules which do no harm to the security in the light of modern compilers.

The evaluator should verify, during the examination of source code, that any use of the problematic constructs does not introduce vulnerabilities. The evaluator should also ensure that constructs precluded by the documented standard are not used.

The development tool documentation should define all conventions and directives used in the implementation.

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At this level, the documentation of development tools used by third-party contributors to the TOE shall be included in the evaluator's examination.

14.10.3.4.6 Content requirement ALC_TAT.3.3C (ISO/IEC 15408-3:2026, 12.9.6)

The documentation of each development tool shall unambiguously define the meaning of all implementation-dependent options.

14.10.3.4.7 Work unit ALC_TAT.3-3

The evaluator ***shall examine*** the development tool documentation to determine that it unambiguously defines the meaning of all implementation-dependent options.

The documentation of software development tools should include definitions of implementation-dependent options that can affect the meaning of the executable code, and those that are different from the standard language as documented. Where source code is provided to the evaluator, information should also be provided on compilation and linking options used.

The documentation for hardware design and development tools shall describe the use of all options that affect the output from the tools (e.g. detailed hardware specifications, or actual hardware).

At this level, the documentation of development tools used by third-party contributors to the TOE shall be included in the evaluator's examination.

14.10.3.5 Action ALC_TAT.3.2E

14.10.3.5.1 Evaluator action (ISO/IEC 15408-3:2026, 12.9.6)

The evaluator shall confirm that the implementation standards have been applied.

14.10.3.5.2 Work unit ALC_TAT.3-4

The evaluator ***shall examine*** aspects of the implementation process to determine that documented implementation standards have been applied.

This work unit requires the evaluator to analyse the provided implementation representation of the TOE to determine whether the documented implementation standards have been applied.

The evaluator should verify that constructs excluded by the documented standard are not used.

Additionally, the evaluator should verify the developer's procedures which ensure the application of the documented implementation standards within the design and implementation process of the TOE. Therefore, documentary evidence should be supplemented by visiting the development environment. A visit to the development environment can allow the evaluator to:

— observe the application of documented implementation standards;

— examine documentary evidence of application of procedures describing the use of documented implementation standards;

— interview development staff to check awareness of the application of documented implementation standards and procedures.

A development site visit is a useful means of gaining confidence in the procedures being used. Any decision not to make such a visit shall be determined in consultation with the evaluation authority.

The evaluator compares the provided implementation representation with the description of the applied implementation standards and verifies their use.

At this level it is required that the complete provided implementation representation of the TSF be based on implementation standards, including third-party contributions. This can require the evaluator to visit the

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sites of contributors. The evaluator can consult the configuration list required by the ALC_CMS (CM scope) (14.4) to see who has developed which part of the TOE.

Note that parts of the TOE which are not TSF relevant are not required to be examined.

This work unit can be performed in conjunction with the evaluation activities under ADV_IMP (Implementation representation) (12.5).

14.11 Integration of composition parts and consistency check of delivery procedures (ALC_COMP)

14.11.1 Evaluation of sub-activity (ALC_COMP.1)

14.11.1.1 Objectives

The aim of this activity is to determine whether:

— the correct version of the dependent component is installed onto or embedded into the correct version of the related base component, and

— the preparative guidance procedures of the base component developer and the dependent component developer are compatible with the acceptance procedures of the composite product integrator.

14.11.1.2 Application notes

The composite product evaluator shall verify that the correct version of the dependent component under evaluation has been installed onto or embedded into the evaluated version of the related base component of the composite product.

The composite product evaluation sponsor shall ensure that appropriate evidence generated by the composite product integrator is available for the composite product evaluator. This evidence can include, amongst other items, the configuration list of the base component developer (e.g. provided within their acknowledgement statement).

The composite product evaluator shall verify that the delivery procedures of the base component developer and the dependent component developer are compatible with the acceptance procedures used by the composite product integrator.

The composite product evaluator shall verify that all configuration parameters prescribed by the base component developer and the dependent component developer (e.g. pre-personalization data, pre-personalisation scripts) are used by the composite product integrator.

The composite product evaluation sponsor shall ensure that appropriate evidence generated by the composite product integrator is available for the composite product evaluator. This evidence can include, amongst other items, the element of evidence for the dependent component reception, acceptance and parameterisation by the base component developer (e.g. in form of their acknowledgement statement).

14.11.1.3 Action ALC_COMP.1.1E

14.11.1.3.1 Evaluator action (ISO/IEC 15408-3:2026, 12.10.4)

The evaluator shall confirm that the information provided meets all requirements for content and presentation of evidence.

14.11.1.3.2 Content requirement ALC_COMP.1.1C (ISO/IEC 15408-3:2026, 12.10.4)

The components' configuration evidence shall show that the evaluated version of the dependent component has been installed onto or embedded into the evaluated version of the related base component.

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14.11.1.3.3 Work unit ALC_COMP.1-1

The evaluator ***shall examine*** the evidence that the evaluated version of the dependent component has been installed onto or embedded into the correct evaluated version of the related base component.

From the perspective of the composite evaluation it is important that the correct evaluated version of the dependent component and base component are used.

The AGD_PRE (Preparative procedures) (13.4) documentation of the base component provided by the base component developer contains requirements for the secure acceptance procedure of the base component and security measures to which the dependent component developer or composite product integrator shall adhere. The dependent component developer shall provide evidence that (if applicable), these requirements are followed up and the required security measures are implemented.

The special composite product evaluator activity shall check the evidence of the version correctness for both parts of the composite product and that the secure acceptance and installation of the base component has been performed.

For the base component, the evaluator ***shall determine*** that the actual identification of the base component is commensurate with the expected evaluated data of the base component evaluation as part of following up on the procedures as specified in the AGD_PRE (Preparative procedures) (13.4) of the base component.

For the dependent component, the relevant task is trivial due to the fact that the composite product evaluator ***shall perform*** this task in the context of the assurance family ALC_CMS (CM scope) (14.4).

Components identification evidence can be supplied in two different ways: technical and organizational.

Technical evidence of version correctness is generated by the composite product itself: the base component and the dependent component return, in each case, strings containing unambiguous version numbers as answers to the respective commands. For example, it can be the return string of a command or the hard copy of the operating system information (like "About"); in case of smart cards it can be an appropriate ATR.

Technical evidence of version correctness for hardware can also be supplied, if applicable, by reading out the unambiguous inscription on its surface. There is no physical indication existing on most smart card's microcontrollers.

It is recommended to provide technical evidence.

Organizational evidence of version correctness is generated by the composite product integrator on the basis of the configuration lists containing unambiguous version information of the base component and the dependent component having been composed into the final composite product.

For example, in case of smart cards it can be an acknowledgement statement (e.g. configuration list) of the underlying platform (base component) manufacturer to the application software (dependent component) manufacturer containing the evidence for the versions of the platform, any embedded software and its pre-personalisation parameters.

Organizational evidence is always possible and, hence, shall be provided.

The result of this work unit shall be integrated to the result of ALC_CMS.1.1E (14.4.1.3)/ALC_CMS.1-2 (14.4.1.3.5) (or the equivalent higher components if a higher assurance level is selected).

14.11.1.4 Action ALC_COMP.1.2E

14.11.1.4.1 Evaluator action (ISO/IEC 15408-3:2026, 12.10.4)

The evaluator shall confirm that the evidence for delivery compatibility is complete, coherent, and internally consistent.

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14.11.1.4.2 Content requirement ALC_COMP.1.2C (ISO/IEC 15408-3:2026, 12.10.4)

The components' configuration evidence shall show that:

— the delivery procedures of the base component developer and the dependent component developer are compatible with the acceptance procedures of the composite product integrator;

— preparative guidance procedures prescribed by the base component developer and the dependent component developer are either actually being used by the composite product integrator or compatible with the composite product integrator guidance and do not contradict each other.

14.11.1.4.3 Work unit ALC_COMP.1-2

The evaluator ***shall examine*** the acceptance procedures of the composite product integrator, the delivery procedures of the base component developer and the dependent component developer to see that they are compatible and where necessary either applied by the composite product integrator or prescribed in the preparative guidance.

The general information of the preparative guidance requirements that includes, among other elements, configuration parameters, is represented and shall be examined in the context of the assurance family AGD_PRE.1.2C (see ISO/IEC 15408-3:2026, 11.3.4). The special evaluator activity shall examine the developer's evidence and to decide whether the composite product integrator appropriately treats this special subset of the preparative guidance requirements.

The evaluator ***shall examine*** this provided evidence which includes checking whether the delivery procedures of the base component developer and the dependent component developer are compatible with the acceptance procedures of the composite product integrator.

In the cases where the composite product integrator leaves preparative guidance requirements prescribed by the base component developer and the dependent component developer to the user, the composite product evaluator verifies that such requirements are presented in the preparative guidance of the composite evaluation.

For example, for a Java Card ™[1)] as a composite product, the Card Issuer shall set all parameters as prescribed by the Java Card ™ Platform (base component) developer and the applet (dependent component) developer while installing the applet onto the Java Card™ Platform. Also, the card issuer shall verify that the package is byte-code-verified and has a valid digital signature.

The result of this work unit shall be integrated to the result of AGD_PRE.1.1E (13.4.1.4)/AGD_PRE.1-2 (13.4.1.4.5) and ALC_CMC.4.1E (14.3.4.3)/ALC_CMC.4-10 (14.3.4.3.19).

15 Tests

15.1 Introduction

The goal of this activity is to determine whether the TOE behaves as described in the ST and as specified in the evaluation evidence (described in class ADV (Development) (Clause 12)). This determination is achieved through some combination of the developer's own functional testing of the TSF ATE_FUN (Functional tests) (15.5) and independent testing the TSF by the evaluator ATE_IND (Independent testing) (15.6). At the lowest level of assurance, there is no requirement for developer involvement, so the only testing is conducted by the evaluator, using the limited available information about the TOE. Additional assurance is gained as the developer becomes increasingly involved both in testing and in providing additional information about the TOE, and as the evaluator increases the independent testing activities.

1) Java Card ™ is an example of a composite product available commercially. This information is given for the convenience of users of this document and does not constitute an endorsement by ISO or IEC of this product.

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15.2 Application notes

15.2.1 General

Testing of the TSF is conducted by the evaluator and, in most cases, by the developer. The evaluator's testing efforts consist not only of creating and running original tests, but also of assessing the adequacy of the developer's tests and re-running a subset of them.

The evaluator analyses the developer's tests to determine the extent to which they are sufficient to demonstrate that TSFIs (see ADV_FSP (Functional specification) (12.4)) perform as specified, and to understand the developer's approach to testing. Similarly, the evaluator analyses the developer's tests to determine the extent to which they are sufficient to demonstrate the internal behaviour and properties of the TSF.

The evaluator also executes a subset of the developer's tests as documented to gain confidence in the developer's test results: the evaluator shall use the results of this analysis as an input to independently testing a subset of the TSF. With respect to this subset, the evaluator takes a testing approach that is different from that of the developer, particularly if the developer's tests have shortcomings.

To determine the adequacy of developer's test documentation or to create new tests, the evaluator is required to understand the desired expected behaviour of the TSF, both internally and as seen at the TSFIs, in the context of the SFRs it is to satisfy. The evaluator may choose to divide the TSF and TSFIs into subsets according to functional areas of the ST (audit subsystem, audit-related TSFIs, authentication module, authentication-related TSFIs, etc.) if they were not already divided in the ST, and focus on one subset of the TSF and TSFIs at a time, examining the ST requirement and the relevant parts of the development and guidance documentation to gain an understanding of the way the TOE is expected to behave. This reliance upon the development documentation underscores the need for the dependencies on class ADV (Development) (Clause 12) by ATE_COV (Coverage) (15.3) and ATE_DPT (Depth) (15.4).

The ISO/IEC 15408 series has separated coverage and depth from functional tests to increase the flexibility when applying the components of the families. However, the requirements of the families are intended to be applied together to confirm that the TSF operates according to its specification. This tight coupling of families has led to some duplication of evaluator work units across sub-activities. These application notes are used to minimize duplication of text between sub-activities.

15.2.2 Understanding the expected behaviour of the TOE

Before the adequacy of test documentation can be accurately evaluated, or before new tests can be created, the evaluator shall understand the desired expected behaviour of a security function in the context of the requirements it shall satisfy.

As mentioned earlier, the evaluator may choose to subset the TSF and TSFIs according to SFRs (audit, authentication, etc.) in the ST and focus on one subset at a time. The evaluator examines each ST requirement and the relevant parts of the functional specification and guidance documentation to gain an understanding of the way the related TSFIs is expected to behave. Similarly, the evaluator examines the relevant parts of the TOE design and security architecture documentation to gain an understanding of the way the related modules or subsystems of the TSF are expected to behave.

With an understanding of the expected behaviour, the evaluator examines the test plan to gain an understanding of the testing approach. In most cases, the testing approach will entail a TSFI being stimulated and its responses observed. Externally-visible functionality can be tested directly; however, in cases where functionality is not visible external to the TOE (for example, testing the residual information protection functionality), other suitable means shall be employed.

15.2.3 Testing vs. alternate approaches to verify the expected behaviour of functionality

In cases where it is impractical or inadequate to test specific functionality (where it provides no externally-visible TSFI), the test plan should identify the alternate approach to verify expected behaviour. It is the

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evaluator's responsibility to determine the suitability of the alternate approach. However, the following should be considered when assessing the suitability of alternate approaches:

— an analysis of the implementation representation to determine that the required behaviour is expected to be exhibited by the TOE is an acceptable alternate approach. This can mean a code inspection for a software TOE or perhaps a chip mask inspection for a hardware TOE;

— it is acceptable to use evidence of developer integration or module testing, even if the claimed assurance requirements do not include availability of lower-level descriptions of the TOE modules, e.g. ADV_TDS.3 (Basic modular design) (12.8.3), or ADV_IMP (Implementation representation) (12.5). If evidence of developer integration or module testing is used in verifying the expected behaviour of a security functionality, care should be taken to confirm that the testing evidence reflects the current implementation of the TOE. If the subsystems or modules have been changed since testing occurred, evidence that the changes were tracked and addressed by analysis or further testing will usually be required.

It is emphasised that supplementing the testing effort with alternate approaches should only be undertaken when both the developer and evaluator determine that there exists no other practical means to test the expected behaviour.

15.2.4 Verifying the adequacy of tests

Test pre-requisites are necessary to establish the required initial conditions for the test. They can be expressed in terms of parameters that shall be set or in terms of test ordering in cases where the completion of one test establishes the necessary pre-requisites for another test. The evaluator shall determine that the pre-requisites are complete and appropriate in that they will not bias the observed test results towards the expected test results.

The test steps and expected results specify the actions and parameters to be applied to the TSFIs as well as how the expected results should be verified and what they are. The evaluator shall determine that the test steps and expected results are consistent with the descriptions of the TSFIs in the functional specification. This means that each characteristic of the TSFI behaviour explicitly described in the functional specification should have tests and expected results to verify that behaviour.

The overall aim of this testing activity is to determine that each subsystem, module, and TSFI has been sufficiently tested against the behavioural claims in the functional specification, TOE design, and architecture description. At the higher assurance levels, testing also includes bounds testing and negative testing. The test procedures will provide insight as to how the TSFIs, modules, and subsystems have been exercised by the developer during testing. The evaluator uses this information when developing additional tests to independently test the TSF.

15.2.5 Composition

The composite-specific work units defined here are intended to be integrated as refinements to the evaluation activities of ATE (Tests) listed in Table 4. The other activities of ATE (Tests) do not require composite-specific work units.

Table 4 — Composite functional testing

Assurance family	Evaluation activity	Evaluation work unit	Composite-specific work unit
ATE_COV (Coverage) (15.3)	ATE_COV.1.1E (15.3.1.4)	ATE_COV.1-1 (15.3.1.4.3)	ATE_COMP.1-1 (15.7.1.3.3)
ATE_FUN (Functional tests) (15.5)	ATE_FUN.1.1E (15.5.1.4)	ATE_FUN.1-3 (15.5.1.4.6)	ATE_COMP.1-1 (15.7.1.3.3)
NOTE If the level of the assurance requirement chosen is higher than those identified in this table, the composite-specific work unit is also applicable.			

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15.3 Coverage (ATE_COV)

15.3.1 Evaluation of sub-activity (ATE_COV.1)

15.3.1.1 Objectives

The objective of this sub-activity is to determine whether the developer has tested the TSFIs, and that the developer's test coverage evidence shows correspondence between the tests identified in the test documentation and the TSFIs described in the functional specification.

15.3.1.2 Application notes

The coverage analysis provided by the developer is required to show the correspondence between the tests provided as evaluation evidence and the functional specification. However, it is not necessary for the coverage analysis to demonstrate that all TSFIs have been tested, or that all externally-visible interfaces to the TOE have been tested. Such shortcomings are considered by the evaluator during the ATE_IND.2 (Independent testing - sample) (15.6.2) sub-activity.

15.3.1.3 Input

Input for ATE_COV.1 consists of the following:

— the ST;

— the functional specification;

— the test documentation;

— the test coverage evidence.

15.3.1.4 Action ATE_COV.1.1E

15.3.1.4.1 Evaluator action (ISO/IEC 15408-3:2026, 13.2.3)

The evaluator shall confirm that the information provided meets all ISO/IEC 18045 and ISO/IEC 15408 series requirements for content and presentation of evidence.

15.3.1.4.2 Content requirement ATE_COV.1.1C (ISO/IEC 15408-3:2026, 13.2.3)

The evidence of the test coverage shall show the correspondence between the tests in the test documentation and the TSFIs in the functional specification.

15.3.1.4.3 Work unit ATE_COV.1-1

The evaluator ***shall examine*** the test coverage evidence to determine that the correspondence between the tests identified in the test documentation and the TSFIs described in the functional specification is accurate.

Correspondence can take the form of a table or matrix. The coverage evidence required for this component will reveal the extent of coverage, rather than to show complete coverage. In cases where coverage is shown to be poor the evaluator should increase the level of independent testing to compensate.

15.3.2 Evaluation of sub-activity (ATE_COV.2)

15.3.2.1 Objectives

The objective of this sub-activity is to determine whether the developer has tested all the TSFIs, and that the developer's test coverage evidence shows correspondence between the tests identified in the test documentation and the TSFIs described in the functional specification.

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15.3.2.2 Input

Input for ATE_COV.2 consists of the following:

— the ST;

— the functional specification;

— the test documentation;

— the test coverage analysis.

15.3.2.3 Action ATE_COV.2.1E

15.3.2.3.1 Evaluator action (ISO/IEC 15408-3:2026, 13.2.4)

The evaluator shall confirm that the information provided meets all ISO/IEC 18045 and ISO/IEC 15408 series requirements for content and presentation of evidence.

15.3.2.3.2 Content requirement ATE_COV.2.1C (ISO/IEC 15408-3:2026, 13.2.4)

The analysis of the test coverage shall demonstrate the correspondence between the tests in the test documentation and the TSFIs in the functional specification.

15.3.2.3.3 Work unit ATE_COV.2-1

The evaluator ***shall examine*** the test coverage analysis to determine that the correspondence between the tests in the test documentation and the interfaces in the functional specification is accurate.

A simple cross-table can be sufficient to show test correspondence. The identification of the tests and the interfaces presented in the test coverage analysis shall be unambiguous.

The evaluator should keep in mind that this does not imply that all tests in the test documentation are required to map to interfaces in the functional specification.

15.3.2.3.4 Work unit ATE_COV.2-2

The evaluator ***shall examine*** the test plan to determine that the testing approach for each interface demonstrates the expected behaviour of that interface.

Guidance on this work unit can be found in:

— 15.2.2

— 15.2.3

15.3.2.3.5 Work unit ATE_COV.2-3

The evaluator ***shall examine*** the test procedures to determine that the test prerequisites, test steps and expected result(s) adequately test each interface.

Guidance on this work units, as it pertains to the functional specification, can be found in 15.2.4

15.3.2.3.6 Content requirement ATE_COV.2.2C (ISO/IEC 15408-3:2026, 13.2.4)

The analysis of the test coverage shall demonstrate that all TSFIs in the functional specification have been tested.

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15.3.2.3.7 Work unit ATE_COV.2-4

The evaluator ***shall examine*** the test coverage analysis to determine that the correspondence between the interfaces in the functional specification and the tests in the test documentation is complete.

All TSFIs that are described in the functional specification are required to be present in the test coverage analysis and mapped to tests in order for completeness to be claimed, although exhaustive specification testing of interfaces is not required. Incomplete coverage would be evident if an interface was identified in the functional specification and no test was mapped to it.

The evaluator should keep in mind that this does not imply that all tests in the test documentation are required to map to interfaces in the functional specification.

15.3.3 Evaluation of sub-activity (ATE_COV.3)

15.3.3.1 Objectives

The objective of this sub-activity is to determine whether the developer has tested all the TSFIs exhaustively, and that the developer's test coverage evidence shows correspondence between the tests identified in the test documentation and the TSFIs described in the functional specification.

A particular objective of this component is to confirm that all parameters of all the TSFIs have been tested.

15.3.3.2 Input

Input for ATE_COV.3 consists of the following:

— the ST;

— the functional specification;

— the test documentation;

— the test coverage analysis.

15.3.3.3 Action ATE_COV.3.1E

15.3.3.3.1 Evaluator action (ISO/IEC 15408-3:2026, 13.2.5)

The evaluator shall confirm that the information provided meets all ISO/IEC 18045 and ISO/IEC 15408 series requirements for content and presentation of evidence.

15.3.3.3.2 Content requirement ATE_COV.3.1C (ISO/IEC 15408-3:2026, 13.2.5)

The analysis of the test coverage shall demonstrate the correspondence between the tests in the test documentation and the TSFIs in the functional specification.

15.3.3.3.3 Work unit ATE_COV.3-1

The evaluator ***shall examine*** the test coverage analysis to determine that the correspondence between the tests in the test documentation and the interfaces in the functional specification is accurate.

A simple cross-table can be sufficient to show test correspondence. The identification of the tests and the interfaces presented in the test coverage analysis shall be unambiguous.

The evaluator should keep in mind that this does not imply that all tests in the test documentation are required to map to interfaces in the functional specification.

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15.3.3.3.4 Work unit ATE_COV.3-2

The evaluator ***shall examine*** the test plan to determine that the testing approach for each interface demonstrates the expected behaviour of that interface.

Guidance on this work unit can be found in:

— 15.2.2

— 15.2.3

15.3.3.3.5 Work unit ATE_COV.3-3

The evaluator ***shall examine*** the test procedures to determine that the test prerequisites, test steps and expected result(s) adequately test each interface.

Guidance on this work unit, as it pertains to the functional specification, can be found in 15.2.4

15.3.3.3.6 Content requirement ATE_COV.3.2C (ISO/IEC 15408-3:2026, 13.2.5)

The analysis of the test coverage shall demonstrate that all TSFIs in the functional specification have been completely tested.

15.3.3.3.7 Work unit ATE_COV.3-4

The evaluator ***shall examine*** the test coverage analysis to determine that the correspondence between the interfaces in the functional specification and the tests in the test documentation is complete.

All TSFIs that are described in the functional specification are required to be present in the test coverage analysis and mapped to tests in order for completeness to be claimed. Exhaustive specification testing of interfaces is required for this mapping. Incomplete coverage would be evident if an interface was identified in the functional specification and no test was mapped to it.

The evaluator should keep in mind that this does not imply that all tests in the test documentation are required to map to interfaces in the functional specification.

15.3.3.3.8 Work unit ATE_COV.3-5

The evaluator ***shall examine*** the test coverage analysis to determine that all TSFIs were tested completely. This shall be done by reviewing the correspondence between the interfaces in the functional specification and the tests in the test documentation.

This means that the evaluator examines whether all aspects of purpose, method of use, parameters, parameter descriptions, actions and error messages for all TSFIs present in the functional specification are covered by the tests. The level of detail present in the functional specification depends on the component of ADV_FSP (Functional specification) (12.4) chosen in the ST of the TOE.

The evaluator may conclude that the higher-level descriptions in the functional specification, like purpose or method of use, are implicitly covered, if coverage of lower-level descriptions like parameters, parameter descriptions, actions and error messages are covered. Therefore, in general it will only be necessary to confirm coverage on these lower levels.

The evaluator should keep in mind that coverage of all parameters does not necessarily mean coverage of every possible value a parameter allows. However, every value for which a distinct qualitative behaviour of the TOE is expected, shall be covered.

For example, if one of the parameters of a function call is a two-byte value, which specifies the length of further parameters, it is only necessary to test using some typical values together with any obvious specific cases (such as the value zero or the maximum value).

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If the evaluator sees that a potential attacker can invoke a TSFI with inconsistent parameter values (e. g. if one parameter specifies the length of a second parameter and it is possible to make the second parameter actually longer than the chosen value for the first parameter suggests) and this case is not covered by the developer's testing, the evaluator can decide either to test this during their activities in AVA_VAN (Vulnerability analysis) (16.3) or to require the developer to provide coverage also for this case.

The considerations for parameters also hold for the error messages specified in the functional specification. Each error message, which belongs to a qualitatively distinct error case, shall be covered by testing. It is possible that there are exceptions, for example error messages for errors, which cannot be provoked during testing. For such error messages it is necessary to find other ways of coverage (see 15.2.3).

The developer can use such alternative approaches to testing (e. g. checking something in the source code) in the coverage table. The evaluator ***shall examine***, in this case, if this use of an alternative approach is acceptable (usually only in cases where testing is practically impossible).

15.4 Depth (ATE_DPT)

15.4.1 Evaluation of sub-activity (ATE_DPT.1)

15.4.1.1 Objectives

The objective of this sub-activity is to determine whether the developer has tested the TSF subsystems against the TOE design and the security architecture description.

15.4.1.2 Input

Input for ATE_DPT.1 consists of the following:

— the ST;

— the functional specification;

— the TOE design;

— the security architecture description;

— the test documentation;

— the depth of testing analysis.

15.4.1.3 Action ATE_DPT.1.1E

15.4.1.3.1 Evaluator action (ISO/IEC 15408-3:2026, 13.3.4)

The evaluator shall confirm that the information provided meets all ISO/IEC 18045 and ISO/IEC 15408 series requirements for content and presentation of evidence.

15.4.1.3.2 Content requirement ATE_DPT.1.1C (ISO/IEC 15408-3:2026, 13.3.4)

The analysis of the depth of testing shall demonstrate the correspondence between the tests in the test documentation and the TSF subsystems in the TOE design.

15.4.1.3.3 Work unit ATE_DPT.1-1

The evaluator ***shall examine*** the depth of testing analysis to determine that the descriptions of the behaviour of TSF subsystems and of their interactions is included within the test documentation.

This work unit verifies the content of the correspondence between the tests and the descriptions in the TOE design. In cases where the description of the TSF's architectural soundness in ADV_ARC (Security

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architecture) (12.3) cites specific mechanisms, this work unit also verifies the correspondence between the tests and the descriptions of the behaviour of such mechanisms.

A simple cross-table can be sufficient to show test correspondence. The identification of the tests and the behaviour or interaction presented in the depth-of coverage analysis shall be unambiguous.

When results from ATE_DPT.1 (Testing: basic design) are combined with a component of ADV_TDS (TOE design) (12.8), which includes descriptions at the module level, e.g. evaluation of sub-activity ADV_TDS.3 (Basic modular design) (12.8.3), the level of detail needed to map the test cases to the behaviour of the subsystems can require information from the module description to be used. This is because ADV_TDS.3 (Basic modular design) (12.8.3) allows the description of details to be shifted from the subsystem level to the module level, or even to omit the subsystems altogether.

In any case, the required level of detail in the provided reference to the tested behaviour can be defined using the statement "the level of detail required for the description of subsystem behaviour as defined by ADV_TDS.2 (Architectural design) (12.8.2) (in particular work unit ADV_TDS.2-4 (12.8.2.2.9))". It states that a detailed description of the behaviour typically discusses how the functionality is provided, in terms of what key data and data structures represent; what control relationships exist within a subsystem and how these elements work together to provide the SFR-enforcing behaviour.

The evaluator should keep in mind that not all tests in the test documentation are required to map to a subsystem behaviour or interaction description.

15.4.1.3.4 Work unit ATE_DPT.1-2

The evaluator ***shall examine*** the test plan, test prerequisites, test steps and expected result(s) to determine that the testing approach for the behaviour description demonstrates the behaviour of that subsystem as described in the TOE design.

Guidance on this work unit can be found in:

— 15.2.2

— 15.2.3

When ATE_DPT.1 (Testing: basic design) is combined with a component of ADV_TDS (TOE design) (12.8), which includes descriptions at the module level, e.g. ADV_TDS.3 (Basic modular design) (12.8.3), the level of detail needed to map the test cases to the behaviour of the subsystems can require information from the module description to be used. This is because ADV_TDS.3 (Basic modular design) (12.8.3) allows the description of details to be shifted from the subsystem level to the module level, or even to omit the subsystems altogether.

In any case, the required level of detail in the provided reference to the tested behaviour can be defined using the statement "the level of detail required for the description of subsystem behaviour as defined by ADV_TDS.2 (Architectural design) (12.8.2) (in particular work unit ADV_TDS.2-4 (12.8.2.2.9))". It states that a detailed description of the behaviour typically discusses how the functionality is provided, in terms of what key data and data structures represent; what control relationships exist within a subsystem and how these elements work together to provide the SFR-enforcing behaviour.

If TSF subsystem interfaces are described, the behaviour of those subsystems can be tested directly from those interfaces. Otherwise, the behaviour of those subsystems is tested from the TSFIs. Or a combination of the two can be employed. Whatever strategy is used the evaluator shall consider its appropriateness for adequately testing the behaviour that is described in the TOE design.

15.4.1.3.5 Work unit ATE_DPT.1-3

The evaluator ***shall examine*** the test plan, test prerequisites, test steps and expected result(s) to determine that the testing approach for the behaviour description demonstrates the interactions among subsystems as described in the TOE design.

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While an earlier work unit has addressed the behaviour of subsystems, this work unit addresses the interactions among subsystems.

Guidance on this work unit can be found in:

— 15.2.2

— 15.2.3

If TSF subsystem interfaces are described, the interactions with other subsystems can be tested directly from those interfaces. Otherwise, the interactions among subsystems shall be inferred from the TSFIs. Whatever strategy is used the evaluator shall consider its appropriateness for adequately testing the interactions among subsystems that are described in the TOE design.

15.4.1.3.6 Content requirement ATE_DPT.1.2C (ISO/IEC 15408-3:2026, 13.3.4)

The analysis of the depth of testing shall demonstrate that all TSF subsystems in the TOE design have been tested.

15.4.1.3.7 Work unit ATE_DPT.1-4

The evaluator ***shall examine*** the test procedures to determine that all descriptions of TSF subsystem behaviour and interaction are tested.

This work unit verifies the completeness of work unit ATE_DPT.1-1 (15.4.1.3.3). All descriptions of TSF subsystem behaviour and of interactions among TSF subsystems that are provided in the TOE design are required to be tested. Incomplete depth of testing would be evident if a description of TSF subsystem behaviour or of interactions among TSF subsystems was identified in the TOE design and no tests can be attributed to it.

When ATE_DPT.1 (Testing: basic design) is combined with a component of ADV_TDS (TOE design) (12.8), which includes descriptions at the module level, e.g. ADV_TDS.3 (Basic modular design) (12.8.3), the level of detail needed to map the test cases to the behaviour of the subsystems can require information from the module description to be used. This is because ADV_TDS.3 (Basic modular design) (12.8.3) allows the description of details to be shifted from the subsystem level to the module level, or even to omit the subsystems altogether.

In any case, the required level of detail in the provided reference to the tested behaviour can be defined using the statement "the level of detail required for the description of subsystem behaviour as defined by ADV_TDS.2 (Architectural design) (12.8.2) (in particular work unit ADV_TDS.2-4 (12.8.2.2.9))". It states that a detailed description of the behaviour typically discusses how the functionality is provided, in terms of what key data and data structures represent; what control relationships exist within a subsystem and how these elements work together to provide the SFR-enforcing behaviour.

The evaluator should keep in mind that this does not imply that all tests in the test documentation are required to map to the subsystem behaviour or interaction description in the TOE design.

15.4.2 Evaluation of sub-activity (ATE_DPT.2)

15.4.2.1 Objectives

The objective of this sub-activity is to determine whether the developer has tested all the TSF subsystems and SFR-enforcing modules against the TOE design and the security architecture description.

15.4.2.2 Input

Input for ATE_DPT.2 consists of the following:

— the ST;

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— the functional specification;

— the TOE design;

— the security architecture description;

— the test documentation;

— the depth of testing analysis.

15.4.2.3 Action ATE_DPT.2.1E

15.4.2.3.1 Evaluator action (ISO/IEC 15408-3:2026, 13.3.5)

The evaluator shall confirm that the information provided meets all ISO/IEC 18045 and ISO/IEC 15408 series requirements for content and presentation of evidence.

15.4.2.3.2 Content requirement ATE_DPT.2.1C (ISO/IEC 15408-3:2026, 13.3.5)

The analysis of the depth of testing shall demonstrate the correspondence between the tests in the test documentation and the TSF subsystems and SFR-enforcing modules in the TOE design.

15.4.2.3.3 Work unit ATE_DPT.2-1

The evaluator ***shall examine*** the depth of testing analysis to determine that descriptions of the behaviour of TSF subsystems and of their interactions are included within the test documentation.

This work unit verifies the content of the correspondence between the tests and the descriptions in the TOE design. In cases where the description of the TSF's architectural soundness in ADV_ARC (Security architecture) (12.3) cites specific mechanisms, this work unit also verifies the correspondence between the tests and the descriptions of the behaviour of such mechanisms.

A simple cross-table can be sufficient to show test correspondence. The identification of the tests and the behaviour or interaction presented in the depth-of coverage analysis shall be unambiguous.

The evaluator should keep in mind that not all tests in the test documentation are required to map to a subsystem behaviour or interaction description.

15.4.2.3.4 Work unit ATE_DPT.2-2

The evaluator ***shall examine*** the test plan, test prerequisites, test steps and expected result(s) to determine that the testing approach for the behaviour description demonstrates the behaviour of that subsystem as described in the TOE design.

Guidance on this work unit can be found in:

— 15.2.2

— 15.2.3

If TSF subsystem interfaces are described, the behaviour of those subsystems can be tested directly from those interfaces. Otherwise, the behaviour of those subsystems is tested from the TSFIs. Or a combination of the two can be employed. Whatever strategy is used the evaluator shall consider its appropriateness for adequately testing the behaviour that is described in the TOE design.

15.4.2.3.5 Work unit ATE_DPT.2-3

The evaluator ***shall examine*** the test plan, test prerequisites, test steps and expected result(s) to determine that the testing approach for the behaviour description demonstrates the interactions among subsystems as described in the TOE design.

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While the previous work unit addresses behaviour of subsystems, this work unit addresses the interactions among subsystems.

Guidance on this work unit can be found in:

— 15.2.2

— 15.2.3

If TSF subsystem interfaces are described, the interactions with other subsystems can be tested directly from those interfaces. Otherwise, the interactions among subsystems shall be inferred from the TSFIs. Whatever strategy is used the evaluator shall consider its appropriateness for adequately testing the interactions among subsystems that are described in the TOE design.

15.4.2.3.6 Work unit ATE_DPT.2-4

The evaluator ***shall examine*** the depth of testing analysis to determine that the interfaces of SFR-enforcing modules are included within the test documentation.

This work unit verifies the content of the correspondence between the tests and the descriptions in the TOE design. In cases where the description of the TSF's architectural soundness in ADV_ARC (Security architecture) (12.3) cites specific mechanisms at the modular level, this work unit also verifies the correspondence between the tests and the descriptions of the behaviour of such mechanisms.

A simple cross-table can be sufficient to show test correspondence. The identification of the tests and the SFR-enforcing modules presented in the depth-of coverage analysis shall be unambiguous.

The evaluator should keep in mind that not all tests in the test documentation are required to map to the interfaces of SFR-enforcing modules.

15.4.2.3.7 Work unit ATE_DPT.2-5

The evaluator ***shall examine*** the test plan, test prerequisites, test steps and expected result(s) to determine that the testing approach for each SFR-enforcing module interface demonstrates the expected behaviour of that interface.

While work unit ATE_DPT.2-2 (15.4.2.3.4) addresses expected behaviour of subsystems, this work unit addresses expected behaviour of the SFR-enforcing module interfaces that are covered by ATE_DPT.2-4 (15.4.2.3.6).

Guidance on this work unit can be found in:

— 15.2.2

— 15.2.3

Testing of an interface can be performed directly at that interface, or at the external interfaces, or a combination of both. Whatever strategy is used the evaluator shall consider its appropriateness for adequately testing the interfaces. Specifically, the evaluator determines whether testing at the internal interfaces is necessary or whether these internal interfaces can be adequately tested (albeit implicitly) by exercising the external interfaces. This determination is left to the evaluator, as is its justification.

15.4.2.3.8 Content requirement ATE_DPT.2.2C (ISO/IEC 15408-3:2026, 13.3.5)

The analysis of the depth of testing shall demonstrate that all TSF subsystems in the TOE design have been tested.

15.4.2.3.9 Work unit ATE_DPT.2-6

The evaluator ***shall examine*** the test procedures to determine that all descriptions of TSF subsystem behaviour and interaction are tested.

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This work unit verifies the completeness of work unit ATE_DPT.2-1 (15.4.2.3.3). All descriptions of TSF subsystem behaviour and of interactions among TSF subsystems that are provided in the TOE design are required to be tested. Incomplete depth of testing would be evident if a description of TSF subsystem behaviour or of interactions among TSF subsystems was identified in the TOE design and no tests can be attributed to it.

The evaluator should keep in mind that this does not imply that all tests in the test documentation are required to map to the subsystem behaviour or interaction description in the TOE design.

15.4.2.3.10 Content requirement ATE_DPT.2.3C (ISO/IEC 15408-3:2026, 13.3.5)

The analysis of the depth of testing shall demonstrate that the SFR-enforcing modules in the TOE design have been tested.

15.4.2.3.11 Work unit ATE_DPT.2-7

The evaluator ***shall examine*** the test procedures to determine that all interfaces of SFR-enforcing modules are tested.

This work unit verifies the completeness of work unit ATE_DPT.2-4 (15.4.2.3.6). All interfaces of SFR-enforcing modules that are provided in the TOE design shall be tested. Incomplete depth of testing would be evident if any interface of any SFR-enforcing modules was identified in the TOE design and no tests can be attributed to it.

The evaluator should keep in mind that this does not imply that all tests in the test documentation are required to map to an interface of an SFR-enforcing module in the TOE design.

15.4.3 Evaluation of sub-activity (ATE_DPT.3)

15.4.3.1 Objectives

The objective of this sub-activity is to determine whether the developer has tested the all the TSF subsystems and modules against the TOE design and the security architecture description.

15.4.3.2 Input

Input for ATE_DPT.3 consists of the following:

— the ST;

— the functional specification;

— the TOE design;

— the security architecture description;

— the test documentation;

— the depth of testing analysis.

15.4.3.3 Action ATE_DPT.3.1E

15.4.3.3.1 Evaluator action (ISO/IEC 15408-3:2026, 13.3.6)

The evaluator shall confirm that the information provided meets all ISO/IEC 18045 and ISO/IEC 15408 series requirements for content and presentation of evidence.

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15.4.3.3.2 Content requirement ATE_DPT.3.1C (ISO/IEC 15408-3:2026, 13.3.6)

The analysis of the depth of testing shall demonstrate the correspondence between the tests in the test documentation and the TSF subsystems and modules in the TOE design.

15.4.3.3.3 Work unit ATE_DPT.3-1

The evaluator ***shall examine*** the depth of testing analysis to determine that descriptions of the behaviour of TSF subsystems and of their interactions are included within the test documentation.

This work unit verifies the content of the correspondence between the tests and the descriptions in the TOE design. A simple cross-table can be sufficient to show test correspondence. The identification of the tests and the behaviour or interaction presented in the depth-of coverage analysis shall be unambiguous.

The evaluator should keep in mind that it is not required that all tests in the test documentation map to a subsystem behaviour or interaction description.

15.4.3.3.4 Work unit ATE_DPT.3-2

The evaluator ***shall examine*** the test plan, test prerequisites, test steps and expected result(s) to determine that the testing approach for the behaviour description demonstrates the behaviour of that subsystem as described in the TOE design.

Guidance on this work unit can be found in:

— 15.2.2

— 15.2.3

If TSF subsystem interfaces are provided, the behaviour of those subsystems can be performed directly from those interfaces. Otherwise, the behaviour of those subsystems is tested from the TSFIs. Or a combination of the two can be employed. Whatever strategy is used the evaluator shall consider its appropriateness for adequately testing the behaviour that is described in the TOE design.

15.4.3.3.5 Work unit ATE_DPT.3-3

The evaluator ***shall examine*** the test plan, test prerequisites, test steps and expected result(s) to determine that the testing approach for the behaviour description demonstrates the interactions among subsystems as described in the TOE design.

Guidance on this work unit can be found in:

— 15.2.2

— 15.2.3

While the previous work unit addresses behaviour of subsystems, this work unit addresses the interactions among subsystems.

If TSF subsystem interfaces are provided, the interactions with other subsystems can be performed directly from those interfaces. Otherwise, the interactions among subsystems shall be inferred from the TSFIs. Whatever strategy is used the evaluator shall consider its appropriateness for adequately testing the interactions among subsystems that are described in the TOE design.

15.4.3.3.6 Work unit ATE_DPT.3-4

The evaluator ***shall examine*** the depth of testing analysis to determine that the interfaces of TSF modules are included within the test documentation.

This work unit verifies the content of the correspondence between the tests and the descriptions in the TOE design. A simple cross-table can be sufficient to show test correspondence. The identification of the

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tests and the behaviour or interaction presented in the depth-of coverage analysis shall be unambiguous. The evaluator should keep in mind that it is not required that all tests in the test documentation map to a subsystem behaviour or interaction description.

15.4.3.3.7 Work unit ATE_DPT.3-5

The evaluator ***shall examine*** the test plan, test prerequisites, test steps and expected result(s) to determine that the testing approach for each TSF module interface demonstrates the expected behaviour of that interface.

Guidance on this work unit can be found in:

— 15.2.2

— 15.2.3

Testing of an interface can be performed directly at that interface, or at the external interfaces, or a combination of both. Whatever strategy is used the evaluator shall consider its appropriateness for adequately testing the interfaces. Specifically, the evaluator determines whether testing at the internal interfaces is necessary or whether these internal interfaces can be adequately tested (albeit implicitly) by exercising the external interfaces. This determination is left to the evaluator, as is its justification.

15.4.3.3.8 Content requirement ATE_DPT.3.2C (ISO/IEC 15408-3:2026, 13.3.6)

The analysis of the depth of testing shall demonstrate that all TSF subsystems in the TOE design have been tested.

15.4.3.3.9 Work unit ATE_DPT.3-6

The evaluator ***shall examine*** the test procedures to determine that all descriptions of TSF subsystem behaviour and interaction are tested.

This work unit verifies the completeness of work unit ATE_DPT.3-1 (15.4.3.3.3). All descriptions of TSF subsystem behaviour and of interactions among TSF subsystems that are provided in the TOE design shall be tested. Incomplete depth of testing would be evident if a description of TSF subsystem behaviour or of interactions among TSF subsystems was identified in the TOE design and no tests can be attributed to it.

The evaluator should keep in mind that it is not required that all tests in the test documentation map to a subsystem behaviour or interaction description in the TOE design.

15.4.3.3.10 Content requirement ATE_DPT.3.3C (ISO/IEC 15408-3:2026, 13.3.6)

The analysis of the depth of testing shall demonstrate that all TSF modules in the TOE design have been tested.

15.4.3.3.11 Work unit ATE_DPT.3-7

The evaluator ***shall examine*** the test procedures to determine that all interfaces of all TSF modules are tested.

This work unit verifies the completeness of work unit ATE_DPT.3-4 (15.4.3.3.6). All interfaces of TSF modules that are provided in the TOE design shall be tested. Incomplete depth of testing would be evident if any interface of any TSF module was identified in the TOE design and no tests can be attributed to it.

The evaluator should keep in mind that it is not required that all tests in the test documentation map to an interface of a TSF module in the TOE design.

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15.5 Functional tests (ATE_FUN)

15.5.1 Evaluation of sub-activity (ATE_FUN.1)

15.5.1.1 Objectives

The objective of this sub-activity is to determine whether the developer correctly performed and documented the tests in the test documentation.

15.5.1.2 Application notes

The extent to which the test documentation is required to cover the TSF is dependent upon the coverage assurance component.

For the developer tests provided, the evaluator determines whether the tests are repeatable, and the extent to which the developer's tests can be used for the evaluator's independent testing effort. Any TSFI for which the developer's test results indicate any possibility that it does not perform as specified should be tested independently by the evaluator to determine whether or not it does.

15.5.1.3 Input

Input for ATE_FUN.1 consists of the following:

— the ST;

— the functional specification;

— the test documentation.

15.5.1.4 Action ATE_FUN.1.1E

15.5.1.4.1 Evaluator action (ISO/IEC 15408-3:2026, 13.4.4)

The evaluator shall confirm that the information provided meets all ISO/IEC 18045 and ISO/IEC 15408 series requirements for content and presentation of evidence.

15.5.1.4.2 Content requirement ATE_FUN.1.1C (ISO/IEC 15408-3:2026, 13.4.4)

The test documentation shall consist of test plans, expected test results and actual test results.

15.5.1.4.3 Work unit ATE_FUN.1-1

The evaluator ***shall check*** that the test documentation includes test plans, expected test results and actual test results.

The evaluator checks that test plans, expected tests results and actual test results are included in the test documentation.

15.5.1.4.4 Content requirement ATE_FUN.1.2C (ISO/IEC 15408-3:2026, 13.4.4)

The test plans shall identify the tests to be performed and describe the scenarios for performing each test. These scenarios shall include any ordering dependencies on the results of other tests.

15.5.1.4.5 Work unit ATE_FUN.1-2

The evaluator ***shall examine*** the test plan to determine that it describes the scenarios for performing each test.

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The evaluator determines that the test plan provides information about the test configuration being used: both on the configuration of the TOE and on any test equipment being used. This information shall be detailed enough to ensure that the test configuration is reproducible.

The evaluator also determines that the test plan includes:

— information about how to execute the test,

— any necessary automated set-up procedures (and whether they require privilege to run),

— inputs to be applied,

— how these inputs are applied,

— how output is obtained,

— any automated clean-up procedures (and whether they require privilege to run).

This information should be detailed enough to ensure that the test is reproducible.

The evaluator can employ a sampling strategy when performing this work unit.

15.5.1.4.6 Work unit ATE_FUN.1-3

The evaluator ***shall examine*** the test plan to determine that the TOE test configuration is consistent with the ST.

The TOE referred to in the developer's test plan shall have the same unique reference as established by the ALC_CMC (CM capabilities) (14.3) sub-activities and identified in the ST introduction.

It is possible for the ST to specify more than one configuration for evaluation. The evaluator verifies that all test configurations identified in the developer test documentation are consistent with the ST. For example, the ST can define configuration options that shall be set, which can have an impact upon what constitutes the TOE by including or excluding additional portions. The evaluator verifies that all such variations of the TOE are considered.

The evaluator should consider the security objectives for the operational environment described in the ST that can apply to the test environment. There can be some objectives for the operational environment that do not apply to the test environment. For example, an objective about user clearances does not necessarily apply; however, an objective about a single point of connection to a network would apply.

The evaluator can employ a sampling strategy when performing this work unit.

When this work unit is applied to a component TOE that can be used or integrated in a composed TOE (see class ACO (Composition) (Clause 17)), then, in the instances that the component TOE under evaluation depends on other components in the operational environment to support their operation, the developer can consider using the other component(s) that will be used in the composed TOE to fulfil the requirements of the operational environment as one of the test configurations. This will reduce the amount of additional testing required for the composed TOE evaluation.

15.5.1.4.7 Work unit ATE_FUN.1-4

The evaluator ***shall examine*** the test plans to determine that sufficient instructions are provided for any initial conditions and ordering dependencies.

It can be necessary to perform some steps to establish initial conditions. For example, it is likely that user accounts must be added before they can be deleted.

An example of ordering dependencies on the results of other tests is where, before performing a test to consider the searching and sorting of audit records, it can be necessary to perform actions in a test that will result in the generation of suitable audit records.

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Another example of an ordering dependency would be where one test case generates a file of data to be used as input for another test case.

The evaluator can employ a sampling strategy when performing this work unit.

15.5.1.4.8 Content requirement ATE_FUN.1.3C (ISO/IEC 15408-3:2026, 13.4.4)

The expected test results shall show the anticipated outputs from a successful execution of the tests.

15.5.1.4.9 Work unit ATE_FUN.1-5

The evaluator ***shall examine*** the test documentation to determine that all expected tests results are included.

The expected test results are needed to determine whether or not a test has been successfully performed. Expected test results are sufficient if they are unambiguous and consistent with expected behaviour given the testing approach.

The evaluator can employ a sampling strategy when performing this work unit.

15.5.1.4.10 Content requirement ATE_FUN.1.4C (ISO/IEC 15408-3:2026, 13.4.4)

The actual test results shall be consistent with the expected test results.

15.5.1.4.11 Work unit ATE_FUN.1-6

The evaluator ***shall check*** that the actual test results in the test documentation are consistent with the expected test results in the test documentation.

A comparison of the actual and expected test results provided by the developer will reveal any inconsistencies between the results. It is possible that a direct comparison of actual results cannot be made until some data reduction or synthesis has been first performed. In such cases, the developer's test documentation should describe the process to reduce or synthesise the actual data in enough detail to allow an evaluator to perform the conversion process.

For example, it can be necessary for the developer to test the contents of a message buffer after a network connection has occurred to determine the contents of the buffer. The message buffer will contain a binary number. This binary number is then converted to another form of data representation in order to make the test more meaningful. The conversion of this binary representation of data into a higher-level representation is described by the developer in enough detail to allow an evaluator to perform the conversion process.

It should be noted that the description of the process used to reduce or synthesise the actual data is used by the evaluator not to actually perform the necessary modification but to assess whether this process is correct. It is up to the developer to transform the expected test results into a format that allows an easy comparison with the actual test results.

The evaluator can employ a sampling strategy when performing this work unit.

15.5.1.4.12 Work unit ATE_FUN.1-7

The evaluator ***shall report*** the developer testing effort, outlining the testing approach, configuration, depth and results.

The developer testing information recorded in the ETR allows the evaluator to convey the overall testing approach and effort expended on the testing of the TOE by the developer. The intent of providing this information is to give a meaningful overview of the developer testing effort. It is not intended that the information regarding developer testing in the ETR be an exact reproduction of specific test steps or results of individual tests. The intention is to provide enough detail to allow other evaluators and evaluation authorities to gain some insight about the developer's testing approach, amount of testing performed, TOE test configurations, and the overall results of the developer testing.

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Information that would typically be found in the ETR regarding the developer testing effort is:

— TOE test configurations. The particular configurations of the TOE that were tested, including whether any privileged code was required to set up the test or clean up afterwards;

— testing approach. An account of the overall developer testing strategy employed;

— testing results. A description of the overall developer testing results.

This list is by no means exhaustive and is only intended to provide some context as to the type of information that should be present in the ETR concerning the developer testing effort.

15.5.2 Evaluation of sub-activity (ATE_FUN.2)

15.5.2.1 Objectives

The objective of this sub-activity is to determine whether the developer correctly performed and documented the tests in the test documentation and to ensure that testing is structured such as to avoid circular arguments about the correctness of the interfaces being tested.

15.5.2.2 Application notes

Although the test procedures can state pre-requisite initial test conditions in terms of ordering of tests, they will not necessarily provide a rationale for the ordering. An analysis of test ordering is an important factor in determining the adequacy of testing, as there is a possibility of faults being concealed by the ordering of tests.

15.5.2.3 Input

Input for ATE_FUN.2 consists of the following:

— the ST;

— the functional specification;

— the test documentation.

15.5.2.4 Action ATE_FUN.2.1E

15.5.2.4.1 Evaluator action (ISO/IEC 15408-3:2026, 13.4.5)

The evaluator shall confirm that the information provided meets all ISO/IEC 18045 and ISO/IEC 15408 series requirements for content and presentation of evidence.

15.5.2.4.2 Content requirement ATE_FUN.2.1C (ISO/IEC 15408-3:2026, 13.4.5)

The test documentation shall consist of test plans, expected test results and actual test results.

15.5.2.4.3 Work unit ATE_FUN.2-1

The evaluator ***shall check*** that the test documentation includes test plans, expected test results and actual test results.

The evaluator checks that test plans, expected tests results and actual test results are included in the test documentation.

15.5.2.4.4 Content requirement ATE_FUN.2.2C (ISO/IEC 15408-3:2026, 13.4.5)

The test plans shall identify the tests to be performed and describe the scenarios for performing each test. These scenarios shall include any ordering dependencies on the results of other tests.

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15.5.2.4.5 Work unit ATE_FUN.2-2

The evaluator ***shall examine*** the test plan to determine that it describes the scenarios for performing each test.

The evaluator determines that the test plan provides information about the test configuration being used: both on the configuration of the TOE and on any test equipment being used. This information shall be detailed enough to ensure that the test configuration is reproducible.

The evaluator also determines that the test plan includes:

— information about how to execute the test;

— any necessary automated set-up procedures (and whether they require privilege to run);

— inputs to be applied;

— how these inputs are applied;

— how output is obtained;

— any automated clean-up procedures (and whether they require privilege to run).

This information should be detailed enough to ensure that the test is reproducible.

The evaluator can employ a sampling strategy when performing this work unit.

15.5.2.4.6 Work unit ATE_FUN.2-3

The evaluator ***shall examine*** the test plan to determine that the TOE test configuration is consistent with the ST.

The TOE referred to in the developer's test plan shall have the same unique reference as established by the ALC_CMC (CM capabilities) (14.3) sub-activities and identified in the ST introduction.

It is possible for the ST to specify more than one configuration for evaluation. The evaluator verifies that all test configurations identified in the developer test documentation are consistent with the ST. For example, the ST can define configuration options that shall be set, which can have an impact upon what constitutes the TOE by including or excluding additional portions. The evaluator verifies that all such variations of the TOE are considered.

The evaluator should consider the security objectives for the operational environment described in the ST that can apply to the test environment. There can be some objectives for the operational environment that do not apply to the test environment. For example, an objective about user clearances does not necessarily apply; however, an objective about a single point of connection to a network would apply.

The evaluator can employ a sampling strategy when performing this work unit.

This work unit can be applied to a component TOE that can be used or integrated in a composed TOE (see class ACO (Composition) (Clause 17)). In the instances where the component TOE under evaluation depends on other components in the operational environment to support its operation, the developer can consider using the other component(s) that will be used in the composed TOE to fulfil the requirements of the operational environment as one of the test configurations. This will reduce the amount an additional testing that will be required for the composed TOE evaluation.

15.5.2.4.7 Work unit ATE_FUN.2-4

The evaluator ***shall examine*** the test plans to determine that sufficient instructions are provided for any initial conditions and ordering dependencies.

It can be necessary to perform some steps to establish initial conditions. For example, it is likely that user accounts must be added before they can be deleted.

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An example of ordering dependencies on the results of other tests is where, before performing a test to consider the searching and sorting of audit records, it can be necessary to perform actions in a test that will result in the generation of suitable audit records.

Another example of an ordering dependency would be where one test case generates a file of data to be used as input for another test case.

The evaluator can employ a sampling strategy when performing this work unit.

15.5.2.4.8 Content requirement ATE_FUN.2.3C (ISO/IEC 15408-3:2026, 13.4.5)

The expected test results shall show the anticipated outputs from a successful execution of the tests.

15.5.2.4.9 Work unit ATE_FUN.2-5

The evaluator ***shall examine*** the test documentation to determine that all expected tests results are included.

The expected test results are needed to determine whether or not a test has been successfully performed. Expected test results are sufficient if they are unambiguous and consistent with expected behaviour given the testing approach.

The evaluator can employ a sampling strategy when performing this work unit.

15.5.2.4.10 Content requirement ATE_FUN.2.4C (ISO/IEC 15408-3:2026, 13.4.5)

The actual test results shall be consistent with the expected test results.

15.5.2.4.11 Work unit ATE_FUN.2-6

The evaluator ***shall check*** that the actual test results in the test documentation are consistent with the expected test results in the test documentation.

A comparison of the actual and expected test results provided by the developer will reveal any inconsistencies between the results. It is possible that a direct comparison of actual results cannot be made until some data reduction or synthesis has been first performed. In such cases, the developer's test documentation should describe the process to reduce or synthesise the actual data in enough detail to allow an evaluator to perform the conversion process.

For example, it can be necessary for the developer to test the contents of a message buffer after a network connection has occurred to determine the contents of the buffer. The message buffer will contain a binary number. This binary number is then converted to another form of data representation in order to make the test more meaningful. The conversion of this binary representation of data into a higher-level representation is described by the developer in enough detail to allow an evaluator to perform the conversion process.

It should be noted that the description of the process used to reduce or synthesise the actual data is used by the evaluator not to actually perform the necessary modification but to assess whether this process is correct. It is up to the developer to transform the expected test results into a format that allows an easy comparison with the actual test results.

The evaluator can employ a sampling strategy when performing this work unit.

15.5.2.4.12 Work unit ATE_FUN.2-7

The evaluator ***shall report*** the developer testing effort, outlining the testing approach, configuration, depth and results.

The developer testing information recorded in the ETR allows the evaluator to convey the overall testing approach and effort expended on the testing of the TOE by the developer. The intent of providing this information is to give a meaningful overview of the developer testing effort. It is not intended that the

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information regarding developer testing in the ETR be an exact reproduction of specific test steps or results of individual tests. The intention is to provide enough detail to allow other evaluators and evaluation authorities to gain some insight about the developer's testing approach, amount of testing performed, TOE test configurations, and the overall results of the developer testing.

Information that would typically be found in the ETR section regarding the developer testing effort is:

— TOE test configurations: The particular configurations of the TOE that were tested, including whether any privileged code was required to set up the test or clean up afterwards;

— testing approach: An account of the overall developer testing strategy employed;

— testing results: A description of the overall developer testing results.

This list is by no means exhaustive and is only intended to provide some context as to the type of information that should be present in the ETR concerning the developer testing effort.

15.5.2.4.13 Content requirement ATE_FUN.2.5C (ISO/IEC 15408-3:2026, 13.4.5)

The test documentation shall include an analysis of the test procedure ordering dependencies.

15.5.2.4.14 Work unit ATE_FUN.2-8

The evaluator ***shall examine*** the analysis of the test procedure ordering dependencies to determine that a sufficient justification for the chosen ordering of test cases is given.

Usually the evaluator will generate a table of all cases where the test documentation requires a certain ordering of the tests and shall then examine that sufficient justification is given in every case as to why testing in this ordering is adequate and sufficient.

As an example it can be assumed that the TSF provide a random number generator, which is required to be initialised (for example with an adequate seed) before random numbers of a specified quality can be generated. In this case the evaluator shall consider the following question:

— does the test documentation only describe an ordering of tests, where the initialisation is done before calling the function to generate a random number?

The justification shall show, why the developer expects that, in the intended environment of the TOE, the random number function will not be called without initialisation of the random number generator.

If for example the user guidance documentation includes a clear instruction that the random number generator is required to be initialised adequately before being called, this can be considered adequate as a justification. The question of whether it can be plausibly assumed that users will follow such instruction is covered by the evaluation activities for class ASE (Security Target (ST) evaluation) (Clause 11) and class AGD (Guidance documents) (Clause 13) and is not necessary to re-examine here.

If, on the other hand, the TOE provides an authentication protocol, which implicitly uses random numbers provided by the random number generator, and an attacker can therefore "call" the random number generator implicitly by simply trying to authenticate, and if neither the TOE nor the environment prevent an attacker from doing this even before the random number generator is initialised, a test case is required to show, what happens in such a situation.

If, for example, instead of returning a "bad" random number, the random number function returns an error, when called without proper initialisation, it would be recommended to include a test showing this secure behaviour instead of trying to justify why the functions are only tested in the usual order.

Even without ATE_FUN.2 (Ordered functional testing), an evaluator would be expected to look for potential vulnerabilities like the implicit random number generator call described above. However, ATE_FUN.2.5C (see ISO/IEC 15408-3:2026, 13.4.5) adds assurance by requiring the developer to give a systematic justification as to why their chosen order of test cases doesn't hide such potential failures of security functions.

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15.6 Independent testing (ATE_IND)

15.6.1 Evaluation of sub-activity (ATE_IND.1)

15.6.1.1 Objectives

The goal of this activity is to determine, by independently testing a subset of the TSFIs, whether the TOE behaves as specified in the functional specification and guidance documentation.

15.6.1.2 Input

Input for ATE_IND.1 consists of the following:

— the ST;

— the functional specification;

— the operational user guidance;

— the preparative user guidance;

— the TOE suitable for testing.

15.6.1.3 Action ATE_IND.1.1E

15.6.1.3.1 Evaluator action (ISO/IEC 15408-3:2026, 13.5.4)

The evaluator shall confirm that the information provided meets all ISO/IEC 18045 and ISO/IEC 15408 series requirements for content and presentation of evidence.

15.6.1.3.2 Content requirement ATE_IND.1.1C (ISO/IEC 15408-3:2026, 13.5.4)

The TOE shall be suitable for testing.

15.6.1.3.3 Work unit ATE_IND.1-1

The evaluator ***shall examine*** the TOE to determine that the test configuration is consistent with the configuration under evaluation as specified in the ST.

The TOE provided by the developer should have the same unique reference as established by the ALC_CMC (CM capabilities) (14.3) sub-activities and identified in the ST introduction.

It is possible for the ST to specify more than one configuration for evaluation. The TOE can comprise a number of distinct hardware and software entities that require testing in accordance with the ST. The evaluator verifies that all test configurations are consistent with the ST.

The evaluator should consider the security objectives for the operational environment described in the ST that can apply to the test environment and ensure they are met in the testing environment. There can be some objectives for the operational environment that do not apply to the test environment. For example, an objective about user clearances does not necessarily apply; however, an objective about a single point of connection to a network shall apply.

If any test resources are used (e.g. meters, analysers) it shall be the evaluator's responsibility to ensure that these resources are calibrated correctly.

15.6.1.3.4 Work unit ATE_IND.1-2

The evaluator ***shall examine*** the TOE to determine that it has been installed properly and is in a known state.

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It is possible for the evaluator to determine the state of the TOE in a number of ways. For example, previous successful completion of the AGD_PRE.1 (Preparative procedures) (13.4.1) can satisfy this work unit if the evaluator has confidence that the TOE being used for testing was installed properly and is in a known state. If this is not the case, then the evaluator should follow the developer's procedures to install and start up the TOE, using the supplied guidance only.

If it is necessary for the evaluator to perform the installation procedures because the TOE is in an unknown state, this work unit when successfully completed can satisfy work unit AGD_PRE.1-3 (13.4.1.5.2).

15.6.1.4 Action ATE_IND.1.2E

15.6.1.4.1 Evaluator action (ISO/IEC 15408-3:2026, 13.5.4)

The evaluator shall test a subset of the TSF to confirm that the TSF operates as specified.

15.6.1.4.2 Work unit ATE_IND.1-3

The evaluator ***shall devise*** a test subset.

The evaluator selects a test subset and testing strategy that is appropriate for the TOE. One extreme testing strategy would be to have the test subset contain as many interfaces as possible tested with little rigour. Another testing strategy would be to have the test subset contain a few interfaces based on their perceived relevance and rigorously test these interfaces.

Typically, the testing approach taken by the evaluator should fall somewhere between these two extremes. The evaluator should exercise most of the interfaces using at least one test, but testing is not required to demonstrate exhaustive specification testing.

The evaluator, when selecting the subset of the interfaces to be tested, shall consider the following factors:

— the number of interfaces from which to draw upon for the test subset. Where the TSF includes only a small number of relatively simple interfaces, it can be practical to rigorously test all of the interfaces. In other cases, this is not cost-effective, and sampling is required;

— maintaining a balance of evaluation activities. The evaluator effort expended on the test activity should be commensurate with that expended on any other evaluation activity.

The evaluator selects the interfaces to compose the subset. This selection will depend on a number of factors, and consideration of these factors can also influence the choice of test subset size:

— significance of interfaces. Those interfaces more significant than others should be included in the test subset. One major factor of "significance" is the security-relevance (SFR-enforcing interfaces would be more significant than SFR-supporting interfaces, which are more significant than SFR-non-interfering interfaces; see ADV_FSP (Functional specification) (12.4)). The other major factor of "significance" is the number of SFRs mapping to this interface (as determined when identifying the correspondence between levels of abstraction in class ADV (Development) (Clause 12));

— complexity of the interface. Complex interfaces can require complex tests that impose onerous requirements on the developer or evaluator, and hence not be conducive to cost-effective evaluations. Conversely, they are a likely area to find errors and are good candidates for the subset. The evaluator shall strike a balance between these considerations;

— implicit testing. Testing some interfaces can often implicitly test other interfaces, and their inclusion in the subset can maximise the number of interfaces tested (albeit implicitly). Certain interfaces will typically be used to provide a variety of security functionality, and will tend to be the target of an effective testing approach;

— types of interfaces (e.g. programmatic, command-line, protocol). The evaluator should consider including tests for all different types of interfaces that the TOE supports;

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— interfaces that give rise to features that are innovative or unusual. Where the TOE contains innovative or unusual features, which can feature strongly in marketing literature and guidance documents, the corresponding interfaces should be strong candidates for testing.

This guidance articulates factors to consider during the selection process of an appropriate test subset, but these are by no means exhaustive.

15.6.1.4.3 Work unit ATE_IND.1-4

The evaluator ***shall produce*** test documentation for the test subset that is sufficiently detailed to enable the tests to be reproducible.

With an understanding of the expected behaviour of the TSF, from the ST and the functional specification, the evaluator ***shall determine*** the most feasible way to test the interface. Specifically, the evaluator considers:

— the approach that will be used, for instance, whether an external interface will be tested, or an internal interface using a test harness, or will an alternate test approach be employed (e.g. in exceptional circumstances, a code inspection, if the implementation representation is available);

— the interface(s) that will be used to test and observe responses;

— the initial conditions required for the test (i.e. any particular objects or subjects that are required to exist, together with their necessary security attributes);

— special test equipment that is required to either stimulate an interface (e.g. packet generators) or make observations of an interface (e.g. network analysers).

The evaluator can find it practical to test each interface using a series of test cases, where each test case tests a very specific aspect of expected behaviour.

The evaluator's test documentation should specify the derivation of each test, tracing it back to the relevant interface(s).

15.6.1.4.4 Work unit ATE_IND.1-5

The evaluator ***shall conduct*** testing.

The evaluator uses the test documentation developed as a basis for executing tests on the TOE. The test documentation is used as a basis for testing but this does not preclude the evaluator from performing additional ad hoc tests. The evaluator can devise new tests based on behaviour of the TOE discovered during testing. These new tests are recorded in the test documentation.

15.6.1.4.5 Work unit ATE_IND.1-6

The evaluator ***shall record*** the following information about the tests that compose the test subset:

— identification of the interface behaviour to be tested;

— instructions to connect and setup all required test equipment as required to conduct the test;

— instructions to establish all prerequisite test conditions;

— instructions to stimulate the interface;

— instructions for observing the behaviour of the interface;

— descriptions of all expected results and the necessary analysis to be performed on the observed behaviour for comparison against expected results;

— instructions to conclude the test and establish the necessary post-test state for the TOE;

— actual test results.

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The level of detail should be such that another evaluator can repeat the tests and obtain an equivalent result. While some specific details of the test results can be different (e.g. time and date fields in an audit record) the overall result is expected to be identical.

There can be instances when it is unnecessary to provide all the information presented in this work unit (e.g. if the actual results of a test do not require any analysis before a comparison between the expected results can be made). The determination to omit this information is left to the evaluator, as is the justification.

15.6.1.4.6 Work unit ATE_IND.1-7

The evaluator ***shall check*** that all actual test results are consistent with the expected test results.

Any differences in the actual and expected test results can indicate that the TOE does not perform as specified or that the evaluator test documentation can be incorrect. Unexpected actual results can require corrective maintenance to the TOE or test documentation and perhaps require re-running of impacted tests and modifying the test sample size and composition. This determination is left to the evaluator, as is its justification.

15.6.1.4.7 Work unit ATE_IND.1-8

The evaluator ***shall report*** in the ETR the evaluator testing effort, outlining the testing approach, configuration, depth and results.

The evaluator testing information reported in the ETR allows the evaluator to convey the overall testing approach and effort expended on the testing activity during the evaluation. The intent of providing this information is to give a meaningful overview of the testing effort. It is not intended that the information regarding testing in the ETR be an exact reproduction of specific test instructions or results of individual tests. The intention is to provide enough detail to allow other evaluators and evaluation authorities to gain some insight about the testing approach chosen, amount of testing performed, TOE test configurations, and the overall results of the testing activity.

Information that would typically be found in the ETR regarding the evaluator testing effort is:

— TOE test configurations. The particular configurations of the TOE that were tested;

— subset size chosen. The amount of interfaces that were tested during the evaluation and a justification for the size;

— selection criteria for the interfaces that compose the subset. Brief statements about the factors considered when selecting interfaces for inclusion in the subset;

— interfaces tested. A brief listing of the interfaces that merited inclusion in the subset;

— verdict for the activity. The overall judgement on the results of testing during the evaluation.

This list is by no means exhaustive and is only intended to provide some context as to the type of information that should be present in the ETR concerning the testing the evaluator performed during the evaluation.

15.6.2 Evaluation of sub-activity (ATE_IND.2)

15.6.2.1 Objectives

The goal of this activity is to determine, by independently testing a subset of the TSF, whether the TOE behaves as specified in the design documentation, and to gain confidence in the developer's test results by performing a sample of the developer's tests.

15.6.2.2 Input

Input for ATE_IND.2 consists of the following:

— the ST;

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— the functional specification;

— the TOE design description;

— the operational user guidance;

— the preparative user guidance;

— the configuration management documentation;

— the test documentation;

— the TOE suitable for testing.

15.6.2.3 Action ATE_IND.2.1E

15.6.2.3.1 Evaluator action (ISO/IEC 15408-3:2026, 13.5.5)

The evaluator shall confirm that the information provided meets all ISO/IEC 18045 and ISO/IEC 15408 series requirements for content and presentation of evidence.

15.6.2.3.2 Content requirement ATE_IND.2.1C (ISO/IEC 15408-3:2026, 13.5.5)

The TOE shall be suitable for testing.

15.6.2.3.3 Work unit ATE_IND.2-1

The evaluator ***shall examine*** the TOE to determine that the test configuration is consistent with the configuration under evaluation as specified in the ST.

The TOE provided by the developer and identified in the test plan should have the same unique reference as established by the ALC_CMC (CM capabilities) (14.3) sub-activities and identified in the ST introduction.

It is possible for the ST to specify more than one configuration for evaluation. The TOE can comprise a number of distinct hardware and software entities that require testing in accordance with the ST. The evaluator verifies that all test configurations are consistent with the ST.

The evaluator should consider the security objectives for the operational environment described in the ST that can apply to the test environment and ensure they are met in the testing environment. There can be some objectives for the operational environment that do not apply to the test environment. For example, an objective about user clearances does not necessarily apply; however, an objective about a single point of connection to a network would apply.

If any test resources are used (e.g. meters, analysers) it shall be the evaluator's responsibility to ensure that these resources are calibrated correctly.

15.6.2.3.4 Work unit ATE_IND.2-2

The evaluator ***shall examine*** the TOE to determine that it has been installed properly and is in a known state.

It is possible for the evaluator to determine the state of the TOE in a number of ways. For example, previous successful completion of the AGD_PRE.1 (Preparative procedures) (13.4.1) sub-activity can satisfy this work unit if the evaluator has confidence that the TOE being used for testing was installed properly and is in a known state. If this is not the case, then the evaluator should follow the developer's procedures to install and start up the TOE, using the supplied guidance only.

If it is necessary for the evaluator to perform the installation procedures because the TOE is in an unknown state, this work unit when successfully completed can satisfy work unit AGD_PRE.1-3 (13.4.1.5.2).

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15.6.2.3.5 Content requirement ATE_IND.2.2C (ISO/IEC 15408-3:2026, 13.5.5)

The developer shall provide an equivalent set of resources to those that were used in the developer's functional testing of the TSF.

15.6.2.3.6 Work unit ATE_IND.2-3

The evaluator ***shall examine*** the set of resources provided by the developer to determine that they are equivalent to the set of resources used by the developer to functionally test the TSF.

The set of resource used by the developer is documented in the developer test plan, as considered in work units of the ATE_FUN (Functional tests) (15.5) family. The resource set can include access to the relevant developer test environment, and special test equipment, among others. Resources that are not identical to those used by the developer shall be equivalent in terms of any impact they can have on test results.

15.6.2.4 Action ATE_IND.2.2E

15.6.2.4.1 Evaluator action (ISO/IEC 15408-3:2026, 13.5.5)

The evaluator shall execute a sample of tests in the test documentation to verify the developer test results.

15.6.2.4.2 Work unit ATE_IND.2-4

The evaluator ***shall conduct*** testing using a sample of tests found in the developer test plan and procedures.

The overall aim of this work unit is to perform a sufficient number of the developer tests to confirm the validity of the developer's test results. The evaluator shall decide on the size of the sample, and the developer tests that will compose the sample (see A.2).

All the developer tests can be traced back to specific interfaces. Therefore, the factors to consider in the selection of the tests to compose the sample are similar to those listed for subset selection in work-unit ATE_IND.2-6 (15.6.2.5.2). Additionally, the evaluator can decide to employ a random sampling method to select developer tests to include in the sample.

15.6.2.4.3 Work unit ATE_IND.2-5

The evaluator ***shall check*** that all the actual test results are consistent with the expected test results.

Inconsistencies between the developer's expected test results and actual test results will compel the evaluator to resolve the discrepancies. Inconsistencies encountered by the evaluator can be resolved by a valid explanation and resolution of the inconsistencies by the developer.

If a satisfactory explanation or resolution cannot be reached, the evaluator's confidence in the developer's test results can be lessened and it can be necessary for the evaluator to increase the sample size to the extent that the subset identified in work unit ATE_IND.2-4 (15.6.2.4.2) is adequately tested. Deficiencies with the developer's tests shall result in either:

— corrective action to the TOE by the developer (e.g. if the inconsistency is caused by incorrect behaviour),

— corrective action to the developer's tests (e.g. if the inconsistency is caused by an incorrect test), or

— the production of new tests by the evaluator.

15.6.2.5 Action ATE_IND.2.3E

15.6.2.5.1 Evaluator action (ISO/IEC 15408-3:2026, 13.5.5)

The evaluator shall test a subset of the TSF to confirm that the TSF operates as specified.

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15.6.2.5.2 Work unit ATE_IND.2-6

The evaluator ***shall devise*** a test subset.

The evaluator selects a test subset and testing strategy that is appropriate for the TOE. One extreme testing strategy would be to have the test subset contain as many interfaces as possible tested with little rigour. Another testing strategy would be to have the test subset contain a few interfaces based on their perceived relevance and rigorously test these interfaces.

Typically, the testing approach taken by the evaluator should fall somewhere between these two extremes. The evaluator should exercise most of the interfaces using at least one test, but there is no requirement to demonstrate exhaustive specification testing.

The evaluator, when selecting the subset of the interfaces to be tested, shall consider the following factors:

a) the developer test evidence. The developer test evidence consists of: the test documentation, the available test coverage analysis, and the available depth of testing analysis. The developer test evidence will provide insight as to how the TSF has been exercised by the developer during testing. The evaluator applies this information when developing new tests to independently test the TOE. Specifically, the evaluator shall consider:

   1) augmentation of developer testing for interfaces. The evaluator can choose to perform more of the same type of tests by varying parameters to more rigorously test the interface;

   2) supplementation of developer testing strategy for interfaces. The evaluator can choose to vary the testing approach of a specific interface by testing it using another test strategy;

b) the number of interfaces from which to draw upon for the test subset. Where the TSF includes only a small number of relatively simple interfaces, it can be practical to rigorously test all of them. In other cases, this is not cost-effective, and sampling is required;

c) maintaining a balance of evaluation activities. The evaluator effort expended on the test activity should be commensurate with that expended on any other evaluation activity.

The evaluator selects the interfaces to compose the subset. This selection will depend on a number of factors, and consideration of these factors can also influence the choice of test subset size:

d) rigour of developer testing of the interfaces. Those interfaces that the evaluator determines require additional testing shall be included in the test subset;

e) developer test results. If the results of developer tests cause the evaluator to doubt that an interface is not properly implemented, then the evaluator should include such interfaces in the test subset;

f) significance of interfaces. Those interfaces more significant than others should be included in the test subset. One major factor of "significance" is the security-relevance (SFR-enforcing interfaces would be more significant than SFR-supporting interfaces, which are more significant than SFR-non-interfering interfaces; see ADV_FSP (Functional specification) (12.4)). The other major factor of "significance" is the number of SFRs mapping to this interface (as determined when identifying the correspondence between levels of abstraction in class ADV (Development) (Clause 12));

g) complexity of interfaces. Interfaces that require complex implementation can require complex tests that impose onerous requirements on the developer or evaluator, which are not conducive to cost-effective evaluations. Conversely, they are a likely area to find errors and are good candidates for the subset. The evaluator shall strike a balance between these considerations;

h) implicit testing. Testing some interfaces can often implicitly test other interfaces, and their inclusion in the subset can maximise the number of interfaces tested (albeit implicitly). Certain interfaces will typically be used to provide a variety of security functionality, and will tend to be the target of an effective testing approach;

i) types of interfaces (e.g. programmatic, command-line, protocol). The evaluator should consider including tests for all different types of interfaces that the TOE supports;

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j) interfaces that give rise to features that are innovative or unusual. Where the TOE contains innovative or unusual features, which can feature strongly in marketing literature and guidance documents, the corresponding interfaces should be strong candidates for testing.

This selection guidance articulates factors to consider during the selection process of an appropriate test subset, but these are by no means exhaustive.

15.6.2.5.3 Work unit ATE_IND.2-7

The evaluator ***shall produce*** test documentation for the test subset that is sufficiently detailed to enable the tests to be reproducible.

With an understanding of the expected behaviour of the TSF, from the ST, the functional specification, and the TOE design description, the evaluator ***shall determine*** the most feasible way to test the interface. Specifically, the evaluator considers:

— the approach that will be used, for instance, whether an external interface will be tested, or an internal interface using a test harness, or will an alternate test approach be employed (e.g. in exceptional circumstances, a code inspection);

— the interface(s) that will be used to test and observe responses;

— the initial conditions required for the test (i.e. any particular objects or subjects that are required to exist, together with their necessary security attributes);

— special test equipment that will be required to either stimulate an interface (e.g. packet generators) or make observations of an interface (e.g. network analysers).

The evaluator can find it practical to test each interface using a series of test cases, where each test case will test a very specific aspect of expected behaviour of that interface.

The evaluator's test documentation should specify the derivation of each test, tracing it back to the relevant interface(s).

15.6.2.5.4 Work unit ATE_IND.2-8

The evaluator ***shall conduct*** testing.

The evaluator uses the test documentation developed as a basis for executing tests on the TOE. The test documentation is used as a basis for testing, but this does not preclude the evaluator from performing additional ad hoc tests. The evaluator can devise new tests based on behaviour of the TOE discovered during testing. These new tests are recorded in the test documentation.

15.6.2.5.5 Work unit ATE_IND.2-9

The evaluator ***shall record*** the following information about the tests that compose the test subset:

— identification of the interface behaviour to be tested;

— instructions to connect and setup all required test equipment as required to conduct the test;

— instructions to establish all prerequisite test conditions;

— instructions to stimulate the interface;

— instructions for observing the interface;

— descriptions of all expected results and the necessary analysis to be performed on the observed behaviour for comparison against expected results;

— instructions to conclude the test and establish the necessary post-test state for the TOE;

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— actual test results.

The level of detail should be such that another evaluator can repeat the tests and obtain an equivalent result. While some specific details of the test results can be different (e.g. time and date fields in an audit record) the overall result is expected to be identical.

There can be instances when it is unnecessary to provide all the information presented in this work unit (e.g. if the actual results of a test do not require any analysis before a comparison between the expected results can be made). The determination to omit this information is left to the evaluator, as is the justification.

15.6.2.5.6 Work unit ATE_IND.2-10

The evaluator ***shall check*** that all actual test results are consistent with the expected test results.

Any differences in the actual and expected test results can indicate that the TOE does not perform as specified or that the evaluator test documentation can be incorrect. Unexpected actual results can require corrective maintenance to the TOE or test documentation and perhaps require re-running of impacted tests and modifying the test sample size and composition. This determination is left to the evaluator, as is its justification.

15.6.2.5.7 Work unit ATE_IND.2-11

The evaluator ***shall report*** in the ETR the evaluator testing effort, outlining the testing approach, configuration, depth and results.

The evaluator testing information reported in the ETR allows the evaluator to convey the overall testing approach and effort expended on the testing activity during the evaluation. The intent of providing this information is to give a meaningful overview of the testing effort. It is not intended that the information regarding testing in the ETR be an exact reproduction of specific test instructions or results of individual tests. The intention is to provide enough detail to allow other evaluators and evaluation authorities to gain some insight about the testing approach chosen, amount of evaluator testing performed, amount of developer tests performed, TOE test configurations, and the overall results of the testing activity.

Information that would typically be found in the ETR regarding the evaluator testing effort is:

— TOE test configurations: the particular configurations of the TOE that were tested;

— subset size chosen: the amount of interfaces that were tested during the evaluation and a justification for the size;

— selection criteria for the interfaces that compose the subset: brief statements about the factors considered when selecting interfaces for inclusion in the subset;

— Interfaces tested: a brief listing of the interfaces that merited inclusion in the subset;

— developer tests performed: the amount of developer tests performed, and a brief description of the criteria used to select the tests;

— verdict for the activity: the overall judgement on the results of testing during the evaluation.

This list is by no means exhaustive and is only intended to provide some context as to the type of information that should be present in the ETR concerning the testing the evaluator performed during the evaluation.

15.7 Composite functional testing (ATE_COMP)

15.7.1 Evaluation of sub-activity (ATE_COMP.1)

15.7.1.1 Objectives

The aim of this activity is to determine whether the composite product as a whole exhibits the properties necessary to satisfy the functional requirements of its composite product Security Target.

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15.7.1.2 Application notes

A composite product can be tested by testing its components separately and by testing the integrated product. Separate testing means that its base component and the dependent component are being tested independently of each other. It is possible that many of the tests of the base component have been performed within the scope of its accomplished evaluation. The dependent component can be tested on a simulator or an emulator, which represent a virtual machine.

Integration testing means that the composite product is being tested as it is: the dependent component is running together with the related base component.

Some dependent component functionality testing can only be performed on emulators, before its embedding/ integration onto the base component, as it is possible that the effectiveness of this testing is not visible using the interfaces of the composite product. Nevertheless, functional testing of the composite product shall be performed also on composite product samples according to the description of the security functions of the composite product and using the standard approach as required by the relevant ATE (Tests) assurance. No additional developer's action is required here.

Since the amount, the coverage and the depth of the functional tests of the base component have already been validated by the base component evaluation, it is not necessary to re-perform these tasks in the composite evaluation. Please note that the ETR for composite evaluation does not provide any information on functional testing for the base component.

The behaviour of implementation of some SFRs can depend on properties of the base component as well as of the dependent component (e.g. correctness of the measures of the composite product to withstand a side channel attack or correctness of the implementation of tamper resistance against physical attacks). In such case the SFR implementation shall be tested on the final composite product, but not on a simulator or an emulator.

This activity focuses exclusively on testing of the composite product as a whole and represents merely partial efforts within the general test approach being covered by the assurance ATE (Tests). These integration tests shall be specified and performed, whereby the approach of the standard assurance families of ATE (Tests) shall be applied.

The correct behaviour of the base component-TSF being relevant for the composite product Security Target (corresponding to the group RP_SFR-SERV and RP_SFR-MECH in the work unit ADV_COMP.1-1 (12.9.1.3.3)), and absence of exploitable vulnerabilities (sufficient effectiveness) in the context of the base component Security Target, are confirmed by the validity of the base component evaluation (i.e. acceptance of the base component evaluation by the report of the base component evaluation).

The composite product evaluation sponsor shall ensure that composite product samples suitable for testing are available for the composite product evaluator.

15.7.1.3 Action ATE_COMP.1.1E

15.7.1.3.1 Evaluator action (ISO/IEC 15408-3:2026, 13.6.4)

The evaluator shall confirm that the information provided meets all ISO/IEC 18045 and ISO/IEC 15408 series requirements for content and presentation of evidence.

15.7.1.3.2 Content requirement ATE_COMP.1.1C (ISO/IEC 15408-3:2026, 13.6.4)

Content and presentation of the specification and documentation of the integration tests shall correspond to the requirements of the assurance families ATE_FUN (Functional tests) (15.5) and ATE_COV (Coverage) (15.3).

15.7.1.3.3 Work unit ATE_COMP.1-1

The evaluator ***shall examine*** that the developer performed the integration tests for all SFRs having to be tested for the composite product as a whole.

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In order to perform this work unit the evaluator shall analyse, for each SFR, whether it directly depends on security properties of the base component and of the dependent component. Then the evaluator ***shall verify*** that the integration tests performed by the developer cover at least all such SFRs.

If the assurance package chosen does not contain the families ATE_FUN (Functional tests) (15.5) and ATE_COV (Coverage) (15.3) (e.g. EAL1 (see ISO/IEC 15408-5:2026, 4.4)), this work unit is not applicable.

The result of this work unit shall be integrated to the result of ATE_COV.1.1E (15.3.1.4)/ATE_COV.1-1 (15.3.1.4.3) and ATE_FUN.1.1E (15.5.1.4)/ATE_FUN.1-3 (15.5.1.4.6) (or the equivalent higher components if a higher assurance level is selected).

16 Vulnerability assessment

16.1 Introduction

The purpose of the vulnerability assessment activity is to determine the exploitability of flaws or weaknesses in the TOE in the operational environment. This determination is based upon analysis of the evaluation evidence and a search of publicly available material by the evaluator and is supported by evaluator penetration testing.

16.2 Application notes

16.2.1 Composition

The composite-specific work units defined here are intended to be integrated as refinements to the evaluation activities of AVA (Vulnerability assessment) listed in Table 5. The other activities of AVA (Vulnerability assessment) do not require composite-specific work units.

Table 5 — Composite vulnerability assessment

Assurance family	Evaluation activity	Evaluation work unit	Composite-specific work unit
AVA_VAN (Vulnerability analysis) (16.3)	AVA_VAN.1.3E (16.3.1.6)	AVA_VAN.1-5 (16.3.1.6.2)	AVA_COMP.1-1 (16.4.1.3.3)
	AVA_VAN.1.3E (16.3.1.6)	AVA_VAN.1-6 (16.3.1.6.3)	AVA_COMP.1-2 (16.4.1.3.4)
	AVA_VAN.1.3E (16.3.1.6)	AVA_VAN.1-7 (16.3.1.6.4)	AVA_COMP.1-2 (16.4.1.3.4)
	AVA_VAN.1.3E (16.3.1.6)	AVA_VAN.1-8 (16.3.1.6.5)	AVA_COMP.1-2 (16.4.1.3.4)
NOTE If the level of the assurance requirement chosen is higher than those identified in this table, the composite-specific work unit is also applicable.			

16.3 Vulnerability analysis (AVA_VAN)

16.3.1 Evaluation of sub-activity (AVA_VAN.1)

16.3.1.1 Objectives

The objective of this sub-activity is to determine whether the TOE, in its operational environment, has easily identifiable exploitable vulnerabilities.

16.3.1.2 Application notes

The evaluator should consider performing additional tests as a result of potential vulnerabilities encountered during the conduct of other parts of the evaluation.

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The use of the term guidance in this sub-activity refers to the operational guidance and the preparative guidance.

Potential vulnerabilities can be in information that is publicly available, or not, and can require skill to exploit, or not. These two aspects are related, but are distinct. It should not be assumed that, simply because a potential vulnerability is identifiable from information that is publicly available, it can be easily exploited.

16.3.1.3 Input

Input for AVA_VAN.1 consists of the following:

— the ST;

— the guidance documentation;

— the TOE suitable for testing;

— information publicly available to support the identification of potential vulnerabilities.

Other input for this sub-activity is:

— current information regarding potential vulnerabilities (e.g. from an evaluation authority).

16.3.1.4 Action AVA_VAN.1.1E

16.3.1.4.1 Evaluator action (ISO/IEC 15408-3:2026, 14.3.3)

The evaluator shall confirm that the information provided meets all requirements for content and presentation of evidence.

16.3.1.4.2 Content requirement AVA_VAN.1.1C (ISO/IEC 15408-3:2026, 14.3.3)

The TOE shall be suitable for testing.

16.3.1.4.3 Work unit AVA_VAN.1-1

The evaluator ***shall examine*** the TOE to determine that the test configuration is consistent with the configuration under evaluation as specified in the ST.

The TOE provided by the developer and identified in the test plan shall have the same unique reference as established by the ALC_CMC (CM capabilities) (14.3) sub-activities and identified in the ST introduction.

It is possible for the ST to specify more than one configuration for evaluation. The TOE can comprise a number of distinct hardware and software entities that require testing in accordance with the ST. The evaluator verifies that all test configurations are consistent with the ST.

The evaluator should consider the security objectives for the operational environment described in the ST that can apply to the test environment and ensure they are met in the testing environment. There can be some objectives for the operational environment that do not apply to the test environment. For example, an objective about user clearances does not necessarily apply; however, an objective about a single point of connection to a network would apply.

If any test resources are used (e.g. meters, analysers) it shall be the evaluator's responsibility to ensure that these resources are calibrated correctly.

16.3.1.4.4 Work unit AVA_VAN.1-2

The evaluator ***shall examine*** the TOE to determine that it has been installed properly and is in a known state.

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It is possible for the evaluator to determine the state of the TOE in a number of ways. For example, previous successful completion of AGD_PRE.1 (Preparative procedures) (13.4.1) will satisfy this work unit if the evaluator still has confidence that the TOE being used for testing was installed properly and is in a known state. If this is not the case, then the evaluator should follow the developer's procedures to install and start up the TOE, using the supplied guidance only.

If the evaluator performs the installation procedures because the TOE is in an unknown state, this work unit when successfully completed can satisfy work unit AGD_PRE.1-3 (13.4.1.5.2).

16.3.1.5 Action AVA_VAN.1.2E

16.3.1.5.1 Evaluator action (ISO/IEC 15408-3:2026, 14.3.3)

The evaluator shall perform a search of public domain sources to identify potential vulnerabilities in the TOE.

16.3.1.5.2 Work unit AVA_VAN.1-3

The evaluator ***shall examine*** sources of information publicly available to identify potential vulnerabilities in the TOE.

The evaluator examines the sources of information publicly available to support the identification of possible potential vulnerabilities in the TOE. There are many sources of publicly available information, which the evaluator can consider using, e.g. mailing lists and security forums on the world wide web that report known vulnerabilities in specified technologies.

The evaluator should consider any other relevant publicly available information in addition to these examples.

While examining the evidence provided the evaluator will use the information in the public domain to further search for potential vulnerabilities. Where the evaluators have identified areas of concern, the evaluator should consider information publicly available that relates to those areas of concern.

The availability of information that can be readily available to an attacker that helps to identify and facilitate attacks effectively operates to substantially enhance the attack potential of a given attacker. The accessibility of vulnerability information and sophisticated attack tools on the Internet makes it more likely that this information will be used in attempts to identify potential vulnerabilities in the TOE and exploit them. Modern search tools make such information easily available to the evaluator, and the determination of resistance to published potential vulnerabilities and well-known generic attacks can be achieved in a cost-effective manner.

The search of the information publicly available should be focused on those sources that refer specifically to the product from which the TOE is derived. The extensiveness of this search should consider the following factors:

— TOE type,

— evaluator experience in this TOE type,

— expected attack potential,

— the level of class ADV (Development) (Clause 12) evidence available.

The identification process is iterative, where the identification of one potential vulnerability can lead to identifying another area of concern that requires further investigation.

The evaluator will report what actions were taken to identify potential vulnerabilities in the information publicly available. However, in this type of search, it is possible that the evaluator is not be able to describe the steps in identifying potential vulnerabilities before the outset of the examination, as the approach can evolve as a result of findings during the search.

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The evaluator ***shall report*** the evidence examined in completing the search for potential vulnerabilities.

16.3.1.5.3 Work unit AVA_VAN.1-4

The evaluator ***shall record*** in the ETR the identified potential vulnerabilities that are candidates for testing and applicable to the TOE in its operational environment.

It may be identified that no further consideration of the potential vulnerability is required if for example the evaluator identifies that measures in the operational environment, either IT or non-IT, prevent exploitation of the potential vulnerability in that operational environment. For instance, restricting physical access to the TOE to authorized users only can effectively render a potential vulnerability to tampering unexploitable.

The evaluator records any reasons for exclusion of potential vulnerabilities from further consideration if the evaluator determines that the potential vulnerability is not applicable in the operational environment. Otherwise, the evaluator records the potential vulnerability for further consideration.

A list of potential vulnerabilities applicable to the TOE in its operational environment, which can be used as an input into penetration testing activities, shall be reported in the ETR by the evaluators.

16.3.1.6 Action AVA_VAN.1.3E

16.3.1.6.1 Evaluator action (ISO/IEC 15408-3:2026, 14.3.3)

The evaluator shall conduct penetration testing, based on the identified potential vulnerabilities, to determine that the TOE is resistant to attacks performed by an attacker possessing Basic attack potential.

16.3.1.6.2 Work unit AVA_VAN.1-5

The evaluator ***shall devise*** penetration tests, based on the independent search for potential vulnerabilities.

The evaluator prepares for penetration testing as necessary to determine the susceptibility of the TOE, in its operational environment, to the potential vulnerabilities identified during the search of the sources of information publicly available. Any current information provided to the evaluator by a third party (e.g. evaluation authority) regarding known potential vulnerabilities should be considered by the evaluator, together with any encountered potential vulnerabilities resulting from the performance of other evaluation activities.

It is expected that the evaluator will find it practical to carry out penetration test using a series of test cases, where each test case will test for a specific potential vulnerability.

The evaluator is not expected to test for potential vulnerabilities (including those in the public domain) beyond those which required a Basic attack potential. In some cases, however, it is necessary to carry out a test before the exploitability can be determined. Where, as a result of evaluation expertise, the evaluator discovers a potential vulnerability that is beyond Basic attack potential, this shall be reported in the ETR as a residual vulnerability.

16.3.1.6.3 Work unit AVA_VAN.1-6

The evaluator ***shall produce*** penetration test documentation for the tests based on the list of potential vulnerabilities in sufficient detail to enable the tests to be repeatable. The test documentation shall include:

— identification of the potential vulnerability for which the TOE is being tested;

— instructions to connect and setup all required test equipment as required to conduct the penetration test;

— instructions to establish all penetration test prerequisite initial conditions;

— instructions to stimulate the TSF;

— instructions for observing the behaviour of the TSF;

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— descriptions of all expected results and the necessary analysis to be performed on the observed behaviour for comparison against expected results;

— instructions to conclude the test and establish the necessary post-test state for the TOE.

The evaluator prepares for penetration testing based on the list of potential vulnerabilities identified during the search of the public domain.

The evaluator is not expected to determine the exploitability for potential vulnerabilities beyond those for which a basic attack potential is required to effect an attack. However, as a result of evaluation expertise, the evaluator can discover a potential vulnerability that is exploitable only by an attacker with greater than Basic attack potential. Such vulnerabilities shall be reported in the ETR as residual vulnerabilities.

With an understanding of the potential vulnerability, the evaluator determines the most feasible way to test for the TOE's susceptibility. Specifically, the evaluator considers:

— the TSFI or other TOE interface that will be used to stimulate the TSF and observe responses;

— the initial conditions required for the test (i.e. any particular objects or subjects that are required to exist, together with their necessary security attributes);

— special test equipment that will be required to either stimulate a TSFI or make observations of a TSFI (although it is unlikely that specialist equipment would be required to exploit a potential vulnerability assuming a Basic attack potential);

— whether theoretical analysis can replace physical testing, particularly relevant where the results of an initial test can be extrapolated to demonstrate that repeated attempts of an attack are likely to succeed after a given number of attempts.

It is expected that the evaluator will find it practical to carry out penetration testing using a series of test cases, where each test case will test for a specific potential vulnerability.

This level of detail in the test documentation is specified in order to allow another evaluator to repeat the tests and obtain an equivalent result.

16.3.1.6.4 Work unit AVA_VAN.1-7

The evaluator ***shall conduct*** penetration testing.

The evaluator uses the penetration test documentation resulting from work unit AVA_VAN.1-6 (16.3.1.6.3) as a basis for executing penetration tests on the TOE, but this does not preclude the evaluator from performing additional ad hoc penetration tests. If required, the evaluator can devise ad hoc tests as a result of information learnt during penetration testing that, if performed by the evaluator, shall be recorded in the penetration test documentation. Such tests can be required to follow up unexpected results or observations, or to investigate potential vulnerabilities suggested to the evaluator during the pre-planned testing.

The evaluator is not expected to test for potential vulnerabilities (including those in the public domain) beyond those which required a Basic attack potential. In some cases, however, it is necessary to carry out a test before the exploitability can be determined. Where, as a result of evaluation expertise, the evaluator discovers a potential vulnerability that is beyond Basic attack potential, this shall be reported in the ETR as a residual vulnerability.

16.3.1.6.5 Work unit AVA_VAN.1-8

The evaluator ***shall record*** the actual results of the penetration tests.

While some specific details of the actual test results can be different from those expected (e.g. time and date fields in an audit record) the overall result is expected to be identical. Any unexpected test results should be investigated. The impact on the evaluation should be stated and justified.

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16.3.1.6.6 Work unit AVA_VAN.1-9

The evaluator ***shall report*** in the ETR the evaluator penetration testing effort, outlining the testing approach, configuration, depth and results.

The penetration testing information reported in the ETR allows the evaluator to convey the overall penetration testing approach and effort expended on this sub-activity. The intent of providing this information is to give a meaningful overview of the evaluator's penetration testing effort. It is not intended that the information regarding penetration testing in the ETR be an exact reproduction of specific test steps or results of individual penetration tests. The intention is to provide enough detail to allow other evaluators and evaluation authorities to gain some insight about the penetration testing approach chosen, amount of penetration testing performed, TOE test configurations, and the overall results of the penetration testing activity.

Information that would typically be found in the ETR regarding evaluator penetration testing efforts is:

— TOE test configurations: the particular configurations of the TOE that were penetration tested;

— TSFIs penetration tested: a brief listing of the TSFIs and other TOE interfaces that were the focus of the penetration testing;

— verdict for the sub-activity: the overall judgement on the results of penetration testing.

This list is by no means exhaustive and is only intended to provide some context as to the type of information that should be present in the ETR concerning the penetration testing the evaluator performed during the evaluation.

16.3.1.6.7 Work unit AVA_VAN.1-10

The evaluator ***shall examine*** the results of all penetration testing to determine that the TOE, in its operational environment, is resistant to an attacker possessing a Basic attack potential.

If the results reveal that the TOE, in its operational environment, has vulnerabilities exploitable by an attacker possessing less than Enhanced-Basic attack potential, then this evaluator action fails.

The requirements and guidance in B.7 should be used to determine the attack potential required to exploit a particular vulnerability and whether it can therefore be exploited in the intended environment. It is not necessary for the attack potential to be calculated in every instance, only if there is some doubt as to whether or not the vulnerability can be exploited by an attacker possessing an attack potential less than Enhanced-Basic.

16.3.1.6.8 Work unit AVA_VAN.1-11

The evaluator ***shall report*** in the ETR all exploitable vulnerabilities and residual vulnerabilities, detailing for each:

— its source (e.g. evaluation methodology activity being undertaken when it was conceived, known to the evaluator, read in a publication);

— the SFR(s) not met;

— a description;

— whether it is exploitable in its operational environment or not (i.e. exploitable or residual);

— the amount of time, level of expertise, level of knowledge of the TOE, level of opportunity and the equipment required to perform the identified vulnerabilities, and the corresponding values using Table B.2 and Table B.3.

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16.3.2 Evaluation of sub-activity (AVA_VAN.2)

16.3.2.1 Objectives

The objective of this sub-activity is to determine whether the TOE, in its operational environment, has vulnerabilities exploitable by attackers possessing Basic attack potential.

16.3.2.2 Application notes

The evaluator should consider performing additional tests as a result of potential vulnerabilities encountered during other parts of the evaluation.

16.3.2.3 Input

Input for AVA_VAN.2 consists of the following:

— the ST;

— the functional specification;

— the TOE design;

— the security architecture description;

— the guidance documentation;

— the TOE suitable for testing;

— a list of third party components included in the TOE and the TOE delivery;

— information publicly available to support the identification of possible potential vulnerabilities.

The remaining implicit evaluation evidence for this sub-activity depends on the components that have been included in the assurance package. The evidence provided for each component should be used as input in this sub-activity.

Other input for this sub-activity is:

— current information regarding public domain potential vulnerabilities and attacks (e.g. from an evaluation authority).

16.3.2.4 Action AVA_VAN.2.1E

16.3.2.4.1 Evaluator action (ISO/IEC 15408-3:2026, 14.3.4)

The evaluator shall confirm that the information provided meets all requirements for content and presentation of evidence.

16.3.2.4.2 Content requirement AVA_VAN.2.1C (ISO/IEC 15408-3:2026, 14.3.4)

The TOE shall be suitable for testing.

16.3.2.4.3 Content requirement AVA_VAN.2.2C (ISO/IEC 15408-3:2026, 14.3.4)

The list of third-party components shall include components provided by third parties, and that are part of the TOE or otherwise part of the TOE delivery.

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16.3.2.4.4 Work unit AVA_VAN.2-1

The evaluator ***shall examine*** the TOE and the related list of third-party components provided by the developer to determine that the test configuration is consistent with the configuration under evaluation as specified in the ST and considers hereby the identified third-party components that are part of the TOE or otherwise part of the TOE delivery.

The TOE provided by the developer and identified in the test plan shall have the same unique reference as established by the ALC_CMC (CM capabilities) (14.3) sub-activities and identified in the ST introduction.

It is possible for the ST to specify more than one configuration for evaluation. The TOE can comprise a number of distinct hardware and software entities that shall be tested in accordance with the ST. The evaluator verifies that all test configurations are consistent with the ST.

The evaluator should consider the security objectives for the operational environment described in the ST that can apply to the test environment and ensure they are met in the testing environment. There can be some objectives for the operational environment that do not apply to the test environment. For example, an objective about user clearances does not necessarily apply; however, an objective about a single point of connection to a network would apply.

If any test resources are used (e.g. meters, analysers) it shall be the evaluator's responsibility to ensure that these resources are calibrated correctly.

In particular, the evaluator should check that the list of third-party components provided by the developer includes information about the TOE related third-party components and that those are part of the TOE or otherwise part of the TOE delivery. The evaluator should take care that the ST and the TOE test configuration including its intended test environment fit to that list of third-party components.

16.3.2.4.5 Work unit AVA_VAN.2-2

The evaluator ***shall examine*** the TOE to determine that it has been installed properly and is in a known state.

It is possible for the evaluator to determine the state of the TOE in a number of ways. For example, previous successful completion of AGD_PRE.1 (Preparative procedures) (13.4.1) shall satisfy this work unit if the evaluator has confidence that the TOE being used for testing was installed properly and is in a known state. If this is not the case, then the evaluator should follow the developer's procedures to install and start up the TOE, using the supplied guidance only.

If the evaluator performs the installation procedures because the TOE is in an unknown state, this work unit when successfully completed can satisfy work unit AGD_PRE.1-3 (13.4.1.5.2).

16.3.2.5 Action AVA_VAN.2.2E

16.3.2.5.1 Evaluator action (ISO/IEC 15408-3:2026, 14.3.4)

The evaluator shall perform a search of public domain sources to identify potential vulnerabilities in the TOE, the components in the list of third-party components, and specific IT products in the environment on which the TOE depends.

16.3.2.5.2 Work unit AVA_VAN.2-3

The evaluator ***shall examine*** sources of information publicly available to identify potential vulnerabilities in the TOE under consideration of the components identified in the list of third-party components, and specific IT products in the environment that the TOE depends on.

The evaluator examines the sources of information publicly available to support the identification of possible potential vulnerabilities in the TOE.

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This examination includes consideration of the components in the list of third-party components, and specific IT products in the environment that the TOE depends on as those can have an impact on the TOE's security functionality and secure operation.

There are many sources of publicly available information which the evaluator can consider using, such as those available online, including:

— specialist publications (magazines, books);

— research papers.

The evaluator should consider any other relevant publicly available information in addition to these examples.

While examining the evidence provided the evaluator will use the information in the public domain to further search for potential vulnerabilities. Where the evaluators have identified areas of concern, the evaluator should consider information publicly available that relate to those areas of concern.

The availability of information that can be readily available to an attacker that helps to identify and facilitate attacks can substantially enhance the attack potential of a given attacker. The accessibility of vulnerability information and sophisticated attack tools on the Internet makes it more likely that this information will be used in attempts to identify potential vulnerabilities in the TOE and exploit them. Modern search tools make such information easily available to the evaluator, and the determination of resistance to published potential vulnerabilities and well-known generic attacks can be achieved in a cost-effective manner.

The search of the information publicly available should be focused on those sources that refer specifically to the product from which the TOE is derived. The extensiveness of this search should consider the following factors:

— TOE type,

— evaluator experience in this TOE type,

— third-party components and specific IT products in the environment that the TOE depends on,

— expected attack potential,

— the level of class ADV (Development) (Clause 12) evidence available.

The identification process is iterative, where the identification of one potential vulnerability can lead to identifying another area of concern that requires further investigation.

The evaluator will report what actions were taken to identify potential vulnerabilities in the evidence. However, in this type of search, the it is possible that the evaluator cannot describe the steps in identifying potential vulnerabilities before the outset of the examination, as the approach can evolve as a result of findings during the search.

The evaluator ***shall report*** the evidence examined in completing the search for potential vulnerabilities. This selection of evidence can be derived from those areas of concern identified by the evaluator, linked to the evidence the attacker is assumed to be able to obtain, or according to another rationale provided by the evaluator.

16.3.2.6 Action AVA_VAN.2.3E

16.3.2.6.1 Evaluator action (ISO/IEC 15408-3:2026, 14.3.4)

The evaluator shall perform an independent vulnerability analysis of the TOE using the guidance documentation, functional specification, TOE design and security architecture description to identify potential vulnerabilities in the TOE.

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16.3.2.6.2 Work unit AVA_VAN.2-4

The evaluator ***shall conduct*** a search of ST, guidance documentation, functional specification, TOE design and security architecture description evidence to identify possible potential vulnerabilities in the TOE.

A search of the evidence should be completed whereby specifications and documentation for the TOE are analysed and then potential vulnerabilities in the TOE are hypothesised or speculated. The list of hypothesised potential vulnerabilities is then prioritised on the basis of:

— the estimated probability that a potential vulnerability exists,

— the attack potential required to exploit it,

— the extent of control or compromise it would provide.

The prioritised list of potential vulnerabilities is used to direct penetration testing against the TOE.

The security architecture description provides the developer vulnerability analysis, as it documents how the TSF protects itself from interference from untrusted subjects and prevents the bypass of security enforcement functionality. Therefore, the evaluator should use this description of the protection of the TSF as a basis for the search for possible ways to undermine the TSF.

Subject to the SFRs that the TOE shall meet in the operational environment, the evaluator's independent vulnerability analysis should consider generic potential vulnerabilities under each of the following headings:

a) generic potential vulnerabilities relevant for the type of TOE being evaluated, as can be supplied by the evaluation authority;

b) bypassing;

c) tampering;

d) direct attacks;

e) monitoring;

f) misuse.

Items b) to f) are explained in greater detail in Annex B.

The security architecture description should be considered in light of each of the above generic potential vulnerabilities. Each potential vulnerability should be considered to search for possible ways in which to defeat the TSF protection and undermine the TSF.

16.3.2.6.3 Work unit AVA_VAN.2-5

The evaluator ***shall record*** in the ETR the identified potential vulnerabilities that are candidates for testing and applicable to the TOE in its operational environment.

It may be identified that no further consideration of the potential vulnerability is required if for example the evaluator identifies that measures in the operational environment, either IT or non-IT, prevent exploitation of the potential vulnerability in that operational environment. For instance, restricting physical access to the TOE to authorized users only can effectively render a potential vulnerability to tampering unexploitable.

The evaluator records any reasons for exclusion of potential vulnerabilities from further consideration if the evaluator determines that the potential vulnerability is not applicable in the operational environment. Otherwise, the evaluator records the potential vulnerability for further consideration.

A list of potential vulnerabilities applicable to the TOE in its operational environment, which can be used as an input into penetration testing activities, shall be reported in the ETR by the evaluators.

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16.3.2.7 Action AVA_VAN.2.4E

16.3.2.7.1 Evaluator action (ISO/IEC 15408-3:2026, 14.3.4)

The evaluator shall conduct penetration testing, based on the identified potential vulnerabilities, to determine that the TOE is resistant to attacks performed by an attacker possessing Basic attack potential.

16.3.2.7.2 Work unit AVA_VAN.2-6

The evaluator ***shall devise*** penetration tests, based on the independent search for potential vulnerabilities.

The evaluator prepares for penetration testing as necessary to determine the susceptibility of the TOE, in its operational environment, to the potential vulnerabilities identified during the search of the sources of information publicly available. Any current information provided to the evaluator by a third party (e.g. evaluation authority) regarding known potential vulnerabilities should be considered by the evaluator, together with any encountered potential vulnerabilities resulting from the performance of other evaluation activities.

The evaluator should keep in mind that, as for considering the security architecture description in the search for vulnerabilities (as detailed in AVA_VAN.2-4 (16.3.2.6.2)), testing should be performed to confirm the architectural properties. It is expected that this can require negative tests attempting to disprove the properties of the security architecture. In developing the strategy for penetration testing, the evaluator ***shall ensure*** that each of the major characteristics of the security architecture description are tested, either in functional testing (as considered in class ATE (Tests) (Clause 15)) or evaluator penetration testing.

It is expected that the evaluator will find it practical to carry out penetration test using a series of test cases, where each test case shall test for a specific potential vulnerability.

The evaluator is not expected to test for potential vulnerabilities (including those in the public domain) beyond those which required a Basic attack potential. In some cases, however, it is necessary to carry out a test before the exploitability can be determined. Where, as a result of evaluation expertise, the evaluator discovers an exploitable vulnerability that is beyond Basic attack potential, this shall be reported in the ETR as a residual vulnerability.

Guidance and requirements for determining the necessary attack potential to exploit a potential vulnerability can be found in B.7.

Potential vulnerabilities hypothesised as exploitable only by attackers possessing Enhanced-Basic, Moderate or High attack potential do not result in a failure of this evaluator action. Where analysis supports the hypothesis, these can be excluded as an input to penetration testing. However, such vulnerabilities shall be reported in the ETR as residual vulnerabilities.

Potential vulnerabilities hypothesised as exploitable by an attacker possessing a Basic attack potential and resulting in a violation of the security objectives should be the highest priority potential vulnerabilities included in the list used to direct penetration testing against the TOE.

16.3.2.7.3 Work unit AVA_VAN.2-7

The evaluator ***shall produce*** penetration test documentation for the tests based on the list of potential vulnerabilities in sufficient detail to enable the tests to be repeatable. The test documentation shall include:

— identification of the potential vulnerability for which the TOE is being tested;

— instructions to connect and setup all required test equipment as required to conduct the penetration test;

— instructions to establish all penetration test prerequisite initial conditions;

— instructions to stimulate the TSF;

— instructions for observing the behaviour of the TSF;

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— descriptions of all expected results and the necessary analysis to be performed on the observed behaviour for comparison against expected results;

— instructions to conclude the test and establish the necessary post-test state for the TOE.

The evaluator prepares for penetration testing based on the list of potential vulnerabilities identified during the search of the public domain and the analysis of the evaluation evidence.

The evaluator is not expected to determine the exploitability for potential vulnerabilities beyond those for which a basic attack potential is required to effect an attack. However, as a result of evaluation expertise, the evaluator can discover a potential vulnerability that is exploitable only by an attacker with greater than Basic attack potential. Such vulnerabilities shall be reported in the ETR as residual vulnerabilities.

With an understanding of the potential vulnerability, the evaluator determines the most feasible way to test for the TOE's susceptibility. Specifically, the evaluator considers:

— the TSFI or other TOE interface that can be used to stimulate the TSF and observe responses (It is possible that the evaluator can need to use an interface to the TOE other than the TSFI to demonstrate properties of the TSF such as those described in the security architecture description (as required by ADV_ARC (Security architecture) (12.3)). It should be noted, that although these TOE interfaces provide a means of testing the TSF properties, they are not the subject of the test.);

— initial conditions that shall exist for the test (i.e. any particular objects or subjects that shall exist and security attributes they shall have);

— special test equipment that shall be required to either stimulate a TSFI or make observations of a TSFI (although it is unlikely that specialist equipment would be required to exploit a potential vulnerability assuming a Basic attack potential);

— whether theoretical analysis can replace physical testing, particularly relevant where the results of an initial test can be extrapolated to demonstrate that repeated attempts of an attack are likely to succeed after a given number of attempts.

It is expected that the evaluator will find it practical to carry out penetration testing using a series of test cases, where each test case shall test for a specific potential vulnerability.

This level of detail in the test documentation is specified to allow another evaluator to repeat the tests and obtain an equivalent result.

16.3.2.7.4 Work unit AVA_VAN.2-8

The evaluator ***shall conduct*** penetration testing.

The evaluator uses the penetration test documentation resulting from work unit AVA_VAN.2-7 (16.3.2.7.3) as a basis for executing penetration tests on the TOE, but this does not preclude the evaluator from performing additional ad hoc penetration tests. If required, the evaluator can devise ad hoc tests as a result of information learnt during penetration testing that, if performed by the evaluator, shall be recorded in the penetration test documentation. Such tests can be required to follow up unexpected results or observations, or to investigate potential vulnerabilities suggested to the evaluator during the pre-planned testing.

If penetration testing shows that a hypothesised potential vulnerability does not exist, then the evaluator should determine whether or not the evaluator's own analysis was incorrect, or if evaluation deliverables are incorrect or incomplete.

The evaluator is not expected to test for potential vulnerabilities (including those in the public domain) beyond those which required a Basic attack potential. In some cases, however, it is necessary to carry out a test before the exploitability can be determined. Where, as a result of evaluation expertise, the evaluator discovers an exploitable vulnerability that is beyond Basic attack potential, this shall be reported in the ETR as a residual vulnerability.

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16.3.2.7.5 Work unit AVA_VAN.2-9

The evaluator ***shall record*** the actual results of the penetration tests.

While some specific details of the actual test results can be different from those expected (e.g. time and date fields in an audit record) the overall result is expected to be identical. Any unexpected test results should be investigated. The impact on the evaluation should be stated and justified.

16.3.2.7.6 Work unit AVA_VAN.2-10

The evaluator ***shall report*** in the ETR the evaluator penetration testing effort, outlining the testing approach, configuration, depth and results.

The penetration testing information reported in the ETR allows the evaluator to convey the overall penetration testing approach and effort expended on this sub-activity. The intent of providing this information is to give a meaningful overview of the evaluator's penetration testing effort. It is not intended that the information regarding penetration testing in the ETR be an exact reproduction of specific test steps or results of individual penetration tests. The intention is to provide enough detail to allow other evaluators and evaluation authorities to gain some insight about the penetration testing approach chosen, amount of penetration testing performed, TOE test configurations, and the overall results of the penetration testing activity.

Information that would typically be found in the ETR regarding evaluator penetration testing efforts is:

— TOE test configurations: the particular configurations of the TOE that were penetration tested;

— TSFIs penetration tested: a brief listing of the TSFIs and other TOE interfaces that were the focus of the penetration testing;

— verdict for the sub-activity: the overall judgement on the results of penetration testing.

This list is by no means exhaustive and is only intended to provide some context as to the type of information that should be present in the ETR concerning the penetration testing the evaluator performed during the evaluation.

16.3.2.7.7 Work unit AVA_VAN.2-11

The evaluator ***shall examine*** the results of all penetration testing to determine that the TOE, in its operational environment, is resistant to an attacker possessing a Basic attack potential.

If the results reveal that the TOE, in its operational environment, has vulnerabilities exploitable by an attacker possessing less than an Enhanced-Basic attack potential, then this evaluator action fails.

The requirements and guidance in B.7 should be used to determine the attack potential required to exploit a particular vulnerability and whether it can therefore be exploited in the intended environment. It is not required to calculate the attack potential in every instance, only if there is some doubt as to whether or not the vulnerability can be exploited by an attacker possessing an attack potential less than Enhanced-Basic.

16.3.2.7.8 Work unit AVA_VAN.2-12

The evaluator ***shall report*** in the ETR all exploitable vulnerabilities and residual vulnerabilities, detailing for each:

— its source (e.g. evaluation methodology activity being undertaken when it was conceived, known to the evaluator, read in a publication);

— the SFR(s) not met;

— a description;

— whether it is exploitable in its operational environment or not (i.e. exploitable or residual);

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— the amount of time, level of expertise, level of knowledge of the TOE, level of opportunity and the equipment required to perform the identified vulnerabilities, and the corresponding values using Table B.2 and Table B.3.

16.3.3 Evaluation of sub-activity (AVA_VAN.3)

16.3.3.1 Objectives

The objective of this sub-activity is to determine whether the TOE, in its operational environment, has vulnerabilities exploitable by attackers possessing Enhanced-Basic attack potential.

16.3.3.2 Application notes

During the conduct of evaluation activities the evaluator can also identify areas of concern. These are specific portions of the TOE evidence that the evaluator has some reservation about, although the evidence meets the requirements for the activity with which the evidence is associated. For example, a particular interface specification looks particularly complex, and therefore can be prone to error either in the development of the TOE or in the operation of the TOE. Since there is no potential vulnerability apparent at this stage, further investigation is required. This is beyond the bounds of encountered, as further investigation is required.

The focused approach to the identification of potential vulnerabilities is an analysis of the evidence with the aim of identifying any potential vulnerabilities evident through the contained information. It is an unstructured analysis, as the approach is not predetermined. Further requirements and guidance on focused vulnerability analysis can be found in B.5.2.3.

16.3.3.3 Input

Input for AVA_VAN.3 consists of the following:

— the ST;

— the functional specification;

— the TOE design;

— the security architecture description;

— the implementation subset selected;

— the guidance documentation;

— the TOE suitable for testing;

— a list of third party components included in the TOE and the TOE delivery;

— information publicly available to support the identification of possible potential vulnerabilities;

— the results of the testing of the basic design.

The remaining implicit evaluation evidence for this sub-activity depends on the components that have been included in the assurance package. The evidence provided for each component shall be used as input in this sub-activity.

Other input for this sub-activity is:

— current information regarding public domain potential vulnerabilities and attacks (e.g. from an evaluation authority).

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16.3.3.4 Action AVA_VAN.3.1E

16.3.3.4.1 Evaluator action (ISO/IEC 15408-3:2026, 14.3.5)

The evaluator shall confirm that the information provided meets all requirements for content and presentation of evidence.

16.3.3.4.2 Content requirement AVA_VAN.3.1C (ISO/IEC 15408-3:2026, 14.3.5)

The TOE shall be suitable for testing.

16.3.3.4.3 Content requirement AVA_VAN.3.2C (ISO/IEC 15408-3:2026, 14.3.5)

The list of third-party components shall include components provided by third parties, and that are part of the TOE or otherwise part of the TOE delivery.

16.3.3.4.4 Work unit AVA_VAN.3-1

The evaluator ***shall examine*** the TOE and the related list of third-party components provided by the developer to determine that the test configuration is consistent with the configuration under evaluation as specified in the ST and considers hereby the identified third-party components that are part of the TOE or otherwise part of the TOE delivery.

The TOE provided by the developer and identified in the test plan shall have the same unique reference as established by the ALC_CMC (CM capabilities) (14.3) sub-activities and identified in the ST introduction.

It is possible for the ST to specify more than one configuration for evaluation. The TOE can comprise a number of distinct hardware and software entities that require testing in accordance with the ST. The evaluator verifies that all test configurations are consistent with the ST.

The evaluator should consider the security objectives for the operational environment described in the ST that can apply to the test environment and ensure they are met in the testing environment. There can be some objectives for the operational environment that do not apply to the test environment. For example, an objective about user clearances does not necessarily apply; however, an objective about a single point of connection to a network would apply.

If any test resources are used (e.g. meters, analysers) it shall be the evaluator's responsibility to ensure that these resources are calibrated correctly.

In particular, the evaluator should check that the list of third-party components provided by the developer includes information about the TOE related third-party components and that those are part of the TOE or otherwise part of the TOE delivery. The evaluator should check that the ST and the TOE test configuration including its intended test environment fit to that list of third-party components.

16.3.3.4.5 Work unit AVA_VAN.3-2

The evaluator ***shall examine*** the TOE to determine that it has been installed properly and is in a known state.

It is possible for the evaluator to determine the state of the TOE in a number of ways. For example, previous successful completion of AGD_PRE.1 (Preparative procedures) (13.4.1) will satisfy this work unit if the evaluator still has confidence that the TOE being used for testing was installed properly and is in a known state. If this is not the case, then the evaluator should follow the developer's procedures to install and start up the TOE, using the supplied guidance only.

If the evaluator is required to perform the installation procedures because the TOE is in an unknown state, this work unit, when successfully completed, can satisfy work unit AGD_PRE.1-3 (13.4.1.5.2).

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16.3.3.5 Action AVA_VAN.3.2E

16.3.3.5.1 Evaluator action (ISO/IEC 15408-3:2026, 14.3.5)

The evaluator shall perform a search of public domain sources to identify potential vulnerabilities in the TOE, the components in the list of third-party components, and specific IT products in the environment that the TOE depends on.

16.3.3.5.2 Work unit AVA_VAN.3-3

The evaluator ***shall examine*** sources of information publicly available to identify potential vulnerabilities in the TOE under consideration of the components identified in the list of third-party components, and specific IT products in the environment that the TOE depends on.

The evaluator examines the sources of information publicly available to support the identification of possible potential vulnerabilities in the TOE.

This examination includes consideration of the components in the list of third-party components, and specific IT products in the environment that the TOE depends on as those can have an impact on the TOE's security functionality and secure operation.

There are many sources of publicly available information which the evaluator can consider using, such as those available online, including:

— specialist publications (magazines, books);

— research papers;

— conference proceedings.

The evaluator should consider any other relevant publicly available information in addition to these examples.

While examining the evidence provided the evaluator ***shall use*** the information in the public domain to further search for potential vulnerabilities. Where the evaluator has identified areas of concern, the evaluator should consider information publicly available that relate to those areas of concern.

The availability of information that can be readily available to an attacker that helps to identify and facilitate attacks may substantially enhance the attack potential of a given attacker. The accessibility of vulnerability information and sophisticated attack tools on the Internet makes it more likely that this information will be used in attempts to identify potential vulnerabilities in the TOE and exploit them. Modern search tools make such information easily available to the evaluator, and the determination of resistance to published potential vulnerabilities and well-known generic attacks can be achieved in a cost-effective manner.

The search of the information publicly available should be focused on those sources that refer to the technologies used in the development of the product from which the TOE is derived. The extensiveness of this search should consider the following factors:

— TOE type;

— evaluator experience in this TOE type;

— third-party components and specific IT products in the environment that the TOE depends on;

— expected attack potential;

— the level of class ADV (Development) (Clause 12) evidence available.

The identification process is iterative, where the identification of one potential vulnerability can lead to identifying another area of concern that requires further investigation.

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The evaluator will report what actions were taken to identify potential vulnerabilities in the evidence. However, in this type of search, the it is possible that the evaluator cannot describe the steps in identifying potential vulnerabilities before the outset of the examination, as the approach can evolve as a result of findings during the search.

The evaluator will report the evidence examined in completing the search for potential vulnerabilities. This selection of evidence can be derived from those areas of concern identified by the evaluator, linked to the evidence the attacker is assumed to be able to obtain, or according to another rationale provided by the evaluator.

16.3.3.6 Action AVA_VAN.3.3E

16.3.3.6.1 Evaluator action (ISO/IEC 15408-3:2026, 14.3.5)

The evaluator shall perform an independent, focused vulnerability analysis of the TOE using the guidance documentation, functional specification, TOE design, security architecture description and implementation representation to identify potential vulnerabilities in the TOE.

16.3.3.6.2 Work unit AVA_VAN.3-4

The evaluator ***shall conduct*** a focused search of the ST, guidance documentation, functional specification, TOE design, security architecture description and implementation representation to identify potential vulnerabilities in the TOE.

A flaw hypothesis methodology shall be used, whereby specifications and development and guidance evidence are analysed and then potential vulnerabilities in the TOE are hypothesised, or speculated.

The evaluator uses the knowledge of the TOE design and operation gained from the TOE deliverables to create a flaw hypothesis to identify potential flaws in the development of the TOE and potential errors in the specified method of operation of the TOE.

The security architecture description supports the developer vulnerability analysis. It documents how the TSF protects itself from interference from untrusted subjects and prevents the bypass of security enforcement functionality. Therefore, the evaluator should build upon the understanding of the TSF protection gained from the analysis of this evidence and then develop this using knowledge gained from other class ADV (Development) (Clause 12) evidence.

The approach taken shall be directed by the areas of concern identified when examining the evidence during the conduct of evaluation activities. This approach shall also ensure that a representative sample of the development and guidance evidence provided for the evaluation is searched.

For requirements and guidance on sampling, see Annex A. This should be considered when selecting the subset, giving reasons for:

— the approach used in selection;

— qualification that the evidence to be examined supports that approach.

The areas of concern can relate to the sufficiency of specific protection features detailed in the security architecture description.

The evidence to be considered during the vulnerability analysis can be linked to the evidence that the attacker is assumed to be able to obtain. For example, the developer can protect the TOE design and implementation representations, so the only information assumed to be available to an attacker is the functional specification and publicly available guidance. Therefore, although the objectives for assurance in the TOE ensure the TOE design and implementation representation requirements are met, these design representations can be searched to further investigate areas of concerns.

On the other hand, if the source is publicly available it would be reasonable to assume that the attacker has access to the source and can use this in attempts to attack the TOE. Therefore, the source should be considered in the focused examination approach.

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The following examples concerning the selection of the subset of evidence shall be considered:

— for an evaluation where all levels of design abstraction from functional specification to implementation representation are provided, examination of information in the functional specification and the implementation representation can be selected, as the functional specification provides detail of interfaces available to an attacker, and the implementation representation incorporates the design decisions made at all other design abstractions. Therefore, the TOE design information shall be considered as part of the implementation representation;

— examination of a particular subset of information in each of the design representations provided for the evaluation;

— coverage of particular SFRs through each of the design representations provided for the evaluation;

— examination of each of the design representations provided for the evaluation, considering different SFRs within each design representations;

— examination of aspects of the evidence provided for the evaluation relating to current potential vulnerability information that the evaluator has received (e.g. from a scheme).

The approach taken to identifying potential vulnerabilities shall be ordered, planned and systematic. The evaluator shall describe the method to be used in terms of what evidence will be considered, the information within the evidence that shall be examined, the manner in which this information shall be considered and the hypothesis that shall be created.

Examples of hypotheses include the following:

— consideration of malformed input for interfaces available to an attacker at the external interfaces;

— examination of a key security mechanism cited in the security architecture description, such as process separation, hypothesising internal buffer overflows that can lead to degradation of separation;

— search to identify any objects created in the TOE implementation representation that are then not fully controlled by the TSF, and can be used by an attacker to undermine SFRs.

For example, the evaluator can identify that interfaces are a potential area of weakness in the TOE and specify an approach to the search that "all interface specifications provided in the functional specification and TOE design shall be searched to hypothesise potential vulnerabilities" and go on to explain the methods used in the hypothesis.

The identification process is iterative, where the identification of one potential vulnerability can lead to identifying another area of concern that requires further investigation.

The evaluator ***shall report*** what actions were taken to identify potential vulnerabilities using the evidence. However, in this type of search, it is possible that the evaluator is unable to describe the steps in identifying potential vulnerabilities before the outset of the examination, as the approach can evolve as a result of findings during the search.

The evaluator ***shall report*** the evidence examined during the search for potential vulnerabilities. This selection of evidence can be derived from those areas of concern identified by the evaluator, linked to the evidence that the attacker is assumed to be able to obtain, or according to another rationale provided by the evaluator.

Subject to the SFRs the TOE shall meet in the operational environment, the evaluator's independent vulnerability analysis should consider generic potential vulnerabilities under each of the following headings:

a) generic potential vulnerabilities relevant for the type of TOE being evaluated, as can be supplied by the evaluation authority;

b) bypassing;

c) tampering;

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d) direct attacks;

e) monitoring;

f) misuse.

Items b) to f) are explained in greater detail in Annex B.

The security architecture description should be considered in light of each of the above generic potential vulnerabilities. Each potential vulnerability shall be considered to search for possible ways in which to defeat the TSF protection and undermine the TSF.

16.3.3.6.3 Work unit AVA_VAN.3-5

The evaluator ***shall record*** in the ETR the identified potential vulnerabilities that are candidates for testing and applicable to the TOE in its operational environment.

It may be identified that no further consideration of the potential vulnerability is required if for example the evaluator identifies that measures in the operational environment, either IT or non-IT, prevent exploitation of the potential vulnerability in that operational environment. For instance, restricting physical access to the TOE to authorized users only can effectively render a potential vulnerability to tampering unexploitable.

The evaluator records any reasons for exclusion of potential vulnerabilities from further consideration if the evaluator determines that the potential vulnerability is not applicable in the operational environment. Otherwise, the evaluator records the potential vulnerability for further consideration.

A list of potential vulnerabilities applicable to the TOE in its operational environment, which can be used as an input into penetration testing activities, shall be reported in the ETR by the evaluators.

16.3.3.7 Action AVA_VAN.3.4E

16.3.3.7.1 Evaluator action (ISO/IEC 15408-3:2026, 14.3.5)

The evaluator shall conduct penetration testing, based on the identified potential vulnerabilities, to determine that the TOE is resistant to attacks performed by an attacker possessing Enhanced-Basic attack potential.

16.3.3.7.2 Work unit AVA_VAN.3-6

The evaluator ***shall devise*** penetration tests, based on the independent search for potential vulnerabilities.

The evaluator shall prepare for penetration testing as necessary to determine the susceptibility of the TOE, in its operational environment, to the potential vulnerabilities identified during the search of the sources of information publicly available. Any current information provided to the evaluator by a third party (e.g. evaluation authority) regarding known potential vulnerabilities should be considered by the evaluator, together with any encountered potential vulnerabilities resulting from the performance of other evaluation activities.

The evaluator shall keep in mind that, as for considering the security architecture description in the search for vulnerabilities (as detailed in AVA_VAN.3-4 (16.3.3.6.2)), testing should be performed to confirm the architectural properties. If requirements from ATE_DPT (Depth) (15.4) are included in the SARs, the developer testing evidence shall include testing performed to confirm the correct implementation of any specific mechanisms detailed in the security architecture description. However, it is possible that the developer testing does not necessarily include testing of all aspects of the architectural properties that protect the TSF, since much of this testing can be negative testing in nature, i.e. attempting to disprove the properties. In developing the strategy for penetration testing, the evaluator ***shall ensure*** that all aspects of the security architecture description are tested, either in functional testing (as considered in class ATE (Tests) (Clause 15)) or evaluator penetration testing.

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It is expected that the evaluator will find it practical to carry out penetration test using a series of test cases, where each test case can test for a specific potential vulnerability.

The evaluator is not expected to test for potential vulnerabilities (including those in the public domain) beyond those which required an Enhanced-Basic attack potential. In some cases, however, it can be necessary to carry out a test before the exploitability can be determined. Where, as a result of evaluation expertise, the evaluator discovers an exploitable vulnerability that is beyond Enhanced-Basic attack potential, this shall be reported in the ETR as a residual vulnerability.

Requirements and guidance for determining the necessary attack potential to exploit a potential vulnerability can be found in B.7.

Potential vulnerabilities hypothesised as exploitable only by attackers possessing Moderate or High attack potential do not result in a failure of this evaluator action. Where analysis supports the hypothesis, it is not required to consider these potential vulnerabilities further as an input to penetration testing. However, such vulnerabilities shall be reported in the ETR as residual vulnerabilities.

Potential vulnerabilities hypothesised as exploitable by an attacker possessing a Basic or Enhanced-Basic attack potential and resulting in a violation of the security objectives should be the highest priority potential vulnerabilities comprising the list used to direct penetration testing against the TOE.

16.3.3.7.3 Work unit AVA_VAN.3-7

The evaluator ***shall produce*** penetration test documentation for the tests based on the list of potential vulnerabilities in sufficient detail to enable the tests to be repeatable. The test documentation shall include:

— identification of the potential vulnerability for which the TOE is being tested;

— instructions to connect and setup all required test equipment as required to conduct the penetration test;

— instructions to establish all penetration test prerequisite initial conditions;

— instructions to stimulate the TSF;

— instructions for observing the behaviour of the TSF;

— descriptions of all expected results and the necessary analysis to be performed on the observed behaviour for comparison against expected results;

— instructions to conclude the test and establish the necessary post-test state for the TOE.

The evaluator prepares for penetration testing based on the list of potential vulnerabilities identified during the search of the public domain and the analysis of the evaluation evidence.

The evaluator is not expected to determine the exploitability for potential vulnerabilities beyond those for which an Enhanced-Basic attack potential is required to effect an attack. However, as a result of evaluation expertise, the evaluator can discover a potential vulnerability that is exploitable only by an attacker with greater than Enhanced-Basic attack potential. Such vulnerabilities shall be reported in the ETR as residual vulnerabilities.

With an understanding of the potential vulnerability, the evaluator determines the most feasible way to test for the TOE's susceptibility. Specifically, the evaluator considers:

— the TSFI or other TOE interfaces that will be used to stimulate the TSF and observe responses (It is possible that the evaluator can need to use an interface to the TOE other than the TSFI to demonstrate properties of the TSF such as those described in the security architecture description (as required by ADV_ARC (Security architecture) (12.3)). It should be noted, that although these TOE interfaces provide a means of testing the TSF properties, they are not the subject of the test;

— the initial conditions required for the test (i.e. any particular objects or subjects that are required to exist, together with their necessary security attributes);

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— special test equipment that will be required to either stimulate a TSFI or make observations of a TSFI (although it is unlikely that specialist equipment would be required to exploit a potential vulnerability assuming an Enhanced-Basic attack potential);

— whether theoretical analysis can replace physical testing, particularly relevant where the results of an initial test can be extrapolated to demonstrate that repeated attempts of an attack are likely to succeed after a given number of attempts.

It is expected that the evaluator will find it practical to carry out penetration testing using a series of test cases, where each test case will test for a specific potential vulnerability.

This level of detail in the test documentation is specified to allow another evaluator to repeat the tests and obtain an equivalent result.

16.3.3.7.4 Work unit AVA_VAN.3-8

The evaluator ***shall conduct*** penetration testing.

The evaluator uses the penetration test documentation resulting from work unit AVA_VAN.3-7 (16.3.3.7.3) as a basis for executing penetration tests on the TOE, but this does not preclude the evaluator from performing additional ad hoc penetration tests. If required, the evaluator can devise ad hoc tests as a result of information learnt during penetration testing that, if performed by the evaluator, shall be recorded in the penetration test documentation. Such tests can be required to follow up unexpected results or observations, or to investigate potential vulnerabilities suggested to the evaluator during the pre-planned testing.

If penetration testing shows that a hypothesised potential vulnerability does not exist, then the evaluator should determine whether or not the evaluator's own analysis was incorrect, or if evaluation deliverables are incorrect or incomplete.

The evaluator is not expected to test for potential vulnerabilities (including those in the public domain) beyond those which required an Enhanced-Basic attack potential. In some cases, however, it will be necessary to carry out a test before the exploitability can be determined. Where, as a result of evaluation expertise, the evaluator discovers an exploitable vulnerability that is beyond Enhanced-Basic attack potential, this shall be reported in the ETR as a residual vulnerability.

16.3.3.7.5 Work unit AVA_VAN.3-9

The evaluator ***shall record*** the actual results of the penetration tests.

While some specific details of the actual test results can be different from those expected (e.g. time and date fields in an audit record) the overall result is expected to be identical. Any unexpected test results should be investigated. The impact on the evaluation should be stated and justified.

16.3.3.7.6 Work unit AVA_VAN.3-10

The evaluator ***shall report*** in the ETR the evaluator penetration testing effort, outlining the testing approach, configuration, depth and results.

The penetration testing information reported in the ETR allows the evaluator to convey the overall penetration testing approach and effort expended on this sub-activity. The intent of providing this information is to give a meaningful overview of the evaluator's penetration testing effort. It is not intended that the information regarding penetration testing in the ETR be an exact reproduction of specific test steps or results of individual penetration tests. The intention is to provide enough detail to allow other evaluators and evaluation authorities to gain some insight about the penetration testing approach chosen, amount of penetration testing performed, TOE test configurations, and the overall results of the penetration testing activity.

Information that would typically be found in the ETR regarding evaluator penetration testing efforts is:

— TOE test configurations: the particular configurations of the TOE that were penetration tested;

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— TSFIs penetration tested: a brief listing of the TSFIs and other TOE interfaces that were the focus of the penetration testing;

— verdict for the sub-activity: the overall judgement on the results of penetration testing.

This list is by no means exhaustive and is only intended to provide some context as to the type of information that should be present in the ETR concerning the penetration testing the evaluator performed during the evaluation.

16.3.3.7.7 Work unit AVA_VAN.3-11

The evaluator ***shall examine*** the results of all penetration testing to determine that the TOE, in its operational environment, is resistant to an attacker possessing an Enhanced-Basic attack potential.

If the results reveal that the TOE, in its operational environment, has vulnerabilities exploitable by an attacker possessing less than Moderate attack potential, then this evaluator action fails.

The requirements and guidance in B.7 should be used to determine the attack potential required to exploit a particular vulnerability and whether it can therefore be exploited in the intended environment. It is not required to calculate attack potential in every instance, only if there is some doubt as to whether or not the vulnerability can be exploited by an attacker possessing an attack potential less than Moderate.

16.3.3.7.8 Work unit AVA_VAN.3-12

The evaluator ***shall report*** in the ETR all exploitable vulnerabilities and residual vulnerabilities, detailing for each:

— its source (e.g. evaluation methodology activity being undertaken when it was conceived, known to the evaluator, read in a publication);

— the SFR(s) not met;

— a description;

— whether it is exploitable in its operational environment or not (i.e. exploitable or residual).

— the amount of time, level of expertise, level of knowledge of the TOE, level of opportunity and the equipment required to exploit the identified vulnerabilities, and the corresponding values using Table B.2 and Table B.3.

16.3.4 Evaluation of sub-activity (AVA_VAN.4)

16.3.4.1 Objectives

The objective of this sub-activity is to determine whether the TOE, in its operational environment, has vulnerabilities exploitable by attackers possessing Moderate attack potential.

16.3.4.2 Application notes

The methodical analysis approach takes the form of a structured examination of the evidence. This method requires the evaluator to specify the structure and form the analysis will take (i.e. the manner in which the analysis is performed is predetermined, unlike the focused analysis). The method is specified in terms of the information that shall be considered and how and why it will be considered. Further requirements and guidance on methodical vulnerability analysis can be found in B.5.3.4.

16.3.4.3 Input

Input for AVA_VAN.4 consists of the following:

— the ST;

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— the functional specification;

— the TOE design;

— the security architecture description;

— the implementation representation;

— the guidance documentation;

— the TOE suitable for testing;

— a list of third party components included in the TOE and the TOE delivery;

— information publicly available to support the identification of possible potential vulnerabilities;

— the results of the testing of the basic design.

The remaining implicit evaluation evidence for this sub-activity depends on the components that have been included in the assurance package. The evidence provided for each component shall be used as input in this sub-activity.

Other input for this sub-activity is:

— current information regarding public domain potential vulnerabilities and attacks (e.g. from an evaluation authority).

16.3.4.4 Action AVA_VAN.4.1E

16.3.4.4.1 Evaluator action (ISO/IEC 15408-3:2026, 14.3.6)

The evaluator shall confirm that the information provided meets all requirements for content and presentation of evidence.

16.3.4.4.2 Content requirement AVA_VAN.4.1C (ISO/IEC 15408-3:2026, 14.3.6)

The TOE shall be suitable for testing.

16.3.4.4.3 Content requirement AVA_VAN.4.2C (ISO/IEC 15408-3:2026, 14.3.6)

The list of third-party components shall include components provided by third parties, and that are part of the TOE or otherwise part of the TOE delivery.

16.3.4.4.4 Work unit AVA_VAN.4-1

The evaluator ***shall examine*** the TOE and the related list of third-party components provided by the developer to determine that the test configuration is consistent with the configuration under evaluation as specified in the ST and considers hereby the identified third-party components that are part of the TOE or otherwise part of the TOE delivery.

The TOE provided by the developer and identified in the test plan shall have the same unique reference as established by the ALC_CMC (CM capabilities) (14.3) sub-activities and identified in the ST introduction.

It is possible for the ST to specify more than one configuration for evaluation. The TOE can comprise a number of distinct hardware and software entities that shall be tested in accordance with the ST. The evaluator verifies that all test configurations are consistent with the ST.

The evaluator should consider the security objectives for the operational environment described in the ST that can apply to the test environment and ensure they are met in the testing environment. There can be some objectives for the operational environment that do not apply to the test environment. For example,

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an objective about user clearances does not necessarily apply; however, an objective about a single point of connection to a network would apply.

If any test resources are used (e.g. meters, analysers) it shall be the evaluator's responsibility to ensure that these resources are calibrated correctly.

In particular, the evaluator should check that the list of third-party components provided by the developer includes information about the TOE related third-party components and that those are part of the TOE or otherwise part of the TOE delivery. The evaluator should take care that the ST and the TOE test configuration including its intended test environment fit to that list of third-party components.

16.3.4.4.5 Work unit AVA_VAN.4-2

The evaluator ***shall examine*** the TOE to determine that it has been installed properly and is in a known state

It is possible for the evaluator to determine the state of the TOE in a number of ways. For example, previous successful completion of AGD_PRE.1 (Preparative procedures) (13.4.1) will satisfy this work unit if the evaluator still has confidence that the TOE being used for testing was installed properly and is in a known state. If this is not the case, then the evaluator should follow the developer's procedures to install and start up the TOE, using the supplied guidance only.

If the evaluator performs the installation procedures because the TOE is in an unknown state, this work unit when successfully completed can satisfy work unit AGD_PRE.1-3 (13.4.1.5.2).

16.3.4.5 Action AVA_VAN.4.2E

16.3.4.5.1 Evaluator action (ISO/IEC 15408-3:2026, 14.3.6)

The evaluator shall perform a search of public domain sources to identify potential vulnerabilities in the TOE, the components in the list of third-party components, and specific IT products in the environment that the TOE depends on.

16.3.4.5.2 Work unit AVA_VAN.4-3

The evaluator ***shall examine*** sources of information publicly available to identify potential vulnerabilities in the TOE under consideration of the components identified in the list of third-party components, and specific IT products in the environment that the TOE depends on.

The evaluator examines the sources of information publicly available to support the identification of possible potential vulnerabilities in the TOE.

This examination includes consideration of the components in the list of third-party components, and specific IT products in the environment that the TOE depends on as those can have an impact on the TOE's security functionality and secure operation.

There are many sources of publicly available information which the evaluator can consider using, such as those available online, including:

— specialist publications (magazines, books);

— research papers;

— conference proceedings.

The evaluator should consider any other relevant publicly available information in addition to these examples.

While examining the evidence provided the evaluator ***shall use*** the information in the public domain to further search for potential vulnerabilities. Where the evaluator has identified areas of concern, the evaluator should consider information publicly available that relate to those areas of concern.

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The availability of information that can be readily available to an attacker that helps to identify and facilitate attacks can substantially enhance the attack potential of a given attacker. The accessibility of vulnerability information and sophisticated attack tools on the Internet makes it more likely that this information will be used to identify potential vulnerabilities in the TOE and exploit them. Modern search tools make such information easily available to the evaluator, and the determination of resistance to published potential vulnerabilities and well-known generic attacks can be achieved in a cost-effective manner.

The search of the information publicly available should be focused on those sources that refer to the technologies used in the development of the product from which the TOE is derived. The extent of this search should consider the following factors:

— TOE type,

— evaluator experience in this TOE type,

— third-party components and specific IT products in the environment that the TOE depends on,

— expected attack potential,

— the level of class ADV (Development) (Clause 12) evidence available.

The identification process shall be iterative, where the identification of one potential vulnerability can lead to identifying another area of concern that requires further investigation.

The evaluator shall describe the approach to be taken to identify potential vulnerabilities from the publicly available material, detailing the search to be performed. This can be driven by factors such as areas of concern identified by the evaluator, linked to the evidence the attacker is assumed to be able to obtain. However, it is recognised that in this type of search the approach can further evolve as a result of findings during the search. Therefore, the evaluator shall also report any actions taken in addition to those described in the approach to further investigate issues thought to lead to potential vulnerabilities, and shall report the evidence examined in completing the search for potential vulnerabilities.

16.3.4.6 Action AVA_VAN.4.3E

16.3.4.6.1 Evaluator action (ISO/IEC 15408-3:2026, 14.3.6)

The evaluator shall perform an independent, methodical vulnerability analysis of the TOE using the guidance documentation, functional specification, TOE design, security architecture description and implementation representation to identify potential vulnerabilities in the TOE.

16.3.4.6.2 Work unit AVA_VAN.4-4

The evaluator ***shall conduct*** a methodical analysis of ST, guidance documentation, functional specification, TOE design, security architecture description and implementation representation to identify possible potential vulnerabilities in the TOE.

Requirements and guidance for methodical vulnerability analysis is provided in B.5.3.4.

The approach taken to identify potential vulnerabilities shall take an ordered, planned and systematic approach. The evaluator shall describe the method to be used in terms of the manner in which this information shall be considered and the hypothesis that shall be created.

A flaw hypothesis methodology shall be used whereby the ST, development (functional specification, TOE design and implementation representation) and guidance evidence are analysed and then vulnerabilities in the TOE are hypothesised, or speculated.

The evaluator uses the knowledge of the TOE design and operation gained from the TOE deliverables to conduct a flaw hypothesis to identify potential flaws in the development of the TOE and potential errors in the specified method of operation of the TOE.

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The security architecture description provides the developer vulnerability analysis, as it documents how the TSF protects itself from interference from untrusted subjects and prevents the bypass of security enforcement functionality. Therefore, the evaluator should build upon the understanding of the TSF protection gained from the analysis of this evidence and then develop this in the knowledge gained from other development class ADV (Development) (Clause 12) evidence.

The approach taken to the methodical search for vulnerabilities shall consider any areas of concern identified in the results of the evaluator's assessment of the development and guidance evidence. However, the evaluator should also consider each aspect of the security architecture analysis to search for any ways in which the protection of the TSF can be undermined. It can be helpful to structure the methodical analysis on the basis of the material presented in the security architecture description, introducing concerns from other class ADV (Development) (Clause 12) evidence as appropriate. The analysis can then be further developed to ensure all other material from the class ADV (Development) (Clause 12) evidence is considered.

The following provide some examples of hypotheses that can be created when examining the evidence:

— consideration of malformed input for interfaces available to an attacker at the external interfaces;

— examination of a key security mechanism cited in the security architecture description, such as process separation, hypothesising internal buffer overflows that can lead to degradation of separation;

— search to identify any objects created in the TOE implementation representation that are then not fully controlled by the TSF, and can be used by an attacker to undermine SFRs.

For example, the evaluator can identify that interfaces are a potential area of weakness in the TOE and specify an approach to the search that "all interface specifications in the evidence provided shall be searched to hypothesise potential vulnerabilities" and go on to explain the methods used in the hypothesis.

In addition, the methodical search shall include areas of concern that the evaluator has identified during examination of the evidence while conducting evaluation activities.

Areas of concern can also be identified during the conduct of other work units associated with this component, in particular AVA_VAN.4-7 (16.3.4.7.3), AVA_VAN.4-5 (16.3.4.6.3) and AVA_VAN.4-6 (16.3.4.7.2) where the development and conduct of penetration tests can identify further areas of concern for investigation, or potential vulnerabilities.

However, examination of only a subset of the development and guidance evidence or their contents is not permitted at this level of rigour. The approach description should provide a demonstration that the methodical approach used is complete, providing confidence that the approach used to search the deliverables has considered all of the information provided in those deliverables.

This approach to identification of potential vulnerabilities shall take an ordered and planned approach; applying a system to the examination. The evaluator shall describe the method to be used in terms of how the evidence shall be considered; the manner in which this information shall be considered and the hypothesis that shall be created. This approach shall be agreed with the evaluation authority, and the evaluation authority can provide detail of any additional approaches the evaluator shall take to the vulnerability analysis and identify any additional information that shall be considered by the evaluator.

Although a system for identifying potential vulnerabilities is predefined, the identification process can still be iterative, where the identification of one potential vulnerability can lead to identifying another area of concern that requires further investigation.

Subject to the SFRs the TOE shall meet in the operational environment, the evaluator's independent vulnerability analysis should consider generic potential vulnerabilities under each of the following headings:

a) generic potential vulnerabilities relevant for the type of TOE being evaluated, as can be supplied by the evaluation authority;

b) bypassing;

c) tampering;

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d) direct attacks;

e) monitoring;

f) misuse.

Items b) to f) are explained in greater detail in Annex B.

The security architecture description should be considered in light of each of the above generic potential vulnerabilities. Each potential vulnerability should be considered to search for possible ways in which to defeat the TSF protection and undermine the TSF.

16.3.4.6.3 Work unit AVA_VAN.4-5

The evaluator ***shall record*** in the ETR the identified potential vulnerabilities that are candidates for testing and applicable to the TOE in its operational environment.

It may be identified that no further consideration of the potential vulnerability is required if for example the evaluator identifies that measures in the operational environment, either IT or non-IT, prevent exploitation of the potential vulnerability in that operational environment. For instance, restricting physical access to the TOE to authorized users only can effectively render a potential vulnerability to tampering unexploitable.

The evaluator records any reasons for exclusion of potential vulnerabilities from further consideration if the evaluator determines that the potential vulnerability is not applicable in the operational environment. Otherwise, the evaluator records the potential vulnerability for further consideration.

A list of potential vulnerabilities applicable to the TOE in its operational environment, which can be used as an input into penetration testing activities, shall be reported in the ETR by the evaluators.

16.3.4.7 Action AVA_VAN.4.4E

16.3.4.7.1 Evaluator action (ISO/IEC 15408-3:2026, 14.3.6)

The evaluator shall conduct penetration testing based on the identified potential vulnerabilities to determine that the TOE is resistant to attacks performed by an attacker possessing Moderate attack potential.

16.3.4.7.2 Work unit AVA_VAN.4-6

The evaluator ***shall devise*** penetration tests, based on the independent search for potential vulnerabilities.

The evaluator prepares for penetration testing as necessary to determine the susceptibility of the TOE, in its operational environment, to the potential vulnerabilities identified during the search of the sources of information publicly available. Any current information provided to the evaluator by a third party (e.g. evaluation authority) regarding known potential vulnerabilities should be considered by the evaluator, together with any encountered potential vulnerabilities resulting from the performance of other evaluation activities.

The evaluator should keep in mind that, as for considering the security architecture description in the search for vulnerabilities (as detailed in AVA_VAN.4-3 (16.3.4.5.2)), testing should be performed to confirm the architectural properties. If requirements from ATE_DPT (Depth) (15.4) are included in the SARs, the developer testing evidence shall include testing performed to confirm the correct implementation of any specific mechanisms detailed in the security architecture description. However, it is possible that the developer testing does not cover all aspects of the architectural properties that protect the TSF, since much of this testing will be negative testing in nature, attempting to disprove the properties. In developing the strategy for penetration testing, the evaluator ***shall ensure*** that all aspects of the security architecture description are tested, either in functional testing or evaluator penetration testing.

The evaluator will probably find it practical to carry out penetration test using a series of test cases, where each test case will test for a specific potential vulnerability.

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The evaluator is not expected to test for potential vulnerabilities (including those in the public domain) beyond those which required a Moderate attack potential. In some cases, however, it is necessary to carry out a test before the exploitability can be determined. Where, as a result of evaluation expertise, the evaluator discovers an exploitable vulnerability that is beyond Moderate attack potential, this shall be reported in the ETR as a residual vulnerability.

Requirements and guidance for determining the necessary attack potential to exploit a potential vulnerability can be found in B.7.

Potential vulnerabilities hypothesised as exploitable by an attacker possessing a Moderate (or less) attack potential and resulting in a violation of the security objectives should be the highest priority potential vulnerabilities comprising the list used to direct penetration testing against the TOE.

16.3.4.7.3 Work unit AVA_VAN.4-7

The evaluator ***shall produce*** penetration test documentation for the tests based on the list of potential vulnerabilities in sufficient detail to enable the tests to be repeatable. The test documentation shall include:

— identification of the potential vulnerability the TOE is being tested for;

— instructions to connect and setup all required test equipment as required to conduct the penetration test;

— instructions to establish all penetration test prerequisite initial conditions;

— instructions to stimulate the TSF;

— instructions for observing the behaviour of the TSF;

— descriptions of all expected results and the necessary analysis to be performed on the observed behaviour for comparison against expected results;

— instructions to conclude the test and establish the necessary post-test state for the TOE.

The evaluator prepares for penetration testing based on the list of potential vulnerabilities identified during the search of the public domain and the analysis of the evaluation evidence.

The evaluator is not expected to determine the exploitability for potential vulnerabilities beyond those for which a Moderate attack potential is required to effect an attack. However, as a result of evaluation expertise, the evaluator can discover a potential vulnerability that is exploitable only by an attacker with greater than Moderate attack potential. Such vulnerabilities shall be reported in the ETR as residual vulnerabilities.

With an understanding of the potential vulnerability, the evaluator determines the most feasible way to test for the TOE's susceptibility. Specifically, the evaluator considers:

— the TSFI or other TOE interface that will be used to stimulate the TSF and observe responses. It is possible that the evaluator can need to use an interface to the TOE other than the TSFI to demonstrate properties of the TSF such as those described in the security architecture description (as required by ADV_ARC (Security architecture) (12.3)). It should be noted, that although these TOE interfaces provide a means of testing the TSF properties, they are not the subject of the test;

— the initial conditions required for the test (i.e. any particular objects or subjects that are required to exist, together with their necessary security attributes);

— special test equipment that will be required to either stimulate a TSFI or make observations of a TSFI;

— whether theoretical analysis can replace physical testing, particularly relevant where the results of an initial test can be extrapolated to demonstrate that repeated attempts of an attack are likely to succeed after a given number of attempts.

The evaluator will probably find it practical to carry out penetration testing using a series of test cases, where each test case will test for a specific potential vulnerability.

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The intent of specifying this level of detail in the test documentation is to allow another evaluator to repeat the tests and obtain an equivalent result.

16.3.4.7.4 Work unit AVA_VAN.4-8

The evaluator ***shall conduct*** penetration testing.

The evaluator uses the penetration test documentation resulting from work unit AVA_VAN.4-7 (16.3.4.7.3) as a basis for executing penetration tests on the TOE, but this does not preclude the evaluator from performing additional ad hoc penetration tests. If required, the evaluator can devise ad hoc tests as a result of information learnt during penetration testing that, if performed by the evaluator, shall be recorded in the penetration test documentation. Such tests can be required to follow up unexpected results or observations, or to investigate potential vulnerabilities suggested to the evaluator during the pre-planned testing.

If penetration testing shows that a hypothesised potential vulnerability does not exist, then the evaluator should determine whether or not the evaluator's own analysis was incorrect, or if evaluation deliverables are incorrect or incomplete.

The evaluator is not expected to test for potential vulnerabilities (including those in the public domain) beyond those which required a Moderate attack potential. In some cases, however, it is necessary to carry out a test before the exploitability can be determined. Where, as a result of evaluation expertise, the evaluator discovers an exploitable vulnerability that is beyond Moderate attack potential, this shall be reported in the ETR as a residual vulnerability.

16.3.4.7.5 Work unit AVA_VAN.4-9

The evaluator ***shall record*** the actual results of the penetration tests.

While some specific details of the actual test results can be different from those expected (e.g. time and date fields in an audit record) the overall result is expected to be identical. Any unexpected test results should be investigated. The impact on the evaluation should be stated and justified.

16.3.4.7.6 Work unit AVA_VAN.4-10

The evaluator ***shall report*** in the ETR the evaluator penetration testing effort, outlining the testing approach, configuration, depth and results.

The penetration testing information reported in the ETR allows the evaluator to convey the overall penetration testing approach and effort expended on this sub-activity. The intent of providing this information is to give a meaningful overview of the evaluator's penetration testing effort. It is not intended that the information regarding penetration testing in the ETR be an exact reproduction of specific test steps or results of individual penetration tests. The intention is to provide enough detail to allow other evaluators and evaluation authorities to gain some insight about the penetration testing approach chosen, amount of penetration testing performed, TOE test configurations, and the overall results of the penetration testing activity.

Information that would typically be found in the ETR regarding evaluator penetration testing efforts is:

— TOE test configurations: the particular configurations of the TOE that were penetration tested;

— TSFIs penetration tested: a brief listing of the TSFIs and other TOE interfaces that were the focus of the penetration testing;

— verdict for the sub-activity: the overall judgement on the results of penetration testing.

This list is by no means exhaustive and is only intended to provide some context as to the type of information that should be present in the ETR concerning the penetration testing the evaluator performed during the evaluation.

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16.3.4.7.7 Work unit AVA_VAN.4-11

The evaluator ***shall examine*** the results of all penetration testing to determine that the TOE, in its operational environment, is resistant to an attacker possessing a Moderate attack potential.

If the results reveal that the TOE, in its operational environment, has vulnerabilities exploitable by an attacker possessing less than a High attack potential, then this evaluator action fails.

The requirements and guidance in B.7 should be used to determine the attack potential required to exploit a particular vulnerability and whether it can therefore be exploited in the intended environment. It is not necessary for the attack potential to be calculated in every instance, only if there is some doubt as to whether or not the vulnerability can be exploited by an attacker possessing an attack potential less than High.

16.3.4.7.8 Work unit AVA_VAN.4-12

The evaluator ***shall report*** in the ETR all exploitable vulnerabilities and residual vulnerabilities, detailing for each:

— its source (e.g. evaluation methodology activity being undertaken when it was conceived, known to the evaluator, read in a publication);

— the SFR(s) not met;

— a description;

— whether it is exploitable in its operational environment or not (i.e. exploitable or residual).

— the amount of time, level of expertise, level of knowledge of the TOE, level of opportunity and the equipment required to perform the identified vulnerabilities, and the corresponding values using Table B.2 and Table B.3.

16.3.5 Evaluation of sub-activity (AVA_VAN.5)

16.3.5.1 Objectives

The objective of this sub-activity is to determine whether the TOE, in its operational environment, has vulnerabilities exploitable by attackers possessing High attack potential.

16.3.5.2 Application notes

The methodical analysis approach takes the form of a structured examination of the evidence. This method requires the evaluator to specify the structure and form the analysis will take (i.e. the manner in which the analysis is performed is predetermined, unlike the focused analysis). The method is specified in terms of the information that will be considered and how and why it will be considered. Further requirements and guidance on methodical vulnerability analysis can be found in B.5.3.4.

16.3.5.3 Input

Input for AVA_VAN.5 consists of the following:

— the ST;

— the functional specification;

— the TOE design;

— the security architecture description;

— the implementation representation;

— the guidance documentation;

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— the TOE suitable for testing;

— a list of third party components included in the TOE and the TOE delivery;

— information publicly available to support the identification of possible potential vulnerabilities;

— the results of the testing of the basic design.

The remaining implicit evaluation evidence for this sub-activity depends on the components that have been included in the assurance package. The evidence provided for each component shall be used as input in this sub-activity.

Other input for this sub-activity is:

— current information regarding public domain potential vulnerabilities and attacks (e.g. from an evaluation authority).

16.3.5.4 Action AVA_VAN.5.1E

16.3.5.4.1 Evaluator action (ISO/IEC 15408-3:2026, 14.3.7)

The evaluator shall confirm that the information provided meets all requirements for content and presentation of evidence.

16.3.5.4.2 Content requirement AVA_VAN.5.1C (ISO/IEC 15408-3:2026, 14.3.7)

The TOE shall be suitable for testing.

16.3.5.4.3 Content requirement AVA_VAN.5.2C (ISO/IEC 15408-3:2026, 14.3.7)

The list of third-party components shall include components provided by third parties, and that are part of the TOE or otherwise part of the TOE delivery.

16.3.5.4.4 Work unit AVA_VAN.5-1

The evaluator ***shall examine*** the TOE and the related list of third-party components provided by the developer to determine that the test configuration is consistent with the configuration under evaluation as specified in the ST and considers hereby the identified third-party components that are part of the TOE or otherwise part of the TOE delivery.

The TOE provided by the developer and identified in the test plan shall have the same unique reference as established by the ALC_CMC (CM capabilities) (14.3) sub-activities and identified in the ST introduction.

It is possible for the ST to specify more than one configuration for evaluation. The TOE can comprise a number of distinct hardware and software entities that require testing in accordance with the ST. The evaluator verifies that all test configurations are consistent with the ST.

The evaluator should consider the security objectives for the operational environment described in the ST that can apply to the test environment and ensure they are met in the testing environment. There can be some objectives for the operational environment that do not apply to the test environment. For example, an objective about user clearances can be considered irrelevant; however, an objective about a single point of connection to a network shall apply.

If any test resources are used (e.g. meters, analysers) it shall be the evaluator's responsibility to ensure that these resources are calibrated correctly.

In particular, the evaluator should check that the list of third-party components provided by the developer includes information about the TOE related third-party components and that those are part of the TOE or otherwise part of the TOE delivery. The evaluator should take care of that the ST and the TOE test configuration including its intended test environment fit to that list of third-party components.

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16.3.5.4.5 Work unit AVA_VAN.5-2

The evaluator ***shall examine*** the TOE to determine that it has been installed properly and is in a known state.

It is possible for the evaluator to determine the state of the TOE in a number of ways. For example, previous successful completion of AGD_PRE.1 (Preparative procedures) (13.4.1) will satisfy this work unit if the evaluator still has confidence that the TOE being used for testing was installed properly and is in a known state. If this is not the case, then the evaluator should follow the developer's procedures to install and start up the TOE, using the supplied guidance only.

If the evaluator performs the installation procedures because the TOE is in an unknown state, this work unit when successfully completed can satisfy work unit AGD_PRE.1-3 (13.4.1.5.2).

16.3.5.5 Action AVA_VAN.5.2E

16.3.5.5.1 Evaluator action (ISO/IEC 15408-3:2026, 14.3.7)

The evaluator shall perform a search of public domain sources to identify potential vulnerabilities in the TOE, the components in the list of third-party components, and specific IT products in the environment that the TOE depends on.

16.3.5.5.2 Work unit AVA_VAN.5-3

The evaluator ***shall examine*** sources of information publicly available to identify potential vulnerabilities in the TOE under consideration of the components identified in the list of third-party components, and specific IT products in the environment that the TOE depends on.

The evaluator examines the sources of information publicly available to support the identification of possible potential vulnerabilities in the TOE.

This examination includes consideration of the components in the list of third-party components, and specific IT products in the environment that the TOE depends on as those can have an impact on the TOE's security functionality and secure operation.

There are many sources of publicly available information which the evaluator can consider using:

— specialist publications (magazines, books);

— research papers;

— mailing lists;

— online security forums;

— conference proceedings.

The evaluator should consider any other relevant publicly available information in addition to these examples.

While examining the evidence provided the evaluator ***shall use*** the information in the public domain to further search for potential vulnerabilities. Where the evaluators have identified areas of concern, the evaluator should consider information publicly available that relates to those areas of concern.

The availability of information that can be readily available to an attacker that helps to identify and facilitate attacks can substantially enhance the attack potential of a given attacker. The accessibility of vulnerability information and sophisticated attack tools on the Internet makes it more likely that this information can be used in attempts to identify potential vulnerabilities in the TOE and exploit them. Modern search tools make such information easily available to the evaluator, and the determination of resistance to published potential vulnerabilities and well-known generic attacks can be achieved in a cost-effective manner.

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The search of the information publicly available should be focused on those sources that refer to the technologies used in the development of the product from which the TOE is derived. The extensiveness of this search should consider the following factors:

— TOE type;

— evaluator experience in this TOE type, third-party components and specific IT products in the environment that the TOE depends on;

— expected attack potential;

— the level of class ADV (Development) (Clause 12) evidence available.

The identification process shall be iterative, where the identification of one potential vulnerability can lead to identifying another area of concern that requires further investigation.

The evaluator shall describe the approach to be taken to identify potential vulnerabilities in the publicly available material, detailing the search that shall be performed. This can be driven by factors such as areas of concern identified by the evaluator, linked to the evidence the attacker is assumed to be able to obtain. However, it is recognised that in this type of search the approach can further evolve as a result of findings during the search. Therefore, the evaluator shall also report any actions taken in addition to those described in the approach to further investigate issues thought to lead to potential vulnerabilities, and shall report the evidence examined in completing the search for potential vulnerabilities.

16.3.5.6 Action AVA_VAN.5.3E

16.3.5.6.1 Evaluator action (ISO/IEC 15408-3:2026, 14.3.7)

The evaluator shall perform an independent, methodical vulnerability analysis of the TOE using the guidance documentation, functional specification, TOE design, security architecture description and implementation representation to identify potential vulnerabilities in the TOE.

16.3.5.6.2 Work unit AVA_VAN.5-4

The evaluator ***shall conduct*** a methodical analysis of ST, guidance documentation, functional specification, TOE design, security architecture description and implementation representation to identify possible potential vulnerabilities in the TOE.

Requirements and guidance on methodical vulnerability analysis are provided in B.5.3.4.

The approach taken to identifying potential vulnerabilities shall be ordered and planned. A system shall be applied in the examination. The evaluator shall describe the method to be used in terms of the manner in which this information shall be considered and the hypothesis that shall be created.

A flaw hypothesis methodology shall be used whereby the ST, development (functional specification, TOE design and implementation representation) and guidance evidence are analysed and then vulnerabilities in the TOE are hypothesised, or speculated.

The evaluator should use the knowledge of the TOE design and operation gained from the TOE deliverables to conduct a flaw hypothesis to identify potential flaws in the development of the TOE and potential errors in the specified method of operation of the TOE.

The security architecture description provides the developer vulnerability analysis, as it documents how the TSF protects itself from interference from untrusted subjects and prevents the bypass of security enforcement functionality. Therefore, the evaluator should build upon the understanding of the TSF protection gained from the analysis of this evidence and then develop this in the knowledge gained from other development (e.g. class ADV (Development) (Clause 12)) evidence.

The approach taken to the methodical search for vulnerabilities is to consider any areas of concern identified in the results of the evaluator's assessment of the development and guidance evidence. However, the evaluator should also consider each aspect of the security architecture analysis to search for any ways in

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which the protection of the TSF can be undermined. It can be helpful to structure the methodical analysis on the basis of the material presented in the security architecture description, introducing concerns from other class ADV (Development) (Clause 12) evidence as appropriate. The analysis can then be further developed to ensure all other material from the class ADV (Development) (Clause 12) evidence is considered.

The following provide some examples of hypotheses that can be created when examining the evidence:

— consideration of malformed input for interfaces available to an attacker at the external interfaces;

— examination of a key security mechanism cited in the security architecture description, such as process separation, hypothesising internal buffer overflows that can lead to degradation of separation;

— search to identify any objects created in the TOE implementation representation that are then not fully controlled by the TSF, and can be used by an attacker to undermine SFRs.

For example, the evaluator can identify that interfaces are a potential area of weakness in the TOE and specify an approach to the search that "all interface specifications in the evidence provided will be searched to hypothesise potential vulnerabilities" and go on to explain the methods used in the hypothesis.

In addition, the methodical search shall include areas of concern that the evaluator has identified during examination of the evidence while conducting evaluation activities.

Areas of concern can also be identified during the conduct of other work units associated with this component, in particular AVA_VAN.5-5 (16.3.5.6.3), AVA_VAN.5-6 (16.3.5.7.2) and AVA_VAN.5-7 (16.3.5.7.3) where the development and conduct of penetration tests can identify further areas of concerns for investigation, or potential vulnerabilities.

However, examination of only a subset of the development and guidance evidence or their contents is not permitted at this level of rigour. The approach description should provide a demonstration that the methodical approach used is complete, providing confidence that the approach used to search the deliverables has considered all of the information provided in those deliverables.

This approach to identification of potential vulnerabilities is to take an ordered and planned approach; applying a system to the examination. The evaluator is to describe the method to be used in terms of how the evidence will be considered; the manner in which this information shall be considered and the hypothesis that shall be created. This approach shall be agreed with the evaluation authority, and the evaluation authority can provide detail of any additional approaches the evaluator shall take to the vulnerability analysis and identify any additional information that shall be considered by the evaluator.

Although a system to identifying potential vulnerabilities is predefined, the identification process can still be iterative, where the identification of one potential vulnerability can lead to identifying another area of concern that requires further investigation.

Subject to the SFRs the TOE shall meet in the operational environment, the evaluator's independent vulnerability analysis should consider generic potential vulnerabilities under each of the following headings:

a) generic potential vulnerabilities relevant for the type of TOE being evaluated, as can be supplied by the evaluation authority;

b) bypassing;

c) tampering;

d) direct attacks;

e) monitoring;

f) misuse.

Items b) to f) are explained in greater detail in Annex B.

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The security architecture description should be considered in light of each of the above generic potential vulnerabilities. Each potential vulnerability should be considered to search for possible ways in which to defeat the TSF protection and undermine the TSF.

16.3.5.6.3 Work unit AVA_VAN.5-5

The evaluator ***shall record*** in the ETR the identified potential vulnerabilities that are candidates for testing and applicable to the TOE in its operational environment.

It may be identified that no further consideration of the potential vulnerability is required if for example the evaluator identifies that measures in the operational environment, either IT or non-IT, prevent exploitation of the potential vulnerability in that operational environment.

For instance, restricting physical access to the TOE to authorised users only can effectively render a potential vulnerability to tampering unexploitable.

The evaluator records any reasons for exclusion of potential vulnerabilities from further consideration if the evaluator determines that the potential vulnerability is not applicable in the operational environment. Otherwise, the evaluator records the potential vulnerability for further consideration.

A list of potential vulnerabilities applicable to the TOE in its operational environment, which can be used as an input into penetration testing activities, shall be reported in the ETR by the evaluators.

16.3.5.7 Action AVA_VAN.5.4E

16.3.5.7.1 Evaluator action (ISO/IEC 15408-3:2026, 14.3.7)

The evaluator shall conduct penetration testing based on the identified potential vulnerabilities to determine that the TOE is resistant to attacks performed by an attacker possessing High attack potential.

16.3.5.7.2 Work unit AVA_VAN.5-6

The evaluator ***shall devise*** penetration tests, based on the independent search for potential vulnerabilities.

The evaluator prepares for penetration testing as necessary to determine the susceptibility of the TOE, in its operational environment, to the potential vulnerabilities identified during the search of the sources of publicly available information and the analysis of the TOE guidance and design evidence. Current information (e.g. from the evaluation authority) regarding known potential vulnerabilities should be used in this preparation.

The evaluator should keep in mind that, as for considering the security architecture description in the search for vulnerabilities (as detailed in AVA_VAN.5-3 (16.3.5.5.2)), testing should be performed to confirm the architectural properties. If requirements from ATE_DPT (Depth) (15.4) are included in the SARs, the developer testing evidence shall include testing performed to confirm the correct implementation of any specific mechanisms detailed in the security architecture description. However, it can be the case that the developer testing does not include testing of all aspects of the architectural properties that protect the TSF, as much of this testing will be negative testing in nature, attempting to disprove the properties. In developing the strategy for penetration testing, the evaluator ***shall ensure*** that all aspects of the security architecture description are tested, either in functional testing or evaluator penetration testing.

It is expected that the evaluator will find it practical to carry out penetration test using a series of test cases, where each test case will test for a specific potential vulnerability.

The evaluator is not expected to test for potential vulnerabilities (including those in the public domain) beyond those which required a High attack potential. In some cases, however, it is necessary to carry out a test before the exploitability can be determined. Where, as a result of evaluation expertise, the evaluator discovers an exploitable vulnerability that is beyond High attack potential, this shall be reported in the ETR as a residual vulnerability.

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Requirements and guidance for determining the necessary attack potential to exploit a potential vulnerability can be found in B.7.

Potential vulnerabilities hypothesised as exploitable by an attacker possessing a High (or less) attack potential and resulting in a violation of the security objectives should be the highest priority potential vulnerabilities comprising the list used to direct penetration testing against the TOE.

16.3.5.7.3 Work unit AVA_VAN.5-7

The evaluator ***shall produce*** penetration test documentation for the tests based on the list of potential vulnerabilities in sufficient detail to enable the tests to be repeatable. The test documentation shall include:

— identification of the potential vulnerability for which the TOE is being tested;

— instructions to connect and setup all required test equipment as required to conduct the penetration test;

— instructions to establish all penetration test prerequisite initial conditions;

— instructions to stimulate the TSF;

— instructions for observing the behaviour of the TSF;

— descriptions of all expected results and the necessary analysis to be performed on the observed behaviour for comparison against expected results;

— instructions to conclude the test and establish the necessary post-test state for the TOE.

The evaluator prepares for penetration testing based on the list of potential vulnerabilities identified during the search of the public domain and the analysis of the evaluation evidence.

The evaluator is not expected to determine the exploitability for potential vulnerabilities beyond those for which a High attack potential is required to effect an attack. However, as a result of evaluation expertise, the evaluator can discover a potential vulnerability that is exploitable only by an attacker with greater than High attack potential. Such vulnerabilities shall be reported in the ETR as residual vulnerabilities.

With an understanding of the potential vulnerability, the evaluator determines the most feasible way to test for the TOE's susceptibility. Specifically, the evaluator considers:

— the TSFI or other TOE interface that will be used to stimulate the TSF and observe responses. It is possible that the evaluator can need to use an interface to the TOE other than the TSFI to demonstrate properties of the TSF such as those described in the security architecture description (as required by ADV_ARC (Security architecture) (12.3)). It should be noted, that although these TOE interfaces provide a means of testing the TSF properties, they are not the subject of the test;

— initial conditions that shall exist for the test (i.e. any particular objects or subjects that shall exist and security attributes they shall have);

— special test equipment that will be required to either stimulate a TSFI or make observations of a TSFI;

— whether theoretical analysis can replace physical testing, particularly relevant where the results of an initial test can be extrapolated to demonstrate that repeated attempts of an attack are likely to succeed after a given number of attempts.

It is expected that the evaluator will find it practical to carry out penetration testing using a series of test cases, where each test case will test for a specific potential vulnerability.

This level of detail in the test documentation is specified in order to allow another evaluator to repeat the tests and obtain an equivalent result.

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16.3.5.7.4 Work unit AVA_VAN.5-8

The evaluator ***shall conduct*** penetration testing.

The evaluator uses the penetration test documentation resulting from work unit AVA_VAN.5-7 (16.3.5.7.3) as a basis for executing penetration tests on the TOE, but this does not preclude the evaluator from performing additional ad hoc penetration tests. If required, the evaluator can devise ad hoc tests as a result of information learnt during penetration testing that, if performed by the evaluator, shall be recorded in the penetration test documentation. Such tests can be required to follow up unexpected results or observations, or to investigate potential vulnerabilities suggested to the evaluator during the pre-planned testing.

If penetration testing shows that a hypothesised potential vulnerability does not exist, then the evaluator should determine whether or not the evaluator's own analysis was incorrect, or if evaluation deliverables are incorrect or incomplete.

The evaluator is not expected to test for potential vulnerabilities (including those in the public domain) beyond those which required a High attack potential. In some cases, however, it is necessary to carry out a test before the exploitability can be determined. Where, as a result of evaluation expertise, the evaluator discovers an exploitable vulnerability that is beyond High attack potential, this shall be reported in the ETR as a residual vulnerability.

16.3.5.7.5 Work unit AVA_VAN.5-9

The evaluator ***shall record*** the actual results of the penetration tests.

While some specific details of the actual test results can be different from those expected (e.g. time and date fields in an audit record) the overall result is expected to be identical. Any unexpected test results should be investigated. The impact on the evaluation should be stated and justified.

16.3.5.7.6 Work unit AVA_VAN.5-10

The evaluator ***shall report*** in the ETR the evaluator penetration testing effort, outlining the testing approach, configuration, depth and results.

The penetration testing information reported in the ETR allows the evaluator to convey the overall penetration testing approach and effort expended on this sub-activity. The intent of providing this information is to give a meaningful overview of the evaluator's penetration testing effort. It is not intended that the information regarding penetration testing in the ETR be an exact reproduction of specific test steps or results of individual penetration tests. The intention is to provide enough detail to allow other evaluators and evaluation authorities to gain some insight about the penetration testing approach chosen, amount of penetration testing performed, TOE test configurations, and the overall results of the penetration testing activity.

Information that would typically be found in the ETR section regarding evaluator penetration testing efforts is:

— TOE test configurations: the particular configurations of the TOE that were penetration tested;

— TSFIs penetration tested: a brief listing of the TSFIs and other TOE interfaces that were the focus of the penetration testing;

— verdict for the sub-activity: the overall judgement on the results of penetration testing.

This list is by no means exhaustive and is only intended to provide some context as to the type of information that should be present in the ETR concerning the penetration testing the evaluator performed during the evaluation.

16.3.5.7.7 Work unit AVA_VAN.5-11

The evaluator ***shall examine*** the results of all penetration testing to determine that the TOE, in its operational environment, is resistant to an attacker possessing a High attack potential.

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If the results reveal that the TOE, in its operational environment, has vulnerabilities exploitable by an attacker possessing an attack potential less than or equal to high, then this evaluator action fails.

The requirements and guidance in B.7 and the guidance for special technical areas that is relevant for the national scheme should be used to determine the attack potential required to exploit a particular vulnerability and whether it can therefore be exploited in the intended environment. The attack potential is not required to be calculated in every instance, only if there is some doubt as to whether or not the vulnerability can be exploited by an attacker possessing an attack potential less than or equal to high.

16.3.5.7.8 Work unit AVA_VAN.5-12

The evaluator ***shall report*** in the corresponding ETR-part all exploitable vulnerabilities and residual vulnerabilities, detailing for each:

— its source (e.g. ISO/IEC 18045 activity being undertaken when it was conceived, known to the evaluator, read in a publication);

— the SFR(s) not met;

— a description;

— whether it is exploitable in its operational environment or not (i.e. exploitable or residual);

— the amount of time, level of expertise, level of knowledge of the TOE, level of opportunity and the equipment required to perform the identified vulnerabilities, and the corresponding values using Table B.2 and Table B.3.

16.4 Composite vulnerability assessment (AVA_COMP)

16.4.1 Evaluation of sub-activity (AVA_COMP.1)

16.4.1.1 Objectives

The aim of this activity is to determine the exploitability of flaws or weaknesses in the composite product as a whole in the intended environment.

16.4.1.2 Application notes

This activity focuses exclusively on the vulnerability assessment of the composite product as a whole and represents merely partial efforts within the general approach being covered by the standard assurance family AVA_VAN (Vulnerability analysis) (16.3).

The composite product evaluator shall perform a vulnerability analysis for the composite product using, among others, the results of the base component evaluation. This vulnerability analysis shall be confirmed by penetration testing.

The composite product evaluator shall check that the confidentiality protection of the dependent component embedded into, or installed onto, the base component is consistent with the confidentiality level claimed by the dependent component developer for ALC_DVS (Developer environment security) (14.6).

The vulnerability analysis and the definition of attacks can be difficult, take considerable time and require extensive pre-testing in conditions such as:

— only documentation is available;

— the base component is used in a way that was not foreseen by the base component developer and the base component evaluator;

— the dependent component developer has not followed the (security) requirements provided with the base component and its evaluation-related documentation.

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Different possibilities exist to shorten composite product vulnerability analysis in such cases. For example, the composite product evaluator can consult the base component evaluator and draw on their experience gained during the base component evaluation. Another approach involves separating the vulnerabilities of the dependent component and the base component. This can be achieved by using specific test samples of the base component on which the composite product evaluator can load test dependent components. The intention being to use test dependent components without countermeasures and without deactivating any base component inherent countermeasures.

Within the composite evaluation technique, the so-called ETR for composite evaluation and the evaluation authority report play an important role. See ISO/IEC 15408-1:2026, 14.3.3.6 and ISO/IEC 15408-1:2026, 14.3.3.7 for more details, in particular concerning objective and contents of these documents and corresponding rules for their handling and usage in the framework of the composite evaluation approach.

The results of the vulnerability assessment for the base component of the composite product represented in the ETR for composite evaluation can be reused under the following conditions: they are up-to-date and all composite evaluation activities for correctness were finalised with the verdict pass. The composite evaluation activities for correctness include:

— ASE_COMP.1 (Consistency of Security Target (ST)) (11.10.1),

— ALC_COMP.1 (Integration of the dependent component into the related base component and Consistency check for delivery and acceptance procedures) (14.11.1),

— ADV_COMP.1 (Design compliance with the base component-related user guidance, ETR for composite evaluation and report of the base component evaluation authority) (12.9.1), and

— ATE_COMP.1 (Composite product functional testing) (15.7.1).

The validity and topicality of the base component's report of the base component evaluation authority and of the ETR for composite evaluation are a prerequisite for using such documents in the composite evaluation approach and therefore shall be verified by the composite product evaluator.

The composition of the base component and the dependent component can highlight additional vulnerabilities of the base component that are possibly not mentioned or addressed in the ETR for composite evaluation. In these circumstances the composite product evaluation authority can require a re-assessment or re-evaluation of the base component focusing on the new vulnerabilities' issues.

The composite product evaluation sponsor shall ensure that the following is made available for the composite product evaluator:

— the base component-related user guidance;

— the base component-related ETR for composite evaluation prepared by the base component evaluator;

— the base component's report of the base component evaluation authority.

16.4.1.3 Action AVA_COMP.1.1E

16.4.1.3.1 Evaluator action (ISO/IEC 15408-3:2026, 14.4.4)

The evaluator shall conduct penetration testing of the composite product as a whole building on the evaluator's own vulnerability analysis to ensure that the vulnerabilities being relevant for the composite product Security Target are not exploitable.

16.4.1.3.2 Content requirement AVA_COMP.1.1C (ISO/IEC 15408-3:2026, 14.4.4)

The composite product provided shall be suitable for testing as a whole.

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16.4.1.3.3 Work unit AVA_COMP.1-1

The evaluator ***shall examine*** the results of the vulnerability assessment for the base component of the composite product to determine that they can be re-used for the composite evaluation.

The results of the vulnerability assessment for the base component of the composite product are usually represented in the ETR for composite evaluation. They can be re-used if the following conditions are met:

— they are up-to-date, and

— all composite evaluation activities for correctness resulted in verdicts of pass.

The composite evaluation activities for correctness are:

— ASE_COMP.1 (Consistency of Security Target (ST)) (11.10.1),

— ALC_COMP.1 (Integration of the dependent component into the related base component and Consistency check for delivery and acceptance procedures) (14.11.1), ADV_COMP.1 (Design compliance with the base component-related user guidance, ETR for composite evaluation and report of the base component evaluation authority) (12.9.1), and

— ATE_COMP.1 (Composite product functional testing) (15.7.1).

The validity and topicality of the base component's report of the base component evaluation authority and of the ETR for composite evaluation are a prerequisite for their re-use in the composite evaluation of the composite product and shall be verified by the composite product evaluator.

It is noted that the base component itself can be a composite product. This means also that the validity and topicality of each evaluation authority report and ETR for composite evaluation of all the products and TOEs that compose the base component shall be checked.

When the relevance of the ETR(s) for composite evaluation for the composite product is checked, the necessity of checking their contents depends on the dependent component of the composite product and the user available TSFIs. If the base component-TSFIs are available to the user of the composite product or are used by the dependent component, the contents of the ETR(s) for composite evaluation shall be checked. Otherwise, such relevance check of contents can be considered to be unnecessary.

The evaluator shall also consider the relevant requirements in any base component-related report of the base component evaluation authority.

The result of this work unit shall be integrated to the result of AVA_VAN.1.3E (16.3.1.6)/AVA_VAN.1-5 (16.3.1.6.2) (or the equivalent higher components if a higher assurance level is selected).

16.4.1.3.4 Work unit AVA_COMP.1-2

The evaluator ***shall specify***, conduct and document penetration testing of the composite product as a whole, using the standard approach of the assurance family AVA_VAN (Vulnerability analysis) (16.3).

If all correctness-related activities have resulted in verdicts of pass, and the composite product's base component with its base component evaluation covers all security properties needed for the composite product, then, a composition of this base component and the dependent component is also not permitted to create additional vulnerabilities of the base component.

The correctness-related activities include:

— ASE_COMP.1 (Consistency of Security Target (ST)) (11.10.1),

— ALC_COMP.1 (Integration of the dependent component into the related base component and Consistency check for delivery and acceptance procedures) (14.11.1),

— ADV_COMP.1 (Design compliance with the base component-related user guidance, ETR for composite evaluation and report of the base component evaluation authority) (12.9.1), and

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— ATE_COMP.1 (Composite product functional testing) (15.7.1).

If the evaluator determined that the composing of the base component and the dependent component creates additional vulnerabilities of the base component, then either:

— the coverage of the correctness activities is not sufficient, or

— the report of the base component evaluation authority for the base component does not cover all security properties and evaluation-related information of the base component as needed for the current composite product and its evaluation.

In either case a verdict of fail shall be given.

The result of this work unit shall be integrated to the result of AVA_VAN.1.3E (16.3.1.6)/AVA_VAN.1-6 (16.3.1.6.3), AVA_VAN.1-7 (16.3.1.6.4), AVA_VAN.1-8 (16.3.1.6.5) (or the equivalent higher components if a higher assurance level is selected).

17 Composition

17.1 Introduction

The goal of this activity is to determine whether the components can be integrated in a secure manner, as defined in the ST for the composed TOE. This is achieved through examination and testing of the interfaces between the components, supported by examination of the design of the components and the conduct of vulnerability analysis.

17.2 Application notes

The ACO_REL (Reliance of dependent component) (17.5) family identifies where the dependent component is reliant upon IT in its operational environment (satisfied by a base component in the composed TOE evaluation) in order to provide its own security services. This reliance is identified in terms of the interfaces expected by the dependent component to be provided by the base component. ACO_DEV (Development evidence) (17.4) then determines which interfaces of the base component were considered (as TSFI) during the component evaluation of the base component.

It should be noted that ACO_REL (Reliance of dependent component) (17.5) does not cover other evidence that can be needed to address the technical integration problem of composing components (e.g. descriptions of non-TSF interfaces of the operating system, rules for integration). This is outside the security assessment of the composition and is a functional composition issue.

As part of ACO_CTT (Composed TOE testing) (17.6) the evaluator shall confirm operation to specification by testing of:

— the composed TOE SFRs at the composed TOE interfaces,

— the interfaces of the base component relied upon by the dependent component.

The subset selected shall consider the possible effects of changes to the configuration or use of the base component as used in the composed TOE. These changes are identified from the configuration of the base component determined during the base component evaluation. The developer shall provide test evidence for each of the base component interfaces (the requirements for coverage are consistent with those applied to the evaluation of the base component).

ACO_COR (Composition rationale) (17.3) requires the evaluator to determine whether the appropriate assurance measures have been applied to the base component, and whether the base component is being used in its evaluated configuration. This includes determination of whether all security functionality required by the dependent component was within the TSF of the base component. The ACO_COR (Composition rationale) (17.3) requirement may be met through the production of evidence that each of these is demonstrated to be upheld. This evidence may be in the form of the security target and a public report of the component evaluation (e.g. certification report).

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If, on the other hand, one of the above ACO_COR (Composition rationale) (17.3) requirements have not been upheld, then it is possible that an argument can be made as to why the assurance gained during an original evaluation is unaffected. If this is not possible then it can be necessary to provide additional evaluation evidence for those aspects of the base component not covered. This material is then assessed in ACO_DEV (Development evidence) (17.4).

For example, it can be the case as described in the Interactions between entities (see ISO/IEC 15408-3:2026, B.4) that the dependent component requires the base component to provide more security functionality in the composed TOE than included in the base component evaluation. This would be determined during the application of the ACO_REL (Reliance of dependent component) (17.5) and ACO_DEV (Development evidence) (17.4) families. In this case the composition rationale evidence provided for ACO_COR (Composition rationale) (17.3) would demonstrate that the assurance gained from the base component evaluation is unaffected. This can be achieved by means including:

— performing a re-evaluation of the base component focusing on the evidence relating to the extended part of the TSF;

— demonstrating that the extended part of the TSF cannot affect other portions of the TSF, and providing evidence that the extended part of the TSF provides the necessary security functionality.

17.3 Composition rationale (ACO_COR)

17.3.1 Evaluation of sub-activity (ACO_COR.1)

17.3.1.1 Input

Input for ACO_COR.1 consists of the following:

— the composed ST;

— the composition rationale;

— the reliance information;

— the development information;

— unique identifier.

17.3.1.2 Action ACO_COR.1.1E

17.3.1.2.1 Evaluator action (ISO/IEC 15408-3:2026, 15.2.3)

The evaluator shall confirm that the information meets all requirements for content and presentation of evidence.

17.3.1.2.2 Content requirement ACO_COR.1.1C (ISO/IEC 15408-3:2026, 15.2.3)

The composition rationale shall demonstrate that a level of assurance at least as high as that of the dependent component has been obtained for the support functionality of the base component, when the base component is configured as required to support the TSF of the dependent component.

17.3.1.2.3 Work unit ACO_COR.1-1

The evaluator ***shall examine*** the correspondence analysis with the development information and the reliance information to identify the interfaces that are relied upon by the dependent component which are not detailed in the development information.

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The evaluator's goal in this work unit is two-fold:

— to determine which interfaces relied upon by the dependent component have had the appropriate assurance measures applied;

— to determine that the assurance package applied to the base component during the base component evaluation contained either the same assurance requirements as those in the package applied to the dependent component during its' evaluation, or hierarchically higher assurance requirements.

The evaluator may use the correspondence tracing in the development information developed during the ACO_DEV (Development evidence) (17.4) activities (e.g. ACO_DEV.1-2 (17.4.1.3.5), ACO_DEV.2-4 (17.4.2.3.8), ACO_DEV.3-6 (17.4.3.3.12)) to help identify the interfaces identified in the reliance information that are not considered in the development information.

The evaluator ***shall record*** the SFR-enforcing interfaces described in the reliance information that are not included in the development information. These shall provide input to ACO_COR.1-3 (17.3.1.2.5) work unit, helping to identify the portions of the base component in which further assurance is required.

If both the base and dependent components were evaluated against the same assurance package, then the determination of whether the level of assurance in the portions within the base component evaluation is at least as high as that of the dependent component is trivial. If however, the assurance packages applied to the components during the component evaluations differ, the evaluator ***shall determine*** that the assurance requirements applied to the base component are all hierarchically higher to the assurance requirements applied to the dependent component.

17.3.1.2.4 Work unit ACO_COR.1-2

The evaluator ***shall examine*** the composition rationale to determine, for those included base component interfaces on which the dependent TSF relies, whether the interface was considered during the evaluation of the base component.

The ST, component public evaluation report (e.g. certification report) and guidance documents for the base component all provide information on the scope and boundary of the base component. The ST provides details of the logical scope and boundary of the composed TOE, allowing the evaluator to determine whether an interface relates to a portion of the product that was within the scope of the evaluation. The guidance documentation provides details of use of all interfaces for the composed TOE. Although the guidance documentation can include details of interfaces in the product that are not within the scope of the evaluation, any such interfaces should be identifiable, either from the scoping information in the ST or through a portion of the guidance that deals with the evaluated configuration. It is also possible that the public evaluation report provides additional constraints on the use of the composed TOE.

Therefore, the combination of these inputs allows the evaluator to determine whether an interface described in the composition rationale has the necessary assurance associated with it, or whether further assurance is required. The evaluator ***shall record*** those interfaces of the base component for which additional assurance is required, for consideration during ACO_COR.1-3 (17.3.1.2.5).

17.3.1.2.5 Work unit ACO_COR.1-3

17.3.1.2.5.1 General

The evaluator ***shall examine*** the composition rationale to determine that the necessary assurance measures have been applied to the base component.

The evaluation verdicts and resultant assurance for the base component can be reused provided the same portions of the base component are used in the composed TOE and they are used in a consistent manner.

In order to determine whether the necessary assurance measures have already been applied to the component, and the portions of the component for which assurance measures are still to be applied, the evaluator ***shall use*** the output of the ACO_DEV.*.2E action and the work units ACO_COR.1-1 (17.3.1.2.3) and ACO_COR.1-2 (17.3.1.2.4).

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For those interfaces identified in the reliance information ACO_REL (Reliance of dependent component) (17.5), but not discussed in ACO_DEV (Development evidence) (17.4), additional information is required and this is identified in ACO_COR.1-1 (17.3.1.2.3).

For those interfaces used inconsistently in the composed TOE from the base component, such as a difference between the information provided in ACO_DEV (Development evidence) (17.4) and ACO_REL (Reliance of dependent component) (17.5), the impact of the differences in use shall be considered (identified in ACO_DEV.*.2E).

For those interfaces identified in composition rationale for which no assurance has previously been gained, additional information is required. (Identified in ACO_COR.1-2 (17.3.1.2.4).)

For those interfaces consistently described in the reliance information, composition rationale and the development information, no further action is required as the results from the base component evaluation can be re-used.

The interfaces of the base component reported to be required by the reliance information but not included in the development information indicate the portions of the base component where further assurance is required. The interfaces identify the entry points into the base component.

For those interfaces included in both the development information and reliance information, the evaluator ***shall determine*** whether the interfaces are being used in the composed TOE in a manner that is consistent with the base component evaluation. The method of use of the interface shall be considered during the ACO_DEV (Development evidence) (17.4) activities to determine that the use of the interface is consistent in both the base component and the composed TOE. The remaining consideration is the determination of whether the configurations of the base component and the composed TOE are consistent. To determine this, the evaluator shall consider the guidance documentation of each to ensure they are consistent (see further guidance below regarding consistent guidance documentation). Any deviation in the documentation shall be further analysed by the evaluation to determine the possible effects.

For those interfaces that are consistently described in the reliance information and development information, and for which the guidance is consistent for the base component and the composed TOE, the required level of assurance has been provided.

The following text describes how to determine consistency between assurance gained in the base component, the evidence provided for the composed TOE, and the analysis performed by the evaluator in the instances where inconsistencies are identified.

17.3.1.2.5.2 Development

The reliance information identifies the interfaces in the dependent component that shall be matched by the base component. If an interface identified in the reliance information is not identified in the development information, then the composition rationale shall provide a justification of how the base component provides the required interfaces.

If an interface identified in the reliance information is identified in the development information, but there are inconsistencies between the descriptions, further analysis is required. The evaluator identifies the differences in use of the base component as considered in the base component evaluation and the composed TOE evaluation. The evaluator ***shall devise*** testing to be performed (during the conduct of ACO_CTT (Composed TOE testing) (17.6)) to test the interface.

The patch status of the base and dependent components as used in the composed TOE should be compared to the patch status of the components during the component evaluations. If any patches have been applied to the components, the composition rationale shall include details of the patches, including any potential impact to the SFRs of the evaluated component. The evaluator should consider the details of the changes provided and verify the accuracy of the potential impact of the change on the component SFRs. The evaluator should then consider whether the changes made by the patch should be verified through testing, and shall identify the necessary testing approach. The testing can take the form of repeating the applicable evaluator or developer testing performed for the component evaluation of the component or it can be necessary for the evaluator to devise new tests to confirm the modified component.

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If any of the individual components have been the subject of assurance continuity activities since the completion of the component evaluation, the evaluator shall consider the changes assessed in the assurance continuity activities during the independent vulnerability analysis activity for the composed TOE (in ACO_VUL (Composition vulnerability analysis) (17.7)).

17.3.1.2.5.3 Guidance

The guidance for the composed TOE is likely to make substantial reference out to the guidance for the individual components. The minimal guidance expected to be necessary is the identification of any ordering dependencies in the application of guidance for the dependent and base components, particularly during the preparation (installation) of the composed TOE.

In addition to the application of the AGD_PRE (Preparative procedures) (13.4) and AGD_OPE (Operational user guidance) (13.3) families to the guidance for the composed TOE, it is necessary to analyse the consistency between the guidance for the components and the composed TOE, to identify any deviations.

If the composed TOE guidance refers out to the base component and dependent component guidance, then the consideration for consistency is limited to consistency between the guidance documentation provided for each of the components (i.e. consistency between the base component guidance and the dependent component guidance). However, if additional guidance is provided for the composed TOE, to that provided for the components, greater analysis is required, as consistency is also required between the guidance documentation for the components and guidance documentation for the composed TOE.

Consistent in this instance is understood to mean that either the guidance is the same or it places additional constraints on the operation of the individual components when combined, in a similar manner to refinement of functional and assurance components.

With the information available (that used as input for ACO_DEV (Development evidence) (17.4) or the development aspects discussed in 17.3.1.2.5.2) the evaluator can be able to determine all possible impacts of the deviation from the configuration of the base component specified in the component evaluation. However, for high EALs (where evaluation of the base component included requirements) it is possible that, unless detailed design abstractions for the base component are delivered as part of the development information for the composed TOE, the possible impacts of the modification to the guidance cannot be fully determined as the internals are unknown. In this case the evaluator ***shall report*** the residual risk of the analysis.

These residual risks shall be included in any public evaluation report for the composed TOE.

The evaluator shall note these variances in the guidance for input into evaluator independent testing activities ACO_CTT (Composed TOE testing) (17.6).

The guidance for the composed TOE can add to the guidance for the components, particularly in terms of installation and the ordering of installation steps for the base component in relation to the installation steps for the dependent component. The ordering of the steps for the installation of the individual components is not expected to change, however they can be interleaved. The evaluator ***shall examine*** this guidance to ensure that it still meets the requirement of the AGD_PRE (Preparative procedures) (13.4) activity performed during the evaluations of the components.

It can be the case that the reliance information identifies that interfaces of the base component, in addition to those identified as TSFIs of the base component, are relied upon by the dependent component are identified in the reliance information. It can be necessary for guidance to be provided for the use of any such additional interfaces in the base component. Provided the consumer of the composed TOE shall receive the guidance documentation for the base component, then the results of the AGD_PRE (Preparative procedures) (13.4) and AGD_OPE (Operational user guidance) (13.3) verdicts for the base component can be reused for those interfaces considered in the evaluation of the base component. However, for the additional interfaces relied upon by the dependent component, the evaluator ***shall determine*** that the guidance documentation for the base component meets the requirements of AGD_PRE (Preparative procedures) (13.4) and AGD_OPE (Operational user guidance) (13.3), as applied in the base component evaluations.

For those interfaces considered during the base component evaluation, and therefore, for which assurance has already been gained, the evaluator ***shall ensure*** that the guidance for the use of each interface for the composed TOE is consistent with that provided for the base component. To determine the guidance for the

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composed TOE is consistent with that for the base component, the evaluator should perform a mapping for each interface to the guidance provided for both the composed TOE and the base component. The evaluator then compares the guidance to determine consistency.

Examples can be given of additional constraints provided in composed TOE guidance that would be considered to be consistent with component guidance.

Guidance for a component is given followed by an example of guidance for a composed TOE that would be considered to provide additional constraints.

These examples are as follows.

— Component: The password length shall be set to a minimum of 8 characters length, including alphabetic and numeric characters.

— Composed TOE: The password length shall be set to a minimum of 10 characters in length, including alphabetic and numeric characters and at least one of the following special characters: ( ) { } ^ < > - _.

  It would only be acceptable to increase the password length to [integer > 8] characters while removing the mandate for the inclusion of both alphabetic and numeric characters for the composed TOE, if the same or a higher metric was achieved for the strength rating (taking into account the likelihood of the password being guessed).

— Component: The following services shall be disabled in the registry settings: WWW Publishing Service and ICDBReporter service.

— Composed TOE: The following services shall be disabled in the registry settings:

  — Publishing Service,

  — ICDBReporter service,

  — Remote Procedure Call (RPC) Locator,

  — Remote Procedure Call (RPC) Service.

— Component: Select the following attributes to be included in the accounting log files:

  — date,

  — time,

  — type of event,

  — subject identity,

  — success or failure.

— Composed TOE: Select the following attributes to be included in the accounting log files:

  — date,

  — time,

  — type of event,

  — subject identity,

  — success or failure,

  — event message,

  — process thread.

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If the guidance for the composed TOE deviates (is not a refinement) from that provided for the base component, the evaluator shall assess the potential risks of the modification to the guidance. To identify the likely impact of the modification to the guidance on the SFRs of the composed TOE, the evaluator SHALL use:

— the information available (including that provided in the public domain),

— the architectural description of the base component in the public evaluation report (e.g. certification report),

— the context of the guidance from the remainder of the guidance documentation.

If during the dependent component evaluation the trial installation used the base component to satisfy the environment requirements of the dependent component this work unit for the composed TOE is considered to be satisfied. If the base component was not used in satisfaction of the work unit AGD_PRE.1-3 (13.4.1.5.2) during the dependent component evaluation, the evaluator shall apply the user procedures provided for the composed TOE to prepare the composed TOE, in accordance with the guidance specified in AGD_PRE.1-3 (13.4.1.5.2). This allows the evaluator to determine that the preparative guidance provided for the composed TOE is sufficient to prepare the composed TOE and its operational environment securely.

17.3.1.2.5.4 Delivery

If there is a different delivery mechanism used for the delivery of the composed TOE (i.e. the components are not delivered to the consumer in accordance with the secure delivery procedures defined and assessed during the evaluation of the components), the delivery procedures for the composed TOE shall require evaluation against the ALC_DEL (Delivery) (14.5) requirements applied during the components evaluations.

The composed TOE may be delivered as an integrated product or may require the components to be delivered separately.

If the components are delivered separately, the results of the delivery of the base component and dependent component shall be reused. The delivery of the base component is checked during the evaluator trial installation of the dependent component, using the specified guidance and checking the aspects of delivery that are the responsibility of the user, as described in the guidance documentation for the base component.

If the composed TOE is delivered as a new entity, then the method of delivery of that entity shall be considered in the composed TOE evaluation activities.

The assessment of the delivery procedures for composed TOE items shall be performed in accordance with the methodology for ALC_DEL (Delivery) (14.5) as for any other [component] TOE, ensuring any additional items (e.g. additional guidance documents for the composed TOE) are considered in the delivery procedures.

17.3.1.2.5.5 CM Capabilities

The unique identification of the composed TOE is considered during the application of ALC_CMC.1 (Labelling of the TOE) (14.3.1) and the items from which that composed TOE is comprised are considered during the application of ALC_CMS.2 (Parts of the TOE CM coverage) (14.4.2).

Although additional guidance may be produced for the composed TOE, the unique identification of this guidance (considered as part of the unique identification of the composed TOE during ALC_CMC.1 (Labelling of the TOE) (14.3.1)) is considered sufficient control of the guidance.

The verdicts of the remaining (not considered above) class ALC (life cycle support) (Clause 14) activities can be reused from the base component evaluation, as no further development is performed during integration of the composed TOE.

There are no additional considerations for development security as the integration is assumed to take place at either the consumer's site or, in the instance that the composed TOE is delivered as an integrated product, at the site of the dependent component developer. Control at the consumer's site is outside the consideration of the ISO/IEC 15408 series. No additional requirements or guidance are necessary if integration is at the same site as that for the dependent component, as all components are considered to be configuration items

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for the composed TOE, and therefore considered under the dependent component developer's security procedures.

Tools and techniques adopted during integration shall be considered in the evidence provided by the dependent component developer. Any tools and techniques relevant to the base component shall have been considered during the evaluation of the base component. For example, if the base component is delivered as source code and requires compilation by the consumer (e.g. dependent component developer who is performing integration) the compiler would have been specified and assessed, along with the appropriate arguments, during evaluation of the base component.

There is no life cycle definition applicable to the composed TOE, as no further development of items is taking place.

The results of flaw remediation for a component are not applicable to the composed TOE. If flaw remediation is included in the assurance package for the composed TOE, then the ALC_FLR (Flaw remediation) (14.7) requirements shall be applied during the composed TOE evaluation (as for any augmentation).

17.3.1.2.5.6 Tests

The composed TOE shall have been tested during the conduct of the class ATE (Tests) (Clause 15) activities for evaluation of the dependent component, as the configurations used for testing of the dependent component should have included the base component to satisfy the requirements for IT in the operational environment. If the base component was not used in the testing of the dependent component for the dependent component evaluation, or the configuration of either component varied from their evaluated configurations, then the developer testing performed for evaluation of the dependent component to satisfy class ATE (Tests) (Clause 15) shall be repeated on the composed TOE.

17.4 Development evidence (ACO_DEV)

17.4.1 Evaluation of sub-activity (ACO_DEV.1)

17.4.1.1 Objectives

The objective of this sub-activity is to determine that the appropriate security functionality is provided by the base component to support the dependent component. This is achieved through examination of the interfaces of the base component to determine that they are consistent with the interfaces specified in the reliance information; those required by the dependent component.

The description of the interfaces into the base component shall be provided at a level of detail consistent with ADV_FSP.2 (Security-enforcing functional specification) (12.4.2) although not all of the aspects necessary for satisfaction of ADV_FSP.2 (Security-enforcing functional specification) (12.4.2) are required for ACO_DEV.1 (Functional description), as once the interface has been identified and the purpose described the remaining detail of the interface specification can be reused from evaluation of the base component.

17.4.1.2 Input

Input for ACO_DEV.1 consists of the following:

— the composed ST;

— the development information;

— the reliance information.

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17.4.1.3 Action ACO_DEV.1.1E

17.4.1.3.1 Evaluator action (ISO/IEC 15408-3:2026, 15.3.4)

The evaluator shall confirm that the information meets all requirements for content and presentation of evidence.

17.4.1.3.2 Content requirement ACO_DEV.1.1C (ISO/IEC 15408-3:2026, 15.3.4)

The development information shall describe the purpose of each interface of the base component used in the composed TOE.

17.4.1.3.3 Work unit ACO_DEV.1-1

The evaluator ***shall examine*** the development information to determine that it describes the purpose of each interface.

The base component provides interfaces to support interaction with the dependent component in the provision of the dependent TSF. The purpose of each interface shall be described at the same level as the description of the interfaces to the dependent component TSF functionality, as would be provided between subsystems in ADV_TDS.1 (Basic design) (12.8.1). This description shall provide the reader with an understanding of how the base component provides the services required by the dependent component TSF.

This work unit may be satisfied by the provision of the functional specification for the base component for those interfaces that are TSFIs of the base component.

17.4.1.3.4 Content requirement ACO_DEV.1.2C (ISO/IEC 15408-3:2026, 15.3.4)

The development information shall show correspondence between the interfaces, used in the composed TOE, of the base component and the dependent component to support the TSF of the dependent component.

17.4.1.3.5 Work unit ACO_DEV.1-2

The evaluator ***shall examine*** the development information to determine the correspondence, between the interfaces of the base component and the interfaces on which the dependent component relies, is accurate.

The correspondence between the interfaces of the base component and the interfaces on which the dependent component relies may take the form of a matrix or table. The interfaces that are relied upon by the dependent component are identified in the reliance information as examined during ACO_REL (Reliance of dependent component) (17.5) activity.

There is, during this activity, no requirement to determine completeness of the coverage of interfaces that are relied upon by the dependent component, only that the correspondence is correct and ensuring that interfaces of the base component are mapped to interfaces required by the dependent component wherever possible. The completeness of the coverage is considered in ACO_COR (Composition rationale) (17.3) activities.

17.4.1.4 Action ACO_DEV.1.2E

17.4.1.4.1 Evaluator action (ISO/IEC 15408-3:2026, 15.3.4)

The evaluator shall determine that the interface description provided is consistent with the reliance information provided for the dependent component.

17.4.1.4.2 Work unit ACO_DEV.1-3

The evaluator ***shall examine*** the development information and the reliance information to determine that the interfaces are described consistently.

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The evaluator's goal in this work unit is to determine that the interfaces described in the development information for the base component and the reliance information for the dependent component are represented consistently.

17.4.2 Evaluation of sub-activity (ACO_DEV.2)

17.4.2.1 Objectives

The objective of this sub-activity is to determine that the appropriate security functionality is provided by the base component to support the dependent component. This is achieved through examination of the interfaces and associated security behaviour of the base component to determine that they are consistent with the interfaces specified in the reliance information; those required by the dependent component.

17.4.2.2 Input

Input for ACO_DEV.2 consists of the following:

— the composed ST;

— the development information;

— reliance information.

17.4.2.3 Action ACO_DEV.2.1E

17.4.2.3.1 Evaluator action (ISO/IEC 15408-3:2026, 15.3.5)

The evaluator shall confirm that the information meets all requirements for content and presentation of evidence.

17.4.2.3.2 Content requirement ACO_DEV.2.1C (ISO/IEC 15408-3:2026, 15.3.5)

The development information shall describe the purpose and method of use of each interface of the base component used in the composed TOE.

17.4.2.3.3 Work unit ACO_DEV.2-1

The evaluator ***shall examine*** the development information to determine that it describes the purpose of each interface.

The base component provides interfaces to support interaction with the dependent component in the provision of the dependent TSF. The purpose of each interface shall be described at the same level as the description of the interfaces to the dependent component TSF functionality, as would be provided between subsystems in ADV_TDS.1 (Basic design) (12.8.1). This description shall provide the reader with an understanding of how the base component provides the services required by the dependent component TSF.

This work unit may be satisfied by the provision of the functional specification for the base component for those interfaces that are TSFIs of the base component.

17.4.2.3.4 Work unit ACO_DEV.2-2

The evaluator ***shall examine*** the development information to determine that it describes the method of use for each interface.

The method of use for an interface summarizes how the interface is manipulated in order to invoke the operations and obtain results associated with the interface. The evaluator is expected to be able to determine from reading this material in the development information how to use each interface. This does not necessarily mean that a separate method of use is required for each interface, as it is possible to describe in general how APIs are invoked, for instance, and then identify each interface using that general style.

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This work unit may be satisfied by the provision of the functional specification for the base component for those interfaces that are TSFIs of the base component.

17.4.2.3.5 Content requirement ACO_DEV.2.2C (ISO/IEC 15408-3:2026, 15.3.5)

The development information shall provide a high-level description of the behaviour of the base component, which supports the enforcement of the dependent component SFRs.

17.4.2.3.6 Work unit ACO_DEV.2-3

The evaluator ***shall examine*** the development information to determine that it describes the behaviour of the base component that supports the enforcement of the dependent component SFRs.

The dependent component invokes interfaces of the base component for the provision of services by the base component. For the interfaces of the base component that are invoked, the development information shall provide a high-level description of the associated security behaviour of the base component. The description of the base component security behaviour shall outline how the base component provides the necessary service when the call to the interface is made. This description shall be at a level similar to that provided for ADV_TDS.1.4C (see ISO/IEC 15408-3:2026, 10.7.4). Therefore, the provision of the TOE design evidence from the base component evaluation would satisfy this work unit, where the interfaces invoked by the dependent component are TSFI of the base component. If the interfaces invoked by the dependent component are not TSFIs of the base component then the associated security behaviour m not necessarily be described in the base component TOE design evidence.

17.4.2.3.7 Content requirement ACO_DEV.2.3C (ISO/IEC 15408-3:2026, 15.3.5)

The development information shall show correspondence between the interfaces, used in the composed TOE, of the base component and the dependent component to support the TSF of the dependent component.

17.4.2.3.8 Work unit ACO_DEV.2-4

The evaluator ***shall examine*** the development information to determine the correspondence, between the interfaces of the base component and the interfaces on which the dependent component relies, is accurate.

The correspondence between the interfaces of the base component and the interfaces on which the dependent component relies may take the form of a matrix or table. The interfaces that are relied upon by the dependent component are identified in the reliance information as examined during ACO_REL (Reliance of dependent component) (17.5).

There is, during this activity, no requirement to determine completeness of the coverage of interfaces that are relied upon by the dependent component, only that the correspondence is correct and ensuring that interfaces of the base component are mapped to interfaces required by the dependent component wherever possible. The completeness of the coverage is considered in ACO_COR (Composition rationale) (17.3) activities.

17.4.2.4 Action ACO_DEV.2.2E

17.4.2.4.1 Evaluator action (ISO/IEC 15408-3:2026, 15.3.5)

The evaluator shall determine that the interface description provided is consistent with the reliance information provided for the dependent component.

17.4.2.4.2 Work unit ACO_DEV.2-5

The evaluator ***shall examine*** the development information and the reliance information to determine that the interfaces are described consistently.

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The evaluator's goal in this work unit is to determine that the interfaces described in the development information for the base component and the reliance information for the dependent component are represented consistently.

17.4.3 Evaluation of sub-activity (ACO_DEV.3)

17.4.3.1 Objectives

The objective of this sub-activity is to determine that the appropriate security functionality is provided by the base component to support the dependent component. This is achieved through examination of the interfaces and associated security behaviour of the base component to determine that they are consistent with the interfaces specified in the reliance information; those required by the dependent component.

In addition to the interface description, the subsystems of the base component that provide the security functionality required by the dependent component shall be described to enable the evaluator to determine whether that interface formed part of the TSF of the base component.

17.4.3.2 Input

Input for ACO_DEV.3 consists of the following:

— the composed ST;

— the development information;

— reliance information.

17.4.3.3 Action ACO_DEV.3.1E

17.4.3.3.1 Evaluator action (ISO/IEC 15408-3:2026, 15.3.6)

The evaluator shall confirm that the information meets all requirements for content and presentation of evidence.

17.4.3.3.2 Content requirement ACO_DEV.3.1C (ISO/IEC 15408-3:2026, 15.3.6)

The development information shall describe the purpose and method of use of each interface of the base component used in the composed TOE.

17.4.3.3.3 Work unit ACO_DEV.3-1

The evaluator ***shall examine*** the development information to determine that it describes the purpose of each interface.

The base component provides interfaces to support interaction with the dependent component in the provision of the dependent TSF. The purpose of each interface shall be described at the same level as the description of the interfaces to the dependent component TSF functionality, as would be provided between subsystems in ADV_TDS.1 (Basic design) (12.8.1). This description shall provide the reader with an understanding of how the base component provides the services required by the dependent component TSF.

This work unit may be satisfied by the provision of the functional specification for the base component for those interfaces that are TSFIs of the base component.

17.4.3.3.4 Work unit ACO_DEV.3-2

The evaluator ***shall examine*** the development information to determine that it describes the method of use for each interface.

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The method of use for an interface summarizes how the interface is manipulated in order to invoke the operations and obtain results associated with the interface. The evaluator is expected to be able to determine from reading this material in the development information how to use each interface. This does not necessarily mean that a separate method of use is required for each interface, as it is possible to describe in general how APIs are invoked, for instance, and then identify each interface using that general style.

This work unit may be satisfied by the provision of the functional specification for the base component for those interfaces that are TSFIs of the base component.

17.4.3.3.5 Content requirement ACO_DEV.3.2C (ISO/IEC 15408-3:2026, 15.3.6)

The development information shall identify the subsystems of the base component that provide interfaces of the base component used in the composed TOE.

17.4.3.3.6 Work unit ACO_DEV.3-3

The evaluator ***shall examine*** the development information to determine that all subsystems of the base component that provide interfaces to the dependent component are identified.

For those interfaces that are considered to form part of the TSFI of the base component, the subsystems associated with the interface shall be subsystems considered in the ADV_TDS (TOE design) (12.8) activity during the base component evaluation. The interfaces on which the dependent component relies that did not form part of the TSFI of the base component shall map to subsystems outside of the base component TSF.

17.4.3.3.7 Content requirement ACO_DEV.3.3C (ISO/IEC 15408-3:2026, 15.3.6)

The development information shall provide a high-level description of the behaviour of the base component subsystems, which support the enforcement of the dependent component SFRs.

17.4.3.3.8 Work unit ACO_DEV.3-4

The evaluator ***shall examine*** the development information to determine that it describes the behaviour of the base component subsystems that support the enforcement of the dependent component SFRs.

The dependent component invokes interfaces of the base component for the provision of services by the base component. For the interfaces of the base component that are invoked, the development information shall provide a high-level description of the associated security behaviour of the base component. The description of the base component security behaviour shall outline how the base component provides the necessary service when the call to the interface is made. This description shall be at a level similar to that provided for ADV_TDS.1.4C (see ISO/IEC 15408-3:2026, 10.7.4). Therefore, the provision of the TOE design evidence from the base component evaluation can satisfy this work unit, where the interfaces invoked by the dependent component are TSFI of the base component. If the interfaces invoked by the dependent component are not TSFIs of the base component then it is possible that the associated security behaviour is not described in the base component TOE design evidence.

17.4.3.3.9 Content requirement ACO_DEV.3.4C (ISO/IEC 15408-3:2026, 15.3.6)

The development information shall provide a mapping from the interfaces to the subsystems of the base component.

17.4.3.3.10 Work unit ACO_DEV.3-5

The evaluator ***shall examine*** the development information to determine that the correspondence between the interfaces and subsystems of the base component is accurate.

If the TOE design and functional specification evidence from the base component evaluation is available, this can be used to verify the accuracy of the correspondence between the interfaces and subsystems of the base component as used in the composed TOE. Those interfaces of the base component, which formed part of the base component TSFI shall be described in the base component functional specification, and the associated

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subsystems shall be described in the base component TOE design evidence. The tracing between the two shall be provided in the base component TOE design evidence.

If, however, the base component interface did not form part of the TSFI of the base component, the description of the subsystem behaviour provided in the development information shall be used to verify the accuracy of the correspondence.

17.4.3.3.11 Content requirement ACO_DEV.3.5C (ISO/IEC 15408-3:2026, 15.3.6)

The development information shall show correspondence between the interfaces, used in the composed TOE, of the base component and the dependent component to support the TSF of the dependent component.

17.4.3.3.12 Work unit ACO_DEV.3-6

The evaluator ***shall examine*** the development information to determine the correspondence, between the interfaces of the base component and the interfaces on which the dependent component relies, is accurate.

The correspondence between the interfaces of the base component and the interfaces on which the dependent component relies may take the form of a matrix or table. The interfaces that are relied upon by the dependent component are identified in the reliance information as examined during ACO_REL (Reliance of dependent component) (17.5).

There is, during this activity, no requirement to determine completeness of the coverage of interfaces that are relied upon by the dependent component, only that the correspondence is correct and ensuring that interfaces of the base component are mapped to interfaces required by the dependent component wherever possible. The completeness of the coverage is considered in ACO_COR (Composition rationale) (17.3) activities.

17.4.3.4 Action ACO_DEV.3.2E

17.4.3.4.1 Evaluator action (ISO/IEC 15408-3:2026, 15.3.6)

The evaluator shall determine that the interface description provided is consistent with the reliance information provided for the dependent component.

17.4.3.4.2 Work unit ACO_DEV.3-7

The evaluator ***shall examine*** the development information and the reliance information to determine that the interfaces are described consistently.

The evaluator's goal in this work unit is to determine that the interfaces described in the development information for the base component and the reliance information for the dependent component are represented consistently.

17.5 Reliance of dependent component (ACO_REL)

17.5.1 Evaluation of sub-activity (ACO_REL.1)

17.5.1.1 Objectives

The objectives of this sub-activity are to determine whether the developer's reliance evidence provides sufficient information to determine that the necessary functionality is available in the base component, and the means by which that functionality is invoked. These are provided in terms of a high-level description.

17.5.1.2 Application notes

A dependent component whose TSF interacts with the base component requires functionality provided by that base component (e.g. remote authentication, remote audit data storage). In these cases, those invoked

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services shall be described for those charged with configuring the composed TOE for end users. The rationale for requiring this documentation is to:

— aid integrators of the composed TOE to determine what services in the base component can have adverse effects on the dependent component,

— to provide information against which the compatibility of the components can be determined when applying the ACO_DEV (Development evidence) (17.4) family.

17.5.1.3 Input

Input for ACO_REL.1 consists of the following:

— the composed ST;

— the dependent component functional specification;

— the dependent component design;

— the dependent component architectural design;

— the reliance information.

17.5.1.4 Action ACO_REL.1.1E

17.5.1.4.1 Evaluator action (ISO/IEC 15408-3:2026, 15.4.4)

The evaluator shall confirm that the information provided meets all requirements for content and presentation of evidence.

17.5.1.4.2 Content requirement ACO_REL.1.1C (ISO/IEC 15408-3:2026, 15.4.4)

The reliance information shall describe the functionality of the base component hardware, firmware, software that is relied upon by the dependent component TSF.

17.5.1.4.3 Work unit ACO_REL.1-1

The evaluator ***shall check*** the reliance information to determine that it describes the functionality of any of the base dependent hardware, firmware or software that is relied upon by the dependent component TSF.

The evaluator assesses the description of the security functionality that the dependent component TSF requires to be provided by the base component's hardware, firmware and software. The emphasis of this work unit is on the level of detail of this description, rather than on an assessment of the information's accuracy.

The assessment of the accuracy of the information is the focus of ACO_REL.1-2 (17.5.1.4.4).

This description of the base component's functionality is not required to be any more detailed than the level of the description of a component of the TSF, as would be provided in ADV_TDS (TOE design) (12.8).

17.5.1.4.4 Work unit ACO_REL.1-2

The evaluator ***shall examine*** the reliance information to determine that it accurately reflects the objectives specified for the operational environment of the dependent component.

The reliance information contains the description of the base component's security functionality relied upon by the dependent component. To ensure that the reliance information is consistent with the expectations of the operational environment of the dependent component, the evaluator compares the reliance information with the statement of objectives for the operational environment in the ST for the dependent component.

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For example, if the reliance information claims that the dependent component TSF relies upon the base component to store and protect audit data, yet other evaluation evidence (e.g. the dependent component design) makes it clear that the dependent component TSF itself is storing and protecting the audit data, this would indicate an inaccuracy.

It should be noted that the objectives for the operational environment can include objectives that can be met by non-IT measures. While the services that the base component environment is expected to provide can be described in the description of IT objectives for the operational environment in the dependent component ST, it is not required that all such expectations on the environment be described in the reliance information.

17.5.1.4.5 Content requirement ACO_REL.1.2C (ISO/IEC 15408-3:2026, 15.4.4)

The reliance information shall describe all interactions through which the dependent component TSF requests services from the base component.

17.5.1.4.6 Work unit ACO_REL.1-3

The evaluator ***shall examine*** the reliance information to determine that it describes all interactions between the dependent component and the base component, through which the dependent component TSF requests services from the base component.

The dependent component TSF can request services of the base component that were not within the TSF of the base component (see ISO/IEC 15408-3:2026, B.4).

The interfaces to the base component's functionality are described at the same level as the description of the interfaces to the dependent component TSF functionality, as would be provided between subsystems in ADV_TDS.1 (Basic design) (12.8.1).

The purpose of describing the interactions between the dependent component and the base component is to provide an understanding of how the dependent component TSF relies upon the base component for the provision of services to support the operation of security functionality of the dependent component. These interactions are not required to be characterised at the implementation level (e.g. parameters passed from one routine in a component to a routine in another component), but the data elements identified for a particular component that are going to be used by another component shall be covered in this description. The statement is expected to help the reader understand in general why the interaction is necessary.

Accuracy and completeness of the interfaces is based on the security functionality that the TSF requires to be provided by the base component, as assessed in work units ACO_REL.1-1 (17.5.1.4.3) and ACO_REL.1-2 (17.5.1.4.4). It shall be possible to map all of the functionality described in the earlier work units to the interfaces identified in this work unit, and vice versa. An interface that does not correspond to described functionality would also indicate an inadequacy.

17.5.1.4.7 Content requirement ACO_REL.1.3C (ISO/IEC 15408-3:2026, 15.4.4)

The reliance information shall describe how the dependent TSF protects itself from interference and tampering by the base component.

17.5.1.4.8 Work unit ACO_REL.1-4

The evaluator ***shall examine*** the reliance information to determine that it describes how the dependent TSF protects itself from interference and tampering by the base component.

The description of how the dependent component protects itself from interference and tampering by the base component shall be provided at the same level of detail as necessary for ADV_ARC.1-4 (12.3.1.4.9).

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17.5.2 Evaluation of sub-activity (ACO_REL.2)

17.5.2.1 Objectives

The objectives of this sub-activity are to determine whether the developer's reliance evidence provides sufficient information to determine that the necessary functionality is available in the base component, and the means by which that functionality is invoked. This is provided in terms of the interfaces between the dependent and base component and the return values from those interfaces called by the dependent component.

17.5.2.2 Application notes

A dependent component whose TSF interacts with the base component requires functionality provided by that base component (e.g. remote authentication, remote audit data storage). In these cases, those invoked services shall be described for those charged with configuring the composed TOE for end users. The rationale for requiring this documentation is to:

— aid integrators of the composed TOE to determine what services in the base component can have adverse effects on the dependent component,

— to provide information against which the compatibility of the components can be determined when applying the ACO_DEV (Development evidence) (17.4) family.

17.5.2.3 Input

Input for ACO_REL.2 consists of the following:

— the composed ST;

— the dependent component functional specification;

— the dependent component design;

— the dependent component implementation representation;

— the dependent component architectural design;

— the reliance information.

17.5.2.4 Action ACO_REL.2.1E

17.5.2.4.1 Evaluator action (ISO/IEC 15408-3:2026, 15.4.5)

The evaluator shall confirm that the information provided meets all requirements for content and presentation of evidence.

17.5.2.4.2 Content requirement ACO_REL.2.1C (ISO/IEC 15408-3:2026, 15.4.5)

The reliance information shall describe the functionality of the base component hardware, firmware, software that is relied upon by the dependent component TSF.

17.5.2.4.3 Work unit ACO_REL.2-1

The evaluator ***shall check*** the reliance information to determine that it describes the functionality any of the base dependent hardware, firmware or software that is relied upon by the dependent component TSF.

The evaluator assesses the description of the security functionality that the dependent component TSF requires to be provided by the base component's hardware, firmware and software. The emphasis of this work unit is on the level of detail of this description, rather than on an assessment of the information's accuracy.

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The assessment of the accuracy of the information is the focus of ACO_REL.2-2 (17.5.2.4.4).

This description of the base component's functionality is not required to be any more detailed than the level of the description of a component of the TSF, as would be provided in ADV_TDS (TOE design) (12.8).

17.5.2.4.4 Work unit ACO_REL.2-2

The evaluator ***shall examine*** the reliance information to determine that it accurately reflects the objectives specified for the operational environment of the dependent component.

The reliance information contains the description of the base component's security functionality relied upon by the dependent component. To ensure that the reliance information is consistent with the expectations of the operational environment of the dependent component, the evaluator ***shall compare*** the reliance information with the statement of objectives for the operational environment in the ST for the dependent component.

For example, if the reliance information claims that the dependent component TSF relies upon the base component to store and protect audit data, yet other evaluation evidence (e.g. the dependent component design) makes it clear that the dependent component TSF itself is storing and protecting the audit data, this would indicate an inaccuracy.

It should be noted that the objectives for the operational environment can include objectives that can be met by non-IT measures. While the services that the base component environment is expected to provide may be described in the description of IT objectives for the operational environment in the dependent component ST, it is not required that all such expectations on the environment shall be described in the reliance information.

17.5.2.4.5 Content requirement ACO_REL.2.2C (ISO/IEC 15408-3:2026, 15.4.5)

The reliance information shall describe all interactions through which the dependent component TSF requests services from the base component.

17.5.2.4.6 Work unit ACO_REL.2-3

The evaluator ***shall examine*** the reliance information to determine that it describes all interactions between the dependent component and the base component, through which the dependent component TSF requests services from the base component.

The dependent component TSF can request services of the base component that were not within the TSF of the base component (see ISO/IEC 15408-3:2026, B.4).

The interfaces to the base component's functionality are described at the same level as the description of the interfaces to the dependent component TSF functionality, as would be provided between subsystems in the ADV_TDS.1 (Basic design) (12.8.1).

The purpose of describing the interactions between the dependent component and the base component is to provide an understanding of how the dependent component TSF relies upon the base component for the provision of services to support the operation of security functionality of the dependent component. These interactions are not required to be characterised at the implementation level (e.g. parameters passed from one routine in a component to a routine in another component), but the data elements identified for a particular component that are going to be used by another component shall be covered in this description. The statement is expected to help the reader understand in general why the interaction is necessary.

Accuracy and completeness of the interfaces is based on the security functionality that the TSF requires to be provided by the base component, as assessed in work units ACO_REL.2-1 (17.5.2.4.3) and ACO_REL.2-2 (17.5.2.4.4). It shall be possible to map all of the functionality described in the earlier work units to the interfaces identified in this work unit, and vice versa. An interface that does not correspond to described functionality would also indicate an inadequacy.

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17.5.2.4.7 Content requirement ACO_REL.2.3C (ISO/IEC 15408-3:2026, 15.4.5)

The reliance information shall describe each interaction in terms of the interface used and the return values from those interfaces.

17.5.2.4.8 Work unit ACO_REL.2-4

The reliance information shall describe each interaction in terms of the interface used and the return values from those interfaces.

The identification of the interfaces used by the dependent component TSF when making services requests of the base component allows an integrator to determine whether the base component provides all the necessary corresponding interfaces. This understanding is further gained through the specification of the return values expected by the dependent component. The evaluator ensures that interfaces are described for each interaction specified (as analysed in ACO_REL.2-3 (17.5.2.4.6)).

17.5.2.4.9 Content requirement ACO_REL.2.4C (ISO/IEC 15408-3:2026, 15.4.5)

The reliance information shall describe how the dependent TSF protects itself from interference and tampering by the base component.

17.5.2.4.10 Work unit ACO_REL.2-5

The evaluator ***shall examine*** the reliance information to determine that it describes how the dependent TSF protects itself from interference and tampering by the base component.

The description of how the dependent component protects itself from interference and tampering by the base component shall be provided at the same level of detail as necessary for ADV_ARC.1-4 (12.3.1.4.9).

17.6 Composed TOE testing (ACO_CTT)

17.6.1 Evaluation of sub-activity (ACO_CTT.1)

17.6.1.1 Objectives

The objective of this sub-activity is to determine whether the developer correctly performed and documented tests for each of the base component interfaces on which the dependent component relies. As part of this determination the evaluator repeats a sample of the tests performed by the developer and performs any additional tests required to ensure the expected behaviour of all composed TOE SFRs and interfaces of the base component relied upon by the dependent component is demonstrated.

17.6.1.2 Input

Input for ACO_CTT.1 consists of the following:

— the composed TOE suitable for testing;

— the composed TOE testing evidence;

— the reliance information;

— the development information.

17.6.1.3 Action ACO_CTT.1.1E

17.6.1.3.1 Evaluator action (ISO/IEC 15408-3:2026, 15.5.4)

The evaluator shall confirm that the information provided meets all requirements for content and presentation of evidence.

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17.6.1.3.2 Content requirement ACO_CTT.1.1C (ISO/IEC 15408-3:2026, 15.5.4)

The composed TOE and base component interface test documentation shall consist of test plans, expected test results and actual test results.

17.6.1.3.3 Work unit ACO_CTT.1-1

The evaluator ***shall examine*** the composed TOE test documentation to determine that it consists of test plans, expected test results and actual test results.

This work unit may be satisfied by provision of the test evidence from the evaluation of the dependent component if the base component was used to satisfy the requirements for IT in the operational environment of the dependent component.

All work units necessary for the satisfaction of ATE_FUN.1.1E (15.5.1.4) shall be applied to determine:

— that the test documentation consists of test plans, expected test results, and actual test results;

— that the test documentation contains the information necessary to ensure the tests are repeatable;

— the level of developer effort that was applied to testing of the base component.

17.6.1.3.4 Work unit ACO_CTT.1-2

The evaluator ***shall examine*** the base component interface test documentation to determine that it consists of test plans, expected test results and actual test results.

This work unit may be satisfied by provision of the test evidence from the evaluation of the base component for those interfaces relied upon in the composed TOE by the dependent component are TSFIs of the successfully evaluated base component. The determination of whether the interfaces of the base component relied upon by the dependent component were in fact TSFIs of the evaluated base component is made during the ACO_COR (Composition rationale) (17.3) activity.

All work units necessary for the satisfaction of ATE_FUN.1.1E (15.5.1.4) shall be applied to determine:

— that the test documentation consists of test plans expected test results and actual test results;

— that the test documentation contains the information necessary to ensure the tests are repeatable;

— the level of developer effort that was applied to testing of the base component.

17.6.1.3.5 Content requirement ACO_CTT.1.2C (ISO/IEC 15408-3:2026, 15.5.4)

The test documentation from the developer execution of the composed TOE tests shall demonstrate that the TSF behaves as specified.

17.6.1.3.6 Work unit ACO_CTT.1-3

The evaluator ***shall examine*** the test documentation to determine that the developer execution of the composed TOE tests shall demonstrate that the TSF behaves as specified.

The evaluator should construct a mapping between the tests described in the test plan and the SFRs specified for the composed TOE to identify which SFRs have been tested by the developer.

Guidance and requirements for this work unit can be found in:

— 15.2.2

— 15.2.3

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The outputs from the successful execution of the tests, as assessed for ATE_FUN.1.3C (see ISO/IEC 15408-3:2026, 13.4.4), can be compared with the mapping to determine that the SFRs of the composed TOE, as tested by the developer, behave as expected.

17.6.1.3.7 Content requirement ACO_CTT.1.3C (ISO/IEC 15408-3:2026, 15.5.4)

The test documentation from the developer execution of the base component interface tests shall demonstrate that the base component interface relied upon by the dependent component behaves as specified.

17.6.1.3.8 Work unit ACO_CTT.1-4

The evaluator ***shall examine*** the test documentation to determine that the developer execution of the base component interface tests shall demonstrate that the base component interfaces relied upon by the dependent component behave as specified.

The evaluator should construct a mapping between the tests described in the test plan and the interfaces of the base component relied upon by the dependent component (as specified in the reliance information, examined under ACO_REL (Reliance of dependent component) (17.5)) to identify which base component interfaces have been tested by the developer.

Guidance and requirements for this work unit can be found in:

— 15.2.2

— 15.2.3

The outputs from the successful execution of the tests, as assessed for ATE_FUN.1.3C (see ISO/IEC 15408-3:2026, 13.4.4), can be compared with the mapping to determine that the interfaces of the base component, as tested by the developer, behave as expected.

17.6.1.3.9 Content requirement ACO_CTT.1.4C (ISO/IEC 15408-3:2026, 15.5.4)

The base component shall be suitable for testing.

17.6.1.3.10 Work unit ACO_CTT.1-5

The evaluator ***shall examine*** the composed TOE to determine that it has been installed properly and is in a known state.

To determine that the composed TOE has been installed properly and is in a known state the ATE_IND.2-1 (15.6.2.3.3) and ATE_IND.2-2 (15.6.2.3.4) work units shall be applied to the TOE provided by the developer for testing.

17.6.1.3.11 Work unit ACO_CTT.1-6

The evaluator ***shall examine*** the set of resources provided by the developer to determine that they are equivalent to the set of resources used by the base component developer to functionally test the base component.

To determine that the set of resources provided are equivalent to those used to functionally test the base component as used in the composed TOE, the ATE_IND.2-3 (15.6.2.3.6) work unit shall be applied.

17.6.1.4 Action ACO_CTT.1.2E

17.6.1.4.1 Evaluator action (ISO/IEC 15408-3:2026, 15.5.4)

The evaluator shall execute a sample of test in the test documentation to verify the developer test results.

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17.6.1.4.2 Work unit ACO_CTT.1-7

The evaluator ***shall perform*** testing in accordance with ATE_IND.2.2E (15.6.2.4), for a subset of the SFRs specified in the composed security target, to verify the developer test results.

The evaluator shall apply all work units necessary for the satisfaction of ATE_IND.2.2E (15.6.2.4), reporting in the ETR for the composed TOE all analysis, results and verdicts as dictated by the associated work units.

17.6.1.5 Action ACO_CTT.1.3E

17.6.1.5.1 Evaluator action (ISO/IEC 15408-3:2026, 15.5.4)

The evaluator shall test a subset of the TSF interfaces of the composed TOE to confirm that the composed TSF operates as specified.

17.6.1.5.2 Work unit ACO_CTT.1-8

The evaluator ***shall perform*** testing in accordance with ATE_IND.2.3E (15.6.2.5), for a subset of the SFRs specified in the composed security target, to confirm that the TSF operates as specified.

The evaluator shall apply all work units necessary for the satisfaction of ATE_IND.2.3E (15.6.2.5), reporting in the ETR for the composed TOE all analysis, results and verdicts as dictated by the work units.

When selecting interfaces of the TSF of the composed TOE to test, the evaluator should take into account any modifications to the components from the evaluated version or configuration. Modifications to the component from that evaluated can include:

— patches introduced,

— a different configuration as a result of modified guidance documentation,

— reliance on an additional portion of the component that was not within the TSF of the component.

These modifications are expected to have been identified during the ACO_COR (Composition rationale) (17.3) activity.

17.6.2 Evaluation of sub-activity (ACO_CTT.2)

17.6.2.1 Objectives

The objective of this sub-activity is to determine whether the developer correctly performed and documented tests for each of the base component interfaces on which the dependent component relies. As part of this determination the evaluator repeats a sample of the tests performed by the developer and performs any additional tests required to fully demonstrate the expected behaviour of the composed TOE and the interfaces of the base component relied upon by the dependent component.

17.6.2.2 Input

Input for ACO_CTT.2 consists of the following:

— the composed TOE suitable for testing;

— the composed TOE testing evidence;

— the reliance information;

— the development information.

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17.6.2.3 Action ACO_CTT.2.1E

17.6.2.3.1 Evaluator action (ISO/IEC 15408-3:2026, 15.5.5)

The evaluator shall confirm that the information provided meets all requirements for content and presentation of evidence.

17.6.2.3.2 Content requirement ACO_CTT.2.1C (ISO/IEC 15408-3:2026, 15.5.5)

The composed TOE and base component interface test documentation shall consist of test plans, expected test results and actual test results.

17.6.2.3.3 Work unit ACO_CTT.2-1

The evaluator ***shall examine*** the composed TOE test documentation to determine that it consists of test plans, expected test results and actual test results.

This work unit may be satisfied by provision of the test evidence from the evaluation of the dependent component if the base component was used to satisfy the requirements for IT in the operational environment of the dependent component.

All work units necessary for the satisfaction of ATE_FUN.1.1E (15.5.1.4) shall be applied to determine:

— that the test documentation consists of test plans expected test results and actual test results;

— that the test documentation contains the information necessary to ensure the tests are repeatable;

— the level of developer effort that was applied to testing of the base component.

17.6.2.3.4 Work unit ACO_CTT.2-2

The evaluator ***shall examine*** the base component interface test documentation to determine that it consists of test plans, expected test results and actual test results.

This work unit may be satisfied by provision of the test evidence from the evaluation of the base component for those interfaces relied upon in the composed TOE by the dependent component are TSFIs of the successfully evaluated base component. The determination of whether the interfaces of the base component relied upon by the dependent component were in fact TSFIs of the evaluated base component is made during the ACO_COR (Composition rationale) (17.3) activity.

All work units necessary for the satisfaction of ATE_FUN.1.1E (15.5.1.4) shall be applied to determine:

— that the test documentation consists of test plans, expected test results, and actual test results;

— that the test documentation contains the information necessary to ensure the tests are repeatable;

— the level of developer effort that was applied to testing of the base component.

17.6.2.3.5 Content requirement ACO_CTT.2.2C (ISO/IEC 15408-3:2026, 15.5.5)

The test documentation from the developer execution of the composed TOE tests shall demonstrate that the TSF behaves as specified and is complete.

17.6.2.3.6 Work unit ACO_CTT.2-3

The evaluator ***shall examine*** the test documentation to determine that it provides accurate correspondence between the tests in the test documentation relating to the testing of the composed TOE and the composed TOE SFRs in the composed TOE security target.

A simple cross-table can be sufficient to show test correspondence. The identification of correspondence between the tests and SFRs presented in the test documentation shall be unambiguous.

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17.6.2.3.7 Work unit ACO_CTT.2-4

The evaluator ***shall examine*** the test documentation to determine that the developer execution of the composed TOE tests shall demonstrate that the TSF behaves as specified.

Guidance and requirements for this work unit can be found in:

— 15.2.2

— 15.2.3

The outputs from the successful execution of the tests, as assessed for ATE_FUN.1.3C (see ISO/IEC 15408-3:2026, 13.4.4), can be compared with the mapping to determine that the SFRs of the composed TOE, as tested by the developer, behave as expected.

17.6.2.3.8 Content requirement ACO_CTT.2.3C (ISO/IEC 15408-3:2026, 15.5.5)

The test documentation from the developer execution of the base component interface tests shall demonstrate that the base component interface relied upon by the dependent component behaves as specified and is complete.

17.6.2.3.9 Work unit ACO_CTT.2-5

The evaluator ***shall examine*** the test documentation to determine that it provides accurate correspondence between the tests in the test documentation relating to the testing of the base component interfaces relied upon by the dependent component and the interfaces specified in the reliance information.

A simple cross-table can be sufficient to show test correspondence. The identification of correspondence between the tests and interfaces presented in the test documentation shall be unambiguous.

17.6.2.3.10 Work unit ACO_CTT.2-6

The evaluator ***shall examine*** the test documentation to determine that the developer execution of the base component interface tests shall demonstrate that the base component interfaces relied upon by the dependent component behave as specified.

Guidance and requirements for this work unit can be found in:

— 15.2.2

— 15.2.3

The outputs from the successful execution of the tests, as assessed for ATE_FUN.1.3C (see ISO/IEC 15408-3:2026, 13.4.4) can be compared with the mapping to determine that the interfaces of the base component, as tested by the developer, behave as expected.

17.6.2.3.11 Content requirement ACO_CTT.2.4C (ISO/IEC 15408-3:2026, 15.5.5)

The base component shall be suitable for testing.

17.6.2.3.12 Work unit ACO_CTT.2-7

The evaluator ***shall examine*** the composed TOE to determine that it has been installed properly and is in a known state.

To determine that the composed TOE has been installed properly and is in a known state the ATE_IND.2-1 (15.6.2.3.3) and ATE_IND.2-2 (15.6.2.3.4) work units shall be applied to the TOE provided by the developer for testing.

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17.6.2.3.13 Work unit ACO_CTT.2-8

The evaluator ***shall examine*** the set of resources provided by the developer to determine that they are equivalent to the set of resources used by the base component developer to functionally test the base component.

To determine that the set of resources provided are equivalent to those used to functionally test the base component as used in the composed TOE, the ATE_IND.2-3 (15.6.2.3.6) work unit shall be applied.

17.6.2.4 Action ACO_CTT.2.2E

17.6.2.4.1 Evaluator action (ISO/IEC 15408-3:2026, 15.5.5)

The evaluator shall execute a sample of test in the test documentation to verify the developer test results.

17.6.2.4.2 Work unit ACO_CTT.2-9

The tests shall be selected and executed in accordance with ATE_IND.2.2E (15.6.2.4), to demonstrate the correct behaviour of the SFRs specified in the composed TOE security target.

The evaluator shall apply all work units necessary for the satisfaction of ATE_IND.2.2E (15.6.2.4), reporting in the ETR for the composed TOE all analysis, results and verdicts as dictated by the associated work units.

17.6.2.5 Action ACO_CTT.2.3E

17.6.2.5.1 Evaluator action (ISO/IEC 15408-3:2026, 15.5.5)

The evaluator shall test a subset of the TSF interfaces of the composed TOE to confirm that the composed TSF operates as specified.

17.6.2.5.2 Work unit ACO_CTT.2-10

The evaluator ***shall perform*** testing in accordance with ATE_IND.2.3E (15.6.2.5), for a subset of the SFRs specified in the composed security target, to confirm that the TSF operates as specified.

The evaluator shall apply all work units necessary for the satisfaction of ATE_IND.2.3E (15.6.2.5), reporting in the ETR for the composed TOE all analysis, results and verdicts as dictated by the work units.

When selecting interfaces of the TSF of the composed TOE to test, the evaluator should take into account any modifications to the components from the evaluated version or configuration. Modifications to the component from that evaluated can include:

— patches introduced,

— a different configuration as a result of modified guidance documentation,

— reliance on an additional portion of the component that was not within the TSF of the component.

These modifications are expected to have been identified during the ACO_COR (Composition rationale) (17.3) activity.

17.6.2.5.3 Work unit ACO_CTT.2-11

The evaluator ***shall perform*** testing, in accordance with ATE_IND.2 (Independent testing - sample) (15.6.2), for a subset of the interfaces to the base component to confirm they operate as specified.

The evaluator shall apply all work units necessary for the satisfaction of ATE_IND.2.3E (15.6.2.5), reporting in the ETR for the composed TOE all analysis, results and verdicts as dictated by the work units.

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When selecting interfaces of the base component to test, the evaluator should take into account any modifications to the base component from the evaluated version or configuration. In particular, the evaluator shall consider the development of tests to demonstrate the correct behaviour of interfaces of the base component that were not considered during the evaluation of the base component. These additional interfaces and other modifications to the base component will have been identified during the ACO_COR (Composition rationale) (17.3) activity.

17.7 Composition vulnerability analysis (ACO_VUL)

17.7.1 Evaluation of sub-activity (ACO_VUL.1)

17.7.1.1 Objectives

The objective of this sub-activity is to determine whether the composed TOE, in its operational environment, has easily exploitable vulnerabilities.

The developer provides details of any residual vulnerabilities reported from evaluation of the components. The evaluator performs an analysis of the disposition the residual vulnerabilities reported and also performs a search of the public domain, to identify any new potential vulnerabilities in the components (i.e. those issues that have been reported in the public domain since evaluation of the base component). The evaluator then performs penetration testing to demonstrate that the potential vulnerabilities cannot be exploited in the TOE, in its operational environment, by an attacker with Basic attack potential.

17.7.1.2 Application notes

See the application notes for AVA_VAN.1 (Vulnerability survey) (16.3.1).

17.7.1.3 Input

Input for ACO_VUL.1 consists of the following:

— the composed TOE suitable for testing;

— the composed ST;

— the composition rationale;

— the guidance documentation;

— information publicly available to support the identification of possible security vulnerabilities;

— residual vulnerabilities reported during evaluation of each component.

17.7.1.4 Action ACO_VUL.1.1E

17.7.1.4.1 Evaluator action (ISO/IEC 15408-3:2026, 15.6.4)

The evaluator shall confirm that the information provided meets all requirements for content and presentation of evidence.

17.7.1.4.2 Content requirement ACO_VUL.1.1C (ISO/IEC 15408-3:2026, 15.6.4)

The composed TOE shall be suitable for testing.

17.7.1.4.3 Work unit ACO_VUL.1-1

The evaluator ***shall examine*** the composed TOE to determine that it has been installed properly and is in a known state.

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To determine that the composed TOE has been installed properly and is in a known state the ATE_IND.2-1 (15.6.2.3.3) and ATE_IND.2-2 (15.6.2.3.4) work units shall be applied to the composed TOE.

If the assurance package includes a component listed in ACO_CTT (Composed TOE testing) (17.6), then the evaluator may refer to the result of the work unit ACO_CTT.*-1 to demonstrate this has been satisfied.

17.7.1.4.4 Work unit ACO_VUL.1-2

The evaluator ***shall examine*** the composed TOE configuration to determine that any assumptions and objectives in the STs the components relating to IT entities for are fulfilled by the other components.

The STs for the component can include assumptions about other components that can use the component to which the ST relates. For example the ST for an operating system used as a base component can include an assumption that any applications loaded on the operating system do not run in privileged mode. These assumptions and objectives shall be fulfilled by other components in the composed TOE.

17.7.1.5 Action ACO_VUL.1.2E

17.7.1.5.1 Evaluator action (ISO/IEC 15408-3:2026, 15.6.4)

The evaluator shall perform an analysis to determine that any residual vulnerabilities identified for the base and dependent components are not exploitable in the composed TOE in its operational environment.

17.7.1.5.2 Work unit ACO_VUL.1-3

The evaluator ***shall examine*** the residual vulnerabilities from the base component evaluation to determine that they are not exploitable in the composed TOE in its operational environment.

The list of vulnerabilities identified in the product during the evaluation of the base component, which were demonstrated to be non-exploitable in the base component, shall be used as an input into this activity. The evaluator ***shall determine*** that the premise(s) on which a vulnerability was deemed to be non-exploitable is upheld in the composed TOE, or whether the combination has re-introduced the potential vulnerability. For example, if during evaluation of the base component it was assumed that a particular operating system service was disabled, which is enabled in the composed TOE evaluation, any potential vulnerabilities relating to that service previously scoped out shall now be considered.

Also, this list of known, non-exploitable vulnerabilities resulting from the evaluation of the base component should be considered in the light of any known, non-exploitable vulnerabilities for the other components (e.g. dependent component) within the composed TOE. This takes into account the case where a potential vulnerability that is non-exploitable in isolation is exploitable when integrated with an IT entity containing another potential vulnerability.

17.7.1.5.3 Work unit ACO_VUL.1-4

The evaluator ***shall examine*** the residual vulnerabilities from the dependent component evaluation to determine that they are not exploitable in the composed TOE in its operational environment.

The list of vulnerabilities identified in the product during the evaluation of the dependent component, which were demonstrated to be non-exploitable in the dependent component, shall be used as an input into this activity. The evaluator ***shall determine*** that the premise(s) on which a vulnerability was deemed to be non-exploitable is upheld in the composed TOE, or whether the combination has re-introduced the potential vulnerability. For example, if during evaluation of the dependent component it was assumed that IT meeting the operational environment requirements would not return a certain value in response to a service request, which is provided by the base component in the composed TOE evaluation, any potential vulnerabilities relating to that return value previously scoped out should now be considered.

Also, this list of known, non-exploitable vulnerabilities resulting from the evaluation of the dependent component should be considered in the light of any known, non-exploitable vulnerabilities for the other components (e.g. base component) within the composed TOE. This takes into account the case where a

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potential vulnerability that is non-exploitable in isolation is exploitable when integrated with an IT entity containing another potential vulnerability.

17.7.1.6 Action ACO_VUL.1.3E

17.7.1.6.1 Evaluator action (ISO/IEC 15408-3:2026, 15.6.4)

The evaluator shall perform a search of public domain sources to identify possible vulnerabilities arising from use of the base and dependent components in the composed TOE operational environment.

17.7.1.6.2 Work unit ACO_VUL.1-5

The evaluator ***shall examine*** the sources of information publicly available to support the identification of possible security vulnerabilities in the base component that have become known since the completion of evaluation of the base component.

The evaluator ***shall use*** the information in the public domain as described in AVA_VAN.1-2 (16.3.1.4.4) to search for vulnerabilities in the base component.

Those potential vulnerabilities that were publicly available prior to the evaluation of the base component are not required to be further investigated unless it is apparent to the evaluator that the attack potential required by an attacker to exploit the potential vulnerability has been significantly reduced. This can be through the introduction of some new technology after the base component evaluation which has simplified the exploitation process.

17.7.1.6.3 Work unit ACO_VUL.1-6

The evaluator ***shall examine*** the sources of information publicly available to support the identification of possible security vulnerabilities in the dependent component that have become known since the completion of the dependent component evaluation.

The evaluator ***shall use*** the information in the public domain as described in AVA_VAN.1-2 (16.3.1.4.4) to search for vulnerabilities in the dependent component.

Those potential vulnerabilities that were publicly available prior to the evaluation of the dependent component are not required to be further investigated unless it is apparent to the evaluator that the attack potential required by an attacker to exploit the potential vulnerability has been significantly reduced. This can be through the introduction of some new technology after the base component evaluation which has simplified the exploitation process.

17.7.1.6.4 Work unit ACO_VUL.1-7

The evaluator ***shall record*** in the ETR the identified potential security vulnerabilities that are candidates for testing and applicable to the composed TOE in its operational environment.

The ST, guidance documentation and functional specification are used to determine whether the vulnerabilities are relevant to the composed TOE in its operational environment.

The evaluator records any reasons for exclusion of vulnerabilities from further consideration if the evaluator determines that the vulnerability is not applicable in the operational environment. Otherwise the evaluator records the potential vulnerability for further consideration.

A list of potential vulnerabilities applicable to the composed TOE in its operational environment, which can be used as an input into penetration testing activities (i.e. ACO_VUL.1.4E (17.7.1.7)), shall be reported in the ETR by the evaluators.

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17.7.1.7 Action ACO_VUL.1.4E

17.7.1.7.1 Evaluator action (ISO/IEC 15408-3:2026, 15.6.4)

The evaluator shall conduct penetration testing, based on the identified vulnerabilities, to demonstrate that the composed TOE is resistant to attacks by an attacker with Basic attack potential.

17.7.1.7.2 Work unit ACO_VUL.1-8

The evaluator ***shall conduct*** penetration testing as detailed for AVA_VAN.1.3E (16.3.1.6).

The evaluator shall apply all work units necessary for the satisfaction of evaluator action AVA_VAN.1.3E (16.3.1.6), reporting in the ETR for the composed TOE all analysis and verdicts as dictated by the work units.

The evaluator shall also apply the work units for the evaluator action AVA_VAN.1.1E (16.3.1.4) to determine that the composed TOE provided by the developer is suitable for testing.

17.7.2 Evaluation of sub-activity (ACO_VUL.2)

17.7.2.1 Objectives

The objective of this sub-activity is to determine whether the composed TOE, in its operational environment, has vulnerabilities exploitable by attackers possessing Basic attack potential.

The developer provides an analysis of the disposition of any residual vulnerabilities reported for the components and of any vulnerabilities introduced through the combination of the base and dependent components. The evaluator performs a search of the public domain to identify any new potential vulnerabilities in the components (i.e. those issues that have been reported in the public domain since the completion of the evaluation of the components). The evaluator shall also perform an independent vulnerability analysis of the composed TOE and penetration testing.

17.7.2.2 Application notes

See the application notes for AVA_VAN.2 (Vulnerability analysis) (16.3.2).

17.7.2.3 Input

Input for ACO_VUL.2 consists of the following:

— the composed TOE suitable for testing;

— the composed ST;

— the composition rationale;

— the reliance information;

— the guidance documentation;

— information publicly available to support the identification of possible security vulnerabilities;

— residual vulnerabilities reported during evaluation of each component.

17.7.2.4 Action ACO_VUL.2.1E

17.7.2.4.1 Evaluator action (ISO/IEC 15408-3:2026, 15.6.5)

The evaluator shall confirm that the information provided meets all requirements for content and presentation of evidence.

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17.7.2.4.2 Content requirement ACO_VUL.2.1C (ISO/IEC 15408-3:2026, 15.6.5)

The composed TOE shall be suitable for testing.

17.7.2.4.3 Work unit ACO_VUL.2-1

The evaluator ***shall examine*** the composed TOE to determine that it has been installed properly and is in a known state.

To determine that the composed TOE has been installed properly and is in a known state the ATE_IND.2-1 (15.6.2.3.3) and ATE_IND.2-2 (15.6.2.3.4) work units shall be applied to the composed TOE.

If the assurance package includes a component listed in ACO_CTT (Composed TOE testing) (17.6), then the evaluator may refer to the result of the work unit ACO_CTT.*-1 to demonstrate this has been satisfied.

17.7.2.4.4 Work unit ACO_VUL.2-2

The evaluator ***shall examine*** the composed TOE configuration to determine that any assumptions and objectives in the STs the components relating to IT entities for are fulfilled by the other components.

The STs for the component can include assumptions about other components that can use the component to which the ST relates. For example the ST for an operating system used as a base component can include an assumption that any applications loaded on the operating system do not run in privileged mode. These assumptions and objectives shall be fulfilled by other components in the composed TOE.

17.7.2.5 Action ACO_VUL.2.2E

17.7.2.5.1 Evaluator action (ISO/IEC 15408-3:2026, 15.6.5)

The evaluator shall perform an analysis to determine that any residual vulnerabilities identified for the base and dependent components are not exploitable in the composed TOE in its operational environment.

17.7.2.5.2 Work unit ACO_VUL.2-3

The evaluator ***shall examine*** the residual vulnerabilities from the base component evaluation to determine that they are not exploitable in the composed TOE in its operational environment.

The list of vulnerabilities identified in the product during the evaluation of the base component, which were demonstrated to be non-exploitable in the base component, shall be used as an input into this activity. The evaluator ***shall determine*** that the premise(s) on which a vulnerability was deemed to be non-exploitable is upheld in the composed TOE, or whether the combination has re-introduced the potential vulnerability. For example, if during evaluation of the base component it was assumed that a particular operating system service was disabled, which is enabled in the composed TOE evaluation, any potential vulnerabilities relating to that service previously scoped out shall now be considered.

Also, this list of known, non-exploitable vulnerabilities resulting from the evaluation of the base component should be considered in the light of any known, non-exploitable vulnerabilities for the other components (e.g. dependent component) within the composed TOE. This takes into account the case where a potential vulnerability that is non-exploitable in isolation is exploitable when integrated with an IT entity containing another potential vulnerability.

17.7.2.5.3 Work unit ACO_VUL.2-4

The evaluator ***shall examine*** the residual vulnerabilities from the dependent component evaluation to determine that they are not exploitable in the composed TOE in its operational environment.

The list of vulnerabilities identified in the product during the evaluation of the dependent component, which were demonstrated to be non-exploitable in the dependent component, shall be used as an input into this activity. The evaluator ***shall determine*** that the premise(s) on which a vulnerability was deemed to be non-exploitable is upheld in the composed TOE, or whether the combination has re-introduced the potential

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vulnerability. For example, if during evaluation of the dependent component it was assumed that IT meeting the operational environment requirements would not return a certain value in response to a service request, which is provided by the base component in the composed TOE evaluation, any potential vulnerabilities relating to that return value previously scoped out should now be considered.

Also, this list of known, non-exploitable vulnerabilities resulting from the evaluation of the dependent component should be considered in the light of any known, non-exploitable vulnerabilities for the other components (e.g. base component) within the composed TOE. This takes into account the case where a potential vulnerability that is non-exploitable in isolation is exploitable when integrated with an IT entity containing another potential vulnerability.

17.7.2.6 Action ACO_VUL.2.3E

17.7.2.6.1 Evaluator action (ISO/IEC 15408-3:2026, 15.6.5)

The evaluator shall perform a search of public domain sources to identify possible vulnerabilities arising from use of the base and dependent components in the composed TOE operational environment.

17.7.2.6.2 Work unit ACO_VUL.2-5

The evaluator ***shall examine*** the sources of information publicly available to support the identification of possible security vulnerabilities in the base component that have become known since the completion of the base component evaluation.

The evaluator ***shall use*** the information in the public domain as described in AVA_VAN.2-2 (16.3.2.4.5) to search for vulnerabilities in the base component.

Those potential vulnerabilities that were publicly available prior to the evaluation of the base component are not required to be further investigated unless it is apparent to the evaluator that the attack potential required by an attacker to exploit the potential vulnerability has been significantly reduced. This can be through the introduction of some new technology after the base component evaluation which has simplified the exploitation process.

17.7.2.6.3 Work unit ACO_VUL.2-6

The evaluator ***shall examine*** the sources of information publicly available to support the identification of possible security vulnerabilities in the dependent component that have become known since the completion of the dependent component evaluation.

The evaluator ***shall use*** the information in the public domain as described in AVA_VAN.2-2 (16.3.2.4.5) to search for vulnerabilities in the dependent component.

Those potential vulnerabilities that were publicly available prior to the evaluation of the dependent component are not required to be further investigated unless it is apparent to the evaluator that the attack potential required by an attacker to exploit the potential vulnerability has been significantly reduced. This can be through the introduction of some new technology after the base component evaluation which has simplified the exploitation process.

17.7.2.6.4 Work unit ACO_VUL.2-7

The evaluator ***shall record*** in the ETR the identified potential security vulnerabilities that are candidates for testing and applicable to the composed TOE in its operational environment.

The ST, guidance documentation and functional specification are used to determine whether the vulnerabilities are relevant to the composed TOE in its operational environment.

The evaluator records any reasons for exclusion of vulnerabilities from further consideration if the evaluator determines that the vulnerability is not applicable in the operational environment. Otherwise, the evaluator records the potential vulnerability for further consideration.

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A list of potential vulnerabilities applicable to the composed TOE in its operational environment, which can be used as an input into penetration testing activities ACO_VUL.2.5E (17.7.2.8), shall be reported in the ETR by the evaluators.

17.7.2.7 Action ACO_VUL.2.4E

17.7.2.7.1 Evaluator action (ISO/IEC 15408-3:2026, 15.6.5)

The evaluator shall perform an independent vulnerability analysis of the composed TOE, using the guidance documentation, reliance information and composition rationale to identify potential vulnerabilities in the composed TOE.

17.7.2.7.2 Work unit ACO_VUL.2-8

The evaluator ***shall conduct*** a search of the composed TOE ST, guidance documentation, reliance information and composition rationale to identify possible security vulnerabilities in the composed TOE.

The consideration of the components of the composed TOE in the independent evaluator vulnerability analysis can take a slightly different form to that documented in AVA_VAN.2.3E (16.3.2.6) for a component evaluation, as it will not necessarily consider all layers of design abstraction relevant to the assurance package. These shall have already been considered during the evaluation of the components, but it is possible that the evidence is not available for the composed TOE evaluation. However, the general approach described in the work units associated with AVA_VAN.2.3E (16.3.2.6) is applicable and should form the basis of the evaluator's search for potential vulnerabilities in the composed TOE.

A vulnerability analysis of the individual components used in the composed TOE shall have already been performed during evaluation of the individual components. The focus of the vulnerability analysis during the composed TOE evaluation shall be to identify any vulnerabilities introduced as a result of the integration of the components or due to any changes in the use of the components between the evaluated component configuration to the composed TOE configuration.

The evaluator ***shall use*** the understanding of the component's construction as detailed in the reliance information for the dependent component, and the development information and composition rationale for the base component, together with the dependent component design information. This information shall allow the evaluator to gain an understanding of how the base component and dependent component interact and identify potential vulnerabilities that can be introduced as a result of this interaction.

The evaluator shall consider any new guidance provided for the installation, start-up and operation of the composed TOE to identify any potential vulnerabilities introduced through this revised guidance.

If any of the individual components have been through assurance continuity activities since the completion of the component evaluation, the evaluator shall consider the patch(es) in the independent vulnerability analysis. Information related to the change provided in a public report of the assurance continuity activities (e.g. Maintenance Report) can be the main source of input material of the change. This shall be supplemented by any updates to the guidance documentation resulting from the change and any information regarding the change available in the public domain, e.g. vendor website.

Any risks identified due to the lack of evidence to establish the full impact of any patches or deviations in the configuration of a component from the evaluated configuration shall be documented in the evaluator's vulnerability analysis.

17.7.2.8 Action ACO_VUL.2.5E

17.7.2.8.1 Evaluator action (ISO/IEC 15408-3:2026, 15.6.5)

The evaluator shall conduct penetration testing, based on the identified vulnerabilities, to demonstrate that the composed TOE is resistant to attacks by an attacker with Basic attack potential.

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17.7.2.8.2 Work unit ACO_VUL.2-9

The evaluator ***shall conduct*** penetration testing as detailed for AVA_VAN.2.4E (16.3.2.7).

The evaluator shall apply all work units necessary for the satisfaction of evaluator action AVA_VAN.2.4E (16.3.2.7), reporting in the ETR for the composed TOE all analysis and verdicts as dictated by the work units.

The evaluator shall also apply the work units for the evaluator action AVA_VAN.2.1E (16.3.2.4) to determine that the composed TOE provided by the developer is suitable for testing.

17.7.3 Evaluation of sub-activity (ACO_VUL.3)

17.7.3.1 Objectives

The objective of this sub-activity is to determine whether the composed TOE, in its operational environment, has vulnerabilities exploitable by attackers possessing Enhanced-Basic attack potential.

The developer provides an analysis of the disposition of any residual vulnerabilities reported for the components and of any vulnerabilities introduced through the combination of the base and dependent components. The evaluator performs a search of the public domain to identify any new potential vulnerabilities in the components (i.e. those issues that have been reported in the public domain since the completion of the component evaluations). The evaluator shall also perform an independent vulnerability analysis of the composed TOE and penetration testing.

17.7.3.2 Application notes

See the application notes for AVA_VAN.3 (Focused vulnerability analysis) (16.3.3).

17.7.3.3 Input

Input for ACO_VUL.3 consists of the following:

— the composed TOE suitable for testing;

— the composed ST;

— the composition rationale;

— the reliance information;

— the guidance documentation;

— information publicly available to support the identification of possible security vulnerabilities;

— residual vulnerabilities reported during evaluation of each component.

17.7.3.4 Action ACO_VUL.3.1E

17.7.3.4.1 Evaluator action (ISO/IEC 15408-3:2026, 15.6.6)

The evaluator shall confirm that the information provided meets all requirements for content and presentation of evidence.

17.7.3.4.2 Content requirement ACO_VUL.3.1C (ISO/IEC 15408-3:2026, 15.6.6)

The composed TOE shall be suitable for testing.

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17.7.3.4.3 Work unit ACO_VUL.3-1

The evaluator ***shall examine*** the composed TOE to determine that it has been installed properly and is in a known state.

To determine that the composed TOE has been installed properly and is in a known state the ATE_IND.2-1 (15.6.2.3.3) and ATE_IND.2-2 (15.6.2.3.4) work units shall be applied to the composed TOE.

If the assurance package includes ACO_CTT (Composed TOE testing) (17.6) family, then the evaluator may refer to the result of the work unit ACO_CTT (Composed TOE testing) (17.6) *-1 to demonstrate this has been satisfied.

17.7.3.4.4 Work unit ACO_VUL.3-2

The evaluator ***shall examine*** the composed TOE configuration to determine that any assumptions and objectives in the STs the components relating to IT entities for are fulfilled by the other components.

The STs for the component can include assumptions about other components that can use the component to which the ST relates, e.g. the ST for an operating system used as a base component can include an assumption that any applications loaded on the operating system do not run in privileged mode. These assumptions and objectives shall be fulfilled by other components in the composed TOE.

17.7.3.5 Action ACO_VUL.3.2E

17.7.3.5.1 Evaluator action (ISO/IEC 15408-3:2026, 15.6.6)

The evaluator shall perform an analysis to determine that any residual vulnerabilities identified for the base and dependent components are not exploitable in the composed TOE in its operational environment.

17.7.3.5.2 Work unit ACO_VUL.3-3

The evaluator ***shall examine*** the residual vulnerabilities from the base component evaluation to determine that they are not exploitable in the composed TOE in its operational environment.

The list of vulnerabilities identified in the product during the evaluation of the base component, which were demonstrated to be non-exploitable in the base component, shall be used as an input into this activity. The evaluator ***shall determine*** that the premise(s) on which a vulnerability was deemed to be non-exploitable is upheld in the composed TOE, or whether the combination has re-introduced the potential vulnerability. For example, if during evaluation of the base component it was assumed that a particular operating system service was disabled, which is enabled in the composed TOE evaluation, any potential vulnerabilities relating to that service previously scoped out shall now be considered.

Also, this list of known, non-exploitable vulnerabilities resulting from the evaluation of the base component should be considered in the light of any known, non-exploitable vulnerabilities for the other components (e.g. dependent component) within the composed TOE. This takes into account the case where a potential vulnerability that is non-exploitable in isolation is exploitable when integrated with an IT entity containing another potential vulnerability.

17.7.3.5.3 Work unit ACO_VUL.3-4

The evaluator ***shall examine*** the residual vulnerabilities from the dependent component evaluation to determine that they are not exploitable in the composed TOE in its operational environment.

The list of vulnerabilities identified in the product during the evaluation of the dependent component, which were demonstrated to be non-exploitable in the dependent component, shall be used as an input into this activity. The evaluator ***shall determine*** that the premise(s) on which a vulnerability was deemed to be non-exploitable is upheld in the composed TOE, or whether the combination has re-introduced the potential vulnerability. For example, if during evaluation of the dependent component it was assumed that IT meeting the operational environment requirements would not return a certain value in response to a service request,

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which is provided by the base component in the composed TOE evaluation, any potential vulnerabilities relating to that return value previously scoped out should now be considered.

Also, this list of known, non-exploitable vulnerabilities resulting from the evaluation of the dependent component should be considered in the light of any known, non-exploitable vulnerabilities for the other components (e.g. base component) within the composed TOE. This covers the case where a potential vulnerability that is non-exploitable in isolation is exploitable when integrated with an IT entity containing another potential vulnerability.

17.7.3.6 Action ACO_VUL.3.3E

17.7.3.6.1 Evaluator action (ISO/IEC 15408-3:2026, 15.6.6)

The evaluator shall perform a search of public domain sources to identify possible vulnerabilities arising from use of the base and dependent components in the composed TOE operational environment.

17.7.3.6.2 Work unit ACO_VUL.3-5

The evaluator ***shall examine*** the sources of information publicly available to support the identification of possible security vulnerabilities in the base component that have become known since the completion of the base component evaluation.

The evaluator ***shall use*** the information in the public domain as described in AVA_VAN.3-2 (16.3.3.4.5) to search for vulnerabilities in the base component.

Those potential vulnerabilities that were publicly available prior to the evaluation of the base component are not required to be further investigated unless it is apparent to the evaluator that the attack potential required by an attacker to exploit the potential vulnerability has been significantly reduced. This can be through the introduction of some new technology after the base component evaluation which has simplified the exploitation process.

17.7.3.6.3 Work unit ACO_VUL.3-6

The evaluator ***shall examine*** the sources of information publicly available to support the identification of possible security vulnerabilities in the dependent component that have become known since completion of the dependent component evaluation.

The evaluator ***shall use*** the information in the public domain as described in AVA_VAN.3-2 (16.3.3.4.5) to search for vulnerabilities in the dependent component.

Those potential vulnerabilities that were publicly available prior to the evaluation of the dependent component are not required to be further investigated unless it is apparent to the evaluator that the attack potential required by an attacker to exploit the potential vulnerability has been significantly reduced. This can be through the introduction of some new technology after the base component evaluation which has simplified the exploitation process.

17.7.3.6.4 Work unit ACO_VUL.3-7

The evaluator ***shall record*** in the ETR the identified potential security vulnerabilities that are candidates for testing and applicable to the composed TOE in its operational environment.

The ST, guidance documentation and functional specification are used to determine whether the vulnerabilities are relevant to the composed TOE in its operational environment.

The evaluator records any reasons for exclusion of vulnerabilities from further consideration if the evaluator determines that the vulnerability is not applicable in the operational environment. Otherwise, the evaluator records the potential vulnerability for further consideration.

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A list of potential vulnerabilities applicable to the composed TOE in its operational environment, which can be used as an input into penetration testing activities ACO_VUL.3.5E (17.7.3.8), shall be reported in the ETR by the evaluators.

17.7.3.7 Action ACO_VUL.3.4E

17.7.3.7.1 Evaluator action (ISO/IEC 15408-3:2026, 15.6.6)

The evaluator shall perform an independent vulnerability analysis of the composed TOE, using the guidance documentation, reliance information and composition rationale to identify potential vulnerabilities in the composed TOE.

17.7.3.7.2 Work unit ACO_VUL.3-8

The evaluator ***shall conduct*** a search of the composed TOE ST, guidance documentation, reliance information and composition rationale to identify possible security vulnerabilities in the composed TOE.

The consideration of the components in the independent evaluator vulnerability analysis can take a slightly different form to that documented in AVA_VAN.3.3E (16.3.3.6) for a component evaluation, as it will not necessarily consider all layers of design abstraction relevant to the assurance package. These can have been considered during the evaluation of the base component, but it is possible that the evidence is not available for the composed TOE evaluation. However, the general approach described in the work units associated with AVA_VAN.3.3E (16.3.3.6) is applicable and should form the basis of the evaluator's search for potential vulnerabilities in the composed TOE.

A vulnerability analysis of the individual components used in the composed TOE shall have already been performed during evaluation of the components. The focus of the vulnerability analysis during the composed TOE evaluation shall be to identify any vulnerabilities introduced as a result of the integration of the components or due to any changes in the use of the components between the configuration of the component determined during the component evaluation and the composed TOE configuration.

The evaluator ***shall use*** the understanding of the component's construction as detailed in the reliance information for the dependent component, and the composition rationale and development information for the base component, together with the dependent component design information. This information shall allow the evaluator to gain an understanding of how the base component and dependent component interact.

The evaluator shall consider any new guidance provided for the installation, start-up and operation of the composed TOE to identify any potential vulnerabilities introduced through this revised guidance.

If any of the individual components have been through assurance continuity activities since the completion of the component evaluation, the evaluator shall consider the patch in the independent vulnerability analysis. Information related to the change provided in a public report of the assurance continuity activities (e.g. Maintenance Report). This shall be supplemented by any updates to the guidance documentation resulting from the change and any information regarding the change available in the public domain, e.g. vendor website.

Any risks identified due to the lack of evidence to establish the full impact of any patches or deviations in the configuration of a component from the evaluated configuration shall be documented in the evaluator's vulnerability analysis.

17.7.3.8 Action ACO_VUL.3.5E

17.7.3.8.1 Evaluator action (ISO/IEC 15408-3:2026, 15.6.6)

The evaluator shall conduct penetration testing, based on the identified vulnerabilities, to demonstrate that the composed TOE is resistant to attacks by an attacker with Enhanced-Basic attack potential.

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17.7.3.8.2 Work unit ACO_VUL.3-9

The evaluator ***shall conduct*** penetration testing as detailed for AVA_VAN.3.4E (16.3.3.7).

The evaluator shall apply all work units necessary for the satisfaction of evaluator action AVA_VAN.3.4E (16.3.3.7), reporting in the ETR for the composed TOE all analysis and verdicts as dictated by the work units.

The evaluator shall also apply the work units for the evaluator action AVA_VAN.3.1E (16.3.3.4) to determine that the composed TOE provided by the developer is suitable for testing.

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Annex A
(informative)

General evaluation guidance and requirements

A.1 Objectives

The objective of this annex is to cover general guidance and requirements used to provide technical evidence of evaluation results. The use of such general requirements and guidance helps in achieving objectivity, repeatability and reproducibility of the work performed by the evaluator.

A.2 Sampling

This clause provides general guidance and requirements on sampling. Specific and detailed information is given in the work units under the specific evaluator action elements where it is required to perform sampling.

Sampling is a defined procedure of an evaluator whereby some subset of a required set of evaluation evidence is examined and assumed to be representative for the entire set. It allows the evaluator to gain enough confidence in the correctness of particular evaluation evidence without analysing the whole evidence. The reason for sampling is to conserve resources while maintaining an adequate level of assurance. Sampling of the evidence can provide two possible outcomes:

— the subset reveals no errors, allowing the evaluator to have some confidence that the entire set is correct;

— the subset reveals errors and therefore the validity of the entire set is called into question. Even the resolution of all errors that were found can be insufficient to provide the evaluator with the necessary confidence. As a result, it can be necessary for the evaluator to increase the size of the subset, or stop using sampling for this particular evidence.

Sampling is a technique which can be used to reach a reliable conclusion if a set of evidence is relatively homogeneous in nature, e.g. if the evidence has been produced during a well-defined process.

Sampling in the cases identified in the ISO/IEC 15408 series, and in cases specifically covered in evaluation methodology work items, is recognised as a cost-effective approach to performing evaluator actions. Sampling in other areas is permitted only in exceptional cases, where performance of a particular activity in its entirety would require effort disproportionate to the other evaluation activities, and where this would not add correspondingly to assurance. In such cases a rationale for the use of sampling in that area should be made. Neither the fact that the TOE is large and complex, nor that it has many security functional requirements, is sufficient justification, since evaluations of large, complex TOEs can be expected to require more effort. Rather it is intended that this exception be limited to cases such as those where the TOE development approach yields large quantities of material for a particular requirement in the ISO/IEC 15408 series which would normally be expected to be checked or examined, and where such an action would not be expected to raise assurance correspondingly.

Sampling should be justified taking into account the possible impact on the security objectives and threats of the TOE. The impact depends on what can be missed as a result of sampling. Consideration should also be given to the nature of the evidence to be sampled, and the requirement not to diminish or ignore any security functions.

Sampling of evidence directly related to the implementation of the TOE (e.g. developer test results) requires a more thorough and rigorous approach than sampling related to the determination of whether a process is being followed. In many cases the evaluator is simply required to determine that a process is in place and is being followed, and a sampling strategy is recommended.

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The approach for sampling a developer's test results for confidence in the implementation of the TOE typically involves larger sample sizes.

In certain cases it can be appropriate for the evaluator to give greater emphasis to the repetition of developer testing. For example, if the independent tests left for the evaluator to perform would be only superficially different from those included in an extensive developer test set (possibly because the developer has performed more testing than necessary to satisfy the ATE_COV (Coverage) (15.3) and ATE_DPT (Depth) (15.4) criteria) then it would be appropriate for the evaluator to give greater focus to the repetition of developer tests. Note that this does not necessarily imply a requirement for a high percentage sample for repetition of developer tests; indeed, given an extensive developer test set, the evaluator can be able to justify a low percentage sample.

Where the developer has used an automated test suite to perform functional testing, it will usually be easier for the evaluator to re-run the entire test suite rather than repeat only a sample of developer tests. However, the evaluator does have an obligation to check that the automatic testing does not give misrepresentative results. The implication is thus that this check should be performed for a sample of the automatic test suite, with the principles for selecting some tests in preference to others and ensuring a sufficient sample size applying equally in this case.

The principles in the list below should be followed whenever sampling is performed:

— sampling should not be random, rather it should be chosen such that it is representative of all of the evidence. The sample size and composition should always be justified;

— when sampling relates to the correct implementation of the TOE, the sample should be representative of all aspects relevant to the areas that are sampled. In particular, the selection should cover a variety of components, interfaces, developer and operational sites (if more than one is involved) and hardware platform types (if more than one is involved). The sample size should be commensurate with the cost effectiveness of the evaluation and will depend on a number of TOE dependent factors (e.g. the size and complexity of the TOE, the amount of documentation);

— also, when sampling relates to specifically gaining evidence that the developer testing is repeatable and reproducible the sample used should be sufficient to represent all distinct aspects of developer testing, such as different test regimes. The sample used should be sufficient to detect any systematic problem in the developer's functional testing process. The evaluator contribution resulting from the combination of repeating developer tests and performing independent tests should be sufficient to address the major points of concern for the TOE;

— where sampling relates to gaining evidence that a process (e.g. visitor control or design review) the evaluator should sample sufficient information to gain reasonable confidence that the procedure is being followed;

— the sponsor and developer should not be informed in advance of the exact composition of the sample, subject to ensuring timely delivery of the sample and supporting deliverable, e.g. test harnesses and equipment to the evaluator in accordance with the evaluation schedule;

— the choice of the sample should be free from bias to the degree possible (e.g. not always choosing the first or last item). Ideally the sample selection should be done by someone other than the evaluator.

Errors found in the sample can be categorised as being either systematic or sporadic. If the error is systematic, the problem should be corrected and a completely new sample taken. If properly explained, sporadic errors can be solved without the need for a new sample, although the explanation should be confirmed. The evaluator should use judgement in determining whether to increase the sample size or use a different sample.

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A.3 Dependencies

A.3.1 General

In general, it is possible to perform the required evaluation activities, sub-activities, and actions in any order or in parallel. However, there are different kinds of dependencies which should be considered by the evaluator. General guidance on dependencies between different activities, sub-activities, and actions is provided.

A.3.2 Dependencies between activities

For some cases the different assurance classes can recommend or even require a sequence for the related activities. A specific instance is the ST activity. The ST evaluation activity is started prior to any TOE evaluation activities since the ST provides the basis and context to perform them. However, it can be the case that providing a final verdict on the ST evaluation is not possible until the TOE evaluation is complete, since changes to the ST can result from activity findings during the TOE evaluation.

A.3.3 Dependencies between sub-activities

Dependencies identified between components in ISO/IEC 15408-3:2026 should be considered by the evaluator. Most dependencies are one way, e.g. AVA_VAN.1 (Vulnerability survey) (16.3.1) claims a dependency on ADV_FSP.1 (Basic functional specification) (12.4.1) and AGD_OPE.1 (Operational user guidance) (13.3.1). There are also instances of mutual dependencies, where both components depend on each other. An example of this is ATE_FUN.1 (Functional testing) (15.5.1) and ATE_COV.1 (Evidence of coverage) (15.3.1).

A sub-activity can be assigned a pass verdict normally only if all those sub-activities are successfully completed on which it has a one-way dependency. For example, a pass verdict on AVA_VAN.1 (Vulnerability survey) (16.3.1) can normally only be assigned if the sub-activities related to ADV_FSP.1 (Basic functional specification) (12.4.1) and AGD_OPE.1 (Operational user guidance) (13.3.1) are assigned a pass verdict too. In the case of mutual dependency the ordering of these components is down to the evaluator deciding which sub-activity to perform first. Note that this indicates that pass verdicts can normally only be assigned once both sub-activities have been successful.

When determining whether a sub-activity will impact another sub-activity, the evaluator should consider whether this activity depends on potential evaluation results from any dependent sub-activities. Indeed, it can be the case that a dependent sub-activity will impact this sub-activity, requiring previously completed evaluator actions to be performed again.

A significant dependency effect occurs in the case of evaluator-detected flaws. If a flaw is identified as a result of conducting one sub-activity, the assignment of a pass verdict to a dependent sub-activity can require all flaws related to the sub-activity upon which it depends to be resolved.

A.3.4 Dependencies between actions

It can be the case, that results which are generated by the evaluator during one action are used for performing another action. For example, actions for completeness and consistency cannot be completed until the checks for content and presentation have been completed. This means for example that the evaluator is recommended to evaluate the PP or ST rationale after evaluating the constituent parts of the PP or ST.

A.4 Site visits

A.4.1 General

The assurance class class ALC (life cycle support) (Clause 14) includes requirements for:

— the application of configuration management, ensuring that the integrity of the TOE is preserved;

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— measures, procedures, and standards (international, national, industry or organizational) concerned with secure delivery of the TOE, ensuring that the security protection offered by the TOE is not compromised during the transfer to the user;

— security measures, used to protect the development environment.

A development site visit is a useful means whereby the evaluator determines whether procedures are being followed in a manner consistent with that described in the documentation.

Reasons for visiting sites include:

— to observe the use of the CM system as described in the CM plan;

— to observe the practical application of delivery procedures as described in the delivery documentation;

— to observe the application of security measures during development and maintenance of the TOE as described in the developer environment security documentation.

Specific and detailed information is given in work units for those activities where site visits are performed:

— ALC_CMC.*n* with *n*>=3 (especially work unit ALC_CMC.3-10 (14.3.3.3.19) = ALC_CMC.4-13 (14.3.4.3.24) = ALC_CMC.5-19 (14.3.5.3.36));

— ALC_DEL (Delivery) (14.5);

— ALC_DVS (Developer environment security) (14.6) (especially work unit ALC_DVS.1-3 (14.6.1.4.2) = ALC_DVS.2-4 (14.6.2.4.2)).

A.4.2 General approach

During an evaluation, it is often necessary that the evaluator will meet the developer more than once and it is a question of good planning to combine the site visit with another meeting to reduce costs. For example, it can be possible to combine the site visits for configuration management, for the developer's security and for delivery. It can also be necessary to perform more than one site visit to the same site to allow the checking of all development phases. It should be considered that development can occur at multiple facilities within a single building, multiple buildings at the same site, or at multiple sites.

The first site visit should be scheduled early during the evaluation. In the case of an evaluation which starts during the development phase of the TOE, this will allow corrective actions to be taken, if necessary. In the case of an evaluation which starts after the development of the TOE, an early site visit can allow corrective measures to be put in place if serious deficiencies in the applied procedures emerge. This avoids unnecessary evaluation effort.

Interviews are also a useful means of determining whether the written procedures reflect what is done. In conducting such interviews, the evaluator aims to gain a deeper understanding of the analysed procedures at the development site, how they are used in practise and whether they are being applied as described in the provided evaluation evidence. Such interviews complement but do not replace the examination of evaluation evidence.

As a first step preparing the site visits the evaluators should perform the evaluator work units concerning the assurance class class ALC (life cycle support) (Clause 14) excluding the aspects describing the results of the site visit. Based on the information provided by the relevant developer documentation and the remaining open questions which were not answered by the documentation the evaluators compile a check list of the questions which shall be resolved by the site visits.

The first version of the evaluation report concerning class ALC (life cycle support) (Clause 14) and the check list serves as input for the consultation with the evaluation authority concerning the site visits.

The check list serves as a guideline for the site visits, and identifies which questions shall be answered by inspection of the relevant measures, their application and results, and which by interviews. Where appropriate, sampling is used for gaining the required level of confidence (see A.2).

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The results of the site visits are recorded and serve as input for the final version of the evaluation report concerning the assurance class class ALC (life cycle support) (Clause 14).

Other approaches to gain confidence should be considered that provide an equivalent level of assurance (e.g. to analyse evaluation evidence). Any decision not to make a visit shall be determined in consultation with the evaluation authority. Appropriate security criteria and a methodology should be based on other standards (international, national, industry or organizational) of the Information Security Management Systems area.

A.5 Orientation guide for the preparation of the checklist

A.5.1 Aspects of configuration management

The following keywords regarding configuration management should be checked during an audit.

Basic:

— items of the configuration list, including TOE, source code, run time libraries, design documentation, development tools (ALC_CMC.3-8 (14.3.3.3.16));

— tracking of design documentation, source code, user guidance to different versions of the TOE;

— integration of the configuration system in the design and development process, test planning, test analysis and quality management procedures.

Test analysis:

— tracking of test plans and results to specific configurations and versions of the TOE;

Access control to development systems:

— policies for access control and logging;

— policies for project specific assignment and changing of access rights.

Clearance:

— policies for clearance of the TOE and user guidance to the customer;

— policies for testing and approving of components and the TOE before deployment.

A.5.2 Aspects of developer environment security

Infrastructure:

— security measures for physical access control to the development site and rationale for the effectiveness of these measures.

Organizational measures:

— organizational structure of the company in respect of the security of the development environment;

— organizational separation between development, production, testing and quality assurance.

Personnel measures:

— measures for education of the personnel in respect of development security;

— measures and legal agreements of non-disclosure of internal information.

Access control:

— assignment of secured objects (for instance TOE, source code, run time libraries, design documentation, development tools, user guidance) and security policies;

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— policies and responsibilities concerning the access control and the handling of authentication information;

— policies for logging of any kind of access to the development site and protection of the logging data.

Input, processing and output of data:

— security measures for protection of output and output devices (printer, plotter and displays);

— securing of local networks and communication connections.

Storage, transfer and destruction of documents and data media:

— policies for handling of documents and data media;

— policies and responsibilities for destruction of sorted out documents and logging of these events.

Data protection:

— policies and responsibilities for data and information protection (e.g. for performing backups).

Contingency plan:

— practices in case of emergency and responsibilities;

— documentation of the contingency measures concerning access control;

— information of the personnel about applicable practises in extreme cases.

— protection processes (e.g. for performing backups).

A.5.3 Example of a checklist

The examples of checklists for site visits consist of tables for the preparation of an audit and for the presentation of the results of an audit.

The checklist structure given in the examples is preliminary.

The checklist is divided into three topics according to the subjects indicated in A.4.1:

— configuration management system;

— delivery procedures;

— security measures during development.

These topics correspond to the class ALC (life cycle support) (Clause 14), especially the families ALC_CMC.*n* with *n*>=3, ALC_DEL (Delivery) (14.5) and ALC_DVS (Developer environment security) (14.6).

The topics are subdivided further into table rows corresponding to the relevant work units of this document. See Table A.1.

The columns of the checklist contain in turn:

— a unique reference number (the example uses consecutive numbers prefixed with a letter) ;

— the referenced work unit;

— the references to the corresponding developer documentation;

— the explicit reproduction of the developer measures;

— special remarks and questions to be clarified on the visit (beyond the standard evaluator task to verify the application of the indicated measures);

— the result of the examinations during the visit.

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If it is decided to have separate checklists for preparation and reporting of the audit, the result column is omitted in the preparation list and the remarks and questions column is omitted in the reporting list. The remaining columns should be identical in both lists.

Table A.1 — Example of a checklist at EAL 4 (extract)

A. Examination of the CM system (ALC_CMC.4 (Production support, acceptance procedures and automation) (14.3.4) and ALC_CMS.4 (Problem tracking CM coverage) (14.4.4))					
No.	Work Unit	Developer Documentation	Measures	Questions and Remarks	Result
A.1	ALC_CMC.4-11 (14.3.4.3.21), ALC_CMC.4-12 (14.3.4.3.23)	Configuration Management System, etc.	The system automatically managing the source code files is capable of administering user profiles and graded access rights, and of checking identification and authentication of users.	Does reading or updating of a source code file require a user authentication?	If a user has not the right to access a confidential document, it is not even displayed in the file list.
B. Examination of the Delivery Procedures (ALC_DEL.1 (Delivery procedures) (14.5.1))					
No.	Work Unit	Developer Documentation	Measures	Questions and Remarks	Result
B.1	ALC_DEL.1-1 (14.5.1.3.3)	Delivery of the TOE, etc.	The software is transmitted PGP-signed and encrypted to the customer.	—	The evaluators have checked the process and found it as described, additionally a checksum is transmitted.
C. Examination of the organisational and infrastructural developer security (ALC_DVS.1 (Identification of security controls) (14.6.1), ALC_LCD.1 (Developer defined life cycle processes) (14.8.1), ALC_TAT.1 (Well-defined development tools) (14.10.1))					
No.	Work Unit	Developer Documentation	Measures	Questions and Remarks	Result
C.1	ALC_DVS.1-1 (14.6.1.3.3), ALC_DVS.1-2 (14.6.1.3.4)	Security of the development environment, etc. (Premises)	The premises are protected by security fencing.	Is the fencing sufficiently strong and high to prevent an easy intrusion into the premises?	The evaluators considered the fencing to be sufficiently strong and high.
C.2	ALC_DVS.1-1 (14.6.1.3.3), ALC_DVS.1-2 (14.6.1.3.4)	Security of the development environment, etc. (Building)	The building has the following access possibilities: The main entrance which is surveyed by the reception and is closed if the reception is not manned. And an access in the goods reception which is secured by two roller shutters.	Is the listing of the access possibilities complete?	Beyond the indicated access possibilities, there is an emergency exit that cannot be opened from the outside. The roller shutters mentioned before can be operated only from inside.

A.6 Scheme responsibilities

This document describes the minimum technical work that evaluations conducted under oversight (scheme) bodies shall perform before issuing an oversight verdict. However, it also recognises (both explicitly and implicitly) that there are activities or methods upon which mutual recognition of evaluation results do not rely. For the purposes of thoroughness and clarity, and to better delineate where the role of this document ends and an individual scheme's methodology begins, the following matters a) through t) are left up to the discretion of the schemes. Schemes can choose to set the requirements, although they can choose to leave some unspecified. (Every effort has been made to ensure this list is complete; evaluators encountering a

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subject neither listed here nor addressed in this document shall consult with their evaluation schemes to determine under whose auspices the subject falls.)

The matters that schemes can choose to specify include:

a) what is required in ensuring that an evaluation was done sufficiently - every scheme has a means of verifying the technical competence, understanding of work and the work of its evaluators, whether by requiring the evaluators to present their findings to the oversight body, by requiring the oversight body to redo the evaluator's work, or by some other means that assures the scheme that all evaluation bodies are adequate and comparable;

b) the process for disposing of evaluation evidence upon completion of an evaluation;

c) any requirements for confidentiality (on the part of the evaluator and the non-disclosure of information obtained during evaluation);

d) the course of action to be taken if a problem is encountered during the evaluation (whether the evaluation continues once the problem is remedied, or the evaluation ends immediately, and the remedied product shall be re-submitted for evaluation);

e) any specific (natural) language in which documentation shall be provided;

f) any recorded evidence that shall be submitted in the ETR - this document specifies the minimum to be reported in an ETR; however, individual schemes can require additional information to be included;

g) any additional reports (other than the ETR) required from the evaluators -for example, testing reports;

h) any specific ORs that can be required by the scheme, including the structure, recipients, etc. of any such ORs;

i) any specific content structure of any written report as a result from an ST evaluation - a scheme can have a specific format for all of its reports detailing results of an evaluation, be it the evaluation of a TOE or of an ST;

j) any additional PP or ST identification information required;

k) any activities to determine the suitability of explicitly-stated requirements in an ST;

l) any requirements for provision of evaluator evidence to support re-evaluation and re-use of evidence;

m) any specific handling of scheme identifiers, logos, trademarks, etc.;

n) any specific guidance in dealing with cryptography;

o) handling and application of scheme, national and international interpretations;

p) a list or characterisations of suitable alternative approaches to testing where testing is infeasible;

q) the mechanism by which an evaluation authority can determine what steps an evaluator took while testing;

r) the preferred test approach (if any): at internal interface or at external interface;

s) a list or characterisation of acceptable means of conducting the evaluator's vulnerability analysis (e.g. flaw hypothesis methodology);

t) information regarding any vulnerabilities and weaknesses to be considered.

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Annex B
(normative)

Vulnerability assessment (AVA)

B.1 General

This annex provides an explanation of the AVA_VAN (Vulnerability analysis) (16.3) criteria and examples of their application. This annex does not define the class AVA (Vulnerability assessment) (Clause 16) criteria; this definition can be found in class AVA (Vulnerability assessment) (Clause 16).

This annex consists of two major parts:

— guidance for completing an independent vulnerability analysis. This is summarized in B.2 and described in more detail in B.3. Descriptions of how an evaluator should approach the construction of an independent vulnerability analysis are included.

— how to characterise and use assumed attack potential of an attacker. This is described in B.6 to B.8. Examples are given of how an attack potential can be characterised and how it should be used.

B.2 What is vulnerability analysis

The purpose of the vulnerability assessment activity is to determine the existence and exploitability of flaws or weaknesses in the TOE in the operational environment. This determination is based upon analysis performed by the evaluator, and is supported by evaluator testing.

At the lowest levels of AVA_VAN (Vulnerability analysis) (16.3) the evaluator simply performs a search of publicly available information to identify any known weaknesses in the TOE, while at the higher levels the evaluator performs a structured analysis of the TOE evaluation evidence.

There are three main factors in performing a vulnerability analysis, namely:

— the identification of potential vulnerabilities;

— assessment to determine whether the identified potential vulnerabilities can allow an attacker with the relevant attack potential to violate the SFRs.

— penetration testing to determine whether the identified potential vulnerabilities are exploitable in the operational environment of the TOE.

The identification of vulnerabilities can be further decomposed into the evidence to be searched and how hard to search that evidence to identify potential vulnerabilities. In a similar manner, the penetration testing can be further decomposed into analysis of the potential vulnerability to identify attack methods and the demonstration of the attack methods.

These main factors are iterative in nature, i.e. penetration testing of potential vulnerabilities can lead to the identification of further potential vulnerabilities. Hence, these are performed as a single vulnerability analysis activity.

B.3 Evaluator construction of a vulnerability analysis

The evaluator vulnerability analysis is intended to determine that the TOE is resistant to penetration attacks performed by an attacker possessing a potential which is:

— Basic (for AVA_VAN.1 (Vulnerability survey) (16.3.1) and AVA_VAN.2 (Vulnerability analysis) (16.3.2)),

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— Enhanced-Basic (for AVA_VAN.3 (Focused vulnerability analysis) (16.3.3)),

— Moderate (for AVA_VAN.4 (Methodical vulnerability analysis) (16.3.4)), or

— High (for AVA_VAN.5 (Advanced methodical vulnerability analysis) (16.3.5)).

The evaluator first assesses the exploitability of all identified potential vulnerabilities. This is accomplished by conducting penetration testing. The evaluator adopts the role of an attacker with the appropriate Basic, Enhanced-Basic, Moderate (for or High attack potential when attempting to penetrate the TOE.

The evaluator considers potential vulnerabilities encountered by the evaluator during the conduct of other evaluation activities. The evaluator penetration testing determining TOE resistance to these potential vulnerabilities should be performed assuming the role of an attacker with the appropriate Basic, Enhanced-Basic, Moderate or High attack potential.

However, vulnerability analysis should not be performed as an isolated activity. It is closely linked with class ADV (Development) (Clause 12) and class AGD (Guidance documents) (Clause 13). The evaluator performs these other evaluation activities with a focus on identifying potential vulnerabilities or "areas of concern". Therefore, evaluator familiarity with the generic vulnerability guidance (provided in B.4) is required.

B.4 Generic vulnerability guidance

B.4.1 Bypassing

Bypassing includes any means by which an attacker can avoid security enforcement, by:

— exploiting the capabilities of interfaces to the TOE, or of utilities which can interact with the TOE;

— inheriting privileges or other capabilities that are expected to be denied;

— (where confidentiality is a concern) reading sensitive data stored or copied to inadequately protected areas.

Each of the following should be considered (where relevant) in the evaluator's independent vulnerability analysis:

— attacks based on exploiting the capabilities of interfaces or utilities generally take advantage of the absence of the required security enforcement on those interfaces. For example, gaining access to functionality that is implemented at a lower level than that at which access control is enforced. Relevant items include:

  — changing the predefined sequence of invocation of TSFIs;

  — invoking an additional TSFI;

  — using a component in an unexpected context or for an unexpected purpose;

  — using implementation detail introduced in less abstract representations;

  — using the delay between time of access check and time of use.

— changing the predefined sequence of invocation of components should be considered where there is an expected order in which interfaces to the TOE (e.g. user commands) are called to invoke a TSFI (e.g. opening a file for access and then reading data from it). If a TSFI is invoked through one of the TOE interfaces (e.g. an access control check), the evaluator should consider whether it is possible to bypass the control by performing the call at a later point in the sequence or by missing it out altogether;

— executing an additional component (in the predefined sequence) is a similar form of attack to the one described above, but involves the calling of some other TOE interface at some point in the sequence. It can also involve attacks based on interception of sensitive data passed over a network by use of network traffic analysers (the additional component here being the network traffic analyser);

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— using a component in an unexpected context or for an unexpected purpose includes using an unrelated TOE interface to bypass the TSF by using it to achieve a purpose that it was not designed or intended to achieve. Covert channels are an example of this type of attack (see B.4.4 for further discussion of covert channels). The use of undocumented interfaces, which can be insecure, also falls into this category. Such interfaces can include undocumented support and help facilities;

— using implementation detail introduced in lower representations can allow an attacker to take advantage of additional functions, resources or attributes that are introduced to the TOE as a consequence of the refinement process. Additional functionality can include test harness code contained in software modules and back-doors introduced during the implementation process;

— using the delay between time of check and time of use includes scenarios where an access control check is made and access granted, and an attacker is subsequently able to create conditions in which, had they applied at the time the access check was made, would have caused the check to fail. An example would be a user creating a background process to read and send highly sensitive data to the user's terminal, and then logging out and logging back in again at a lower sensitivity level. If the background process is not terminated when the user logs off, the MAC checks would have been effectively bypassed;

— attacks based on inheriting privileges are generally based on illicitly acquiring the privileges or capabilities of some privileged component, usually by exiting from it in an uncontrolled or unexpected manner. Relevant items include:

  — executing data not intended to be executable, or making it executable;

  — generating unexpected input for a component;

  — invalidating assumptions and properties on which lower-level components rely.

— executing data not intended to be executable, or making it executable includes attacks involving viruses (e.g. putting executable code or commands in a file which are automatically executed when the file is edited or accessed, thus inheriting any privileges the owner of the file has);

— generating unexpected input for a component can have unexpected effects which an attacker can take advantage of. For example, if the TSF can be bypassed if a user gains access to the underlying operating system, it can be possible to gain such access following the login sequence by exploring the effect of hitting various control or escape sequences whilst a password is being authenticated;

— invalidating assumptions and properties on which lower level components rely includes attacks based on breaking out of the constraints of an application to gain access to an underlying operating system in order to bypass the TSF of an application. In this case the assumption being invalidated is that it is not possible for a user of the application to gain such access. A similar attack can be envisaged against an application on an underlying database management system: again the TSF can be bypassed if an attacker can break out of the constraints of the application;

— attacks based on reading sensitive data stored in inadequately protected areas (applicable where confidentiality is a concern) include the following issues which should be considered as possible means of gaining access to sensitive data:

  — disk scavenging;

  — access to unprotected memory;

  — exploiting access to shared writable files or other shared resources (e.g. swap files);

  — activating error recovery to determine what access users can obtain. For example, after a crash an automatic file recovery system can employ a lost and found directory for headerless files, which are on disk without labels. If the TOE implements mandatory access controls, it is important to investigate at what security level this directory is kept (e.g. at system high), and who has access to this directory.

There are a number of different methods through which an evaluator can identify a back-door, including two main techniques. Firstly, by the evaluator inadvertently identifying during testing an interface that can be

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misused. Secondly, through testing each external interface of the TSF in a debugging mode to identify any modules that are not called as a part of testing the documented interfaces and then inspecting the code that is not called to consider whether it is a back-door.

For a software TOE where evaluation of sub-activity ADV_IMP.2 (Complete mapping of the implementation representation of the TSF) (12.5.2) and ALC_TAT.2 (Compliance with implementation standards) (14.10.2) or higher components are included in the assurance package, the evaluator can consider during their analysis of the tools the libraries and packages that are linked by the compiler at compilation stage to determine that back-doors are not introduced at this stage.

B.4.2 Tampering

Tampering includes any attack based on an attacker attempting to influence the behaviour of the TSF (i.e. corruption or de-activation), for example by:

— accessing data on whose confidentiality or integrity the TSF relies;

— forcing the TOE to cope with unusual or unexpected circumstances;

— disabling or delaying security enforcement;

— physically modifying the TOE.

Each of the following should be considered (where relevant) in the evaluator's independent vulnerability analysis:

— attacks based on accessing data, whose confidentiality or integrity are protected, include:

  — reading, writing or modifying internal data directly or indirectly;

  — using a component in an unexpected context or for an unexpected purpose;

  — using interfaces between components that are not visible at a higher level of abstraction;

— reading, writing or modifying internal data directly or indirectly includes the following types of attack which shall be considered:

  — reading "secrets" stored internally, such as user passwords;

  — spoofing internal data that security enforcing mechanisms rely upon;

  — modifying environment variables (e.g. logical names), or data in configuration files or temporary files;

— it is possible to deceive a trusted process into modifying a protected file that it wouldn't normally access;

— the evaluator should also consider the following "dangerous features":

  — source code resident on the TOE along with a compiler (for instance, it can be possible to modify the login source code);

  — an interactive debugger and patch facility (for instance, it can be possible to modify the executable image);

  — the possibility of making changes at device controller level, where file protection does not exist;

  — diagnostic code which exists in the source code and that can be optionally included;

  — developer's tools left in the TOE.

— using a component in an unexpected context or for an unexpected purpose includes (for example), where the TOE is an application built upon an operating system, users exploiting knowledge of a word processor package or other editor to modify their own command file (e.g. to acquire greater privileges);

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- using interfaces between components which are not visible at a higher level of abstraction includes attacks exploiting shared access to resources, where modification of a resource by one component can influence the behaviour of another (trusted) component, e.g. at source code level, through the use of global data or indirect mechanisms such as shared memory or semaphores;
- attacks based on forcing the TOE to cope with unusual or unexpected circumstances shall always be considered. Relevant items include:
  - generating unexpected input for a component;
  - invalidating assumptions and properties on which lower-level components rely;
- generating unexpected input for a component includes investigating the behaviour of the TOE when:
  - command input buffers overflow (possibly "crashing the stack" or overwriting other storage, which an attacker can be able to take advantage of, or forcing a crash dump that can contain sensitive information such as clear-text passwords);
  - invalid commands or parameters are entered (including supplying a read-only parameter to an interface which expects to return data via that parameter and supplying improperly formatted input that is expected to fail parsing such as SQL-injection, format strings);
  - an end-of-file marker (e.g. CTRL-Z or CTRL-D) or null character is inserted in an audit trail.
- invalidating assumptions and properties on which lower-level components rely includes attacks taking advantage of errors in the source code where the code assumes (explicitly or implicitly) that security relevant data is in a particular format or has a particular range of values. In these cases, the evaluator should determine whether they can invalidate such assumptions by causing the data to be in a different format or to have different values, and if so whether this can confer advantage to an attacker;
- the correct behaviour of the TSF can be dependent on assumptions that are invalidated under extreme circumstances where resource limits are reached or parameters reach their maximum value. The evaluator should consider (where practical) the behaviour of the TOE when these limits are reached, for example:
  - changing dates (e.g. examining how the TOE behaves when a critical date threshold is passed);
  - filling disks;
  - exceeding the maximum number of users;
  - filling the audit log;
  - saturating security alarm queues at a console;
  - overloading various parts of a multi-user TOE which relies heavily upon communications components;
  - swamping a network, or individual hosts, with traffic;
  - filling buffers or fields.
- attacks based on disabling or delaying security enforcement include the following items:
  - using interrupts or scheduling functions to disrupt sequencing;
  - disrupting concurrence;
  - using interfaces between components which are not visible at a higher level of abstraction.
- using interrupts or scheduling functions to disrupt sequencing includes investigating the behaviour of the TOE when:
  - a command is interrupted (with CTRL-C, CTRL-Y, etc.);

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- a second interrupt is issued before the first is acknowledged.

- the effects of terminating security critical processes (e.g. an audit daemon) should be explored. Similarly, it can be possible to delay the logging of audit records or the issuing or receipt of alarms such that it is of no use to an administrator (since the attack can already have succeeded);

- disrupting concurrence includes investigating the behaviour of the TOE when two or more subjects attempt simultaneous access. It can be that the TOE can cope with the interlocking required when two subjects attempt simultaneous access, but that the behaviour becomes less well defined in the presence of further subjects. For example, a critical security process can be put into a resource-wait state if two other processes are accessing a resource which it requires;

- using interfaces between components which are not visible at a higher level of abstraction can provide a means of delaying a time-critical trusted process;

- physical attacks can be categorised into physical probing, physical manipulation, physical modification, and substitution:

  - physical probing by penetrating the TOE targeting internals of the TOE, e.g. reading at internal communication interfaces, lines or memories;

  - physical manipulation can be with the TOE internals aiming at internal modifications of the TOE (e.g. by using optical fault induction as an interaction process), at the external interfaces of the TOE (e.g. by power or clock glitches) and at the TOE environment (e.g. by modifying temperature);

  - physical modification of TOE internal security enforcing attributes to inherit privileges or other capabilities that are expected to be denied in regular operation. Such modifications can be caused, e.g. by optical fault induction. Attacks based on physical modification can also yield a modification of the TSF itself, e.g. by causing faults at TOE internal program data transfers before execution. Note that such kinds of bypassing by modifying the TSF itself can jeopardise every TSF unless there are other measures (possibly environmental measures) that prevent an attacker from gaining physical access to the TOE;

  - physical substitution to replace the TOE with another IT entity, during delivery or operation of the TOE. Substitution during delivery of the TOE from the development environment to the user is expected to be prevented through application of secure delivery procedures, such as those considered under ALC_DVS (Developer environment security) (14.6). Substitution of the TOE during operation can be considered through a combination of user guidance and the operational environment, such that the user is able to be confident that they are interacting with the TOE.

B.4.3 Direct attacks

Direct attack includes the identification of any penetration tests necessary to test the strength of permutational or probabilistic mechanism and other mechanisms to ensure they withstand direct attack.

For example, it can be a flawed assumption that a particular implementation of a pseudo-random number generator will possess the required entropy necessary to seed the security mechanism.

Where a probabilistic or permutational mechanism relies on selection of security attribute value (e.g. selection of password length) or entry of data by a human user (e.g. choice of password), the assumptions made shall reflect the worst case.

Probabilistic or permutational mechanisms should be identified during examination of evaluation evidence required as input to this sub-activity (security target, functional specification, TOE design and implementation representation subset) and any other TOE (e.g. guidance) documentation can identify additional probabilistic or permutational mechanisms.

Where the design evidence or guidance includes assertions or assumptions (e.g. about how many authentication attempts are possible per minute), the evaluator should independently confirm that these are correct. This can be achieved through testing or through independent analysis.

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Direct attacks reliant upon a weakness in a cryptographic algorithm are not considered under AVA_VAN (Vulnerability analysis) (16.3), as this is outside the scope of ISO/IEC 15408-3. Correctness of the implementation of the cryptographic algorithm is considered during the class ADV (Development) (Clause 12) and class ATE (Tests) (Clause 15) activities.

B.4.4 Monitoring

Information is an abstract view on relation between the properties of entities, i.e. a signal contains information for a system, if the TOE is able to react to this signal. The TOE resources processes and stores information represented by user data. Therefore:

— information can flow with the user data between subjects by internal TOE transfer or export from the TOE;

— information can be generated and passed to other user data;

— information can be gained through monitoring the operations on data representing the information.

The information represented by user data can be characterised by security attributes like "classification level" having values, for example unclassified, confidential, secret, top secret, to control operations to the data. This information and therefore the security attributes can be changed by operations e.g. FDP_ACC.2 (Complete access control) (see ISO/IEC 15408-2:2026, 11.3.7) can describe decrease of the level by "sanitisation" or increase of level by combination of data. This is one aspects of an information flow analysis focused on controlled operations of controlled subjects on controlled objects.

The other aspect is the analysis of illicit information flow. This aspect is more general than the direct access to objects containing user data addressed by the FDP_ACC (Access control policy) (see ISO/IEC 15408-2:2026, 11.3) family. An unenforced signalling channel carrying information under control of the information flow control policy can also be caused by monitoring of the processing of any object containing or related to this information (e.g. side channels). An enforced signalling channel can be identified in terms of the subjects manipulating resources and the subject or user that observe such manipulation. Classically, covert channels have been identified as timing or storage channels, according to the resource being modified or modulated. As for other monitoring attacks, the use of the TOE is in accordance with the SFRs.

Covert channels are normally applicable in the case when the TOE has unobservability and multi-level separation policy requirements. Covert channels can be routinely spotted during vulnerability analysis and design activities, and should therefore be tested. However, generally such monitoring attacks are only identified through specialised analysis techniques commonly referred to as "covert channel analysis". These techniques have been the subject of much research and there are many papers published on this subject. Guidance for the conduct of covert channel analysis shall be sought from the evaluation authority.

Unenforced information flow monitoring attacks include passive analysis techniques aiming at disclosure of sensitive internal data of the TOE by operating the TOE in the way that corresponds to the guidance documents.

Side Channel Analysis includes crypt analytical techniques based on physical leakage of the TOE. Physical leakage can occur by timing information, power consumption or power emanation during computation of a TSF. Timing information can be collected also by a remote-attacker (having network access to the TOE), power based information channels require that the attacker is in the near-by environment of the TOE.

Eavesdropping techniques include interception of all forms of energy, e.g. electromagnetic or optical emanation of computer displays, not necessarily in the near-field of the TOE.

Monitoring also includes exploits of protocol flaws, e.g. an attack on SSL implementation.

B.4.5 Misuse

Misuse can arise from:

— incomplete guidance documentation;

— unreasonable guidance;

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— unintended misconfiguration of the TOE;

— forced exception behaviour of the TOE.

If the guidance documentation is incomplete, it is possible that the user does not know how to operate the TOE in accordance with the SFRs. The evaluator should apply familiarity with the TOE gained from performing other evaluation activities to determine that the guidance is complete. In particular, the evaluator should consider the functional specification. The TSF described in this document is expected to be described in the guidance together with the guidance needed to permit secure administration and use through the TSFIs available to human users. In addition, the different modes of operation should be considered to ensure that guidance is provided for all modes of operation.

The evaluator can, as an aid, prepare an informal mapping between the guidance and these documents. Any omissions in this mapping can indicate incompleteness.

The guidance is considered to be unreasonable if it makes demands on the TOE's usage or operational environment that are inconsistent with the ST or unduly onerous to maintain security.

A TOE can use a variety of ways to assist the consumer in effectively using that TOE in accordance with the SFRs and prevent unintentional misconfiguration. A TOE can employ functionality (features) to alert the consumer when the TOE is in a state that is inconsistent with the SFRs, whilst other TOEs can be delivered with enhanced guidance containing suggestions, hints, procedures, etc. on using the existing security features most effectively. For instance, this guidance can be on using the audit feature as an aid for detecting when the SFRs are being compromised.

The evaluator considers the TOE's functionality, its purpose and security objectives for the operational environment to arrive at a conclusion of whether or not there is reasonable expectation that use of the guidance would permit transition into an insecure state to be detected in a timely manner.

The potential for the TOE to enter into insecure states can be determined using the evaluation deliverables, such as the ST, the functional specification and any other design representations provided as evidence for components included in the assurance package for the TOE (e.g. the TOE or TSF design specification if a component from ADV_TDS (TOE design) (12.8) is included).

Instances of forced exception behaviour of the TSF can include, but are not limited to, the following:

— behaviour of the TOE when start-up, close-down or error recovery is activated;

— behaviour of the TOE under extreme circumstances (sometimes termed overload or asymptotic behaviour), particularly where this can lead to the de-activation or disabling of parts of the TSF;

— any potential for unintentional misconfiguration or insecure use arising from attacks noted in B.4.2 above.

B.5 Identification of potential vulnerabilities

B.5.1 General

Potential vulnerabilities can be identified by the evaluator during different activities. They can become apparent during an evaluation activity or they can be identified as a result of analysis of evidence to search for vulnerabilities.

B.5.2 Encountered

The encountered identification of vulnerabilities is where potential vulnerabilities are identified by the evaluator during the conduct of evaluation activities, i.e. the evidence are not being analysed with the express aim of identifying potential vulnerabilities.

The encountered method of identification is dependent on the evaluator's experience and knowledge; which is monitored and controlled by the evaluation authority. It is not reproducible in approach but will be documented to ensure repeatability of the conclusions from the reported potential vulnerabilities.

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There are no formal analysis criteria required for this method. Potential vulnerabilities are identified from the evidence provided as a result of knowledge and experience. However, this method of identification is not constrained to any particular subset of evidence.

The evaluator is assumed to have knowledge of the TOE-type technology and known security flaws as documented in the public domain. The level of knowledge assumed is that which can be gained from a security e-mail list relevant to the TOE type, the regular bulletins (e.g. bug, vulnerability and security flaw lists) published by those organisations researching security issues in products and technologies in widespread use. This knowledge is not expected to extend to specific conference proceedings or detailed theses produced by university research for AVA_VAN.1 (Vulnerability survey) (16.3.1) or AVA_VAN.2 (Vulnerability analysis) (16.3.2). However, to ensure the knowledge applied is up to date, the evaluator can be required to perform a search of public domain material.

For AVA_VAN.3 (Focused vulnerability analysis) (16.3.3) to AVA_VAN.5 (Advanced methodical vulnerability analysis) (16.3.5) the search of publicly available information is expected to include conference proceeding and theses produced during research activities by universities and other relevant organisations.

Examples of how the evaluator can encounter potential vulnerabilities:

— while the evaluator is examining some evidence, it sparks a memory of a potential vulnerability identified in a similar product type, that the evaluator believes to also be present in the TOE under evaluation;

— while examining some evidence, the evaluator spots a flaw in the specification of an interface, which reflects a potential vulnerability.

This can include becoming aware of a potential vulnerability in a TOE through reading about generic vulnerabilities in a particular product type in an IT security publication or on a security e-mail list to which the evaluator is subscribed.

Attack methods can be developed directly from these potential vulnerabilities. Therefore, the encountered potential vulnerabilities are collated at the time of producing penetration tests based on the evaluator's vulnerability analysis. There is no explicit action for the evaluator to encounter potential vulnerabilities. Therefore, the evaluator is directed through an implicit action specified in AVA_VAN.1.2E (16.3.1.5) and AVA_VAN.*.4E.

Current information regarding public domain vulnerabilities and attacks can be provided to the evaluator by, for example, an evaluation authority. This information shall be taken into account by the evaluator when collating encountered vulnerabilities and attack methods when developing penetration tests.

B.5.3 Analysis

B.5.3.1 General

The types of analysis in B.5.3.2 to B.5.3.4 are presented in terms of the evaluator actions.

B.5.3.2 Unstructured analysis

The unstructured analysis performed by the evaluator (for AVA_VAN.2 (Vulnerability analysis) (16.3.2)) permits the evaluator to consider the generic vulnerabilities (as discussed in B.4). The evaluator will also apply their experience and knowledge of flaws in similar technology types.

B.5.3.3 Focused analysis

During the conduct of evaluation activities, the evaluator can also identify areas of concern. These are specific portions of the TOE evidence that the evaluator has some reservation about, although the evidence meets the requirements for the activity with which the evidence is associated. For example, where an interface specification looks particularly complex, and therefore can be prone to error either in the development of the TOE or in the operation of the TOE. Since there is no potential vulnerability apparent at this stage, further investigation is required.

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The difference between a potential vulnerability and an area of concern is explained as follows:

— potential vulnerability: the evaluator knows a method of attack that can be used to exploit the weakness or the evaluator knows of vulnerability information that is relevant to the TOE;

— area of concern: the evaluator can discount concern as a potential vulnerability based on information provided elsewhere. While reading interface specifications, the evaluator identifies that due to the extreme (unnecessary) complexity of an interface a potential vulnerability can lie within that area, although it is not apparent through this initial examination.

The focused approach to the identification of vulnerabilities is an analysis of the evidence with the aim of identifying any potential vulnerabilities evident through the contained information. It is an unstructured analysis, as the approach is not predetermined. This approach to the identification of potential vulnerabilities can be used during the independent vulnerability analysis required by evaluation of sub-activity (AVA_VAN.3 (Focused vulnerability analysis) (16.3.3)).

This analysis can be achieved through different approaches, that will lead to commensurate levels of confidence. None of the approaches have a rigid format for the examination of evidence to be performed.

The approach taken is directed by the results of the evaluator's assessment of the evidence to determine whether it meets the requirements of the class AVA (Vulnerability assessment) (Clause 16) or class AGD (Guidance documents) (Clause 13) sub-activities. Therefore, the investigation of the evidence for the existence of potential vulnerabilities can be directed by any of the following:

— areas of concern identified when examining the evidence during the conduct of evaluation activities;

— reliance on particular functionality to provide separation, identified during the analysis of the architectural design, e.g. ADV_ARC.1 (Security architecture description) (12.3.1), requiring further analysis to determine it cannot be bypassed;

— representative examination of the evidence to hypothesise potential vulnerabilities in the TOE.

The evaluator will report what actions were taken to identify potential vulnerabilities in the evidence. However, it is possible that the evaluator cannot describe the steps in identifying potential vulnerabilities before the outset of the examination. The approach will evolve as a result of the outcome of evaluation activities.

The areas of concern can arise from examination of any of the evidence provided to satisfy the SARs specified for the TOE evaluation. The information publicly accessible is also considered.

The activities performed by the evaluator can be repeated and the same conclusions, in terms of the level of assurance in the TOE, can be reached although the steps taken to achieve those conclusions can vary. As the evaluator is documenting the form the analysis took, the actual steps taken to achieve those conclusions are also reproducible.

B.5.3.4 Methodical analysis

The methodical analysis approach takes the form of a structured examination of the evidence. This method requires the evaluator to specify the structure and form the analysis will take (i.e. the manner in which the analysis is performed is predetermined, unlike the focused identification method). The method is specified in terms of the information that shall be considered and how and why it will be considered. This approach to the identification of potential vulnerabilities can be used during the independent vulnerability analysis required by evaluation of sub-activity (AVA_VAN.4 (Methodical vulnerability analysis) (16.3.4)) and evaluation of sub-activity (AVA_VAN.5 (Advanced methodical vulnerability analysis) (16.3.5)).

This analysis of the evidence is deliberate and pre-planned in approach, considering all evidence identified as an input into the analysis.

All evidence provided to satisfy the class ADV (Development) (Clause 12) assurance requirements specified in the assurance package are used as input to the potential vulnerability identification activity.

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The "methodical" descriptor for this analysis has been used in an attempt to capture the characterisation that this identification of potential vulnerabilities shall take an ordered and planned approach. A "method" or "system" shall be applied in the examination. The evaluator shall describe the method to be used in terms of:

— what evidence shall be considered;

— the information within the evidence that shall be examined;

— the manner in which this information shall be considered;

— the hypothesis that shall be generated.

Examples of hypotheses include:

— consideration of malformed input for interfaces available to an attacker at the external interfaces;

— examination of a security mechanism, such as domain separation, hypothesising internal buffer overflows leading to degradation of separation;

— analysis to identify any objects created in the TOE implementation representation that are then not fully controlled by the TSF, and can be used by an attacker to undermine the SFRs.

For example, the evaluator can identify that interfaces are a potential area of weakness in the TOE and specify an approach to the analysis that "all interface specifications provided in the functional specification and TOE design will be analysed to hypothesise potential vulnerabilities" and go on to explain the methods used in the hypothesis.

This identification method will provide a plan of attack of the TOE, that would be performed by an evaluator completing penetration testing of potential vulnerabilities in the TOE. The rationale for the method of identification would provide the evidence for the coverage and depth of exploitation determination that would be performed on the TOE.

B.6 When attack potential is used

B.6.1 Developer

Attack potential is used by a PP or ST author during the development of the PP or ST, in consideration of the threat environment and the selection of assurance components. This can simply be a determination that the attack potential possessed by the assumed attackers of the TOE is generically characterised as Basic, Enhanced-Basic, Moderate or High. Alternatively, the PP or ST can specify particular levels of individual factors assumed to be possessed by attackers. (e.g. the attackers are assumed to be experts in the TOE technology type, with access to specialised equipment.)

The PP or ST author considers the threat profile developed during a risk assessment (outside the scope of the ISO/IEC 15408 series, but used as an input into the development of the PP or ST in terms of the Security Problem Definition or in the case of Direct Rationale STs, the requirements statement). Consideration of this threat profile in terms of one of the approaches discussed in Vulnerability assessment (AVA) will permit the specification of the attack potential the TOE is to resist.

B.6.2 Evaluator

Attack potential is especially considered by the evaluator in two distinct ways during the ST evaluation and the vulnerability assessment activities.

Attack potential is used by an evaluator during the conduct of the vulnerability analysis sub-activity to determine whether or not the TOE is resistant to attacks assuming a specific attack potential of an attacker. If the evaluator determines that a potential vulnerability is exploitable in the TOE, they are required to confirm that it is exploitable considering all aspects of the intended environment, including the attack potential assumed by an attacker.

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Therefore, using the information provided in the threat statement of the Security Target, the evaluator determines the minimum attack potential required by an attacker to effect an attack, and arrives at some conclusion about the TOE's resistance to attacks. Table B.1 demonstrates the relationship between this analysis and attack potential.

Table B.1 — Vulnerability testing and attack potential

Vulnerability Component	TOE resistant to attacker with attack potential of:	Residual vulnerabilities only exploitable by attacker with attack potential of:
AVA_VAN.5 (Advanced methodical vulnerability analysis) (16.3.5)	High	Beyond High
AVA_VAN.4 (Methodical vulnerability analysis) (16.3.4)	Moderate	High
AVA_VAN.3 (Focused vulnerability analysis) (16.3.3)	Enhanced-Basic	Moderate
AVA_VAN.2 (Vulnerability analysis) (16.3.2)	Basic	Enhanced-Basic
AVA_VAN.1 (Vulnerability survey) (16.3.1)	Basic	Enhanced-Basic

The "Beyond High" entry in the residual vulnerabilities column of the above table represents those potential vulnerabilities that would require an attacker to have an attack potential greater than that of High in order to exploit the potential vulnerability. A vulnerability classified as residual in this instance reflects the fact that a known weakness exists in the TOE, but in the current operational environment, with the assumed attack potential, the weakness cannot be exploited.

At any level of attack potential, a potential vulnerability can be deemed "infeasible" due to a countermeasure in the operational environment that prevents the vulnerability from being exploited.

A vulnerability analysis applies to all TSFIs, including ones that access probabilistic or permutational mechanisms. No assumptions are made regarding the correctness of the design and implementation of the TSFIs; nor are constraints placed on the attack method or the attacker's interaction with the TOE, if an attack is possible, then it should be considered during the vulnerability analysis. As shown in Table B.1, successful evaluation against a vulnerability assurance component reflects that the TSF is designed and implemented to protect against the required level of threat.

It is not necessary for an evaluator to perform an attack potential calculation for each potential vulnerability. In some cases, it is apparent when developing the attack method whether or not the attack potential required to develop and run the attack method is commensurate with that assumed of the attacker in the operational environment. For any vulnerabilities for which an exploitation is determined, the evaluator performs an attack potential calculation to determine that the exploitation is appropriate to the level of attack potential assumed for the attacker.

The approach described in B.7 shall be applied whenever it is necessary to calculate attack potential, unless the evaluation authority provides mandatory guidance that an alternative approach shall be applied. The values given in Table B.2 and Table B.3 below are not mathematically proven. Therefore, it can be necessary to adjust the values given in Table B.2 and Table B.3 according to the technology type and specific environments. The evaluator shall seek guidance from the evaluation authority.

B.7 Calculating attack potential

B.7.1 Application of attack potential

B.7.1.1 General

Attack potential is a function of expertise, resources and motivation. There are multiple methods of representing and quantifying these factors. Also, there can be other factors that are applicable for particular TOE types.

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B.7.1.2 Treatment of motivation

Motivation is an attack potential factor that can be used to describe several aspects related to the attacker and the assets the attacker desires. Firstly, motivation can imply the likelihood of an attack - a threat described as highly motivated can indicate that an attack is imminent, or that no attack is anticipated from an un-motivated threat. However, except for the two extreme levels of motivation, it is difficult to derive a probability of an attack occurring from motivation.

Secondly, motivation can imply the value of the asset, monetarily or otherwise, to either the attacker or the asset holder. An asset of very high value is more likely to motivate an attack compared to an asset of little value. However, other than in a very general way, it is difficult to relate asset value to motivation because the value of an asset is subjective - it depends largely upon the value an asset holder places on it.

Thirdly, motivation can imply the expertise and resources with which an attacker is willing to effect an attack. It can be assumed that a highly-motivated attacker is likely to acquire sufficient expertise and resources to defeat the measures protecting an asset. Conversely, it can be assumed that an attacker with significant expertise and resources is not willing to effect an attack using them if the attacker's motivation is low.

During the course of preparing for and conducting an evaluation, all three aspects of motivation are at some point considered. The first aspect, likelihood of attack, is what can inspire a developer to pursue an evaluation. If the developer believes that the attackers are sufficiently motivated to mount an attack, then an evaluation can provide assurance of the ability of the TOE to thwart the attacker's efforts. Where the operational environment is well defined, for example in a system evaluation, the level of motivation for an attack can be known, and will influence the selection of countermeasures.

Considering the second aspect, an asset holder can believe that the value of the assets (however measured) is sufficient to motivate attack against them. Once an evaluation is deemed necessary, the attacker's motivation is considered to determine the methods of attack that can be attempted, as well as the expertise and resources used in those attacks. Once examined, the developer is able to choose the appropriate assurance level, in particular the class AVA (Vulnerability assessment) (Clause 16) requirement components, commensurate with the attack potential for the threats. During the course of the evaluation, and in particular as a result of completing the vulnerability assessment activity, the evaluator determines whether or not the TOE, operating in its operational environment, is sufficient to thwart attackers with the identified expertise and resources.

A PP author can quantify the motivation of an attacker, as the PP author has greater knowledge of the operational environment in which the TOE (conforming to the requirements of the PP) can be placed. Therefore, the motivation can form an explicit part of the expression of the attack potential in the PP, along with the necessary methods and measures to quantify the motivation.

B.7.2 Characterising attack potential

B.7.2.1 General

The factors that determine attack potential, and the approach to help remove some of the subjectivity from this aspect of the evaluation process are described here.

B.7.2.2 Determining the attack potential

The determination of the attack potential for an attack corresponds to the identification of the effort required to create the attack, and to demonstrate that it can be successfully applied to the TOE (including setting up or building any necessary test equipment), thereby exploiting the vulnerability in the TOE. The demonstration that the attack can be successfully applied shall consider any difficulties in expanding a result to create a useful attack. For example, where an experiment reveals some bits or bytes of a confidential data item (such as a key), it is necessary to consider how the remainder of the data item would be obtained.

NOTE In this example some bits can be measured directly by further experiments, while others can be found by a different technique such as exhaustive search.

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It is not necessary to carry out all of the experiments to identify the full attack, provided it is clear that the attack actually proves that access has been gained to a TOE asset, and that the complete attack can realistically be carried out in exploitation according to the AVA_VAN (Vulnerability analysis) (16.3) component targeted. In some cases, the only way to prove that an attack can realistically be carried out in exploitation according to the AVA_VAN (Vulnerability analysis) (16.3) component targeted is to perform completely the attack and then rate it based upon the resources actually required. One of the outputs from the identification of a potential vulnerability is assumed to be a script that gives a step-by-step description of how to carry out the attack that can be used in the exploitation of the vulnerability on another instance of the TOE.

In many cases, the evaluators will estimate the parameters for exploitation, rather than carry out the full exploitation. The estimates and their rationale will be documented in the ETR.

B.7.2.3 Factors to consider

The following factors should be considered during analysis of the attack potential required to exploit a vulnerability:

— time taken to identify and exploit (B.7.2.3.1);

— specialist technical expertise required (B.7.2.3.2);

— knowledge of the TOE design and operation (B.7.2.3.3);

— window of opportunity (B.7.2.3.4);

— IT hardware, software or other equipment required for exploitation (B.7.2.3.5).

In many cases these factors are not independent, but can be substituted for each other in varying degrees. For example, expertise or exploitation supporting hardware or software can be a substitute for time. Generally, the least "expensive" combination of factors is considered in the exploitation phase.

A discussion of these factors, in increasing order of magnitude, follows.

B.7.2.3.1 Elapsed Time

Elapsed time is the total amount of time taken by an attacker to identify that a particular potential vulnerability can exist in the TOE, to develop an attack method and to sustain effort required to mount the attack against the TOE. When considering this factor, the worst-case scenario is used to estimate the amount of time required. The identified amount of time is as follows:

— less than one day;

— between one day and one week;

— between one week and two weeks;

— between two weeks and one month;

— each additional month up to six months leads to an increased value;

— more than six months.

B.7.2.3.2 Specialist expertise

Specialist expertise refers to the level of generic knowledge of the underlying principles, product type or attack methods (e.g. Internet protocols, Unix-like operating systems, buffer overflows). The identified levels are as follows:

— laymen are unknowledgeable compared to experts or proficient persons, with no particular expertise;

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— proficient persons are knowledgeable in that they are familiar with the security behaviour of the product or system type;

— experts are familiar with the underlying algorithms, protocols, hardware, structures, security behaviour, principles and concepts of security employed, techniques and tools for the definition of new attacks, cryptography, classical attacks for the product type, attack methods, etc. implemented in the product or system type;

— the level "Multiple Expert" is introduced to allow for a situation, where different fields of expertise are required at an Expert level for distinct steps of an attack.

It can occur that several types of expertise are required. By default, the higher of the different expertise factors is chosen. In very specific cases, the "multiple expert" level can be used but it should be noted that the expertise shall concern fields that are strictly different like for example HW manipulation and cryptography.

B.7.2.3.3 Knowledge of the TOE

Knowledge of the TOE refers to specific expertise in relation to the TOE. This is distinct from generic expertise, but not unrelated to it. Identified levels are as follows:

— public information concerning the TOE (e.g. as gained from the Internet);

— restricted information concerning the TOE (e.g. knowledge that is controlled within the developer organisation and shared with other organisations under a non-disclosure agreement);

— sensitive information about the TOE (e.g. knowledge that is shared between discreet teams within the developer organisation, access to which is constrained only to members of the specified teams);

— critical information about the TOE (e.g. knowledge that is known by only a few individuals, access to which is very tightly controlled on a strict need to know basis and individual undertaking).

The knowledge of the TOE can graduate according to design abstraction, although this can only be done on a TOE by TOE basis. Some TOE designs can be public source (or heavily based on public source) and therefore even the design representation would be classified as public or at most restricted, while the implementation representation for other TOEs is very closely controlled as it would give an attacker information that would aid an attack and is therefore considered to be sensitive or even critical.

It can occur that several types of knowledge are required. In such cases, the higher of the different knowledge factors is chosen.

B.7.2.3.4 Opportunity

Window of opportunity (Opportunity) is also an important consideration, and has a relationship to the Elapsed Time factor. Identification or exploitation of a vulnerability can require considerable amounts of access to a TOE that can increase the likelihood of detection. Some attack methods can require considerable effort off-line, and only brief access to the TOE to exploit. It can also prove necessary for access to be continuous, or over a number of sessions.

For some TOEs the Window of opportunity can equate to the number of samples of the TOE that the attacker can obtain. This is particularly relevant where attempts to penetrate the TOE and undermine the SFRs can result in the destruction of the TOE preventing use of that TOE sample for further testing, e.g. hardware devices. Often in these cases distribution of the TOE is controlled and so the attacker applies effort to obtain further samples of the TOE.

For the purposes of this discussion:

— unnecessary or unlimited access means that the attack does not need any kind of opportunity to be realised because there is no risk of being detected during access to the TOE and it is no problem to access the number of TOE samples for the attack;

— easy means that access is required for less than a day and that the number of TOE samples required to perform the attack is less than ten;

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— moderate means that access is required for less than a month and that the number of TOE samples required to perform the attack is less than one hundred;

— difficult means that access is required for at least a month or that the number of TOE samples required to perform the attack is at least one hundred;

— none means that the opportunity window is not sufficient to perform the attack (the length for which the asset to be exploited is available or is sensitive is less than the opportunity length needed to perform the attack - for example, if the asset key is changed each week and the attack needs two weeks); another case is, that a sufficient number of TOE samples needed to perform the attack is not accessible to the attacker - for example if the TOE is a hardware and the probability to destroy the TOE during the attack instead of being successful is very high and the attacker has only access to one sample of the TOE.

Consideration of this factor can result in determining that it is not possible to complete the exploit, due to requirements for time availability that are greater than the opportunity time.

B.7.2.3.5 IT hardware, software or other equipment

IT hardware, software or other equipment refers to the equipment required to identify or exploit a vulnerability.

Standard equipment is readily available to the attacker, either for the identification of a vulnerability or for an attack. This equipment can be a part of the TOE itself (e.g. a debugger in an operating system), or can be readily obtained (e.g. Internet downloads, protocol analyser or simple attack scripts).

Specialised equipment is not readily available to the attacker, but can be acquired without undue effort. This can include purchase of moderate amounts of equipment (e.g. power analysis tools, use of hundreds of PCs linked across the Internet would fall into this category), or development of more extensive attack scripts or programs. If clearly different test benches consisting of specialised equipment are required for distinct steps of an attack this is rated as bespoke.

Bespoke equipment is not readily available to the public as it can be necessary to have it specially produced (e.g. very sophisticated software), or because the equipment is so specialised that its distribution is controlled, possibly even restricted. Alternatively, the equipment can be very expensive.

The level "Multiple Bespoke" is introduced to allow for a situation, where different types of bespoke equipment are required for distinct steps of an attack.

Specialist expertise and knowledge of the TOE are concerned with the information required for persons to be able to attack a TOE. There is an implicit relationship between an attacker's expertise (where the attacker can be one or more persons with complementary areas of knowledge) and the ability to effectively make use of equipment in an attack. The weaker the attacker's expertise, the lower the potential to use equipment (e.g. IT hardware or software or other equipment). Likewise, the greater the expertise, the greater the potential for equipment to be used in the attack. Although implicit, this relationship between expertise and the use of equipment does not always apply, for instance, when environmental measures prevent an expert attacker's use of equipment, or when, through the efforts of others, attack tools requiring little expertise to be effectively used are created and freely distributed (e.g. via the Internet).

B.7.2.4 Calculation of attack potential

Table B.2 identifies the factors discussed in B.7.2.2 and associates numeric values with the total value of each factor.

Where a factor falls close to the boundary of a range the evaluator shall consider use of an intermediate value to those in Table B.2. For example, if twenty samples are required to perform the attack then a value between one and four can be selected for that factor, or if the design is based on a publicly available design but the developer has made some alterations then a value between zero and three should be selected according to the evaluator's view of the impact of those design changes. Table B.2 is intended for guidance.

The "**" specification in Table B.2 in considering Window of Opportunity should not be seen as a natural progression from the timescales specified in the preceding ranges associated with this factor. This

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specification identifies that for a particular reason the potential vulnerability cannot be exploited in the TOE in its intended operational environment. For example, access to the TOE can be detected after a certain amount of time in a TOE with a known environment (i.e. in the case of a system) where regular patrols are completed, and the attacker cannot gain access to the TOE for the required two weeks undetected. However, this would not be applicable to a TOE connected to the network where remote access is possible, or where the physical environment of the TOE is unknown.

Table B.2 — Calculation of attack potential

Factor	Value
Elapsed Time	
<= one day	0
<= one week	1
<= two weeks	2
<= one month	4
<= two months	7
<= three months	10
<= four months	13
<= five months	15
<= six months	17
> six months	19
Expertise	
Layman	0
Proficient	3[a]
Expert	6
Multiple experts	8
Knowledge of TOE	
Public	0
Restricted	3
Sensitive	7
Critical	11
Window of Opportunity	
Unnecessary or unlimited access	0
Easy	1
Moderate	4
Difficult	10
None	**[b]
Equipment	
Standard	0

[a] When several proficient persons are required to complete the attack path, the resulting level of expertise still remains "proficient" (which leads to a 3 rating).

[b] Indicates that the attack path is not exploitable due to other measures in the intended operational environment of the TOE.

[c] If clearly different test benches consisting of specialised equipment are required for distinct steps of an attack, this should be rated as bespoke.

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Table B.2 *(continued)*

Factor	Value
Specialised	4[c]
Bespoke	7
Multiple bespoke	9

[a] When several proficient persons are required to complete the attack path, the resulting level of expertise still remains "proficient" (which leads to a 3 rating).

[b] Indicates that the attack path is not exploitable due to other measures in the intended operational environment of the TOE.

[c] If clearly different test benches consisting of specialised equipment are required for distinct steps of an attack, this should be rated as bespoke.

To determine the resistance of the TOE to the potential vulnerabilities identified the following steps should be applied:

— define the possible attack scenarios {AS1, AS2, ..., ASn} for the TOE in the operational environment;

— for each attack scenario, perform a theoretical analysis and calculate the relevant attack potential using Table B.2;

— for each attack scenario, if necessary, perform penetration tests in order to confirm or to disprove the theoretical analysis;

— divide all attack scenarios {AS1, AS2, ..., ASn} into two groups:

  — the attack scenarios having been successful (i.e. those that have been used to successfully undermine the SFRs), and

  — the attack scenarios that have been demonstrated to be unsuccessful;

— for each successful attack scenario, apply Table B.3 and determine, whether there is a contradiction between the resistance of the TOE and the chosen AVA_VAN (Vulnerability analysis) (16.3) assurance component, see the last column of Table B.3;

— If at least one contradiction is found, the vulnerability assessment fails, e.g. the author of the ST chose the component AVA_VAN.5 (Advanced methodical vulnerability analysis) (16.3.5) and an attack scenario with an attack potential of 21 points (High) has broken the security of the TOE. In this case, the TOE is resistant to attacker with attack potential "Moderate", this contradicts AVA_VAN.5 (Advanced methodical vulnerability analysis) (16.3.5), hence, the vulnerability assessment fails.

The "Values" column of Table B.3 indicates the range of attack potential values (calculated using Table B.2) of an attack scenario that results in the SFRs being undermined.

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Table B.3 — Rating of vulnerabilities and TOE resistance

Values	Attack potential required to exploit scenario:	Meets assurance components:	Failure of components:
0-9	Basic	-	AVA_VAN.1 (Vulnerability survey) (16.3.1), AVA_VAN.2 (Vulnerability analysis) (16.3.2), AVA_VAN.3 (Focused vulnerability analysis) (16.3.3), AVA_VAN.4 (Methodical vulnerability analysis) (16.3.4), AVA_VAN.5 (Advanced methodical vulnerability analysis) (16.3.5)
10-13	Enhanced-Basic	AVA_VAN.1 (Vulnerability survey) (16.3.1), AVA_VAN.2 (Vulnerability analysis) (16.3.2)	AVA_VAN.3 (Focused vulnerability analysis) (16.3.3), AVA_VAN.4 (Methodical vulnerability analysis) (16.3.4), AVA_VAN.5 (Advanced methodical vulnerability analysis) (16.3.5)
14-19	Moderate	AVA_VAN.1 (Vulnerability survey) (16.3.1), AVA_VAN.2 (Vulnerability analysis) (16.3.2), AVA_VAN.3 (Focused vulnerability analysis) (16.3.3)	AVA_VAN.4 (Methodical vulnerability analysis) (16.3.4), AVA_VAN.5 (Advanced methodical vulnerability analysis) (16.3.5)
20-24	High	AVA_VAN.1 (Vulnerability survey) (16.3.1), AVA_VAN.2 (Vulnerability analysis) (16.3.2), AVA_VAN.3 (Focused vulnerability analysis) (16.3.3), AVA_VAN.4 (Methodical vulnerability analysis) (16.3.4)	AVA_VAN.5 (Advanced methodical vulnerability analysis) (16.3.5)
≥25	Beyond High	AVA_VAN.1 (Vulnerability survey) (16.3.1), AVA_VAN.2 (Vulnerability analysis) (16.3.2), AVA_VAN.3 (Focused vulnerability analysis) (16.3.3), AVA_VAN.4 (Methodical vulnerability analysis) (16.3.4), AVA_VAN.5 (Advanced methodical vulnerability analysis) (16.3.5)	-

An approach such as this cannot take account of every circumstance or factor, but gives a better indication of the level of resistance to attack required to achieve the standard ratings. Other factors, such as the reliance on unlikely chance occurrences are not included in the basic model, but can be used by an evaluator as justification for a rating other than those that the basic model can indicate.

It should be noted that whereas a number of vulnerabilities rated individually can indicate high resistance to attack, collectively the combination of vulnerabilities can indicate that overall a lower rating is applicable. The presence of one vulnerability can make another easier to exploit.

If a PP or ST author wants to use the attack potential table for the determination of the level of attack the TOE is able to withstand (selection of AVA_VAN (Vulnerability analysis) (16.3) component), they should proceed as follows: For all different attack scenarios (i.e. for all different types of attacker and different types of attack that the author has in mind) which are not permitted to violate the SFRs, several passes through Table B.2 shall be made to determine the different values of attack potential assumed for each such unsuccessful attack scenario. The PP or ST author then chooses the highest value of them in order to determine the level of the TOE resistance to be claimed from Table B.3: the TOE resistance should be at least equal to this highest value determined. For example, the highest value of attack potentials of all attack scenarios, which are not permitted to undermine the TOE security policy, determined in such a way is moderate; hence, the TOE resistance shall be at least Moderate (i.e. Moderate or High); therefore, the PP or ST author can choose either AVA_VAN.4 (Methodical vulnerability analysis) (16.3.4) (for Moderate) or AVA_VAN.5 (Advanced methodical vulnerability analysis) (16.3.5) (for High) as the appropriate assurance component.

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B.8 Example calculation for direct attack

Mechanisms subject to direct attack are often vital for system security and developers often strengthen these mechanisms. As an example, a TOE can use a simple pass number authentication mechanism that can be overcome by an attacker who has the opportunity to repeatedly guess another user's pass number. The system can strengthen this mechanism by restricting pass numbers and their use in various ways. During the course of the evaluation, an analysis of this direct attack can proceed as follows.

Information gleaned from the ST and design evidence reveals that identification and authentication provides the basis upon which to control access to network resources from widely distributed terminals. Physical access to the terminals is not controlled by any effective means. The duration of access to a terminal is not controlled by any effective means. Authorized users of the system choose their own pass numbers when initially authorized to use the system, and thereafter upon user request. The system places the following restrictions on the pass numbers selected by the user:

— the pass number shall be at least four and no greater than six digits long;

— consecutive numerical sequences are disallowed (such as 7,6,5,4,3);

— repeating digits is disallowed (each digit shall be unique).

Guidance provided to the users at the time of pass number selection is that pass numbers should be as random as possible and should not be affiliated with the user in some way, e.g. a date of birth.

The pass number space is calculated as follows:

— patterns of human usage are important considerations that can influence the approach to searching a password space. Assuming the worst-case scenario and the user chooses a number comprising only four digits, the number of pass number permutations assuming that each digit shall be unique is:

  7(8)(9)(10) = 5040

— the number of possible increasing sequences is seven, as is the number of decreasing sequences. The pass number space after disallowing sequences is:

  5040 – 14 = 5026

Based on further information gleaned from the design evidence, the pass number mechanism is designed with a terminal locking feature. Upon the sixth failed authentication attempt the terminal is locked for one hour. The failed authentication count is reset after five minutes so that an attacker can at best attempt five pass number entries every five minutes, or 60 pass number entries every hour.

On average, an attacker would enter 2513 pass numbers, over 2513 minutes, before entering the correct pass number. The average successful attack would, as a result, occur in slightly less than:

$$\frac{2513\,\text{min}}{60\frac{\text{min}}{\text{h}}} \approx 42\,\text{h}$$

Using the approach to calculate the attack potential, described in B.7.2.4, identifies that it is possible that a layman can defeat the mechanism within days (given easy access to the TOE), with the use of standard equipment, and with no knowledge of the TOE, giving a value of 1. Given the resulting sum, 1, the attack potential required to effect a successful attack is not rated, as it falls below that considered to be Basic.

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Annex C
(informative)

Evaluation techniques and tools - Semi-formal and formal methods

C.1 General

In ISO/IEC 15408-3:2026, A.5 the relationship with the security target and the functional specification is provided. This annex provides general requirements and guidance on specification styles. Specific and detailed information is given in the work units corresponding to the specific evaluator action elements where examination of the style of specifications, (formal) TSF representations and correspondence demonstrations shall be performed.

C.2 Description of styles

C.2.1 General

The class ADV (Development) (Clause 12) class mandates three types of specification styles: informal, semi-formal and formal. These styles are briefly described in the application notes to class ADV (Development) (Clause 12). The functional specification and design specification will be written using one or more of these specification styles. The TSF representations (in the following referred to as specifications) may use one or more notations in semi-formal and formal style. The level of formality of the correspondence representation depends on the style of the adjacent pair of provided TSF representations (see the ADV_TDS (TOE design) (12.8) family for details).

The hierarchy of components within these families increases the formality of the style:

— to reduce the ambiguity of the TSF representation;

— to reduce the likelihood of refinement errors in the available TSF representations;

— to strengthen the evidence for correctness of the TSF representations and the methods for their examination.

The styles are characterised by:

— informal style by using defined semantics;

— semi-formal style by using defined semantics and syntax;

— formal style by using defined semantics, syntax and rules of inference.

Regarding the notions of semantics and syntax, the degree of precision varies with the style of description.

Informal descriptions require the semantics to provide meaning to all terms that are used in a context other than that accepted by normal usage. No notational restrictions are imposed other than those required by the grammar and syntax conventions for the natural language which is used to provide the explanations.

Semi-formal descriptions restrict the syntax formation of terms to well-defined expressions whose meaning has been precisely established either in an appendix to the description or in an external, public document used and listed as a reference.

Formal style descriptions restrict the semantics and syntax even further: the formation of syntactical terms follows a formal language description required to be decidable. Examples include well-established implicit formation rules being as precise as the formation of terms and formulas in first order predicate calculus or formal meta-language descriptions using Extended Backus-Naur Form (EBNF). Apart from informal

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descriptions the semantics of formal terms is restricted to well-established mathematical models. Formal derivation of theorems is restricted to predefined inference rules, which are based on well-known logical reasoning (classical logic, intuitionistic logic, modal logic, temporal logic, etc.).

In the context of formality levels, informal, semi-formal, and formal styles are considered to be hierarchical in nature. Thus, requirements for an informal or semi-formal style of specification may also be met with either a semi-formal or formal specification style provided that it is supported by informal, explanatory text where appropriate. The set of presentation elements, syntactic and semantic rules is referred in the following as notation. A formal style of presentation uses a formal notation and rules of inference; in the following this is referred to as a formal system.

The content and presentation elements of ADV_FSP (Functional specification) (12.4), ADV_SPM (Formal TSF model) (12.7) and ADV_TDS (TOE design) (12.8) components describe the style in which the presentation of evidence shall be provided by the developer. The evaluator action element requires the evaluator to confirm that the information provided meets all requirements for presentation of evidence. If the content and presentation elements require an informal style the evaluator may perform the work units for the evaluator action elements in parallel with the other work units examining the content of evidence. If the content and presentation elements require a semi-formal or a formal style this implies the application of semi-formal or formal methods to examine the content. Therefore, it is recommended to perform the work units for the evaluator action elements concerning the correct use of the examination method and its necessary rigour before the analysis of the content of evidence. If a notation or its usage in the documentation does not provide the expected level of formality, then it is possible that the necessary rigorous methods of analysis is not applicable. The work unit for the evaluator action elements examining the necessary informal explanatory text can be performed in parallel with the other work units. Of course, the evaluator can detect errors in the presentation of evidence during the evaluator action as well which results in a fail verdict for the evaluator action elements.

The following text provides a guidance for the examination of specification styles and their use for correspondence demonstration in the sub-activities for the assurance families ADV_FSP (Functional specification) (12.4), ADV_SPM (Formal TSF model) (12.7) and ADV_TDS (TOE design) (12.8).

C.2.2 Informal style

An informal specification is one that is expressed in a natural language. If content and presentation elements require an informal specification, the work unit for the evaluator action elements will require the evaluator to determine that it contains all necessary informal explanatory text. The evaluator should examine the specification to make sure that:

— it provides defined meanings of terms, abbreviations and acronyms that are used in a context other than that accepted by normal usage;

— if semi-formal or formal notations are used, then appropriate informal, explanatory text supports the understanding.

This enforces the informal specification to provide defined semantics of its statements. An informal specification uses the ordinary conventions for the natural language i.e. any common spoken tongue. It can use figures and semi-formal elements of presentation like data flow diagrams to illustrate the informal specification. If the specification uses a semi-formal notation it should be accompanied by supporting explanatory informal text appropriate for unambiguous common understanding.

Examples for the use of informal style are:

— ISO/IEC 15408-1:2026 identifies a list of terms specific to the ISO/IEC 15408 series and reserved terms in accordance with the ISO definitions contained in ISO/IEC Directives, Part 2, Rules for the structure and drafting of International Standards. This clarifies the use of the verbs "shall", "should", "may" and "can" in the context of the ISO/IEC 15408 series;

— international standards and the Request for Comment (RFC) are specified in an informal style. They use semi-formal notations as well, e.g. the abstract syntax notation ASN.1 for specification of message formats.

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Informal style does not justify the absence of precision or informal definitions. The evaluator will assign a fail verdict if any of the following applies:

— some technical terms remain undefined;

— the lack of information prevents decision on the evaluator's side;

— ambiguous interpretations cause confusion.

C.2.3 Semi-formal style

A semi-formal specification is expressed in a restricted syntax language with defined semantics. It reduces the ambiguity of specification and strengthens the method of analysis.

The evaluator should examine the identified notations to make sure that:

— the syntax rules are defined or a definition is referenced;

— the notations with the explanatory text provide a defined semantics which is characterised by well-defined meanings of any terms, abbreviations and acronyms that are used in a context other than that accepted by normal usage;

— the use of a semi-formal notation is accompanied by supporting explanatory text in informal style conducive to unambiguous meaning;

— the notations contain a restricted syntax language which means that a set of conventions shall be supplied to define the restrictions imposed on the syntax.

Examples for the use of a semi-formal style are:

— the restricted syntax language may be a natural language with restricted sentence structure and keywords with special meanings. ISO/IEC 15408-1 and ISO/IEC 15408-2 provide a semi-formal notation for the security functional requirements consisting of classes, families and components together with rules for permitted operations. As required by the ECD families of classes class ASE (Security Target (ST) evaluation) (Clause 11) and class APE (Protection Profile (PP) evaluation) (Clause 9), an explicitly stated IT security requirement is expected to use the requirements components, families and classes of the ISO/IEC 15408 series as a model for presentation;

— formally specified languages may be used to define the data structures for the use of TSFI or an interface of subsystems or modules in semi-formal style. The interface specification may describe the complete details of all effects caused by interface usage by means of other semi-formal notations e.g. state-transition diagrams;

— diagrams are commonly used for the specification of data-flow, state-transition, entity-relationship, data, process or program structures in a semi-formal style. The graphical presentation assists the understanding of interaction and behaviour of entities depending on events. The abstraction accompanied by the graphical presentation is normally complemented by an informal description. Data-flow and state-transition diagrams can be very helpful, e.g. for the precise description and the analysis of protocols;

— programming languages define a strong syntax and well-defined semantics. The source code together with supporting explanatory text and documentation of well-defined development tools provide an unambiguous semi-formal description of the TSF implementation, its security features and interfaces.

These examples show that the semi-formal style covers a wide range of capabilities and levels of formality. The developer should use appropriate notation for the presentation of evidence depending on the type of the TOE (e.g. hardware, software), the development methodology and the purpose of the specification.

The semi-formal style supports a structured analysis of the content, the consistency, the completeness and the correspondence of the representation. A semi-formal analysis is one that results from a structured approach with a substantial degree of rigour in terms of completeness and correctness.

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A semi-formal interface specification supports the evaluator in analysing and assessing the external behaviour of a TSF, its subsystems or modules for any input (e.g. to decide regarding acceptance or rejection of a message and its content analysis). Semi-formal evidence for conservation of properties can be obtained by means of flow charts and state transition diagrams visualizing the uniquely defined states and their interrelationship during the course of security preserving transitions. The developer can use semi-formal notations like software specification languages to ensure correct refinement of the specifications from functional specification via TOE design down to the implementation level.

In this way the semi-formal presentation clearly establishes its accuracy and superiority over informal descriptions.

C.2.4 Formal style

A formal specification is expressed within a formal system based upon well-established mathematical concepts. These mathematical concepts are used to define a well-defined semantics, syntax and rules of inference. A formal system is an abstract system of identities and relations that can be described by specifying a formal alphabet, a formal language over that alphabet which is based on a formal syntax, and a set of formal rules of inference for constructing derivations of sentences in the formal language.

The evaluator should examine the identified formal systems to make sure that:

— the semantics, syntax and inference rules of the formal system are defined or a definition is referenced;

— each formal system together with the accompanying explanatory text provides a defined semantics which is characterized by defined meanings of all terms, abbreviations and acronyms that are used in a context other than that accepted by normal usage;

— the formal notation provides rules to determine the meaning of syntactical valid constructs;

— the use of a formal system and a semi-formal notation is accompanied by supporting explanatory text in informal style conducive to unambiguous meaning;

— each formal system uses a formal syntax that provides rules to unambiguously recognise constructs;

— each formal system provides proof rules which:

  — support logical reasoning of well-established mathematical concepts;

  — help to prevent derivation of contradictions.

If the developer uses a formal system which is already accepted by the evaluation authority, then the evaluator can rely on the level of formality and strength of the system and focus on the instantiation of the formal system to the specifications and correspondence proofs.

The formal style supports mathematical proofs of the security properties based on the formal properties, the consistency of refinements and the correspondence of the representations. Formal tool support is adequate and recommended whenever manual derivations would otherwise become long winded and incomprehensible. Formal tools are also apt to reduce the error probability inherent in manual derivations.

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