



# Network Security Assurance Scheme – Adoption Procedure for Security Assurance Specifications

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# Contents

Licensing Statement .....	3
Foreword.....	3
Modal verbs terminology .....	3
Introduction .....	4
1 Scope.....	5
2 References .....	5
2.1 Normative references .....	5
2.2 Informative references .....	5
3 Definition of terms, symbols and abbreviations.....	5
3.1 Terms .....	5
3.2 Symbols .....	6
3.3 Abbreviations.....	6
4 Adoption Procedure for Security Assurance Specifications .....	6
History .....	8

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# Licensing Statement

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1. the exclusive property of the GSMA; and
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## Foreword

This Technical Specification was produced by the GSM Association.

The contents of the present document are subject to continuing work within the GSMA NESAS Group and can change following formal GSMA approval. When the NESAS Group modify the contents of the present document, it will be re-released by the GSMA with an identifying change of release date and an increase in version number as follows:

Version x.y.

where:

- x the first digit is incremented for all major changes
- y the second digit is incremented for all changes of corrections, technical enhancements, updates, etc.

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## Modal verbs terminology

In the present document, modal verbs have the following meanings:

**shall** indicates a mandatory requirement to do something

**shall not** indicates an interdiction (prohibition) to do something

"**shall**" and "**shall not**" are confined to the context of normative provisions.

"**must**" and "**must not**" are not used as substitutes for "**shall**" and "**shall not**".

**should** indicates a recommendation to do something

**should not** indicates a recommendation not to do something

**may** indicates permission to do something

**need not** indicates permission not to do something

"**may not**" is ambiguous and is not used in normative elements.

**can** indicates that something is possible

**cannot** indicates that something is impossible

The constructions "**can**" and "**cannot**" are not substitutes for "**may**" and "**need not**".

**will** indicates that something is certain or expected to happen as a result of action taken by an agency the behaviour of which is outside the scope of the present document

**will not** indicates that something is certain or expected not to happen as a result of action taken by an agency the behaviour of which is outside the scope of the present document

All the document, including Annexes, is normative, unless otherwise explicitly stated.

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## Introduction

The present document describes the adoption procedure for security assurance specifications (SCAS) that are created by SDOs for the NESAS product Evaluations. This adoption procedure is an essential element in maintaining the quality, transparency and credibility of the Network Equipment Security Assurance Scheme (NESAS).

NESAS was originally created and developed by GSMA and responsibility for its maintenance and development of the NESAS specifications rests with the GSMA's NESAS Group, which comprises representatives from mobile telecom network operators, infrastructure and equipment vendors, security auditors and test laboratories. The NESAS Group is an Industry Specification Issuing Group, and as such, it is bound to GSMA PRD AA.35 [1] governance.

The NESAS Group is responsible for maintaining the NESAS specifications and for facilitating periodic reviews involving all relevant stakeholders.

The Scheme Owner, who adopts NESAS and can add additional documentation, is responsible for development and maintenance of its own documents

# 1 Scope

The present document defines the Security Assurance Specification (SCAS) adoption procedure for use by the Network Equipment Security Assurance Scheme (NESAS). SCAS adoption is performed by the NESAS Group.

GSMA PRD FS.50 [2] defines the requirements that need to be met by SCASes for adoption. SCASes are defined and maintained by international Standards Development Organisations (SDOs), for example 3GPP. They are submitted to NESAS Group for adoption.

GSMA PRD FS.63 [3] lists all SCASes that can be used for Network Product Evaluations. SCASes not listed here are not adopted by NESAS and are not meant for evaluation within NESAS.

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## 2 References

### 2.1 Normative references

References are either specific (identified by date of publication and/or edition number or version number) or non-specific. For specific references, only the cited version applies. For non-specific references, the latest version of the referenced document (including any amendments) applies.

NOTE: Hyperlinks included in this clause were valid at the time of publication.

The following referenced documents are necessary for the application of the present document.

- [1] GSMA PRD AA.35: " Procedures for Industry Specifications".
- [2] GSMA PRD FS.50: " Network Equipment Security Assurance Scheme – Requirements for Security Assurance Specification Development ".
- [3] GSMA PRD FS.63: " Network Equipment Security Assurance Scheme – List of Adopted Security Assurance Specifications ".

### 2.2 Informative references

Informative references are not applicable in the present document.

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## 3 Definition of terms, symbols and abbreviations

### 3.1 Terms

For the purposes of the present document, the following terms apply:

**Equipment Vendor:** Organisation that develops, maintains and supplies network equipment that supports functions defined by 3GPP or another SDO.

**NESAS Group:** The Industry Specification Issuing Group of the GSMA that is tasked with the overall implementation, governance, maintenance and further development of NESAS specifications.

**NESAS Security Test Laboratory:** A test laboratory that is authorised to perform NESAS Network Product Evaluations and Evidence Evaluations under NESAS.

**Network Function:** Network equipment developed, maintained and supplied by an Equipment Vendor, consisting of one or more Network Function(s).

**Network Product:** Network equipment developed, maintained and supplied by an Equipment Vendor, consisting of one or more Network Function(s).

**Network Product Evaluation:** Activity of evaluating the Product under Evaluation (PuE) in NESAS, according to requirements and test cases taken from NESAS-adopted Security Assurance Specifications (SCAS).

**Security Assurance Specification:** Specification containing security requirements and test cases for a defined Network Function or a group of Network Functions. It is created and maintained by a Standards Development Organisation (SDO).

## 3.2 Symbols

Symbols are not applicable in the present document.

## 3.3 Abbreviations

For the purposes of the present document, the following abbreviations apply:

3GPP	3 <sup>rd</sup> Generation Partnership Project
GSMA	GSM Association
ISAG	Industry Specification Approval Group
NESAS	Network Equipment Security Assurance Scheme
PRD	Permanent Reference Document
SCAS	Security Assurance Specification
SDO	Standards Development Organisation

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# 4 Adoption Procedure for Security Assurance Specifications

The structure of SCASes is defined in GSMA PRD FS.50 [2]. SCASes may be developed internally by GSMA or by an appropriate internationally recognised SDO, e.g. 3GPP.

When a new SCAS is being created, it is essential that the developing organisation adheres to a structure that ensures the final specification meets certain quality requirements, can be applied consistently, and has utility for the NESAS Security Test Laboratories. For adoption by NESAS, the SCAS shall follow GSMA PRD FS.50 [2].

The developing organisation shall be an appropriate internationally recognised SDO that develops specifications in a manner that ensures they are developed on the basis of:

- Open decision-making accessible to all interested parties in the market or markets affected by those technical specifications;
- A collaborative and consensus based decision-making process;
- Transparent discussions and decision-making processes for which records exist;
- Participation of all relevant categories of interested parties with a view to achieving balance;
- Intellectual property rights policies that grant access to and use of the specifications on an open, fair, non-discriminatory and royalty-free basis.

The developing organisation shall further maintain the SCAS over time and apply the same rules as for initial development, as outlined above.

Publication of a new/revised SCAS will be notified to the NESAS Group and the document, having undergone appropriate quality control by the developing organisation, will be input to the NESAS Group for review and consideration. The new/revised SCAS shall be accompanied by any other specification documents that are essential to review and evaluate the SCAS. The developing organisation shall meet all the above requirements on SCAS development and maintenance and adhere to GSMA PRD FS.50 [2].

To initiate the adoption procedure, the SCAS and all necessary accompanying documents shall be sent by e-mail to [nesas@gsma.com](mailto:nesas@gsma.com).

The NESAS Group will then verify that the submitted SCAS complies with the requirements defined in GSMA PRD FS.50 [2] and that the developing organisation meets the requirements listed above.

In the event the SCAS is formally accepted and adopted by the NESAS Group it will be referenced in an update of GSMA PRD FS.63 [3]. If a SCAS is rejected, the NESAS Group will document and communicate the reasons and remedial suggestions to the developing organisation.

NOTE: SCASes that were adopted before the SCAS adoption procedure in this PRD was published, will remain adopted. The SDO that owns these specifications is encouraged to update these SCASes to meet the requirements in GSMA PRD FS.50 [2].

NESAS Group is desirous to ensure SCASes can be practically applied by NESAS Security Test Laboratories, the defined requirements are testable, compliance can be consistently and unambiguously assessed to a high quality and conformity can be ensured. The NESAS Group will engage with NESAS Security Test Laboratories to gather feedback on the utility of the SCASes, particularly after first use. The NESAS Group will gather feedback that could result in enhancement proposals to be submitted to the developing organisation by the NESAS Security Test Laboratory or by members of the NESAS Group contributing directly to the developing organisation, if considered necessary. This engagement process facilitates continuous review and improvement of NESAS adopted SCASes.

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## History

<b>Version</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Brief Description of Change</b>
1.0	Feb 2025	New document created to describe the NESAS SCAS adoption procedure.