BSI Standards Publication

Security aspects — Guidelines for their inclusion in publications

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National foreword

This Published Document is the UK implementation of IEC GUIDE 120:2023. It supersedes PD IEC GUIDE 120:2018, which is withdrawn.

The UK participation in its preparation was entrusted to Technical Committee GEL/65, Measurement and control.

A list of organizations represented on this committee can be obtained on request to its committee manager.

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Security aspects – Guidelines for their inclusion in publications

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FOREWORD

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This second edition of IEC Guide 120 has been prepared, in accordance with ISO/IEC Directives, Part 1, Annex A, by the Advisory Committee on Information security and data privacy (ACSEC).

This second edition cancels and replaces the first edition published in 2018.

The main changes with respect to the previous edition are as follows:

a) The terminology of IEC Guide 120 has been aligned with the terminology of IEC Guide 108:2019.

The text of this Guide is based on the following documents:

Draft	Report on voting
SMBNC/39/DV	SMBNC/47/RV

Full information on the voting for the approval of this Guide can be found in the report on voting indicated in the above table.

The language used for the development of this Guide is English.

This publication has been drafted in accordance with the ISO/IEC Directives, Part 2, and developed in accordance with ISO/IEC Directives, Part 1 and ISO/IEC Directives, IEC Supplement, available at www.iec.ch/members_experts/refdocs. The main document types developed by IEC are described in greater detail at www.iec.ch/standardsdev/publications.

IMPORTANT – The 'colour inside' logo on the cover page of this publication indicates that it contains colours which are considered to be useful for the correct understanding of its contents. Users should therefore print this document using a colour printer.

INTRODUCTION

The increasing complexity and connectivity of systems, products, processes and services entering the market requires that the consideration of security aspects be given a high priority. Inclusion of security aspects in standardization provides protection from and response to risks of unintentionally and intentionally caused events that can disrupt the functionality and operation of products and systems.

When preparing publications, committees should ensure that relevant resilience requirements applicable to their application domain are included. Security aspects will in many cases play a role in achieving resilience directed standards.

In this document, the term "committee", includes technical committees, subcommittees and systems committees. The term "publication" includes "International Standard", "Technical Report", "Technical Specification" and "Guide".

National legal and regulatory requirements can exist that impact the general application of publications.

NOTE Publications can deal exclusively with security aspects or can include clauses specific to security.

SECURITY ASPECTS – GUIDELINES FOR THEIR INCLUSION IN PUBLICATIONS

1 Scope

This document provides guidelines on the security aspects included in IEC publications, and how to implement them. These guidelines can be used as a checklist for the combination of publications used in implementation of systems.

This document includes what is often referred to as "cybersecurity".

This document excludes non-electrotechnical aspects of security such as societal security, except where they directly interact with electrotechnical security.

NOTE The IEC Standardization Management Board (SMB) has decided that Guides such as this one can have mandatory requirements which shall be followed by all IEC committees developing technical work that falls within the scope of the Guide, as well as guidance which may or may not be followed. Any mandatory requirements in this Guide are identified by the use of "shall". Statements that are only for guidance are identified by using the verb "should". (See ISO/IEC Directives, IEC Supplement:2021, A.1.1.)

2 Normative references

There are no normative references in this document

3 Terms and definitions

For the purposes of this document, the following terms and definitions apply.

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

- IEC Electropedia: available at https://www.electropedia.org/
- ISO Online browsing platform: available at https://www.iso.org/obp

3.1
accountability
property of a system (including all of its system resources) that ensures that the actions of a system entity can be traced uniquely to that entity, which can be held responsible for its actions

[SOURCE: IEC TS 62443-1-1:2009, 3.2.3]

3.2
attack
attempt to destroy, expose, alter, disable, steal or gain unauthorized access to or make unauthorized use of an asset

[SOURCE: ISO/IEC 27000:2018, 3.2]

3.3
authentication
provision of assurance that a claimed characteristic of an entity is correct

[SOURCE: ISO/IEC 27000:2018, 3.5]