

# GUIDE



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**Security aspects – Guidelines for their inclusion in publications**



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## Security aspects – Guidelines for their inclusion in publications

INTERNATIONAL  
ELECTROTECHNICAL  
COMMISSION

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ICS 35.030

ISBN 978-2-8322-5827-9

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INTERNATIONAL ELECTROTECHNICAL COMMISSION

**SECURITY ASPECTS – GUIDELINES FOR  
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FOREWORD

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This first 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 is a non-mandatory guide in accordance with SMB Decision 136/8.

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

DV	Report on voting
C/2086/DV	C/2113A/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.

This document has been drafted in accordance with the ISO/IEC Directives, Part 2.

A bilingual version of this publication may be issued at a later date.

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## 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/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 guide, the term “committee”, includes technical committees, subcommittees and system committees. The term “publication” includes “standard”, “technical report”, “technical specification” and “guide”.

National laws (legislation and regulation) may override 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 topics to be covered in IEC publications, and aspects of 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 “cyber security”.

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

### 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 Directives Part 2:2018, *Principles and rules for the structure and drafting of ISO and IEC documents*

### 3 Terms and definitions

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

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

- IEC Electropedia: available at <http://www.electropedia.org/>
- ISO Online browsing platform: available at <http://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 may 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 27000:2016, 2.3]

#### 3.3

##### **authentication**

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

[SOURCE: ISO/IEC 27000:2016, 2.7]