

Source: Siemens AG
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Title: Security / Emergency Call
(Integrity Check without USIM)

Agenda item: 5.3

Document for: Analysis/Consideration

S3 has discussed in their recent meetings the idea to protect Emergency Calls without a USIM by a default Integrity Key.

(See S3-00147; CR71)

The proposal implies that for emergency calls as well as normal calls, the security mode set-up procedure would always be executed.

In GSM this procedure is optional, and not applied for SIM-less emergency calls.

However it will not be different from what it is for normal UMTS calls.

Nevertheless Emergency Call is a very sensitive issue and hence security aspects may have to be balanced with regulatory requirements.

Arguments to operate USIM-less emergency calls without the integrity check could be:

- a) It safes signalling;
- b) The Emergency call is made more robust; (less complexity; some error situations are prevented)
- c) The application of integrity with a default secret key that is published in the standards and available in any ME does not provide any security service;
- d) USIM-less emergency calls should be as accessible as possible and it does not seem to be a good idea to make the capability depend on the availability in the ME of the proper default integrity key. We do not want lives to be lost because of an integrity protection failure, do we?
- e) If the – so far not existing – service requirement would state that emergency call establishment would have to be continued even when the integrity check fails, then why do it first??

Siemens does not object to the approval of the above mentioned CR in principle but we see it an absolute essential piece of information to clarify and specify the behaviour of a MS in case the integrity check fails.

The stage 3 work is blocked by this open service aspects and we see it as urgent task of SA resp. S1&S3 to create a common view.

Consequently it should be considered to apply the same principles to emergency calls with valid SIM at least clarification on MS behaviour in case of failed integrity check is needed.