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Subject: Supporting Documents

Definition

A supporting document is a document that specifies the use of the Common Criteria or Common Methodology for IT Security Evaluation in a particular field or domain of technology. There are two types of supporting document:

- Mandatory Technical Document
- Guidance Document

Mandatory Technical Documents contain a consistent set of interpretations that specify or complement the use of the criteria and methodology within a particular field or domain of technology. These documents contain the elements necessary for mutual recognition of certificates for such products.

Guidance Documents may contain background material to aid the understanding of the evaluation approach or any other information not considered to be mandatory.

Rationale

The Common Criteria (CC) and the associated evaluation methodology (CEM) are intended to cover a wide range of technologies (both current and future). In order to apply these to a specific technology it may be necessary to make interpretations of both the criteria and methodology. In cases where there are a number of such interpretations needed, a mandatory Technical Document is used to collect these together. This, in conjunction with any associated Guidance Documents, makes the harmonized approach obvious and clear.

Development Procedure

Supporting documents are developed as CCDB work items and are reported to the ES and MC via the CCDB business plan. The MC must approve the field or domain of technology where Mandatory Technical Documents are to be required. (A rationale for each case will be provided by the CCDB).

Label procedure

The supporting documents shall be labeled with a CC logo and are to be put on a separate area of the CC Website. The title of each document shall indicate its status as either a mandatory (normative) or guidance (informative) document.

Certification Requirements

Certification reports shall acknowledge the use of supporting documents (including any version numbers).