ANSSI security certification

Certification allows an independent and impartial third party to ascertain that a product, at a given time, reaches a certain security assurance level. An evaluation is performed on the product and its security features against a given attack level. The certifications performed in France, regardless of the evaluation method and besides conformance claims verifications, systematically rely on intrusion testing to establish the security assurance level reached by the product.

Certification objectives

Certification mainly addresses three types of objectives. It may be required to ensure compliance with regulations, such as European or national directives. Certification may also address a contractual objective, in cases where a customer from the public or private sectors requires such a certification. Finally, software vendors or industrials may want to differentiate from the competition by certifying their product (marketing objective).

Certification body services

Services offered by the ANSSI certification body are free of charge and available to anyone: the certification body agrees to study any security need from the various sponsors. However, the certification body systematically checks that the analysed product meets its security needs by making sure that the target of evaluation is coherent and that the evaluation is feasible.

To perform its mission, the certification body relies on ANSSI experts. It also collects feedback from sponsors who would like to create specific certification referentials covering new certifications needs.

The certification body relies on licensed evaluation facilities (Information Technology Security Evaluation Facility). Their technical expertise is monitored for each of the technical domains they are licensed for. The relevance of the evaluation work is validated by the ANSSI certification body for all evaluated products.

Depending on the security needs expressed by the evaluation sponsors, the French certification scheme offers two types of evaluations.

The *Certification de Sécurité de Premier Niveau* (First Level Security Certification) is a predefined workload evaluation. Evaluation costs are therefore known in advance for a given type of product. The investment is quite limited, and the evaluation is mostly oriented towards intrusion testing, rather than conformity.

The Common Criteria evaluation allows to certify a product with various Evaluation Assurance Levels starting from EAL1 (basic attacker potential, script kiddie) up to EAL7 (high attacker potential) and takes into account the security of the development process.

Certificate recognition

Common Criteria Certificates issued by ANSSI may benefit from an international recognition. However, the certification body also issues certificates without any international recognition if a sponsor does not need it.

The Common Criteria Recognition Agreement is signed by 25 members. It enables certificate recognition up to EAL2 (basic attacker potential).

The SOG-IS is a European agreement regrouping 10 members. The certificate recognition within that agreement goes up to EAL4, and even up to EAL7 for specific technical domains.

The difference between these two agreements resides mostly in the level of verification of the certification bodies' technical expertise. In addition to the CCRA audit requirements, the SOG-IS agreement requires further verifications of the resources and tools of certification bodies, and of the technical expertise of individual evaluation facilities. Thus the SOG-IS recognition allows for a higher mutual trust level amongst its members than the CCRRA.

More information on certification and certified products:

www.ssi.gouv.fr/entreprise/produits-certifies/