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SIST ETS 300 508 E1:2003

01-december-2003

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European digital cellular telecommunications system (Phase 2); International Mobile
station Equipment Identities (IMEI) (GSM 02.16)

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Ta slovenski standard je istoveten z: ETS 300 508 Edition 1

ICS:

33.070.50	Globalni sistem za mobilno telekomunikacijo (GSM)	Global System for Mobile Communication (GSM)

SIST ETS 300 508 E1:2003   **en**

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EUROPEAN

TELECOMMUNICATION

STANDARD

ETS 300 508

September 1994

Source: ETSI TC-SMG

Reference: GSM 02.16

ICS: 33.060.30

Key words: European digital cellular telecommunications system, Global System for Mobile communications (GSM)

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European digital cellular telecommunications system (Phase 2);
(standards.iteh.ai)
International Mobile station Equipment Identities (IMEI)
SIST ETS 300 508 E1:2003
https://standards.iteh.ai/catalog/standards/sist/92ae10e9-364f-4358-b352-
(GSM 02.16)
70f621d9712c/sist-ets-300-508-e1-2003

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New presentation - see History box

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Foreword

This European Telecommunication Standard (ETS) has been produced by the Special Mobile Group (SMG) Technical Committee (TC) of the European Telecommunications Standards Institute (ETSI).

This ETS defines the principle purpose and use of International Mobile station Equipment Identities (IMEI) within the European digital cellular telecommunications system (Phase 2) and corresponds to GSM technical specification GSM 02.16 version 4.3.4.

The specification from which this ETS has been derived was originally based on CEPT documentation, hence the presentation of this ETS may not be entirely in accordance with the ETSI/PNE rules.

Reference is made within this ETS to GSM-TSs (NOTE).

NOTE: TC-SMG has produced documents which give the technical specifications for the implementation of the European digital cellular telecommunications system. Historically, these documents have been identified as GSM Technical Specifications (GSM-TSs). These TSs may have subsequently become I-ETSs (Phase 1), or ETSs (Phase 2), whilst others may become ETSI Technical Reports (ETRs). GSM-TSs are, for editorial reasons, still referred to in GSM ETSs.

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0 Introduction

0.1 Scope

The purpose of this specification is to define the principal purpose and use of International Mobile station Equipment Identities (IMEI).

The specification GSM 03.03 describes the technical manner of numbering, addressing and identification.

0.2 Normative references

This ETS incorporates by dated and undated reference, provisions from other publications. These normative references are cited at the appropriate places in the text and the publications are listed hereafter. For dated references, subsequent amendments to or revisions of any of these publications apply to this ETS only when incorporated in it by amendment or revision. For undated references, the latest edition of the publication referred to applies.

[1]   GSM 01.04 (ETR 100): "European digital cellular telecommunication system (Phase 2); Definitions, abbreviations and acronyms".

[2]   GSM 02.17 (ETS 300 509): "European digital cellular telecommunication system (Phase 2); Subscriber identity modules Functional characteristics".

[3]   GSM 03.03 (ETS 300 523): "European digital cellular telecommunication system (Phase 2); Numbering, addressing and identification".

0.3 Definitions and abbreviations

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In addition to the following, definitions and abbreviations used in this specification are listed in GSM 01.04.

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International Mobile Station Equipment Identity (IMEI)

An "International Mobile Station Equipment Identity" is a unique number which shall be allocated to each individual mobile station equipment in the GSM system and shall be unconditionally implemented by the MS manufacturer.

1 Not used

2 General

As described in specification GSM 02.17, an MS can only be operated if a valid "International Mobile Subscriber Identity" (IMSI) is present. An IMSI is primarily intended for obtaining information on the use of the GSM network by subscribers for individual charging purposes.

Besides the IMSI, the implementation of IMEI is found necessary in order to obtain knowledge about the presence of specific mobile station equipment in the network, disregarding whatever subscribers are making use of these equipments.

The main objective is to be able to take measures against the use of stolen equipment or against equipment of which the use in the GSM system can not or no longer be tolerated for technical reasons.

The IMEI is incorporated in an MS module which is contained within the MS equipment and is physically secured.

This implementation of each individual module should be carried out by the manufacturer who is also responsible for ascertaining that each IMEI is unique and keeping detailed records of produced and delivered MS.