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European digital cellular telecommunications system (Phase 2); Specification of the  
Subscriber Identity Module - Mobile Equipment (SIM - ME) interface (GSM 11.11)

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**ICS:**

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(GSM 11.11)**

**ETSI**

European Telecommunications Standards Institute

**ETSI Secretariat**

**Postal address:** F-06921 Sophia Antipolis CEDEX - FRANCE

**Office address:** 650 Route des Lucioles - Sophia Antipolis - Valbonne - FRANCE

**X.400:** c=fr, a=atlas, p=etsi, s=secretariat - **Internet:** secretariat@etsi.fr

Tel.: +33 92 94 42 00 - Fax: +33 93 65 47 16

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## Contents

Foreword .....	7
1 Scope .....	9
2 Normative references .....	9
3 Definitions and abbreviations .....	11
3.1 Definitions.....	11
3.2 Abbreviations.....	12
3.3 Symbols .....	14
4 Physical characteristics.....	14
4.1 Format and layout .....	14
4.1.1 ID-1 SIM .....	14
4.1.2 Plug-in SIM.....	15
4.2 Temperature range for card operation .....	15
4.3 Contacts.....	15
4.3.1 Provision of contacts .....	15
4.3.2 Activation and deactivation .....	15
4.3.3 Inactive contacts .....	16
4.3.4 Contact pressure.....	16
4.4 Precedence .....	16
4.5 Static Protection .....	16
5 Electronic signals and transmission protocols .....	16
5.1 Supply voltage Vcc (contact C1).....	16
5.2 Reset (RST) (contact C2).....	17
5.3 Programming voltage Vpp (contact C6).....	17
5.4 Clock CLK (contact C3).....	17
5.5 I/O (contact C7).....	18
5.6 States .....	18
5.7 Baudrate .....	19
5.8 Answer To Reset (ATR) .....	19
5.8.1 Structure and contents.....	19
5.8.2 PTS procedure.....	20
5.9 Bit/character duration and sampling time .....	21
5.10 Error handling .....	21
6 Logical Model .....	21
6.1 General description .....	21
6.2 File identifier .....	22
6.3 Dedicated files .....	22
6.4 Elementary files .....	23
6.4.1 Transparent EF .....	23
6.4.2 Linear fixed EF .....	23
6.4.3 Cyclic EF .....	24
6.5 Methods for selecting a file .....	24
6.6 Reservation of file IDs .....	25
7 Security features .....	25
7.1 Authentication and cipher key generation procedure.....	26
7.2 Algorithms and processes.....	26
7.3 File access conditions.....	26

8	Description of the functions .....	27
8.1	SELECT .....	27
8.2	STATUS .....	28
8.3	READ BINARY .....	28
8.4	UPDATE BINARY .....	28
8.5	READ RECORD .....	28
8.6	UPDATE RECORD .....	29
8.7	SEEK .....	30
8.8	INCREASE .....	30
8.9	VERIFY CHV .....	31
8.10	CHANGE CHV .....	31
8.11	DISABLE CHV .....	32
8.12	ENABLE CHV .....	32
8.13	UNBLOCK CHV .....	32
8.14	INVALIDATE .....	33
8.15	REHABILITATE .....	33
8.16	RUN GSM ALGORITHM .....	33
8.17	SLEEP .....	33
9	Description of the commands .....	34
9.1	Mapping principles .....	34
9.2	Coding of the commands .....	35
9.2.1	SELECT .....	36
9.2.2	STATUS .....	38
9.2.3	READ BINARY .....	39
9.2.4	UPDATE BINARY .....	39
9.2.5	READ RECORD .....	39
9.2.6	UPDATE RECORD .....	39
9.2.7	SEEK .....	40
9.2.8	INCREASE .....	40
9.2.9	VERIFY CHV .....	41
9.2.10	CHANGE CHV .....	41
9.2.11	DISABLE CHV .....	41
9.2.12	ENABLE CHV .....	41
9.2.13	UNBLOCK CHV .....	42
9.2.14	INVALIDATE .....	42
9.2.15	REHABILITATE .....	42
9.2.16	RUN GSM ALGORITHM .....	42
9.2.17	SLEEP .....	43
9.2.18	GET RESPONSE .....	43
9.3	Definitions and coding .....	43
9.4	Status conditions returned by the card .....	44
9.4.1	Responses to commands which are correctly executed .....	44
9.4.2	Memory management .....	45
9.4.3	Referencing management .....	45
9.4.4	Security management .....	45
9.4.5	Application independent errors .....	46
9.4.6	Commands versus possible status responses .....	46
10	Contents of the Elementary Files (EF) .....	47
10.1	Contents of the EFs at the MF level .....	47
10.1.1	EF <sub>ICCID</sub> (ICC Identification) .....	47
10.2	Contents of files at the GSM application level .....	48
10.2.1	EF <sub>LP</sub> (Language preference) .....	48
10.2.2	EF <sub>IMSI</sub> (IMSI) .....	49
10.2.3	EF <sub>Kc</sub> (Ciphering key Kc) .....	50
10.2.4	EF <sub>PLMNsel</sub> (PLMN selector) .....	50
10.2.5	EF <sub>HPLMN</sub> (HPLMN search period) .....	51
10.2.6	EF <sub>ACMmax</sub> (ACM maximum value) .....	51
10.2.7	EF <sub>SST</sub> (SIM service table) .....	52

## ETS 300 608: January 1995 (GSM 11.11. version 4.13.1)

10.2.8	EFACM (Accumulated call meter).....	54
10.2.9	EFPUCT (Price per unit and currency table) .....	54
10.2.10	EFCBMI (Cell broadcast message identifier selection) .....	55
10.2.11	EFBCCH (Broadcast control channels).....	56
10.2.12	EFACC (Access control class) .....	56
10.2.13	EFFPLMN (Forbidden PLMNs).....	57
10.2.14	EFLOCI (Location information) .....	58
10.2.15	EFAD (Administrative data).....	59
10.2.16	EFPhase (Phase identification).....	60
10.3	Contents of files at the telecom level.....	60
10.3.1	EFADN (Abbreviated dialling numbers).....	60
10.3.2	EFFDN (Fixed dialling numbers).....	63
10.3.3	EFSMS (Short messages) .....	64
10.3.4	EFCCP (Capability configuration parameters).....	65
10.3.5	EFMSISDN (MSISDN).....	65
10.3.6	EFMSMP (Short message service parameters).....	66
10.3.7	EFMSS (SMS status).....	67
10.3.8	EFLND (Last number dialled) .....	68
10.3.9	EFEXT1 (Extension1) .....	68
10.3.10	EFEXT2 (Extension2) .....	70
10.4	Files of GSM (figure 7).....	70
11	Application protocol .....	72
11.1	General procedures .....	73
11.1.1	Reading an EF .....	73
11.1.2	Updating an EF .....	73
11.1.3	Increasing an EF .....	73
11.2	SIM management procedures .....	74
11.2.1	SIM initialisation .....	74
11.2.2	GSM session termination .....	75
11.2.3	Language preference.....	75
11.2.4	Administrative information request; .....	75
11.2.5	SIM service table request .....	75
11.2.6	SIM phase request.....	75
11.2.7	SIM Presence Detection .....	75
11.3	CHV related procedures .....	75
11.3.1	CHV verification.....	76
11.3.2	CHV value substitution .....	76
11.3.3	CHV disabling .....	76
11.3.4	CHV enabling .....	76
11.3.5	CHV unblocking.....	76
11.4	GSM security related procedures .....	77
11.4.1	GSM algorithms computation .....	77
11.4.2	IMSI request.....	77
11.4.3	Access control request .....	77
11.4.4	HPLMN search period request.....	77
11.4.5	Location information .....	77
11.4.6	Cipher key .....	77
11.4.7	BCCH information.....	77
11.4.8	Forbidden PLMN .....	77
11.5	Subscription related procedures .....	77
11.5.1	Dialling numbers.....	77
11.5.2	Short messages.....	79
11.5.3	Advice of Charge (AoC).....	80
11.5.4	Capability configuration parameters .....	80
11.5.5	PLMN selector .....	80
11.5.6	Cell broadcast message identifier.....	81
Annex A (normative):	Plug-in SIM.....	82

Annex B (informative):	FDN Procedures .....	83
Annex C (informative):	Suggested contents of the EFs at pre-personalisation.....	87
Annex D (informative):	Bibliography.....	88
History .....		89

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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 specifies the Subscriber Identity Module (SIM) to Mobile Equipment (ME) interface within the European digital cellular telecommunications system (Phase 2).

This ETS correspond to GSM technical specification, GSM 11.11 version 4.13.1.

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 Technical Specifications (GSM-TS) (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-TS). These TSs may have subsequently become I-ETTs (Phase 1), or ETs (Phase 2), whilst others may become ETSI Technical Reports (ETRs). GSM-TSs are, for editorial reasons, still referred to in current GSM ETs.

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## 1 Scope

This Technical Specification defines the interface between the Subscriber Identity Module (SIM) and the Mobile Equipment (ME) for use during the network operation phase of GSM as well as those aspects of the internal organisation of the SIM which are related to the network operation phase. This is to ensure interoperability between a SIM and an ME independently of the respective manufacturers and operators. The concept of a split of the Mobile Station (MS) into these elements as well as the distinction between the GSM network operation phase, which is also called GSM operations, and the administrative management phase are described in the Technical Specification GSM 02.17 [6].

This Technical Specification defines:

- the requirements for the physical characteristics of the SIM, the electrical signals and the transmission protocols;
- the model which shall be used as a basis for the design of the logical structure of the SIM;
- the security features;
- the interface functions;
- the commands;
- the contents of the files required for the GSM application;
- the application protocol.

Unless otherwise stated, references to GSM also apply to DCS 1800.

This standard does not specify any aspects related to the administrative management phase. Any internal technical realisation of either the SIM or the ME are only specified where these reflect over the interface. This standard does not specify any of the security algorithms which may be used.

This Technical Specification defines the SIM/ME interface for GSM Phase 2. While all attempts have been made to maintain phase compatibility, any issues that specifically relate to Phase 1 should be referenced from within the relevant Phase 1 specification.

## 2 Normative references

This European Telecommunication Standard (ETS) incorporates, by dated or 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 01.02 (ETR 99): "European digital cellular telecommunications system (Phase 2); General Description of a GSM PLMN". |
| [2] | GSM 01.04 (ETR 100): "European digital cellular telecommunications system (Phase 2); Abbreviations and acronyms".       |
| [3] | GSM 02.07 (ETS 300 505): "European digital cellular telecommunications system (Phase 2); Mobile Station (MS) features". |
| [4] | GSM 02.09 (ETS 300 506): "European digital cellular telecommunications system (Phase 2); Security aspects".             |
| [5] | GSM 02.11 (ETS 300 507): "European digital cellular telecommunications system (Phase 2); Service accessibility".        |

- [6] GSM 02.17 (ETS 300 509): "European digital cellular telecommunications system (Phase 2); Subscriber identity modules, functional characteristics".
- [7] GSM 02.24 (ETS 300 510): "European digital cellular telecommunications system (Phase 2); Description of Charge Advice Information (CAI)".
- [8] GSM 02.30 (ETS 300 511): "European digital cellular telecommunications system (Phase 2); Man-Machine Interface (MMI) of the Mobile Station (MS)".
- [9] GSM 02.86 (ETS 300 519): "European digital cellular telecommunications system (Phase 2); Advice of charge (AoC) supplementary services - Stage 1".
- [10] GSM 03.20 (ETS 300 534): "European digital cellular telecommunications system (Phase 2); Security related network functions".
- [11] GSM 03.38 (ETS 300 628): "European digital cellular telecommunication system (Phase 2); Alphabets and language-specific information".
- [12] GSM 03.40 (ETS 300 536): "European digital cellular telecommunications system (Phase 2); Technical realization of the Short Message (SMS) Service Point-to-Point (PP)".
- [13] GSM 03.41 (ETS 300 537): "European digital cellular telecommunications system (Phase 2); Technical realization of the Short Message Service Cell Broadcast (SMSCB)".
- [14] GSM 04.08 (ETS 300 557): "European digital cellular telecommunications system (Phase 2); Mobile radio interface Layer 3 specification".
- [15] GSM 04.11 (ETS 300 559): "European digital cellular telecommunications system (Phase 2); Point to Point (PP) Short Message Service (SMS) support on mobile radio interface".  
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- [16] GSM 09.91 (ETR 174): "European digital cellular telecommunications system (Phase 2); Interworking aspects of the SIM/ME interface between Phase 1 and Phase 2".
- [17] CCITT Recommendation E.118: "The international telecommunication charge card".
- [18] CCITT Recommendation E.164: "Numbering plan for the ISDN era".
- [19] CCITT Recommendation T.50: "International Alphabet No. 5". (ISO 646: 1983, Information processing - ISO 7-bits coded characters set for information interchange)
- [20] ISO 7810 (1985): "Identification cards - Physical characteristics".
- [21] ISO 7811-1 (1985): "Identification cards - Recording technique - Part 1: Embossing".
- [22] ISO 7811-3 (1985): "Identification cards - Recording technique - Part 3: Location of embossed characters".
- [23] ISO 7816-1 (1987): "Identification cards - Integrated circuit(s) cards with contacts, Part 1: Physical characteristics".
- [24] ISO 7816-2 (1988): "Identification cards - Integrated circuit(s) cards with contacts, Part 2: Dimensions and locations of the contacts".

[25] ISO/IEC 7816-3 (1989): "Identification cards - Integrated circuit(s) cards with contacts, Part 3: Electronic signals and transmission protocols".

### 3 Definitions and abbreviations

#### 3.1 Definitions

For the purposes of this standard, the following definitions apply. For further information and definitions refer to TS GSM 01.02 [1].

**Access conditions:** a set of security attributes associated with a file.

**Application:** an application consists of a set of security mechanisms, files, data and protocols (excluding transmission protocols).

**Application protocol:** the set of procedures required by the application.

**Card session:** a link between the card and the external world starting with the ATR and ending with a subsequent reset or a deactivation of the card.

**Current directory:** the latest MF or DF selected.

**Current EF:** the latest EF selected.

**Data field:** obsolete term for Elementary File.

**Dedicated File (DF):** a file containing access conditions and, optionally, Elementary Files (EFs) or other Dedicated Files (DFs).

**Directory:** general term for MF and DF.

**Elementary File (EF):** a file containing access conditions and data and no other files.

**File:** a directory or an organised set of bytes or records in the SIM.

**File identifier:** the 2 bytes which address a file in the SIM.

**GSM or DCS 1800 application:** Set of security mechanisms, files, data and protocols required by GSM or DCS 1800.

**GSM session:** that part of the card session dedicated to the GSM operation.

**IC card SIM:** obsolete term for ID-1 SIM.

**ID-1 SIM:** the SIM having the format of an ID-1 card (see ISO 7816-1 [23]).

**Master File (MF):** the unique mandatory file containing access conditions and optionally DFs and/or EFs.

**Padding:** one or more bits appended to a message in order to cause the message to contain the required number of bits or bytes.

**Plug-in SIM:** a second format of SIM (specified in clause 4).

**Record:** a string of bytes within an EF handled as a single entity (see clause 6).

**Record number:** the number which identifies a record within an EF.

**Record pointer:** the pointer which addresses one record in an EF.

**Root directory:** obsolete term for Master File.

### 3.2 Abbreviations

For the purposes of this standard the following abbreviations apply. In addition to the following abbreviations used in this specification are listed in GSM 01.04 [2].

A3	Algorithm 3, authentication algorithm; used for authenticating the subscriber
A5	Algorithm 5, cipher algorithm; used for enciphering/deciphering data
A8	Algorithm 8, cipher key generator; used to generate $K_C$
A38	A single algorithm performing the functions of A3 and A8
ACM	Accumulated Call Meter
ADN	Abbreviated Dialling Number
ADM	Access condition to an EF which is under the control of the authority which creates this file
ALW	ALWays
AoC	Advice of Charge
APDU	Application Protocol Data Unit
ATR	Answer To Reset
BCCH	Broadcast Control Channel
BCD	Binary Coded Decimal
BTS	Base Transmitter Station
CB	Cell Broadcast
CBMI	Cell Broadcast Message Identifier
CCITT	The International Telegraph and Telephone Consultative Committee (now also known as the ITU Telecommunications Standardization sector)
CCP	Capability/Configuration Parameter
CHV	Card Holder Verification information; access condition used by the SIM for the verification of the identity of the user
CLA	CLAss
DCS	Digital Cellular System
DF	Dedicated File (abbreviation formerly used for Data Field)
DTMF	Dual Tone Multiple Frequency
EF	Elementary File
ETSI	European Telecommunications Standards Institute

etu	elementary time unit
FDN	Fixed Dialling Number
GSM	Global System for Mobile communications
HPLMN	Home PLMN
IC	Integrated Circuit
ICC	Integrated Circuit(s) Card
ID	IDentifier
IEC	International Electrotechnical Commission
IMSI	International Mobile Subscriber Identity
ISO	International Organization for Standardization
Kc	Cryptographic key; used by the cipher A5
Ki	Subscriber authentication key; the cryptographic key used by the authentication algorithm, A3, and cipher key generator, A8
LAI	Location Area Information; information indicating a cell or a set of cells
lgth	The (specific) length of a data unit
LND	Last Number Dialed
LSB	Least Significant Bit
MCC	Mobile Country Code
ME	Mobile Equipment
MF	Master File
MMI	Man Machine Interface
MNC	Mobile Network Code
MS	Mobile Station
MSISDN	Mobile Station international ISDN number
MSB	Most Significant Bit
NET	NETwork
NEV	NEVer
NPI	Numbering Plan Identifier
PIN/PIN2	Personal Identification Number / Personal Identification Number 2 (obsolete terms for CHV1 and CHV2, respectively)
PLMN	Public Land Mobile Network

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