SLOVENSKI STANDARD
SIST EN 300 175-7 V2.5.1:2013

01-oktober-2013

Digitalne izboljšane brezvrvične telekomunikacije (DECT) - Skupni vmesnik (CI) - 7. del: Varnostne lastnosti

Digital Enhanced Cordless Telecommunications (DECT) - Common Interface (CI) - Part 7: Security features

Ta slovenski standard je istoveten z: EN 300 175-7 Version 2.5.1

ICS:

33.070.30	Digitalne izboljšane brezvrvične telekomunikacije (DECT)	Digital Enhanced Cordless Telecommunications (DECT)

SIST EN 300 175-7 V2.5.1:2013 **en**

ETSI EN 300 175-7 V2.5.1 (2013-08)

Digital Enhanced Cordless Telecommunications (DECT); Common Interface (CI); Part 7: Security features

Reference
REN/DECT-000268-7

Keywords
authentication, DECT, IMT-2000, mobility, radio, security, TDD, TDMA

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Sous-Préfecture de Grasse (06) N° 7803/88

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Foreword

This European Standard (EN) has been produced by ETSI Technical Committee Digital Enhanced Cordless Telecommunications (DECT).

The present document is part 7 of a multi-part deliverable ([1] to [8]). Full details of the entire series can be found in part 1 [1].

The following cryptographic algorithms are subject to controlled distribution:

a) DECT Standard Authentication Algorithm (DSAA);

b) DECT Standard Cipher (DSC).

These algorithms are distributed on an individual basis. Further information and details of the current distribution procedures can be obtained from the ETSI Secretariat at the address on the first page of the present document.

Further details of the DECT system may be found in TR 101 178 [i.1] and ETR 043 [i.2].

National transposition dates	
Date of adoption of this EN:	20 August 2013
Date of latest announcement of this EN (doa):	30 November 2013
Date of latest publication of new National Standard or endorsement of this EN (dop/e):	31 May 2014
Date of withdrawal of any conflicting National Standard (dow):	31 May 2014

Introduction

The present document contains a detailed specification of the security features which may be provided by DECT systems. An overview of the processes required to provide all the features detailed in the present document is presented in figures 0.1 and 0.2.

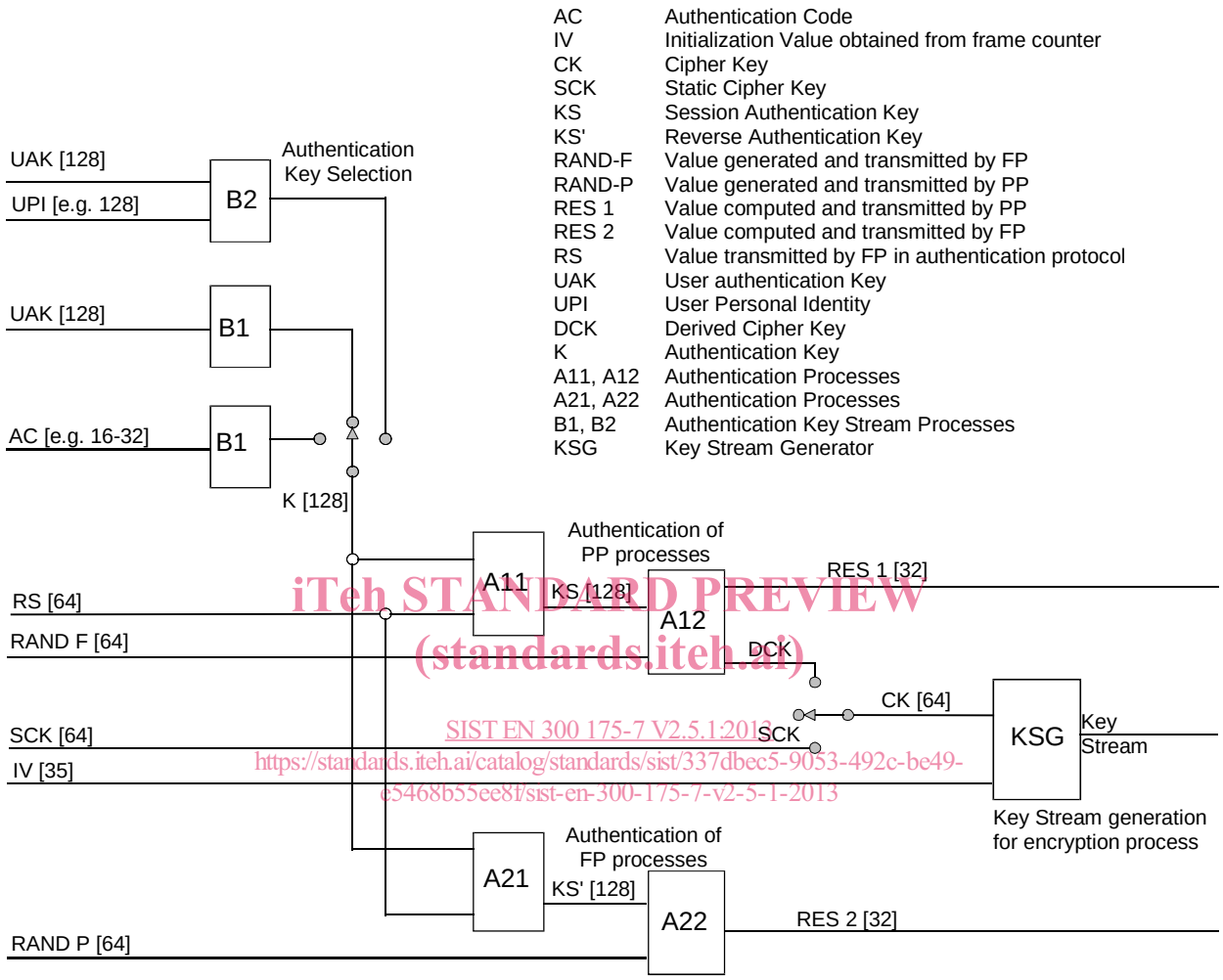

Figure 0.1: Overview of DECT historic security processes (until revision V2.3.1 of the present document)

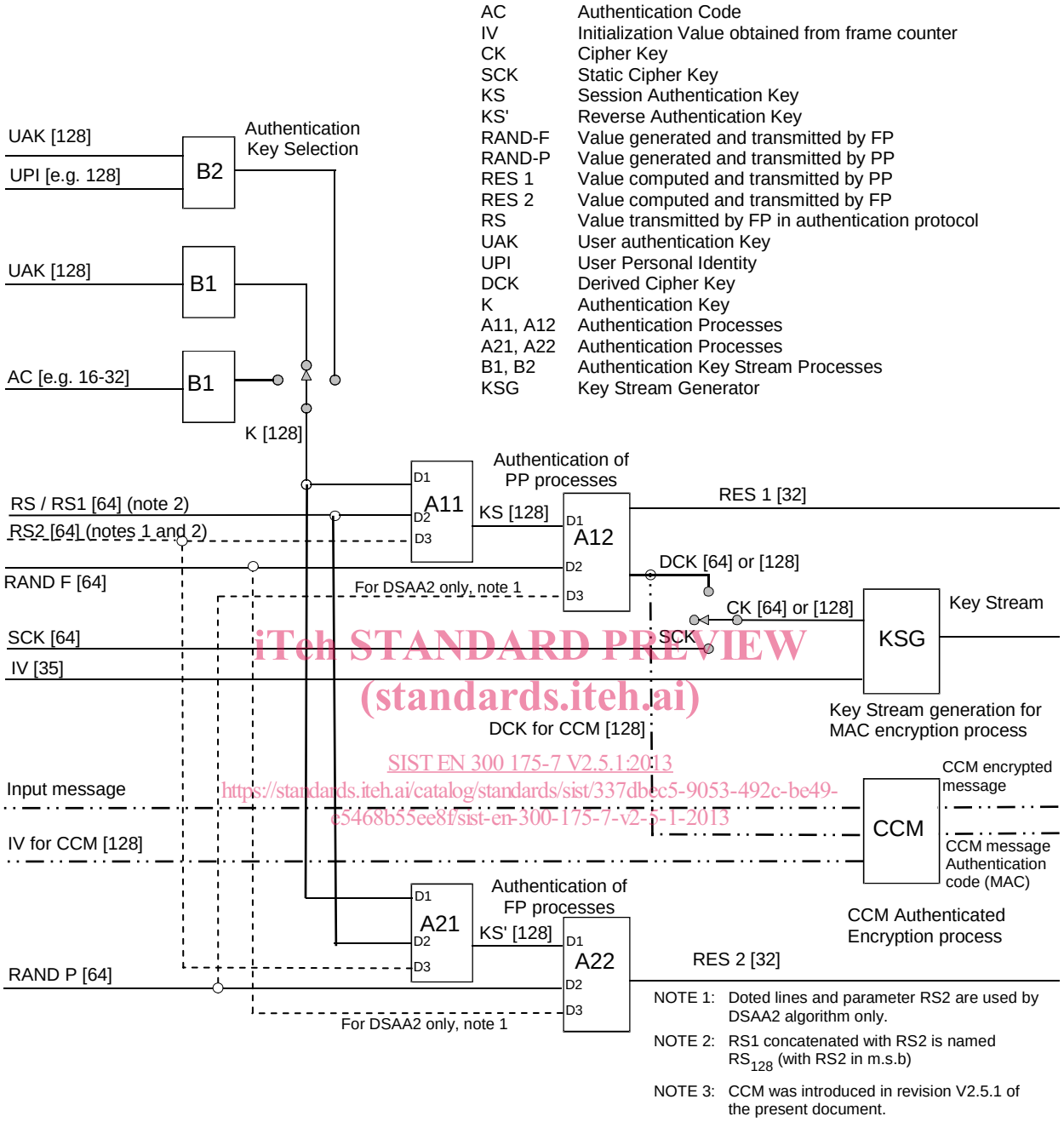

Figure 0.2: Overview of DECT current security processes (from revisions V2.4.1 and V2.5.1 of the present document)

The present document consists of four main clauses (clauses 4 to 7), together with a number of informative/normative and important annexes (A to O). The purpose of this introduction is to briefly preview the contents of each of the main clauses and the supporting annexes.

Each of the main clauses starts with a description of its objectives and a summary of its contents. Clause 4 is concerned with defining a security architecture for DECT. This architecture is defined in terms of the security services which may be offered (see clause 4.2), the mechanisms which are used to provide these services (see clause 4.3), the security parameters and keys required by the mechanisms (challenges, keys, etc.), and which are passed across the air interface or held within DECT Portable Parts (PPs), Fixed Parts (FPs) or other network entities (for example management centres) (see clause 4.4), the processes which are required to provide the security mechanisms (see clause 4.5) and the recommended combinations of services (see clause 4.6).

Clause 5 is concerned with specifying how certain cryptographic algorithms are to be used for the security processes. Three algorithms are required:

- an authentication algorithm;
- a key stream generator for MAC layer encryption; and
- a key stream generator plus a Message Authentication Code generator for CCM authenticated encryption.

The key stream generator is only used for the MAC encryption process, and this process is specified in clause 4.5.4.

The key stream generator plus a Message Authentication Code generator for CCM encryption are used for the CCM authenticated encryption and this process is described in clauses 4.5.5 and 6.6.

For both encryption processes, the authentication algorithm may be used to derive authentication session keys and cipher keys, and is the basis of the authentication process itself. The way in which the authentication algorithm is to be used to derive authentication session keys is specified in clause 5.2. The way in which the algorithm is to be used to provide the authentication process and derive cipher keys is specified in clause 5.3.

Neither the key stream generator nor the authentication algorithm are specified in the clause 5 of the present document. Only their input and output parameters are defined. In principle, the security features may be provided by using appropriate proprietary algorithms. The use of proprietary algorithms may, however, limit roaming in the public access service environment, as well as the use of PPs in different environments.

For example, for performance reasons, the key stream generator for MAC layer encryption will need to be implemented in hardware in PPs and FPs. The use of proprietary generators will then limit the interoperability of systems provided by different manufacturers.

Five standard algorithms have been specified. These are the DECT Standard Authentication Algorithm (DSAA, see annex H), the DECT Standard Authentication Algorithm #2 (DSAA2, see annex L), the DECT Standard Cipher (DSC, see annex J), the DECT Standard Cipher #2 (DSC2, see annex M) and the CCM Authenticated Encryption Algorithm (see annex N).

The DECT Standard Authentication Algorithm #2 (DSAA2, see annex L) and the DECT Standard Cipher #2 (DSC2, see annex M) are based on AES [10] and were introduced with the revision V2.4.1 of the present document.

The CCM Authenticated Encryption Algorithm (CCM, see annex N) is also based on AES [10] and was introduced with the revision V2.5.1 of the present document.

The DECT Standard Authentication Algorithm (DSAA) and the DECT Standard Cipher (DSC) are confidential. Because of their confidential nature, these algorithms are not included in the present document. However, the algorithms will be made available to DECT equipment manufacturers. The DSAA may also need to be made available to public access service operators who, in turn, may need to make it available to manufacturers of authentication modules.

The DECT Standard Authentication Algorithm #2 (DSAA2), the DECT Standard Cipher #2 (DSC2) and the CCM Algorithm (CCM) are publicly available and they are defined in annex L (DSAA2), annex M (DSC2) and annex N (CCM) of the present document.

Clause 6 is concerned with integrating the security features into the DECT system. Four aspects of integration are considered. The first aspect is the association of user security parameters (in particular, authentication keys) with DECT identities. This is the subject of clause 6.2. The second aspect of integration is the definition of the NWK layer protocol elements and message types needed for the exchange of authentication parameters across the air interface. This is dealt with in clause 6.3. The MAC layer procedures for the encryption of data passed over the air interface are the subject of clause 6.4. Finally, clause 6.5 is concerned with security attributes which DECT systems may support, and the NWK layer messages needed to enable PPs and FPs to identify which security algorithms and keys will be used to provide the various security services.

Clause 7 is concerned with key management issues. Careful management of keys is fundamental to the effective operation of a security system, and clause 7.2 is intended to provide guidance on this subject. The clause includes an explanation of how the DECT security features may be supported by different key management options.

For example, schemes which allow authentication keys to be held in a central location within a public access service network are described, as are schemes which allow authentication keys to be derived locally in public access service base stations. The clause is very much less specific than the other clauses in the present document. This is because the key management issues discussed are not an integral part of the CI. In the end it is up to network operators and service providers to decide how they are going to manage their cryptographic keys. The present document can at best provide some suggestions and guidelines.

The main text is supplemented by a set of informative annexes. There are two types of annex. Those of the first type provide background information justifying the inclusion of a particular service, or the use of a particular type of mechanism in the security features. Those of the second type provide guidance on the use and management of certain of the security features. The content of each of the annexes is briefly reviewed below.

Annex A contains the results of a security threats analysis which was undertaken prior to designing the DECT security features.

Annex B is concerned with the impact of the security features on roaming, in particular with the concurrent use of a PP in public access service, wireless Private Branch eXchange (PBX) and residential environments.

Annex C is provided for background information. It contains a justification for some of the decisions taken by EG-1, for example, why symmetric rather than public key (asymmetric) cryptographic mechanisms were selected.

Annex D provides an overview of the DECT security features specified in the present document.

No security system is perfect, and annex E discusses the limitations of the DECT security features.

Annex F relates the security features specified in the present document to the DECT environments identified in TR 101 178 [i.1]. Each of the local networks identified in the reference model is considered in turn. For each of these networks a security profile is suggested. The networks considered are Public Switched Telephone Network (PSTN), Integrated Services Digital Network (ISDN), Recommendation ITU-T X.25 [i.3], Global System for Mobile communications (GSM), Local Area Networks (LANs) and public access service.

Annex G consists of a brief discussion of the compatibility of DECT and GSM authentication. In particular, the concept of a DECT Authentication Module (DAM) is considered and its functionality compared with the functionality of the GSM Subscriber Interface Module (SIM).

Annex H refers to the DECT Standard Authentication Algorithm.

Annex J refers to the DECT Standard Cipher.

Annex K contains normative clarifications, bit mappings and examples for DSAA and DSC.

Annex L contains the definition of the DECT Standard Authentication Algorithm #2 (DSSA2).

Annex M contains the definition of the DECT Standard Cipher #2 (DSC2) algorithm.

Annex N contains the definition of the CCM Authenticated Encryption (CCM) algorithm.