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Information technology - Security techniques - Security requirements for cryptographic modules (ISO/IEC 19790:2012)

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English version

## Information technology - Security techniques - Security requirements for cryptographic modules (ISO/IEC 19790:2012)

Technologies de l'information - Techniques de sécurité  
- Exigences de sécurité pour les modules  
cryptographiques (ISO/IEC 19790:2012)

Informationstechnik - Sicherheitstechniken -  
Sicherheitsanforderungen für kryptografische Module  
(ISO/IEC 19790:2012)

This European Standard was approved by CEN on 2 March 2020.

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## European foreword

The text of ISO/IEC 19790:2012 has been prepared by Technical Committee ISO/IEC JTC 1 "Information technology" of the International Organization for Standardization (ISO) and has been taken over as EN ISO/IEC 19790:2020 by Technical Committee CEN/CLC/JTC 13 "Cybersecurity and Data Protection" the secretariat of which is held by DIN.

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## Endorsement notice

The text of ISO/IEC 19790:2012 has been approved by CEN as EN ISO/IEC 19790:2020 without any modification.

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## Introduction

In Information Technology there is an ever-increasing need to use cryptographic mechanisms such as the protection of data against unauthorised disclosure or manipulation, for entity authentication and for non-repudiation. The security and reliability of such mechanisms are directly dependent on the cryptographic modules in which they are implemented.

This International Standard provides for four increasing, qualitative levels of security requirements intended to cover a wide range of potential applications and environments. The cryptographic techniques are identical over the four security levels. The security requirements cover areas relative to the design and implementation of a cryptographic module. These areas include cryptographic module specification; cryptographic module interfaces; roles, services, and authentication; software/firmware security; operational environment; physical security; non-invasive security; sensitive security parameter management; self-tests; life-cycle assurance; and mitigation of other attacks.

The overall security rating of a cryptographic module must be chosen to provide a level of security appropriate for the security requirements of the application and environment in which the module is to be utilised and for the security services that the module is to provide. The responsible authority in each organization should ensure that their computer and telecommunication systems that utilise cryptographic modules provide an acceptable level of security for the given application and environment. Since each authority is responsible for selecting which approved security functions are appropriate for a given application, compliance with this International Standard does not imply either full interoperability or mutual acceptance of compliant products. The importance of security awareness and of making information security a management priority should be communicated to all concerned.

Information security requirements vary for different applications; organizations should identify their information resources and determine the sensitivity to and the potential impact of a loss by implementing appropriate controls. Controls include, but are not limited to:

- physical and environmental controls;
- access controls;
- software development;
- backup and contingency plans; and
- information and data controls.

These controls are only as effective as the administration of appropriate security policies and procedures within the operational environment.

# Information technology — Security techniques — Security requirements for cryptographic modules

## 1 Scope

This International Standard specifies the security requirements for a cryptographic module utilised within a security system protecting sensitive information in computer and telecommunication systems. This International Standard defines four security levels for cryptographic modules to provide for a wide spectrum of data sensitivity (e.g. low value administrative data, million dollar funds transfers, life protecting data, personal identity information, and sensitive information used by government) and a diversity of application environments (e.g. a guarded facility, an office, removable media, and a completely unprotected location). This International Standard specifies four security levels for each of 11 requirement areas with each security level increasing security over the preceding level.

This International Standard specifies security requirements specified intended to maintain the security provided by a cryptographic module and compliance to this International Standard is not sufficient to ensure that a particular module is secure or that the security provided by the module is sufficient and acceptable to the owner of the information that is being protected.

## 2 Normative references

The following referenced documents are indispensable for the application of this document. For dated references, only the edition cited applies. For undated references, the latest edition of the referenced document (including any amendments) applies.

The documents listed in Annexes C, D, E and F of this International Standard

## 3 Terms and definitions

For the purposes of this document, the following terms and definitions apply.

### 3.1

#### **access control list**

#### **ACL**

list of permissions to grant access to an object

### 3.2

#### **administrator guidance**

written material that is used by the Crypto Officer and/or other administrative roles for the correct configuration, maintenance, and administration of the cryptographic module

### 3.3

#### **automated**

without manual intervention or input (e.g. electronic means such as through a computer network)

### 3.4

#### **approval authority**

any national or international organisation/authority mandated to approve and/or evaluate security functions