Electronic Signatures and Infrastructures (ESI);
ASiC Baseline Profile
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Foreword

This Technical Specification (TS) has been produced by ETSI Technical Committee Electronic Signatures and Infrastructures (ESI).

Introduction

TS 102 918 [6] (ASiC henceforth) specifies the use of container structures to bind together one or more signed objects with either advanced electronic signatures or time-stamp tokens into one single digital container. It uses package formats based on ZIP [i.2] and supports the following signature and time-stamp token formats:

- CAdES [1] detached signature(s);
- XAdES [2] detached signature(s);
- RFC 3161 [i.1] time-stamp tokens.

In order to maximise interoperability in communities applying ASiC to particular environments it is necessary to identify a common set of options that are appropriate to that environment. Such a selection is commonly called a profile.

1 Scope

The present document defines a baseline profile for ASiC that provides the basic features necessary for a wide range of business and governmental use cases for electronic procedures and communications to be applicable to a wide range of communities when there is a clear need for interoperability of AdES signatures, on which ASiC is based, to be interchanged across borders. In particular it takes into account needs for interoperability of AdES signatures used in electronic documents issued by competent authorities to be interchanged across borders in the context of the EU Services Directive [i.3].

The profile defines three different conformance levels addressing incremental requirements to maintain the validity of the container signatures over the long term based on the corresponding conformance levels specified in CAdES [3] and XAdES [4] profiles, in a way that all the requirements addressed at a certain level are always addressed also by the levels above. Each level requires the presence of certain attributes in the container signature, suitably profiled for reducing the optionality as much as possible and referring to the forms that are specified in CAdES [1] or XAdES [2] as applicable.

NOTE: The mentioned CAdES and XAdES profiles define an additional LTA (Long Term Archive time-stamps) conformance level that allow validation of the signature long time after its generation. An equivalent level for AsiC requires a revision of the mother specification (currently TS 102 918 [6] (V1.2.1)). It is anticipated that the present document will be updated to include the LTA level when a suitable version of the AsiC mother specification will be available.

Clause 2 in the present document contains references to the relevant documents and standards.

Clause 3 includes definitions of relevant terms and abbreviations used in the present document.

Clause 4 identifies the three conformance levels and shows how these levels might encompass the life cycle of the electronic signatures.

Clause 5 provides details on the way that the requirements on both signer and verifier will be presented throughout the present document.

Clauses 6, 7 and 8 specify the requirements for ASiC containers that are applicable to all the conformance levels specified in clause 4. Clause 6 specifies profiling requirements for elements common to all ASiC containers while clauses 7 and 8 specify profile requirements related to ASiC-S and ASiC-E respectively.

2 References

References are either specific (identified by date of publication and/or edition number or version number) or non-specific. For specific references, only the cited version applies. For non-specific references, the latest version of the referenced document (including any amendments) applies.

Referenced documents which are not found to be publicly available in the expected location might be found at http://docbox.etsi.org/Reference.

NOTE: While any hyperlinks included in this clause were valid at the time of publication ETSI cannot guarantee their long term validity.

2.1 Normative references

The following referenced documents are necessary for the application of the present document.

[1] ETSI TS 101 733: "Electronic Signatures and Infrastructures (ESI); CMS Advanced Electronic Signatures (CAdES)".

[2] ETSI TS 101 903: "Electronic Signatures and Infrastructures (ESI); XML Advanced Electronic Signatures (XAdES)".

[3] ETSI TS 103 173: "Electronic Signatures and Infrastructures (ESI); CAdES Baseline Profile".
2.2 Informative references

The following referenced documents are not necessary for the application of the present document but they assist the user with regard to a particular subject area.

[i.1] IETF RFC 3161: "Internet X.509 Public Key Infrastructure Time-Stamp Protocol (TSP)".

[i.2] PKWARE: "ZIP Application Note".


[i.5] ETSI TS 101 533-1: "Electronic Signatures and Infrastructures (ESI); Data Preservation Systems Security; Part 1: Requirements for Implementation and Management".

[i.6] ETSI TS 102 640-1: "Electronic Signatures and Infrastructures (ESI); Registered Electronic Mail (REM); Part 1: Architecture".


3 Definitions and abbreviations

3.1 Definitions

For the purposes of the present document, the terms and definitions given in TS 101 733 [1], TS 101 903 [2], TS 102 918 [6] and the following apply:

generator: any party which creates, or adds attributes to, a signature

NOTE: This may be the signatory or any party which initially verifies or further maintains the signature.

protocol element: element of the protocol which may be including data elements and/or elements of procedure

service element: element of service that may be provided using one or more protocol elements

NOTE: All alternative protocol elements provide an equivalent service to the users of the protocol.

verifier: entity that validates or verifies an electronic signature
3.2 Abbreviations

For the purposes of the present document, the abbreviations given in CAdES [1], XAdES [2] and ASiC [6] apply.

4 Conformance Levels

The present document defines three conformance levels as indicated below.

Applications managing containers that contain signatures conformant to requirements specified in clause 6 of [3] or [4] (as applicable, depending on the ASiC form) may claim **B-Level** (basic level) conformance.

Applications managing containers that contain signatures conformant to **B-Level** and signatures conformant to requirements specified in clause 7 of [3] or [4] (as applicable, depending on the ASiC form) may claim **T-Level** (Trusted time for signature existence) conformance.

Applications managing containers that contain signatures conformant to **T-Level** and signatures conformant to requirements specified in clause 8 of [3] or [4] (as applicable, depending on the ASiC form) may claim **LT-Level** (Long Term level) conformance.

These conformance levels are defined for encompassing the life cycle of electronic signature, namely:

a) **B-Level** profiles incorporation of signed and some unsigned properties when the signature is actually generated.

   **NOTE 1:** It is considered that this level is sufficient to conform to the Commission Decision 2011/130/EU of 25 February 2011 [i.7].

b) **T-Level** profiles the generation, for an existing signature, of a trusted token proving that the signature itself actually existed at a certain date and time.

c) **LT-Level** profiles the incorporation of all the material required for validating the signature in the signature. This level is understood to tackle the long term availability of the validation material.

   **NOTE 2:** The levels b) to d) are appropriate where the technical validity of signature needs to be preserved for a period of time after signature creation where certificate expiration, revocation and/or algorithm obsolescence is of concern. The specific level applicable depends on the context and use case.

All conformance levels up to LT use properties defined in CAdES [1] or XAdES [2] as applicable.

   **NOTE 3:** The present document does not specify an LTA-Level profile like in [3] and [4] because ASiC containers that allow validation of the signature long time after its generation cannot be obtained only using CAdES or XAdES signatures conformant to LTA level (as specified in [3] and [4]). An update to TS 102 918 [6] (V1.2.1), the currently available ASiC specification, is anticipated to enable this feature. Other measures can be adopted to tackle the long term availability and integrity of the validation material as described in the following.

When signed data is exchanged between parties the sender should use at least signatures conforming to a level that allows the relying parties to trust the signature at the time the exchange takes place.

   **NOTE 4:** Conformance to LT level is sufficient when combined with appropriate additional preservation and transmission techniques.

   **NOTE 5:** The assessment of the effectiveness of other preservation and transmission techniques for signed data are out of the scope of the present document. The reader is advised to consider legal instruments in force and related standards such as TS 101 533-1 [i.5] or TS 102 640-1 [i.6] to evaluate their appropriateness.
5 General requirements

5.1 Algorithm requirements

Generators are referred to applicable national laws regarding algorithms and key lengths.

Generators are also recommended to take into account the latest version of TS 102 176-1 [5] for guidelines purposes and the latest ECRYPT2 D.SPA.x [i.4] yearly report for further recommendations, when selecting algorithms and key lengths.

MD5 algorithm shall not be used as digest algorithm.

For CAdES and XAdES signatures present in the container the related profiles (respectively [3] and [4]) shall apply.

5.2 Compliance requirements

Profiles in the present document define requirements for generators of ASiC containers.

A verifier shall be able to accept ASiC containers with signatures containing any elements/properties conformant to XAdES [2] or CAdES [1], as applicable, but this profile does not specify any processing requirement on such elements/properties present in the signatures as it is meant to be used together with a specification describing processing during signature validation.

Requirements are grouped in two different categories, each one having its corresponding identifier. Table 1 defines these categories and their identifiers.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Identifier</th>
<th>Requirement on generator</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>M</td>
<td>Generator shall include the element in the signature.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>O</td>
<td>Generator may include the element in the signature.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Optional elements defined in ASiC [6] but not specified in the present document are treated as "O" as above.

Any element present in CAdES or XAdES signatures included in ASiC containers and not specified in the present document shall be treated as specified in CAdES Baseline Profile [3] and XAdES Baseline Profile [4] as applicable.

Certain service elements may be provided by different protocol elements at user's choice. In these cases the semantics of M and O defined in table 1 depend on the requirement for the service element itself. Tables 2 and 3 (each one applies to a different requirement on the service element) define these semantics.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Requirement Identifier for the Service/Protocol element</th>
<th>Requirement on generator</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Service = M</td>
<td>Generator shall provide the service by including one protocol element chosen from the list of choices.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Protocol Choice = O</td>
<td>Generator may use this protocol element for providing the mandatory service elements.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Requirement Identifier for the Service/Protocol element</th>
<th>Requirement on generator</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Service = O</td>
<td>Generator may provide the service by including one protocol element chosen from the list of choices.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Protocol Choice = O</td>
<td>If the generator decides to provide the service, then she may use this protocol element.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
The present document shows new requirements for each service and protocol element in tabular form. Below follows the structure of the table.

### Table 4: Requirements for optional service with choices

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Service/Protocol element</th>
<th>Reference</th>
<th>Requirement on generator</th>
<th>Additional requirements/notes</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Service:</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Choice 1</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Choice 2</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Column **Service/Protocol element** will identify the service element or protocol element the requirement applies to. Service elements that may be implemented by different protocol elements (i.e. users may make a choice on several protocol elements) build tables with more than one row.

Column **Reference** will reference the relevant clause of the standard where the element is first defined. The reference is to ASiC [6], except where explicitly indicated otherwise.

Column **Requirement on generator** will contain an identifier of the requirement, as defined in table 1, bound to the corresponding protocol element for the generator.

Column **Notes/Additional requirements** will contain numbers referencing notes and/or letters referencing additional requirements. Both notes and additional requirements are listed below the table.

Profiles may be affected by applicable regulations; hence implementers should check any national regulation that may affect these profiles.

## 6 Requirements for ASiC formats

### 6.1 ASiC conformance

TS 102 918 [6] specifies that a conformant implementation can support a single ASiC type.

### Table 5

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Service/Protocol element</th>
<th>ASiC [6] reference</th>
<th>Generator requirement</th>
<th>Additional requirements/notes</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Service: ASiC</td>
<td></td>
<td>M</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ASiC-S CAdES</td>
<td>Clause 7.1.1</td>
<td>O</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ASiC-S XAdES</td>
<td>Clause 7.1.2</td>
<td>O</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ASiC-S Time-stamp token</td>
<td>Clause 7.1.3</td>
<td>O</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ASiC-E XAdES</td>
<td>Clause 7.2.1</td>
<td>O</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ASiC-E CAdES</td>
<td>Clause 7.2.2</td>
<td>O</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ASiC-E Time-stamp</td>
<td>Clause 7.2.3</td>
<td>O</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**NOTE:** According to the requirements specified for this service, generator and verifier can implement one or more protocol options. Implementers are advised to detail in relevant documentation the implemented protocols by explicitly referencing all applicable TS 102 918 [6] clause(s).
7 Requirements for ASiC-S

7.1 ASiC-S Media type identification

This clause specifies compliance requirements for any ASiC-S type as does not depend on the selected signature type.

Table 6

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Service/Protocol element</th>
<th>ASiC [6] reference</th>
<th>Generator requirement</th>
<th>Additional requirements/notes</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Service: ASiC-S Media identification</td>
<td></td>
<td>M</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ASiC file extension is &quot;asics&quot;</td>
<td>Clause 5.2.1</td>
<td>O</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ASiC file extension is &quot;scs&quot;</td>
<td>Clause 5.2.1</td>
<td>O</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>mimetype</td>
<td>Clauses 5.2.1 and A.1</td>
<td>O</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

7.2 ASiC-S Signed data object

This clause specifies compliance requirements for any ASiC-S type as does not depend on the selected signature type.

Table 7

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Service/Protocol element</th>
<th>ASiC [6] reference</th>
<th>Generator requirement</th>
<th>Additional requirements/notes</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Signed data object</td>
<td>Clause 5.2.2 point 2</td>
<td>M</td>
<td>a</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Additional requirement:

a) This protocol element shall be the only element, with an arbitrary name, in the root container folder.

7.3 Requirements for ASiC-S format

Table 8

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Service/Protocol element</th>
<th>ASiC [6] reference</th>
<th>Generator requirement</th>
<th>Additional requirements/notes</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Service: ASiC-S format</td>
<td></td>
<td>M</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>META-INF/timestamp.tst</td>
<td>Clause 5.2.2 point 3a</td>
<td>O</td>
<td>Clause 6.3.1 shall apply</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>META-INF/signature.p7s</td>
<td>Clause 5.2.2 point 3b</td>
<td>O</td>
<td>Clause 6.3.2 shall apply</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>META-INF/signatures.xml</td>
<td>Clause 5.2.2 point 3c</td>
<td>O</td>
<td>Clause 6.3.3 shall apply</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

7.3.1 Requirements for ASiC-S CAdES signature format

Table 9

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Service/Protocol element</th>
<th>ASiC [6] reference</th>
<th>Generator requirement</th>
<th>Additional requirements/notes</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>META-INF/signature.p7m</td>
<td>Clause 5.2.2 point 3b</td>
<td>M</td>
<td>a</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Additional requirement:

a) The CAdES [1] signature specified above shall conform to the CAdES baseline profiles [3], clause 5 and all subclauses, except for subclause 5.1.1 where only the detached signature service shall be supported.
7.3.2 Requirements for ASiC-S XAdES signature format

Table 10

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Service/Protocol element</th>
<th>ASIC [6] reference</th>
<th>Generator requirement</th>
<th>Additional requirements/notes</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>META-INF/signatures.xml</td>
<td>Clause 5.2.2 point 3c</td>
<td>M</td>
<td>a, b</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Additional requirements:

a) This protocol element shall contain a `<asic:XAdESSignatures>` element as specified in TS 102 918 [6], point 3a.


7.3.3 Requirements for ASiC-S Time stamp token format

Table 11

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Service/Protocol element</th>
<th>ASIC [6] reference</th>
<th>Generator requirement</th>
<th>Additional requirements/notes</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>META-INF/timestamp.tst</td>
<td>Clause 5.2.2 point 3a</td>
<td>M</td>
<td>a</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Additional requirement:

a) This protocol element shall conform to TS 101 861 [7].

8 Requirements for ASiC-E

8.1 ASiC-E Media type identification

This clause specifies compliance requirements for any ASiC-E type.

Table 12

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Service/Protocol element</th>
<th>ASIC [6] reference</th>
<th>Generator requirement</th>
<th>Additional requirements/notes</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Service: ASiC-E Media type identification</td>
<td></td>
<td>M</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ASiC file extension is &quot;asice&quot;</td>
<td>Clause 6.2.1</td>
<td>O</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ASiC file extension is &quot;sce&quot;</td>
<td>Clause 6.2.1</td>
<td>O</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>mimetype</td>
<td>Clause 6.2.1</td>
<td>O</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

8.2 ASiC-E Signed data object

This clause specifies compliance requirements for any ASiC-E type as does not depend on the selected signature type.

Table 13

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Service/Protocol element</th>
<th>ASIC [6] reference</th>
<th>Generator requirement</th>
<th>Additional requirements/notes</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Signed data object</td>
<td>Clause 6.2.2</td>
<td>M</td>
<td>At least one signed data object shall be in the container outside the META-INF folder</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
8.3 Requirements for ASiC-E XAdES

This clause specifies additional compliance requirements specific for ASiC-E XAdES type.

8.3.1 ASiC-E XAdES signature

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Service/Protocol element</th>
<th>ASiC [6] reference</th>
<th>Generator requirement</th>
<th>Additional requirements/notes</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ASiC-E XAdES signature</td>
<td>Clause 6.2.2 point 2</td>
<td>M</td>
<td>a, b, c</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Additional requirements:

a) At least a signature shall be present in the META-INF folder conforming to TS 102 918 [6], point 2.

b) The root element in each signature shall contain a `<asic:XAdESSignatures>` element conforming to TS 102 918 [6], clause 6.2.2, point 3a.

c) Each XAdES [2] element included in the root element specified above shall reference directly all the signed data objects with a set of `<ds:Reference>` elements (see TS 102 918 [6], point 2).

8.3.2 Requirements for the contents of Container

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Service/Protocol element</th>
<th>ASiC [6] reference</th>
<th>Generator requirement</th>
<th>Additional requirements/notes</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>META-INF/manifest.xml</td>
<td>Clause 6.2.2 point 4b</td>
<td>M</td>
<td>a</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Additional requirements:

a) In META-INF folder shall not be present any additional data object in addition to what specified in this clause and in clause 7.3.1.

8.4 Requirements for ASiC-E CAdES

This clause specifies compliance requirements for ASiC-E CAdES.

8.4.1 ASiC-E CAdES signature

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Service/Protocol element</th>
<th>ASiC [6] reference</th>
<th>Generator requirement</th>
<th>Additional requirements/notes</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ASiC-E CAdES signature</td>
<td>Clause 6.3.2 point 4a</td>
<td>M</td>
<td>a, b</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Additional requirements:

a) At least a signature shall be present in the META-INF folder as specified in TS 102 918 [6], clause 6.3.2, point 4a.

b) Each CAdES [1] signature specified above shall conform to the CAdES baseline profiles [3], clause 5 and all subclauses, except for clause 5.1.1 where only the detached signature service shall be supported.
8.4.2 Requirements for the contents of Container

Table 17

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Service/Protocol element</th>
<th>ASiC [6] reference</th>
<th>Generator requirement</th>
<th>Additional requirements/notes</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>META-INF/AsiCManifest</td>
<td>Clause 6.3.2 point 3</td>
<td>M</td>
<td>a</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Additional requirements:

a) At least one AsiCManifest shall be present.

b) In META-INF folder shall not be present any additional data object in addition to what specified in this clause and in clause 7.4.1.

8.5 Requirements for ASiC-E Time stamp token

This clause specifies compliance requirements for ASiC-E CAdES.

8.5.1 Requirements on Time stamp tokens

Table 18

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Service/Protocol element</th>
<th>ASiC [6] reference</th>
<th>Generator requirement</th>
<th>Additional requirements/notes</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ASiC-E Time stamp token</td>
<td>Clause 6.3.2 point 4b</td>
<td>M</td>
<td>a, b</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Additional requirements:

a) At least a time stamp token shall be present in the META-INF folder as specified in TS 102 918 [6], clause 6.3.2, point 4b.

b) Each Time stamp token specified above shall conform to TS 101 861 [7].

8.5.2 Requirements for the contents of Container

Table 19

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Service/Protocol element</th>
<th>ASiC [6] reference</th>
<th>Generator requirement</th>
<th>Additional requirements/notes</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>META-INF/AsiCManifest</td>
<td>Clause 6.3.2 point 3</td>
<td>M</td>
<td>a</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Additional requirements:

a) At least one AsiCManifest shall be present.

b) In META-INF folder shall not be present any additional object in addition to what is specified in this clause and in clause 7.5.1.
### History

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Document history</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>V1.1.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>V1.2.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>V2.1.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>V2.2.1</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>