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Lawful Interception (LI); Handover for messaging services over HTTP/XML

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Foreword

This Technical Specification (TS) has been produced by ETSI Technical Committee Lawful Interception (LI).

Modal verbs terminology

In the present document "**shall**", "**shall not**", "**should**", "**should not**", "**may**", "**need not**", "**will**", "**will not**", "**can**" and "**cannot**" are to be interpreted as described in clause 3.2 of the [ETSI Drafting Rules](#) (Verbal forms for the expression of provisions).

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Introduction

The present document provides the handover details to deliver messaging services for LI over HTTP/XML. Audio and video streaming and RCS are not in scope of the present document. The CSP may opt to use other standards to facilitate LI over TCP/ASN.1 as an alternative message format, e.g. ETSI TS 102 232-2 [i.5] (for messaging services) and ETSI TS 102 232-5 [i.6] (for IP Multimedia Services).

1 Scope

The present document specifies the handover details to deliver messaging services for LI over HTTP/XML.

2 References

2.1 Normative 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 <https://docbox.etsi.org/Reference>.

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

- [1] ETSI TS 103 120: "Lawful Interception (LI); Interface for warrant information".
- [2] IETF RFC 2818: "HTTP Over TLS".
- [3] IETF RFC 5246: "The Transport Layer Security (TLS) Protocol Version 1.2".

NOTE: Obsoleted by IETF RFC 8446.

- [4] IETF RFC 7525: "Recommendations for Secure Use of Transport Layer Security (TLS) and Datagram Transport Layer Security (DTLS)".
- [5] IETF RFC 8446: "The Transport Layer Security (TLS) Protocol Version 1.3".
- [6] IETF RFC 4279: "Pre-Shared Key Ciphersuites for Transport Layer Security (TLS)".
- [7] ETSI TS 103 280: "Lawful Interception (LI); Dictionary for common parameters".
- [8] IETF RFC 6838: "Media Type Specifications and Registration Procedures".
- [9] FIPS Publication 180-4 (2015): "Secure Hash Standard (SHS)".

2.2 Informative 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.

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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] Recommendation ITU-T E.164: "The international public telecommunication numbering plan".
- [i.2] IETF RFC 5322: "Internet Message Format".
- [i.3] IETF RFC 5321: "Simple Mail Transfer Protocol".
- [i.4] IETF RFC 3696: "Application Techniques for Checking and Transformation of Names".

- [i.5] ETSI TS 102 232-2: "Lawful Interception (LI); Handover Interface and Service-Specific Details (SSD) for IP delivery; Part 2: Service-specific details for messaging services".
- [i.6] ETSI TS 102 232-5: "Lawful Interception (LI); Handover Interface and Service-Specific Details (SSD) for IP delivery; Part 5: Service-specific details for IP Multimedia Services".

3 Definition of terms, symbols and abbreviations

3.1 Terms

For the purposes of the present document, the following terms apply:

messaging service: service which allows users to transfer messages to a finite number of users whereby the persons initiating or participating in the communications determine its recipient(s)

3.2 Symbols

Void.

3.3 Abbreviations

For the purposes of the present document, the following abbreviations apply:

CSP	Communications Service Provider
HTTP	HyperText Transfer Protocol
HTTPS	HyperText Transfer Protocol Secure
ID	IDentifier
IP	Internet Protocol
LEA	Law Enforcement Agency
LI	Lawful Interception
LIID	Lawful Interception IDentifier
MIME	Multipurpose Internet Mail Extensions
MSISDN	Mobile Station International Subscriber Directory Number
RCS	Rich Communication Services
SHA	Secure Hash Algorithm
SSL	Secure Sockets Layer
TC	Technical Committee
TLS	Transport Layer Security
URL	Uniform Resource Locator
UUID	Universally Unique Identifier
XML	eXtensible Markup Language
XSD	XML Schema Definition

4 Introductory material

4.1 Reference model

This clause provides a Reference Model which applies to request and delivery mechanisms between Law Enforcement Agencies (LEAs) and Communications Service Providers (CSPs) for the present document.

Request means submission of a request for data and delivery means handover of the material that was identified by the CSP as meeting the request. Figure 1 shows the reference model.



Figure 1: Reference model

The LEA/CSP standards should accommodate for a variety of different law enforcement agencies and for a variety of CSPs. In other words, it is important to support some variance in the internal procedures, processes and data structures. Such variance should not compromise the establishment of security best-practice.

4.2 Responsibilities

The LEA is responsible for creating a lawful request and the request needs to be clear. The LEA delivers the request to the CSP. The legal obligation on the CSP (e.g. what has to be delivered, what has to be retained) is managed independently of the delivery interface and is out of scope of the present document.

The CSP is responsible for the collection of the data within its system, and produces the data using its own capabilities and entirely under the control of the CSP system. The CSP identifies the data which matches the clear request, and only that data. The CSP needs to be able to perform a human review of the request and delivered material. The CSP packages the data, attaches relevant information (e.g. unique reference number, timestamp) and delivers it to the requesting LEA.

Each request is distinct and shall be handled independently of other requests.

5 Basic concepts

5.1 General

The object consists of the following components:

- Application level header (see clause 5.3).
- Core parameters for messaging (see clause 5.4).
- Messaging glossary (see clause 5.5).
- CSP-defined information (see clause 5.6).

The object is delivered using ETSI TS 103 120 [1] as described in clause 5.2.

The following parameter definitions use the terminology of one of the following:

- Mandatory (M): required for every delivery.
- Conditional (C): required in situations where a condition is met (the condition is given in the description).
- Optional (O): provided at the discretion of the implementation.

5.2 Delivery

5.2.1 General

Handover items are delivered using the DeliveryObject as described in ETSI TS 103 120 [1], clause 10.

The present document does not require the use of any of the tasking components from ETSI TS 103 120 [1]. The present document does not require the use of national profiles (as per the definition of profiles in ETSI TS 103 120 [1]).

5.2.2 ETSI TS 103 120 Message header

The Message Header fields shall be populated as defined in ETSI TS 103 120 [1], clause 6.2, with the additional clarifications as shown in Table 1.

Table 1: ETSI TS 103 120 [1] Message Header population

Parameter	Description	M/O/C
senderIdentifier	<p>The Sender is the CSP.</p> <p>The SenderIdentifier has two components: a CountryCode and a UniqueIdentifier. They shall be populated as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The CSP shall choose the CountryCode; this may be "XX". If the LEA has supplied a UniqueIdentifier then this shall be used; otherwise the CSP shall choose its own SenderIdentifier. 	M
receiverIdentifier	<p>The Receiver is the LEA.</p> <p>The ReceiverIdentifier has two components: a CountryCode and a UniqueIdentifier. They shall be populated as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> CountryCode: If the LEA has supplied a ReceiverIdentifier-CountryCode then this shall be used. It is recommended that this is populated in order to assist with uniqueness - see the text at the end of clause 5.2.3. If no CountryCode has been supplied or agreed with the LEA then "XX" shall be used. UniqueIdentifier: If the LEA has supplied a ReceiverIdentifier-UniqueIdentifier then this shall be used. In general, the actual LEA should not be identified on this interface, and (unless agreed otherwise) the UniqueIdentifier should contain the text "Not specified". 	M
timestamp	Shall specify the time the message was created.	M
version	Shall be set to the version of ETSI TS 103 120 [1] used. If national profiles are not used, the NationalProfileOwner and NationalProfileVersion strings shall be set to "N/A".	M

5.2.3 ETSI TS 103 120 Object header

The payload shall contain a "Delivery Request", which shall contain a DeliveryObject as per ETSI TS 103 120 [1], clause 10.

The common Object fields shall be specified as per ETSI TS 103 120 [1], clause 7.1.1 with the clarifications as shown in Table 2.

Table 2: Object top-level fields

Parameter	Description	M/O/C
countryCode	Shall be set to the Country Code used in the ReceiverIdentifier field (see Table 1).	M
ownerIdentifier	Shall be set to the value given in the ReceiverIdentifier.	M
nationalHandlingParameters	Shall not be used.	N/A

Parameters for the DeliveryObject shall be set as per ETSI TS 103 120 [1], clause 10, with the clarifications as shown in Table 3.

Table 3: DeliveryObject

Parameter	Description	M/O/C
reference	Target identifier i.e. LIID. If an LIID has been supplied by the LEA then this shall be used. See paragraph at the end of clause 5.2.3. If an LIID has not been supplied by the LEA then it shall be chosen by the CSP in accordance with practices agreed by LEA and CSP.	M
manifest	If present, it shall specify ETSI TS 103 707 (the present document) as the delivery type.	O
delivery	Shall contain an XML-encoded object compliant with the ETSI TS 103 707 (the present document) schema (see clauses 5.4 to 5.7).	M

It is recommended that the LEA chooses the LIID and that specifies a country code for the ReceiverIdentifier-CountryCode as this is one way that can be used to ensure uniqueness of identifiers.

5.3 Application level header

5.3.1 General

Each handover item may contain an application level header, with the fields shown in Table 4.

Table 4: Application level Header structure

Parameter	Description	M/O/C
applicationCorrelation	May be used to indicate that a number of handover items are related to each other (see clause 5.3.2).	O

5.3.2 ApplicationCorrelation

If a number of handover items are related to each other, a CSP may use the ApplicationCorrelation structure to indicate that they are related.

When this mechanism is used, related items shall be allocated the same ApplicationLevelID value. This value shall be unique within a given LIID. The precise format and choice of value is an implementation decision for the CSP.

Each item with the same ApplicationLevelID value shall be allocated a sequence number which is then used to populate the ApplicationSequenceNumber field. The sequence number shall start at zero.

Table 5: ApplicationCorrelation structure

Parameter	Description	M/O/C
applicationLevelID	Application sequence context, unique within LIID. Given as a non-negative integer.	M
applicationSequenceNumber	Zero-based counter within the ApplicationLevelID.	M

5.4 Core parameters for messaging

5.4.1 General

Table 6 defines the core parameters of a messaging service.

Table 6: MessagingCoreParameters

Parameter	Description	M/O/C
messageSender	Identifier of the sender of the message, if available. Given as a MessagingParty (see clause 5.4.2).	O
messageReceivers	List of identifiers of the receivers of the message, if available. Given as a list of MessagingParty (see clause 5.4.2).	O
timestamp	Time of the event (if available) given as a QualifiedDateTime as per ETSI TS 103 280 [7].	O
associatedBinaryData	List of binary objects (if any) associated with the event (see clause 5.4.3).	O
NOTE: The assumption is that the messaging service is offered as a closed ecosystem, i.e. both parties are subscribed to the same service.		

5.4.2 MessagingParty

The MessagingParty type is used to provide a list of identifiers associated with a messaging party (either a sender or a receiver). Multiple identifiers may be provided. The format and values of the identifiers are determined by the CSP.

Each MessagingParty may include an indication of whether the party was the subject of interception.

Table 7: MessagingParty parameters

Parameter	Description	M/O/C
identifiers	List of one or more identifiers associated with the messaging party.	M
isTargetedParty	Indication that the messaging party is the subject of interception. Absence of the indication may be taken to mean that either the party is not the subject of interception, or that it is not known whether it is the subject of interception.	C

5.4.3 AssociatedBinaryData

The associatedBinaryData field is used by the CSP to provide details of any data, such as attached images or video, associated with the message. The data itself shall be delivered separately, according to the details in Annex C.

The associatedBinaryData field contains a set of binaryObject records, each structured as given in Table 8.

Table 8: BinaryObject structure

Parameter	Description	M/O/C
url	URL associated with the delivery of the binary data (see Annex C). Shall be unique for a given binary object from a CSP and shall not be re-used by the CSP to identify other binary objects in future.	M
contentLength	Size of the data transferred, given in octets (i.e. equivalent to the Content-Length header in the HTTP transfer), see Annex C.	O
contentType	MIME type that described the form of the data (i.e. equivalent to the Content-Type header in the HTTP transfer) if present. Given as per IETF RFC 6838 [8].	O
expiry	Time at which the URL ceases to be valid for delivery of the data (when using Model A delivery, see Annex C). Given as QualifiedDateTime as per ETSI TS 103 280 [7].	C
checksum	If used, SHA-256 checksum (as defined in FIPS Publication 180-4 [9]) of the binary data before any encryption, compression or other transfer encoding are employed.	O
originalFilename	Original filename associated with the data, if applicable and available.	C
cspDefinedIdentifier	A CSP-defined identifier associated with the data (e.g. as used within the CSP-defined parameters block) if applicable.	C

5.5 Messaging glossary

The term glossary is used to refer to parameters for which there is a common definition, context and meaning as agreed by LEAs and CSPs.

NOTE: The present document does not contain any glossary parameters. Information might be populated in future revisions of the present document based on experience gained from using the present document.

The use of the glossary is in addition to the technique in clause 5.6 in which the parameter definitions from ETSI TC LI's standard LI dictionary (ETSI TS 103 280 [7]) are re-used.

5.6 CSP-defined information

5.6.1 General

The CSP-defined information includes any self-described information that the CSP can provide for the interception (meta-data and the content of communication). The parameters themselves are not defined by the present document.

Some examples of items which might be present are:

- Time of receiving message.
- Status information - drafted/read/deleted/not consistent.
- Network layer details or hardware ID.
- Group events - joins/leaves/is admin/makes changes to a group.
- Location information.
- Group name.
- Thread title.
- Thread ID.
- Event type.

CSP-defined information shall be provided in the CSPDefinedParameters field.

5.6.2 CSP-defined schema

The CSP is required to describe the schema of data provided in the CSP-defined information and provide appropriate descriptions.

Details of the schema shall be provided using the schemaDetails structure shown in Table 9.

Table 9: SchemaDetails structure

Parameter	Description	M/O/C
schemaldentifier	A unique identifier for the schema assigned by the CSP. If a schema is changed or updated, the CSP shall assign a new schemaldentifier. The LEA can use the schemaldentifier to identify the correct schema to interpret the CSP-defined data.	M
schemaURL	Optional URL to indicate where the contents of the schema may be retrieved from.	O
schemaContent	Optional field that the CSP may use to provide the content of the schema as part of the delivery. Alternatively, the schema contents may be provided out-of-band.	O

If the CSP has already provided the schema to the LEA, it may provide only the schemaldentifier which refers the specific schema previously provided.

5.6.3 Use of common types from ETSI TS 103 280

Where CSP-defined schemas contain information elements which correspond to common types already defined in ETSI TS 103 280 [7] (e.g. MSISDN) CSPs should use the types defined in ETSI TS 103 280 [7] as part of their schema definitions.

NOTE: This technique is in addition to the use of Glossary terms as defined in clause 5.5.

5.6.4 Including binary data in the CSP-defined content

Details for the delivery of binary data associated with a message are given in Annex C.

5.7 Error reporting

In the reference model, the request for data and submission of warrant information may not happen on the same logical channel as the delivery of data. Hence, two types of error reporting are required: error reporting related to the transfer and management of warrant information as well as requests for data on the one hand, and error reporting related to the handing over of data by the CSP using the XML/HTTP mechanism specified in the present document on the other hand. Errors related to the latter case are as described in clause 6.2.

6 Transport details

6.1 HTTP details

There shall be a mechanism to establish the destination information as per ETSI TS 103 120 [1], clause 8.3.6 (specifically clause 8.3.6.2). This is not specified in the present document.

The delivery protocol is as specified in ETSI TS 103 120 [1] clause 9, except that the security details (ETSI TS 103 120 [1], clause 9.3.4) are not used and clause 7 of the present document is used.

6.2 Error reporting for transport

Errors relating to the transport mechanism are handled in accordance with the transport mechanism as per ETSI TS 103 120 [1].

7 Security

Implementations shall support HTTPS as defined in IETF RFC 2818 [2]. The TLS version shall be at least 1.2, as defined in IETF RFC 5246 [3]. TLS 1.2 implementations should support the recommendations given in IETF RFC 7525 [4]. TLS 1.3 may be supported, as defined in IETF RFC 8446 [5]. TLS implementations shall support mutual authentication through bidirectional certificate usage.

Implementations shall use HTTPS.

Security requirements shall be mutually agreed for the transport layer, including specification of any necessary encryption, signatures or hash functions and any requirements for encryption of data at rest.

Payload security is for further study.

Issues such as key management, key length, key exchange, choice of cryptographic algorithm, etc., are outside of the scope of the present document.

The use of pre-shared keys may be considered for authentication at the transport layer. If this option is selected, the specifications set forth in IETF RFC 4279 [6] shall be followed.

Annex A (informative): Messaging service identifiers

A.1 Identifiers

This annex identifies three different categories of identifiers of messaging services.

Table A.1: Types of messaging identifiers

Type of identifier	Definition	Example	How it is used
Category 1: Long-term unique ID	This is an identifier that the provider uses for the business purpose of keeping a handle on a single subscriber. It might be internal.	Company specific IDs. Note that these may be unique across different services and linking between identifiers for different services is not necessarily easy.	These are a good basis for submitting and fulfilling a request for information. The identifier may be in a non-public or non-readable format (it may be binary or hex digits) and the present document allows flexibility of formats.
Category 2: Unique but potentially brittle ID	This is an identifier which is likely to be unique at a given point in time but might change over time (e.g. daily/weekly/every few years but not every minute).	Phone number, email address. Note that there are good security reasons for rotating certain identifiers in this category e.g. certain crypto keys which are associated with some IDs.	These are a good basis for making a request provided they have an accurate observed time associated with them (which should not be assumed to be the time of the request). Potentially the provider can then map the brittle identity to their own internal unique ID (i.e. a category 1 identifier). This process (of determining the best possible identifier) may work differently in different situations and is out of scope of the present document.
Category 3: Not unique identity or name	This is an identifier which can be changed or chosen freely and frequently.	A username or informal ID.	These would be useful to be delivered as part of returning information about a subject. It should be noted that there could potentially be many matches to any particular username, even for names that appear to be very rare or unusual.

There is a process which involves discussions between LEA and CSP which needs to result in an identifier to be used as the basis of the authorization. This process is outside of the scope of the present document though it may involve a category 2 identifier and a timestamp to create an agreed identifier (e.g. a category 1 identifier). The conclusion of this process would result in identifiers and the present document lists possible types of identifier where this is necessary for it to be understood. This could be one of a standardized type (phone number, username or user ID, email address) as described in Table A.2 or a free-text description.

Table A.2: Parameters and references of messaging identifiers

Identifier	Parameters	Comments or references
User ID	Userid	
Username	username or username-and-timestamp	username-and-timestamp is made of username and of timestamp.
Phone number	msisdn or msisdn-and-timestamp, e164-format or e164-format-and-timestamp	msisdn, and e164-format, are defined in the Recommendation ITU-T E.164 [i.1]. msisdn-and-timestamp is made of msisdn and of timestamp. E164-format-and-timestamp is made of e164-format and of timestamp.
Email address	email-address or email-address-and-timestamp	IETF RFC 5322 [i.2], IETF RFC 5321 [i.3] and IETF RFC 3696 [i.4] define the email-address. email-address-and-timestamp is made of email-address and of timestamp.

Annex B (normative): Messaging XSD definition

The XSD is provided as an XML XSD schema set, contained in archive ts_103707v010101p0.zip which accompanies the present document.

Annex C (normative): Content delivery

C.1 General

This clause describes the procedures for delivering binary data associated with a DeliveryObject. As described in clause 5.4.3, each DeliveryObject may contain one or more binaryData records. Each record describes a binary object to be delivered from CSP to LEA. Each binary object is delivered using HTTPS following the details in clause 7.

Two models are described in the present document (chosen by mutual agreement):

- Model A: Each binary object is represented by a URL that may be queried by the LEA (see clause C.2).
- Model B: The CSP POSTs each binary object to a URL owned by the LEA (see clause C.3).

Developers should be aware of situations in which there is a mix of very large files and some small files (which could potentially be very urgent). Care should be taken to avoid head-of-line blocking issues i.e. try to share available bandwidth between large and small files thus allowing the small files to be delivered in a timely manner.

C.2 Model A

Each binaryData record contains a URL hosted by the CSP. On receiving the URL, the LEA system may automatically query the URL using the same authentication factors as the original request (see clause 7). The CSP shall then deliver the contents to the LEA using an HTTP Response with the appropriate MIME type.

It is the responsibility of the LEAs to maintain the association between the binary file, the LIID and the particular message (if any).

If a request is made to a valid URL but using the wrong SSL certificate, the CSP shall ensure that the error message returned does not reveal that the URL was valid.

C.3 Model B

The LEA defines a URL scheme for delivery of binary data that can be reached by the CSP. The URL scheme shall contain a single parameter for a unique identifier associated with the binary object:

- `https://lea.example.com/binaryData/{object identifier}/`

The LEA shares the scheme with the CSP in advance. When delivering binary data, the CSP forms a complete URL for each binary object by allocating a UUID to it and inserting it into the appropriate part of the URL scheme. The CSP uses this URL to populate the URL field in the binaryData record for that object.

The CSP shall deliver the binary data after delivering the DeliveryObject containing the binaryData record. The CSP delivers the data by HTTP POST to the appropriate URL using the appropriate MIME type. The CSP client shall use the Expect request header field to expect a 100 CONTINUE response from the LEA server. If the size of a file is known ahead of time, it shall be added to the HTTP message's Content-Length header. It is recommended that the CSP's client continue timeout be set according to the expiry time given in the binaryData record (see Table 8), and that the timeout should be sufficient to allow the DeliveryObject to be processed by the LEA before the binary data is transferred.

The LEA is responsible for maintaining the association between the binary data, the LIID and the message by using the URL. LEA implementations should provide for the possibility that the DeliveryObject is processed after an attempt to deliver binary content is made.

Annex D (informative): Change History

Status of Technical Specification ETSI TS 103 707 Handover for messaging services over HTTP/XML		
TC LI approval date	Version	Remarks
March 2020	1.1.1	First publication of the TS after approval by Remote Consensus following the agreements at ETSI TC LI#53 (4-6 February 2020, Sophia Antipolis, France)

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