Universal Mobile Telecommunications System (UMTS);
  LTE;
  3G security;
  Lawful interception requirements
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Foreword

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Introduction

This Technical Specification has been produced by the 3GPP TSG SA to allow for the standardisation in the area of Lawful Interception (LI) of telecommunications. This document describes in general the requirements for lawful interception.

Laws of individual nations and regional institutions (e.g. European Union), and sometimes licensing and operating conditions define a need to intercept telecommunications traffic and related information in modern telecommunications systems. It has to be noted that lawful interception shall always be done in accordance with the applicable national or regional laws and technical regulations.
1 Scope

The present document provides Stage 1 interception requirements within a 3GPP network.

The specification describes the service requirements from a Law Enforcement point of view only. The aim of this document is to define an interception system for 3GPP networks that supports a number of regional interception regulations, but these regulations are not repeated here as they vary. Regional interception requirements shall rely on this specification to derive such information as they require.

These interception requirements shall be used to derive specific network requirements.

For details see:

Stage 2: 3GPP TS 33.107 [9];
Stage 3: 3GPP TS 33.108 [10].

2 References

The following documents contain provisions which, through reference in this text, constitute provisions of the present document.

- References are either specific (identified by date of publication, edition number, version number, etc.) or non-specific.
- For a specific reference, subsequent revisions do not apply.
- For a non-specific reference, the latest version applies. In the case of a reference to a 3GPP document (including a GSM document), a non-specific reference implicitly refers to the latest version of that document in the same Release as the present document.


[12] 3GPP TS 22.182: "Customized Alerting Tones (CAT) Requirements; Stage 1".


[15] 3GPP TR 29.882: "Customized Alerting Tone (CAT) in 3G CS Domain".

[16] 3GPP TS 22.183: "Customized Ringing Signal (CRS) Requirements; Stage 1".

3 Definitions and abbreviations

3.1 Definitions

For the purposes of the present document, the terms and definitions given in TR 21.905 [19] and the following terms apply.

**Content of Communication:** information exchanged between two or more users of a telecommunications service, excluding intercept related information. This includes information which may, as part of some telecommunications service, be stored by one user for subsequent retrieval by another.

**Customized Alerting Tone:** An indication that is customized by the called party or the calling subscriber that is played to the calling party during call establishment or during an established call session indicating that the called party is being alerted, the progress of a communication request, or any alerting event during a call session. A Customized Alerting Tone may be a piece of recorded or composed music, greeting words, voice, advertisement or video.

**Customized Ringing Signal:** An indication to the called party as an incoming communication indication during the establishment of a communication that is customized by the calling party or the called party. A Customized Ringing Signal (CRS) may e.g. be a picture, a piece of recorded or composed music, greeting words, voice, advertisement or video.

**Intercept Related Information:** information or data associated with telecommunication services involving the target identity, specifically communication associated information or data (e.g. unsuccessful communication attempts), service associated information or data, and location information.

**Interception Area:** is a subset of the Public Lands Mobile Network (PLMN) service area comprised of a set of cells which define a geographical zone.

**Location Dependent Interception:** is interception within a PLMN service area that is restricted to one or several Interception Areas (IA).

**Subject Based Interception:** Interception that is invoked using a specific Target Identity

**Target Identity:** A technical identity that uniquely identifies a target of interception. One target may have one or several identities.
3.2 Void

3.3 Abbreviations

For the purposes of the present document, the abbreviations given in TR 21.905 [19] and the following apply:

- **CAT**: Customized Alerting Tone
- **CC**: Content of Communication
- **CRS**: Customized Ringing Signal
- **CS**: Circuit Switched
- **CSG**: Closed Subscriber Group
- **CSP**: Communications Service Provider
- **HeNB**: Home eNodeB
- **H(e)NB**: HNB and HeNB
- **HNB**: Home NodeB
- **IA**: Interception Area
- **IP**: Internet Protocol
- **IRI**: Intercept Related Information
- **LDI**: Location Dependent Interception
- **LEA**: Law Enforcement Agency
- **LEMF**: Law Enforcement Monitoring Facility
- **LI**: Lawful Interception
- **MMS**: Multimedia Messaging Services
- **MS**: Mobile Station
- **PS**: Packet Switched
- **QoS**: Quality of Service
- **SIP**: Session Initiation Protocol
- **UTC**: Coordinated Universal Time
- **WLAN**: Wireless Local Area Network

4 Relationship to Regional Requirements

Interception requirements are subject to national law and international treaties and should be interpreted in accordance with applicable national policies.

Requirements universally called out in regional interception regulatory requirements are supported by the system defined in this document. Requirements unique to a specific region are not addressed (some examples are given in Section 2 as references).

The intercept system defined here provides subject based interception. Other techniques are outside the scope of this specification.

5 Requirements

5.1 Description of requirements

The present subclause gives the general description of lawful interception requirements.
5.1.1 General technical requirements

Figure 1 shows the general system for interception. Technical interception is implemented within a 3GPP network by special functionality on network elements shown in the figure. Specific lawful interception architecture and functions are found in TS 33.107 [9].

![Diagram of General Model for Interception]

**Figure 1: General model for interception**

5.1.2 General principles

A 3GPP network shall provide access to the intercepted Content of Communications (CC) and the Intercept Related Information (IRI) of the mobile target and services related to the target (e.g. Call Forwarding) on behalf of Law Enforcement Agencies (LEAs).

A target of a given 3GPP network can be a user subscribed to and operating in that 3GPP network, a user equipment operating in that 3GPP network (which is either the HPLMN or a VPLMN), or a user roaming from another 3GPP network or from any other network capable of using that 3GPP network. The intercepted CC and the IRI can only be delivered for activities on that given 3GPP network.

Interception may be performed in the network access (all or selected APNs) and/or by intercepting a specific service at the application layer (e.g. VoIP).

For interception, there needs to be a means of identifying the target, correspondent and initiator of the communication. Target identities used for interception for each domain and service are target service and equipment associated with target use or any derived IDs from such elements, that are to be defined in TS 33.107 [9] and TS 33.108 [10]. Examples of these identities are IMSI, MSISDN, NAI, Tel URI, SIP URI, for the target service and IMEI, MAC for the equipment.

When encryption is provided and managed by the network, it shall be a national option as to whether the network provides the intercepted communication to the LEA decrypted, or encrypted with keys and additional information to
make decryption possible. End-to-end encryption implemented in the user equipment based on encryption features provided by the operator is considered to be a network-managed encryption and is subject to the same requirements. See subclause 5.7 for additional requirements.

Encryption not provided or managed by the network, e.g. user provided end-to-end encryption, cannot be removed by the network. In the case that the Communication Service Provider (CSP) provides encryption keys to the subscriber or customer but does not provide the encryption itself, the CSP shall provide the keys to the LEA if required by national regulations.

When compression is provided and managed by the network, it shall be a national option as to whether the network provides the intercepted communication to the LEA decompressed, or compressed with information to make decompression possible.

When encoding is provided and managed by the network, it shall be a national option as to whether the network provides the intercepted communication to the LEA decoded, or encoded with capability (e.g., codec information) to make decoding possible.

Location Dependent Interception, (LDI) allows a 3GPP network to service multiple interception jurisdictions within its service area. Multiple law enforcement agencies with their own interception areas can be served by the 3GPP network. All the information or rules given for interception within a 3GPP network apply to interception within an Interception Area (IA) when LDI is invoked. A target may be marked in one or more different IAs within the same 3GPP network. Interception is neither required nor prohibited by this standard when LDI is active and the location of the target is unknown or unavailable.

5.1.3 Applicability to telecommunication services

The requirement for lawful interception is that all telecommunications services in the 3GPP network standards should be capable of meeting the requirements within this document.

It is a national option that LI, as delivered to the LEMF, may be restricted to specific target subscribed services offered by the CSP or third party providers with a service level agreement with the CSP.

5.1.4 Interception within the Home and Visited Networks for roaming scenarios

The requirements in this clause are additional to the requirements described elsewhere in this specification which apply to the home network in a roaming scenario.

National regulations cover the definition of services and the definition of service provider categories which are subject to LI obligations. This can include how and which IMS services are considered to be covered. For the purpose of roaming, IMS VoIP Service or other 3GPP operator services (CS voice replacement) shall be considered equivalent to a CS voice service and therefore all requirements applicable to legacy CS voice (e.g. interception of voice in isolation from other services) shall be applicable to IMS VoIP Service or other equivalent services.

It shall be possible to intercept all basic voice, data and messaging services provided to a target by a network. The visited network shall be able to support the interception of all services without home network assistance or visibility. However the visited network is not required to be able to intercept supplementary services (e.g. voicemail, home network based call forwarding) or 3rd party services not directly provided by the visited network. However, national regulation may specify minimum LI capabilities, if such services are in the visited network then they shall be considered in scope for interception (subject to an applicable lawful authorisation). National regulations may require interception to take place in the home network for outbound roammers, where the user session is routed via the home network. There is no requirement to force traffic to the home network for this purpose.

All these requirements are based on conditions and definitions contained in national regulations.

5.2 Normal operation

This section gives the expected operation for lawful interception.
5.2.1 Intercept administration requirements

As depicted in Figure 1, the Law Enforcement Agency (LEA) provides the intercept request (e.g., lawful authorization or warrant) to the CSP. The intercept request identifies, at a minimum, the target, the type of intercept (i.e., IRI-only, or IRI and CC); the service to be intercepted (e.g., 3G PS network access(es) and/or the services (e.g., VoIP)) that is authorized, the authorized period for interception, and the LEA delivery address(es) for the intercepted information.

NOTE: In some situations IRI may contain CC-information. In case of a IRI only intercept the IRI delivery may take place without the CC-information. In other situations the CC-delivery may provide metadata not sent in the IRI. In case of a IRI only intercept the CC-delivery may take place without the actual content.

It is upon national regulations to implement any of these options.

The CSP shall securely administer the intercept (e.g., to activate, deactivate, show, or list targets) within the 3GPP network as quickly as possible. The CSP’s administration function shall use appropriate authentication and audit procedures. When LDI is used, the administration function shall allow specific IAs to be associated with targets.

5.2.1.1 Activation of LI

For the specified target and based on the warrant, the 3GPP network shall activate the delivery of either IRI, or both the IRI and the CC to the designated LEA destination addresses.

5.2.1.2 Deactivation of LI

As a result of deactivation, the 3GPP network shall stop all, or a part of, interception activities for the specified target.

5.2.1.3 Security of processes

The intercept function shall only be accessible by authorised personnel.

Only authorised personnel can be aware that an intercept function has been activated on a target. No indication shall be given to any person except authorised personnel that the intercept function has been activated on a target. To be effective, interception must take place without the knowledge of any party to the communication.

Authentication, encryption, log files and other mechanisms may be used to maintain security in the system.

CSPs shall ensure that its equipment, facilities, or services that provide a subscriber with the ability to originate, terminate, or direct communications are capable of facilitating authorized communications interceptions and access to intercept related information unobtrusively and with a minimum of interference with any subscriber's telecommunications service and in a manner that protects:

- the privacy and security of communications (both signalling and content of communication) not authorized to be intercepted; and

- information regarding the LEA’s interception of communications.

Audit procedures, performed by the CSP, should have access to accurate logs of administration commands and accesses to functions and interception information. Log files shall only be accessible by authorised personnel.

5.2.2 Intercept invocation

5.2.2.0 General

The 3GPP network shall provide the means to allow correlation of different phases (e.g., changes in domains or radio access) of a target’s intercepted communication.
5.2.2.1 Invocation events for lawful interception

In general, Lawful interception should be invoked when the transmission of information or an event takes place that involves the target. Examples of when Lawful interception could be invoked are when:

- A voice call request is originated from, terminated to, or redirected by the target;
- Location information related to the target facility is modified by the subscriber attaching or detaching from the network, or if there is a change in location;
- An SMS transfer is requested - either originated from or terminated to the target;
- An MMS transfer is requested - either originated from or terminated to the target;
- A data packet is transmitted to or from a target;
- A Conference Call is targeted;
- Modification and management of the target’s IMS supplementary service settings (e.g., multimedia telephony supplementary service settings as defined in TS 22.173 [25]).

5.2.2.2 Invocation and removal of interception regarding services

The invocation of lawful interception shall not alter the operation of a target’s services or provide indication to any party involved in a target’s communication or to any others (e.g., non-authorized personnel). Lawful interception shall not alter the services available for the subscribers.

If lawful interception is activated during a CS service, the currently active CS service is not required to be intercepted. If lawful interception is deactivated during a CS service, all ongoing intercepted activities may continue until they are completed.

If lawful interception is activated when a packet switched (PS) service is already in use, the next packets transmitted shall be intercepted. If lawful interception is deactivated during a PS service, the next packets shall not be transmitted to the LEMF.

5.2.2.3 Correlation of information and product

When only IRI is delivered, an unambiguous correlation shall be established between associated IRI within the single domain for the same communication or session (for example, different legs in CS).

When both IRI and CC are delivered, an unambiguous correlation shall be established between associated IRI, IRI and CC, and associated CC within the single domain (for example different legs in CS or different packets in PS).

Correlation shall be provided to the target’s intercepted communications that undergo access technology change or a domain change with Service Continuity.

5.2.2.4 Timing

The IRI and CC shall be delivered in as near real time as possible.

NOTE: There may be regional or national requirements on the timing requirements for delivery of IRI and CC. This includes the requirement for the CSP to timestamp IRI and CC delivery with a time zone indication (e.g., UTC offset) as part of the timestamp.

5.3 Exceptional procedures

A failure with the establishment of the connection towards the LEMF shall not result in any interruption of the target’s ongoing telecommunications service.

It is a national option to have buffering of IRI and/or CC in the to cope with interruptions in the connection to the LEMF.
5.4 Interworking considerations

The 3GPP network, home or visited, shall not be responsible to interpret the protocol used by the target, or to remove user level compression or encryption if these were not provided by the 3GPP network.

If the target accesses the 3GPP network via another access network (e.g., an Interworking Wireless Local Area Network (I-WLAN)), the 3GPP network shall provide the LEA with the identity of the access network (as known by the 3GPP operator). When the target’s communications or signalling information is no longer available to the 3GPP network due to redirection or handover to another network operator, it is a national option that the 3GPP network shall provide, when available, the LEA with the identity of the network operator that has access to the target’s communications or signalling information.

5.5 Charging aspects

The 3GPP network shall be capable of producing charging data related to interception, including the following mechanisms.

- Use of network resources;
- Activation and deactivation of the target;
- Every intercept invocation,
- Flat rate charging.

It shall be possible to produce this data in such a way that access by non-authorised personnel or the target is precluded.

5.6 Minimum service requirements

Quality of service (QoS), capacity, integrity and reliability of the delivered IRI and CC are the subject of bilateral agreement between the relevant authorities and the CSP. Security is an attribute of the negotiated delivery mechanism between the CSP and the LEA. The QoS towards the delivery function provided by the network must be at a minimum, the same QoS as what the network provides to the target.

5.7 LI Requirements for Encrypted Services

Clause 5.1.2 provides a general description of requirements relating to network applied encryption. The additional requirements in this section do not apply where encryption is provided by the network between any network nodes or user equipment (e.g., hop by hop IMS signaling security or End to Access Edge radio bearer encryption), where this encryption does not affect the ability of the core network to perform interception according to the requirements provided by this specification. In addition to the general requirements, the following additional LI requirements shall apply to network provided and/or network administered end to end or end to middle encryption, where this encryption prevents en-clair capture of communications required to be intercepted.

1. When an encryption service is provided by the PLMN, lawful interception shall take place as for an unencrypted communications.

   a. In addition, encrypted communications shall be decrypted, or the decryption keys and any required associated information (see Note 0) shall be provided to the LEMF.

   b. For the specific case where a key server based solution is used, it is a national option for the operator to make keys and any associated information (see Note 0) directly available to the LEMF to support the decryption of communications.

Note 0: Examples of associated encryption information: encryption algorithm, key length, block cipher mode of operation, initialization vector, salt, crypto parameters, padding or roll over counters.

2. Interception shall be performed in such a manner as to avoid detectability by the Target or others. In particular:

   a. There shall be no significant difference in latency during call setup or during communications compared to a non-intercepted communications.
b. Interception of a Target shall not prevent the use of key exchange applications which provide a user key confirmation mechanism.

NOTE 1: Key confirmation mechanisms such as an authentication string to be exchanged verbally are commonly used to provide additional assurance of authentication.

c. Should interception fail during a call (or during call setup), the call shall be unaffected.

3. Where the CSP provides decryption of the communication, it is the operator’s choice where in the network this decryption is performed. However, following decryption, all IRI and CC shall be provided to the LEMF using handover mechanisms as per an unencrypted communication.

4. An encryption solution shall not prohibit commencement of Interception and decryption of an existing communication.

5. If key material and any associated information are available, it shall be possible to retrospectively decrypt encrypted communications.

NOTE 2: If the associated IRI and CC have been delivered to the LEMF, the operator is not required to retain key material or any target related communications after the end of a communication unless national regulations require otherwise.

For requirements in the present clause and clause 5.1.2, the CSP is not obligated to comply with the requirements for any encryption which a Target may use which is outside the control of the CSP (e.g. 3rd party end to end VOIP software).

5.8 Lawful Interception for Customized Alerting Tone (CAT)

CAT is a service defined in TS 22.182 [12], TR 23.872 [13], TS 24.182 [14], and TR 29.882 [15]. The target may participate in the service as either the calling or the called party. The CSP providing the CAT service, and doing the interception, should report the following:

- When the target activates, modifies (e.g., changes to content, content descriptors, and timing descriptors), and deactivates CAT settings
- When the target invokes the function of copying of another subscriber’s CAT
- When the target invokes the uploading or downloading CAT and is not part of CAT delivery to the calling party, the CAT should be delivered to the LEMF.
- The identity whose CAT is played to the target

Additionally when the target is a User, the CSP providing the CAT service, and doing the interception, should report the following:

- The CAT sent to the calling party
- When another subscriber copies the target’s CAT
- When available, the access method (e.g., via UE or web) the target used to activate, modify, and deactivate their CAT settings.

Intercepted CAT may, depending on national regulations, be:

- "played" as part of the CC, during a call set up or,
- Delivered as a file in the IRI Record.

NOTE: Depending on national regulations, intercepted CAT media may be considered content or a signalling.

5.9 Lawful Interception for Customized Ringing Signal (CRS)

CRS is a service defined in TS 22.183 [16] and TS 24.183 [17]. The target may participate in the service as either the calling or the called party. The CSP providing the CRS service, and doing the interception, should report the following:
- The CRS, when invoked by the target, is sent to the called party
- When the target activates, modifies (e.g., changes to content, content descriptors, and timing descriptors), and deactivates their CRS settings
- When the target invokes the function of copying another subscriber’s CRS
- When the target invokes the uploading or downloading CRS, and is not part of CRS delivery to the called party the CRS should be delivered

The identity whose CRS is played to the target

Additionally for when the target is a User, the CSP providing the CRS service, and doing the interception, should report the following:
- When another subscriber copies the target’s CRS
- When available, the access method (e.g., via UE or web) the target used to activate, modify, and deactivate their CRS settings.

Intercepted CRS may, depending on national regulations, be:
- "played" as part of the CC, during a call set up or,
- Delivered as a file in the IRI Record.

NOTE: Depending on national regulations, intercepted CRS media may be considered content or a signalling.

5.10 Lawful Interception for Home Node B and Home enhanced Node B (H(e)NB)

HNB and HeNB are jointly referred to as H(e)NB, as defined in TS 22.220 [11]. The location of the H(e)NB is the location information used by the operator to verify the location for H(e)NB activation.

For the purpose of LI, a target may be a user or user equipment attached to a H(e)NB, a Closed Subscriber Group (CSG), or it is a national option to allow targeting a H(e)NB itself.

The LI requirements for H(e)NB local routing, selected IP traffic offload (SIPTO) or local IP access (LIPA) are FFS. Interception should be done in such a manner to avoid detectability by the target or others.

When a target receives service from the PLMN via a H(e)NB, the following applies:
- the interception capabilities shall take place as for normal PLMN use
- H(e)NB information (e.g., location and identification) shall also be provided to the LEMF
- If available, the location reported for the target attached to a H(e)NB is the H(e)NB’s location
- Target attachment to the H(e)NB and handovers to/from the H(e)NB shall be reported to the LEMF
- There may be national requirements to identify specific information that is required to be reported

When the target is the CSG, the CSP shall report the following:
- modifications (e.g., additions, deletions, changes in time limits for temporary CSG Members) of the CSG list for the H(e)NB
- When available, the access method (e.g., via UE or web) the H(e)NB Hosting Party used to modify the CSG list, if multiple access methods are allowed
- CSG member’s handovers to/from the H(e)NB
- CSG members attachments to the H(e)NB
- CSG members communications via the H(e)NB
- It is a national option whether interception on CSG members’ communications continues after handover occurs from the H(e)NB

NOTE 1: The requirements for the CSG are FFS.

When the target is the H(e)NB, then the CSP shall report the following:

- activation and deactivation of the targeted H(e)NB
- IP address information regarding the secure tunnel endpoints between the H(e)NB and the Femto Security Gateway in the home network
- modifications (e.g., additions, deletions, changes in time limits for temporary CSG Members) of the CSG list for the H(e)NB
- When available, the access method (e.g., via UE or web) the target used for the modification of the CSG list, if multiple access methods are allowed
- handovers to/from the H(e)NB.
- UE registrations on the H(e)NB
- communications via the H(e)NB
- It is a national option whether interception on H(e)NB communications continues after handover occurs from the H(e)NB

NOTE 2: The requirements for the CSG are FFS.

5.11 Location Information

Depending on national requirements, the CSP may be required to report the location of the Target at the beginning and end of CS calls and PS and IMS sessions on a per warrant or per intercept basis. It may also be a national requirement for the CSP to report the location of the Target during on-going communications.

NOTE 1: Currently, in some cases, the location of the Target might not be available.

The location information associated with target communication reported to the LEMF shall be at least location information trusted by the 3GPP network (i.e., the location information is either 3GPP network derived or verified).

National regulation may require that the location information source be provided if known by the CSP.

The 3GPP access network derived or verified location information shall be the location(s) of the access point(s) to which the Target is connected in the access network(s). The location shall be the access network identifier like the radio cell identity.

For non 3GPP access networks, the location information shall be at least the identity of entry point into the 3GPP core network (e.g. fire wall or security gateway). The location information of the non-3GPP access network shall be provided if this information is available to the CSP.

In addition to the 3GPP network derived or verified location information, target location information from Location Services (LCS, as described in 3GPP TS 22.071 [23] and 3GPP TS 23.271 [24]) may be used to provide additional location information to the LEMF if available.

National regulation may require that third party provided location information associated with target communication, that may be available in the 3GPP network, is reported to the LEMF.

If required by national regulation the geographic location and/or civic address information shall be reported to the LEMF. This can include additional radio coverage information.

5.12 LI Requirements for IMS VoIP Service

The 3GPP network shall be able to support the delivery of IMS VoIP, and the IMS VoIP supplementary services (e.g., call forwarding), to the LEMF via one of the following two methods:
- Intercepted IMS VoIP communications (e.g., IRI or IRI/CC) are delivered separately from other IMS services,
- Intercepted IMS VoIP communications are delivered as part of all other services.

It is a national option as to which of the two options is applicable.

NOTE: If a 3GPP network operator voice service replaces a legacy CS voice service, or is a substantive replacement for an existing CS voice service, then it will also be considered to be subject to LI obligations.

5.13 Delivery Requirements for Messaging

The 3GPP network shall be able to support the separate delivery of intercept information (IRI or IRI/CC) for messaging services, to the LEMF from other targeted services. This requirement is applicable for the following messaging services:
- SMS (3GPP TS 23.040 [21]); and
- MMS ([22]).

Message service delivery is independent from network access technology.

5.14 LI Requirements For Management of IMS Supplementary Services Settings

The IMS network and related service platforms shall be able to support the reporting of IRI for the modification and management of the target’s IMS supplementary services settings.

6 Handover Interface Requirements

Handover interface requirements are defined in TS 33.108 [10]. There may be national or regional specifications (e.g., see ETSI ES 201 671 [4], ETSI TS 101 671 [18], ETSI TS 102 232-7 [20] and J-STD-025-A [8].
Annex A (informative):
Bibliography

The documents listed below are not explicitly cited in this specification but are provided for background and for historical information.

3GPP TR 41.033: "Lawful Interception requirements for GSM".
3GPP TS 42.033: "Lawful Interception - stage 1".
3GPP TS 43.033: "Lawful Interception; stage 2".
ETSI TS 101 331: "Lawful Interception (LI); Requirements of Law Enforcement Agencies".
ETSI ES 201 158: "Lawful Interception; Requirements for network functions".
## Change history

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