

# ETSI TS 142 033 V7.0.0 (2007-06)

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*Technical Specification*

**Digital cellular telecommunications system (Phase 2+);  
Lawful Interception;  
Stage 1  
(3GPP TS 42.033 version 7.0.0 Release 7)**



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Reference

RTS/TSGS-0342033v700

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Keywords

GSM, SECURITY

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# Foreword

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Version x.y.z

where:

- x the first digit:
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- y the second digit is incremented for all changes of substance, i.e. technical enhancements, corrections, updates, etc.
- z the third digit is incremented when editorial only changes have been incorporated in the document.

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# 1 Scope

This Technical Specification provides the stage 1 description for a lawful interception function to be implemented in a given GSM PLMN in order for a network operator to be able to fulfil national lawful requirements. It shall be noted that national variation may exist but it is not the intention for this specification to encompass all of them. The purpose of this specification is to cover the options which may be selectable according to national regulations or as required by the GSM PLMN operator in co-operation with their suppliers.

In the preparation of this specification general reference was made to the European Union Council Resolution, January 1995: "International Requirements for the Lawful Interception of Telecommunications".

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# 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*.

- [1] GSM 01.04: "Digital cellular telecommunications system (Phase 2+); Abbreviations and acronyms".
- [2] The European Union Council Resolution reference: 'International Requirements for The Lawful Interception of Telecommunications' (January 1995), (JAI\_24\_Rev 2, 8197/2/95)
- [3] CCITT Recommendation G.711: "Pulse Code Modulation (PCM) of voice frequencies".

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# 3 Definitions and abbreviations

## 3.1 Definitions

**Target:** is the subject of an interception. Different identities might be used (i.e. Mobile Station International ISDN number (MSISDN), optionally International Mobile Subscriber Identity (IMSI) or International Mobile Equipment Identity (IMEI)).

**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.

**Intercept product:** data sent or received by the target, such as speech, fax or data generated by the users of the telecommunication services.

**Intercept related information:** collection of information associated to telecommunication services involving the target.

**Law enforcement agency:** a body authorized by law to carry out telecommunication interceptions.

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

**Warrant reference number:** is a reference number that links a specific intercept activity to an agency's lawful Interception request.

## 3.2 Abbreviations

In addition to those below abbreviations used in the specification are listed in GSM 01.04.

LEA:	Law Enforcement Agency
IA:	Interception Area

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# 4 Description

## 4.1 General principle

GSM Public Lands Mobile Network (PLMN) shall provide access to the intercept product and the intercept related information of the mobile target on behalf of Law Enforcement Agencies (LEAs).

A mobile target in a given PLMN can be a subscriber of that PLMN, or a subscriber of another PLMN. The intercept product and the related information can only be delivered for activities on that given PLMN.

An unambiguous correlation shall be established between the intercept related information and the intercept product. The intercept related information and the intercept product shall be delivered in as near real time as possible.

Location Dependent Interception allows a PLMN to service multiple interception jurisdictions within its service area. Multiple law agencies with their own interception areas can be served by the PLMN. All the information or rules given for interception within a PLMN apply to interception within an IA when Location Dependent Interception is invoked. A target may be marked in one or more different IAs within the same PLMN. Interception is not required nor prohibited by this standard when Location Dependent Interception is active and the location of the target subscriber is not known or available.

Additional GPRS interception requirements are contained in annex A.

## 4.2 Applicability to telecommunications services

### 4.2.1 Tele and bearer services (TS/BS)

All teleservices and bearer services are subject to interception of the target.

Interception is applicable to Short Message Service (SMS) point-to-point, but not SMS Cell Broadcast (SMSCB).

Impact of application to the Voice Group Call Service (VGCS) and the Voice Broadcast Service (VBS) is for further study (FFS).

### 4.2.2 Supplementary services (SS)

#### 4.2.2.1 General

It shall be possible to report any activities regarding supplementary services to the LEA. It may be a national or operator/supplier option to implement this function.

#### 4.2.2.2 Impact

The application of the following supplementary services has no impact on the interception function: Calling Line Identity Presentation/Calling Line Identity Restriction (CLIP/CLIR), Connected Line Identity Presentation/Connected Line Identity Restriction (COLP/COLR), Call Barring (CB) services, Advice of Charge (AoC) services, Closed User Group (CUG), Completion of Calls to Busy Subscriber (CCBS).



#### 4.2.2.3 Intercept of forwarding calls - option

Activation by the target of any Call Forwarding (CF) service, Call Deflection (CD) , or Explicit Call Transfer (ECT) shall result in the capability to intercept the forwarded, diverted or transferred product.

It may be a national or operator/supplier option which of these are implemented.

#### 4.2.2.4 Intercept of calls placed on HOLD (call waiting and multi party services) - option

In some countries it is a national requirement that when the target puts other parties on HOLD (call waiting (CW) and multi party services (MPTY) the other parties product will be interrupted. When the other parties rejoin the call, the intercept product shall be reconnected.

#### 4.2.2.5 Network operator specific services

Impact on a network operator"s specific services is not covered in this specification.

### 4.2.3 Other activities

Location information in the format of cell global identity (CGI) should be available with call related activities. Conversion to other formats of location information (e.g. latitude/longitude) is not covered by this specification. It is a matter of national or operator/supplier option whether location information shall be provided in connection with non call related activities, e.g. location update.

---

## 5 Normal Operation

### 5.1 Intercept administration

A secure means of administrating the service by the PLMN operator and/or intercept requesting entity is necessary. This mechanism shall provide means to activate, deactivate, show, or list targets in the GSM PLMN as quick as technically possible. The function shall be policed by appropriate authentication and audit procedures.

The administration function shall allow specific IAs to be associated with target subscribers when Location Dependent Interception is being used.

#### 5.1.1 Activation

As a result of the activation it shall be possible to request for the specified target either the intercept product, the intercept related information or both, and the LEA destination addresses for the delivery of the intercept product and intercept related information if required. These shall be selectable on a PLMN basis according to national options.

#### 5.1.2 Deactivation

As a result of deactivation it shall be possible to stop all interception activities for the specified target.

#### 5.1.3 Security

The intercept function shall only be accessible by authorised personnel.

No indication shall be given to any PLMN staff except authorised personnel that the intercept function has been activated on a target.

### 5.1.3.1 Password rules

Password rules are specially defined for local and remote administrative and maintenance access. More specifically:

- The minimum length of a password shall be eight characters;
- The password shall be valid for a limited number of days. e. g. 30 days;
- The system shall support password history, i.e. the last e.g. 20 passwords are not allowed.

### 5.1.3.2 Log files

An audit log of the use of the intercept function (successful or failed) shall be maintained, accessible only to authorised users.

It shall be configurable to maintain a log file for all Lawful Interception commands or intercept relevant events on all network elements. The following events shall be logged with both time and date stamp and if available User-ID, Target-ID etc.:

- activation, deactivation and interrogation of lawful interception;
- attempt of unauthorised access of lawful interception;
- communication failures at network element interfaces;
- interception system failures;
- maintenance work.

The log file shall be password protected.

The log file shall be maintainable separately from other non intercept operations (read, delete, download).

The log file shall be cyclic deleted. The policy of how the log file is deleted is a matter of national option.

The log file shall be divided from regular operation of the network elements. Lawful Interception commands shall not be logged at any other file.

## 5.2 Intercept invocation

### 5.2.1 General

#### 5.2.1.1 Invocation events for lawful interception

Lawful interception is invoked when:

- a voice call is requested - either originated from or terminated to the target;
- a circuit switched data call is requested - either originated from or terminated to the target;
- location information related to the subscriber is modified by the subscriber attaching or detaching from the network, or if there is a change in location, (see subclause 4.2.3);
- an SMS transfer is requested - either originated from or terminated to the target.

#### 5.2.1.2 Invocation of interception regarding normal GSM service

The invocation of lawful interception shall not alter the operation of a target's services or provide indication to any party involved in communication with the target. Lawful interception shall not alter the standard function of GSM network elements. If lawful interception is activated during a call, the call shall not be intercepted. If lawful interception is deactivated all ongoing intercept activities shall continue till they are completed.

### 5.2.1.3 Correlation of information and product

When lawful interception is invoked, intercept related information and/or intercept product shall be sent to the LEA. Where both intercept related information and intercept product are sent to the LEA, then these two types of information shall be able to be correlated by the LEA, and they should be sent to the LEA in as near real time as possible.

## 5.2.2 Intercept related information

This subclause describes the service requirements for the provision of intercept related information when the target is using the following basic services:

### 5.2.2.1 Intercept related information events

Intercept related information concerning call progress may be provided to the LEA when the target is using the following basic services:

- telephony - teleservice 11;
- alternate speech and facsimile - teleservice 61;
- automatic facsimile group 3 - teleservice 62;
- data services - bearer services 2x, 3x;
- alternate speech and data - bearer service 61;
- speech followed by data - bearer service 81.

The following intercept related information events concerning call progress may, if applicable to the Tele Service/Bearer Service (TS/BS) and available, be provided to the LEA:

- the call establishment attempt;
- the answer of the call;
- the disconnecting of the call;
- changes of location of the target.

For the case of an SMS transaction the intercept related information is provided in conjunction with the SMS intercepted product to the LEA (see subclause 5.2.3.3).

### 5.2.2.2 Intercept related information provided to the LEA

The specific information provided by the intercept related information events will vary depending upon: the specific event, and the availability of information in a particular scenario (for example when interworking with network of different capabilities - i.e. non-ISDN networks).

A list of the type of information that may be provided to the LEA by intercept related information events, includes:

- an activation reference identity;
- the target identity which has been intercepted (e.g. MSISDN, IMSI, IMEI if applicable);
- called number;
- calling number;
- numbers related to forwarding and multi party calls;
- type of service used;
- location information of target (Cell Global Identity);
- time of event;

- call release reason.

### 5.2.2.3 Delivery of intercept related information

Intercept related information shall be delivered to the LEA using the specific address information that has been provided as part of the activation of the service.

## 5.2.3 Intercept product

### 5.2.3.1 Speech and single channel circuit switched data/fax

This subclause describes the service requirements for the provision of intercept product when the target is using the following basic services:

- telephony - teleservice 11;
- alternate speech and facsimile - teleservice 61;
- automatic facsimile group 3 - teleservice 62;
- data services - bearer services 2x, 3x;
- alternate speech and data - bearer service 61;
- speech followed by data - bearer service 81.

Intercept product should be in "clear" form - no GSM radio interface or PLMN generated radio interface encoding or encryption should be present, (the PLMN can not remove subscriber encryption). Intercept product shall be maintained during handover.

### 5.2.3.2 Delivery of intercept product

Intercept product shall be delivered to the LEA using the specific address information provided as part of the lawful intercept activation.

Any additional delay in setting up the call caused by the invocation of lawful interception should not be noticeable to the target or other users on the call.

### 5.2.3.3 SMS

Intercept product for SMS is sent to the LEA along with the intercept related information for both SMS mobile originated and SMS mobile terminated.

## 5.2.4 Correlation between intercept product and intercept related information

Intercept product and intercept related information shall be presented to the LEA in a way that allows for accurate correlation between these two components.

## 5.2.5 Security related to intercept invocation

There shall be arrangements between the GSM PLMN and the LEA to ensure uncorrupted and confidential delivery of information and product related to lawful interception.

## 5.2.6 Warrant Reference Number

The Warrant Reference Number may be used by an LEA for an indirect identification of a specific intercept activity.

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## 6 Exceptional procedures

When a failure occurs while establishing the connection towards the LEA to transfer the intercept product this shall not result in any interruption of the ongoing telecommunications service. No further specific requirements apply for the intercept product in the GSM PLMN.

When failure occurs while trying to provide the interception related information it shall be temporarily stored in the GSM PLMN and some further attempts shall be made to deliver it if available.

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## 7 Interworking considerations

While it is recognised that speech encoding in CCITT G.711 format presently does not raise any problem, the transmission of GSM encoded speech in the future - speech transmission for mobile to mobile calls without transcoding - will create difficulties to provide the product in the correct format to the LEA. It shall be noted that forcing transcoding for the intercepted calls will result in a noticeable and perceived systematic degradation in the speech quality for the mobile parties.

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## 8 Charging aspects

### 8.1 Charging principles

The PLMN may require to raise charges for lawful interception. Charging may be based on one or more of the following:

- use of network resources;
- activation and deactivation of the target; or
- every intercept invocation.

The PLMN shall be capable of producing intercept charging data. It shall be possible to produce this data in such a way that access by non authorised personnel or the target is precluded.

### 8.2 Charging characteristics

Some of parameters listed below might not be applicable in specific GSM PLMNs:

#### 8.2.1 Activation of the target

- Activation reference;
- Mobile target identity;
- Date of activation;
- Time of activation;
- Destination address;
- Specified output(s);
- Network identity.

## 8.2.2 Deactivation of the target

- Activation reference;
- Mobile target identity;
- Date of deactivation;
- Time of deactivation;
- Network identity.

## 8.2.3 Intercept invocation

- Activation reference;
- Mobile target identity;
- Date of activity;
- Start time of activity;
- Stop time or duration of the activity;
- Service type, Speech, data, SMS.

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# 9 Minimum Service Requirements

Quality of service, capacity and reliability are the subject of bilateral agreement between the Regulation (Licensing) authorities and the GSM PLMN operator.

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# Annex A (Normative): GPRS and Lawful Interception

## A.1 Introduction

In GPRS interception is applicable to Point-To-Point (PTP) services, Point-To-Multipoint Group call (PTM-G) and Short Message Service (SMS). Interception is not applicable to Point-To-Multipoint Multicast (PTM-M).

## A.2 Intercept Invocation

Lawful interception is invoked when a GPRS PDP mobile is attached. If lawful interception is activated when a PDP context is already activated, the next packet transmitted shall be intercepted. If lawful interception is deactivated, the next packets transmitted shall not be intercepted.

### A.2.1 Intercept related information events

Intercept related information concerning call progress may be provided to the LEA when the target is using the GPRS service. The following intercept related information events may be provided to the LEA:

- GPRS attach;
- GPRS detach;
- the PDP context activation (GPRS);
- the start of interception with PDP context active;
- the PDP context deactivation (GPRS);
- Cell and/or RA update;
- SMS.

For the case of an SMS transaction the intercept related information is provided in conjunction with the SMS intercepted product to the LEA.

### A.2.2 Intercept related information provided to the LEA

The specific information provided by the intercept related information events will vary depending upon: the specific event, and the availability of information in a particular scenario.

For GPRS, a list of the type of information that may be provided to the LEA by intercept related information events, includes:

- an activation reference identity;
- the target identity which has been intercepted (e.g., MSISDN, IMSI, IMEI if applicable);
- type of protocol activated (e.g. Internet Protocol or X.25);
- PDP address used by the target;
- location information of target (Cell Global Identity);
- time of event;
- Access Point Name.

### A.2.3 GPRS intercept product

GPRS is capable of carrying many different protocols at the application level. The intercept product shall be the packet as sent by the application without interpretation or modification except for possible reframing, segmentation, or enveloping required to transport the packet to the LEA. No PLMN encryption, compression or encoding shall be present in the intercepted product. The intercepted product should be delivered to the LEA using a standard or widely used protocol.

## A.3 Interworking considerations

For GPRS, the PLMN, visited or roaming, shall not be responsible to interpret the protocol used by the target, or to remove user level compression or encryption.



## Annex B (informative): Change History

Change history						
SMG#	Spec	Version	CR	<Phase>	New Version	Subject/Comment
						No Phase 1 version
SMG#19	02.33				1.0.0	To SMG#19 for information
SMG#20	02.33			R96	2.0.0	To SMG#20 for approval
SMG#20	02.33	2.0.0		R96	5.0.0	TS approved by SMG#20
	02.33	5.0.0	A001r2	R98	7.0.0	CR 02.33-A001r2 (GPRS) approved by SMG#25 The specification was converted to version 7.0.0 because the work item is related to Release 98 <b>version 5.0.0 was withdrawn.</b>
SMG#27	02.33	7.0.0	A002r2	R98	7.1.0	CR 02.33-A002r2 (LI) - approved by SMG#27
SMG#27	02.33	7.0.0	A003r2	R98	7.1.0	CR 02.33-A003r2 (LI) - approved by SMG#27
SMG#28	02.33	7.1.0	A004	R98	7.2.0	CR 02.33-A004 (category F) (LI Release 98) approved by SMG#28
SMG#29	02.33	7.2.0	A005	R98	7.3.0	CR 02.33-A005 (category B) (additions and corrections for LI for GPRS) approved by SMG#29
04-2000	02.33	7.3.0	-	R99	8.0.0	Release 99 version
Change history						
TSG SA#	Spec	Version	CR	<Phase>	New Version	Subject/Comment
SP-11	02.33	8.0.0	-	Rel-4	42.033 v 4.0.0	<a href="#">Upgrade to Release 4</a> (3GPP numbering)
SP-16	42.033	4.0.0	-	Rel-5	5.0.0	<a href="#">Upgrade to Release 5</a>
SP-26	42.033	5.0.0	-	Rel-6	6.0.0	<a href="#">Upgrade to Release 6</a>
SP-36	42.033	6.0.0	-	Rel-7	7.0.0	<a href="#">Upgrade to Release 7</a>

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# History

<b>Document history</b>		
V7.0.0	June 2007	Publication