



EU-RAIL SYSTEM PILLAR

Secure Communication Specification



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2 Preamble

2.1 Scope, Purpose and Intended Audience

 , **SP-SEC-Comm-2.1-1** - This specification is a Functional Interface Specification (FIS) for the security layer of Secure Components required for interoperability. [SPPRAMSS-3780]

2.2 Document Usage

 , **SP-SEC-Comm-2.2-1** - This specification uses identifiers starting with "SP-SEC-Comm". [SPPRAMSS-14016]

 , **SP-SEC-Comm-2.2-2** - Icon types used in this document are defined in SP-SEC-Tax. [SPPRAMSS-14015]

2.3 References

 , **SP-SEC-Comm-2.3-1** - This chapter contains all references of this document. For a complete list including external references see [SP-SEC-Tax] Chapter 3. [SPPRAMSS-14017]

[RFC 4086]

Randomness Requirements for Security

[RFC 5280]

Internet X.509 Public Key Infrastructure Certificate and Certificate Revocation List (CRL) Profile

[RFC 8446]

The Transport Layer Security (TLS) Protocol Version 1.3.

[RFC 9150]

TLS 1.3 Authentication and Integrity-Only Cipher Suites

[OPC UA-10000-6]

OPC 10000-6: UA Part 6: Mappings

[OPC UA Profile SecurityPolicy [ECC-B] – ECC-nistP256]

Profile SecurityPolicy [ECC-B] – ECC-nistP256

[OPC UA Profile SecurityPolicy – ECC-brainpoolP256r1]

Profile SecurityPolicy – ECC-brainpoolP256r1

SP-SEC-Comm-2.3-9 - [OPC UA Profile SecurityPolicy [B] – Basic256Sha256]

SecurityPolicy [B] – Basic256Sha256

[OPC UA-10001-4 Amendment 4: ECC]

ECC for UACore 1.04

2.4 Terms and Definitions

 - **TLS endpoint**

The TLS endpoint is a Secure Component using TLS-protected communication (client and server).

 - **OPC UA endpoint**

The OPC UA endpoint is a Secure Component using OPC UA communication (client and server).

 - **HTTP endpoint**

The HTTP endpoint is a Secure Component using HTTP communication (client and server).

3 End-to-End Security Layer (TLS)

 , **SP-SEC-Comm-3-1** - Note: This chapter applies to all communication that uses TLS. [SPPRAMSS-7358]

 , **SP-SEC-Comm-3-2** - Note: This chapter does not cover backwards compatibility. As a result there are no specifications for migration from older or outdated TLS versions to the currently specified TLS version. [SPPRAMSS-2419]

3.1 TLS Overall

 , **SP-SEC-Comm-3.1-1** - The TLS endpoint shall use TLS version 1.3 as defined in [SP-SEC-Comm-2.3-4 - \[RFC 8446\]](#). [SPPRAMSS-1713]

 , **SP-SEC-Comm-3.1-2** - The TLS endpoint shall not use the 0-RTT mode. [SPPRAMSS-1716]

 , **SP-SEC-Comm-3.1-3** - The TLS endpoint shall enforce mutual authentication. [SPPRAMSS-1954]

 , **SP-SEC-Comm-3.1-4** - Implementation and initialisation of the random number generator shall follow Appendix C.1 in [SP-SEC-Comm-2.3-4 - \[RFC 8446\]](#) .

Note: As mentioned in the appendix C.1, additional guidance on the generation of random values is provided by [SP-SEC-Comm-2.3-2 - \[RFC 4086\]](#) . [SPPRAMSS-3036]

 , **SP-SEC-Comm-3.1-5** - The TLS endpoint shall support the cipher TLS_AES_256_GCM_SHA384. Note: This cipher is preferred. [SPPRAMSS-1959]

 , **SP-SEC-Comm-3.1-6** - The TLS endpoint shall support the cipher TLS_CHACHA20_POLY1305_SHA256. Note: This cipher is lower prioritized. [SPPRAMSS-1960]

 , **SP-SEC-Comm-3.1-7** - If only integrity protection is required, the TLS endpoint shall support the cipher TLS_SHA384_SHA384. [SP-SEC-Comm-2.3-5 - \[RFC 9150\]](#)

Note: Integrity-only protection can be used for Automatic Train Operation [Subset-148], Automatic Train Protection [Subset-037-3], and EULYNX SCI [Eu.Doc.92]. [SPPRAMSS-1961]

 , **SP-SEC-Comm-3.1-8** - The TLS server shall reject ciphers not defined in this specifications. [SPPRAMSS-15422]

 , **SP-SEC-Comm-3.1-9** - Note: In future version of this document, the ciphers for securing communication will be extended to support additional ciphers, e.g. for post quantum cryptography (PQC). [SPPRAMSS-10108]

3.2 TLS Requirements for TLS-PKI

 , **SP-SEC-Comm-3.2-1** - The TLS endpoint shall perform authentication using certificates in accordance with X.509 ([SP-SEC-Comm-2.3-3 - \[RFC 5280\]](#)). [SPPRAMSS-2030]

 , **SP-SEC-Comm-3.2-2** - If DNS resolution was used to resolve the IP address for the corresponding connection, the TLS endpoint shall abort the connection if the expected DNS FQDN does not match the dNSName in the Subject Alternative Name of the communication partners certificate. [SPPRAMSS-12360]

 , **SP-SEC-Comm-3.2-3** - If DNS resolution was not used to resolve the IP address for the corresponding connection, the TLS endpoint shall abort the connection if the expected IP address does not match the iPAddress in the Subject Alternative Name of the communication partners certificate. [SPPRAMSS-12359]

 , **SP-SEC-Comm-3.2-4** - If a Common Name is used to identify the communication partner, the TLS endpoint shall abort the connection if the expected Common Name does not match the Common Name of the communication partners certificate.

Note: This procedure is used for EULYNX SCI connections. [SPPRAMSS-12357]

 , **SP-SEC-Comm-3.2-5** - The TLS endpoint shall check the certificate revocation status using Certificate Revocation Lists (CRLs) according to [SP-SEC-Comm-2.3-3 - \[RFC 5280\]](#) (Chapter 6.1.3.).

Note: This includes checking the certificate revocation status using CRLs of all certificates in the certificate path (excluding self-signed trust anchors). [SPPRAMSS-2426]

 , **SP-SEC-Comm-3.2-6** - If the status of a certificate is revoked or no valid certificate revocation information is available, the TLS endpoint shall abort the connection setup. [SPPRAMSS-2427]

 , **SP-SEC-Comm-3.2-7** - If the TLS communication is not safety-related, the TLS endpoint shall use an ONCC as defined in SP-SEC-Serv-14.1.2-2 [SPPRAMSS-8869]

 , **SP-SEC-Comm-3.2-8** - If the TLS communication is safety-related, the TLS endpoint shall use an OSCC as defined in SP-SEC-Serv-14.1.2-3 [SPPRAMSS-8870]

3.3 Error Reporting for Diagnostic Purpose

 , **SP-SEC-Comm-3.3-1** - The TLS endpoint shall log the events reported by the TLS implementation via SSI-LOG.

Note: Fatal TLS 1.3 errors are defined in [SP-SEC-Comm-2.3-4 - \[RFC 8446\]](#), Chapter 6.2. [SPPRAMSS-5857]

4 Secure Communication for OPC UA

 , **SP-SEC-Comm-4-1** - Note: This chapter applies to all communication that uses OPC UA. [SPPRAMSS-7357]

 , **SP-SEC-Comm-4-2** - The OPC UA endpoint shall use Secure Conversation (UASC) ([SP-SEC-Comm-2.3-6 - \[OPC UA-10000-6\]](#) , Chapter 6.7) [SPPRAMSS-2952]

 , **SP-SEC-Comm-4-3** - The OPC UA endpoint shall use SignAndEncrypt as security mode. [SPPRAMSS-2953]

 , **SP-SEC-Comm-4-4** - The OPC UA endpoint shall use mutual authentication via certificates. [SPPRAMSS-2951]

 , **SP-SEC-Comm-4-5** - If an URI is used to uniquely identify the communication partners application, the OPC UA endpoint shall abort the connection if the expected URI does not match the URI in the Subject Alternative Name of the communication partners certificate. [SPPRAMSS-12358]

 , **SP-SEC-Comm-4-6** - The OPC UA endpoint shall enforce the permissions attached to each node of the OPC-UA model. [SPPRAMSS-4951]

 , **SP-SEC-Comm-4-7** - The OPC UA endpoint shall support the Security Policy ECC-nistP256.
 Note: This Security Policy is defined in Amendment 4: ECC for UACore 1.04 [SP-SEC-Comm-2.3-10 - \[OPC UA-10001-4 Amendment 4: ECC\]](#) and in UACore 1.05 [SP-SEC-Comm-2.3-7 - \[OPC UA Profile SecurityPolicy \[ECC-B\] – ECC-nistP256\]](#) [SPPRAMSS-7325]

 , **SP-SEC-Comm-4-8** - The OPC UA endpoint shall support the Security Policy ECC-brainpoolP256r1
 Note: This Security Policy is defined in Amendment 4: ECC for UACore 1.04 [SP-SEC-Comm-2.3-10 - \[OPC UA-10001-4 Amendment 4: ECC\]](#) and in UACore 1.05 [SP-SEC-Comm-2.3-8 - \[OPC UA Profile SecurityPolicy – ECC-brainpoolP256r1\]](#) . [SPPRAMSS-7352]

 , **SP-SEC-Comm-4-9** - The OPC UA server shall reject Security Policies not defined in this specifications. [SPPRAMSS-15423]

 , **SP-SEC-Comm-4-10** - The OPC UA endpoint may support the Security Policy [SP-SEC-Comm-2.3-9 - \[OPC UA Profile SecurityPolicy \[B\] – Basic256Sha256\]](#)
 Note: The preferred Security Policies are the ones using Elliptic Curve Cryptography (ECC). Support for RSA may be required for backwards compatibility implementations which do not support ECC yet. RSA will be removed in a future version of this specification. [SPPRAMSS-13068]

 , **SP-SEC-Comm-4-11** - The OPC UA endpoint shall support the following entitlements:

Entitlement Name	Description	Corresponding OPC UA Permissions
eu.rail.ssi.security-read	Permission to read OPC UA nodes of SSI-MNT containing security-related information.	Browse Read ReceiveEvents
eu.rail.ssi.security-execute	Permission to execute OPC UA methods of SSI-MNT to execute security-related methods.	Browse Call
eu.rail.ssi.backup-read	Permission to read OPC UA nodes of SSI-BKP containing backup-related information.	Browse Read ReceiveEvents
eu.rail.ssi.backup-execute	Permission to execute OPC UA methods of SSI-BKP to execute backup-related methods.	Browse Call

[SPPRAMSS-8867]

 , **SP-SEC-Comm-4-12** - If additional permissions are required, they should be defined using the following pattern:
`[tld].[organisation].[interface].[permission name]`
 where [permission name] should have a clear semantic meaning that a human user understands.

For example:
`com.company.smi.manufacturer-execute` [SPPRAMSS-8868]

 , **SP-SEC-Comm-4-13** - The permissions are retrieved via the SSI-IAM interface and enforced by the Secure Component. (see SP-SEC-Comp-7.2-2) [SPPRAMSS-9756]

 , **SP-SEC-Comm-4-14** - If the OPC UA endpoint is used by a human user, the OPC UA endpoint shall use an OUC as defined in SP-SEC-Serv-14.1.2-4. [SPPRAMSS-16316]

 , **SP-SEC-Comm-4-15** - If the OPC UA endpoint is used by a technical user, the OPC UA endpoint shall use an ONCC as defined in SP-SEC-Serv-14.1.2-4. [SPPRAMSS-16317]

 , **SP-SEC-Comm-4-16** - The OPC UA server and client shall present Operator Non-safety Communication Certificates (ONCCs) for OPC UASC channel establishment for non-safety communication. [SPPRAMSS-16315]

5 Secure Communication for HTTP

 , **SP-SEC-Comm-5-1** - The HTTP endpoint shall use TLS for HTTP communication according to 3 - End-to-End Security Layer (TLS). [SPPRAMSS-8864]

 , **SP-SEC-Comm-5-2** - Exceptions for the usage of TLS for HTTP communication are defined in the Shared Cybersecurity Services Specification. [SPPRAMSS-10322]

 , **SP-SEC-Comm-5-3** - Requirements for human user authorization in HTTP communication are defined by the corresponding interface specification. (SP-SEC-SERV User Authentication Service) [SPPRAMSS-11959]

6 Securing other Communicating Interfaces

This chapter contains requirements for additional communication interfaces using other communication protocols which are not defined in this specification. These requirements are required to achieve compliance to EU CRA and IEC 62443-4-2.

Examples of other communication interfaces: SSH, FTPS,...

In general, all maintenance and diagnostic activities should be conducted using existing interfaces (e.g. SDI, SMI,...).

Direct access to the operating system is not advisable and should be avoided.

As per EU-CRA and IEC 62443-4-2, the attack surface of a device is required to be limited. Therefore, additional communication interfaces should only be added, if there are essential for the operation and can not be avoided. See corresponding SP-SEC-CompSpec Ch 5.3.6 - Hardening for corresponding requirements.

If specific other communication protocols are used extensively, this specification can be extended to define a security profile for the specific protocol to allow interoperability between communications partners.

6.1 Identification, Authentication and Authorization

 , **SP-SEC-Comm-6.1-1** - Each software process realising an additional communication interface shall be capable of identifying itself and authenticating to any other communication partner using a unique X.509 v3 certificate as defined in SP-SEC-Comm-2.3-3 - [RFC 5280] or an equally secure method.

Note1: recommendation is to use a unique X.509 certificate

Note2: there should be a way to identify a software process (web server, safety communication, diagnostics server,...), not per software process instance of the same software process. [SPPRAMSS-2967]

 , **SP-SEC-Comm-6.1-2** - Each software process realizing an additional communication interface shall authenticate each communication partner (human user, other software process) by validating the partner's

identity.

Note: in case of certificate-based identification, see checks in chapter SP-SEC-CompSpec-5.5.3 - PKI certificate validation. In case of other identification, e.g. OpenID Connect / OAuth the checks for other identification schemes are applicable.

[SPPRAMSS-3999]

 , **SP-SEC-Comm-6.1-3** - Each software process realizing an additional communication interface shall use the interface **[SSI-IAM]** to retrieve the permissions for a specified user (human or technical user) for non-token-based authentication or use interface **[SSI-UAS]** to retrieve permission for token-based authorization.

Note1: this is applicable for diagnostic communication and additional communication interfaces (e.g. Webserver, FTPS, SSH,...), but not applicable for safety-relevant communication / M2M communication.

Note2: in case of non-availability of the IAM, local accounts can be used [SPPRAMSS-2310]

 , **SP-SEC-Comm-6.1-4** - Each software process realizing an additional communication interface shall enforce access based on retrieved permissions.

Note: in cases of no network availability or no access to an IAM service instance, the implementation should fall back on a default or configurable permission list residing on the component.

[SPPRAMSS-2311]

6.2 Communication Integrity and Confidentiality

 , **SP-SEC-Comm-6.2-1** - Each software process realizing an additional communication interface shall protect the integrity of data in transit.

Note: this should, if applicable, be realized preferable using TLS with an integrity cipher. In any case, a cryptographic method for integrity protection is required

[SPPRAMSS-2478]

 , **SP-SEC-Comm-6.2-2** - If data in transit is considered confidential, a software process realizing an additional communication interface shall provide the capability to protect the confidentiality of data in transit.

Note: this should, if applicable, be realized preferable using TLS with an encryption cipher.

Examples of confidential data in transit are encryption keys, legally protected personal data, user credentials, person/user related data, financial information, security related logs and/or diagnosis data. [SPPRAMSS-6887]

6.3 Access Logging

 , **SP-SEC-Comm-6.3-1** - Security logging for communication interface accesses is required by EU CRA and IEC 62443-4-2. Corresponding requirements can be found in SP-SEC-CompSpec-5.7 - Logging and Diagnostic [SPPRAMSS-13119]

6.4 DoS Resilience and Minimising Negative Impact

 , **SP-SEC-Comm-6.4-1** - DoS resilience for communication interfaces is required by EU CRA and IEC 62443-4-2.

Corresponding requirements can be found in SP-SEC-CompSpec-5.4.4 Denial of service resilience [SPPRAMSS-13117]

 , **SP-SEC-Comm-6.4-2** - Minimising negative impact to network and to connected devices is required by EU CRA.
Corresponding requirements can be found in SP-SEC-CompSpec-5.4.2 Host-based firewall
[SPPRAMSS-13118]