



TCG Certification FAQ v1 - April 14 2009

Q. Why is TCG pursuing certification?

A. TCG has created a certification program to promote secure and correct implementations of products built to TCG specifications and to assist customers in verifying products built to TCG specifications. In particular, TCG's TPM Certification program will include security evaluation requirements, based on the established international Common Criteria framework, and compliance testing requirements, based on TCG developed test suite tools.

Q. How will certified products be promoted by TCG?

A. Products that successfully meet the requirements of a TCG certification program, such as security evaluation, compliance, and interoperability testing, will be awarded recognition on a certified products list on the TCG website.

Q. How will companies apply for certification?

A. Application procedures for certification will be available to TCG members on the TCG Website.

Q. Can non-members receive certification?

A. TCG is currently gauging interest in a process for non-members to be able to apply for TCG certification. Companies that are not currently TCG members but are interested in certification should contact admin@trustedcomputinggroup.org.

Q. What is the cost to achieve certification?

A. Each certification program will have its own pricing structure. Please visit the TCG website page of the technology you are interested in certifying with to understand what fees are applicable to your product certification.

Q. Why did TCG choose Common Criteria (CC)?

A. Common Criteria (CC) is the most widely accepted information security standard. Common Criteria certification can be performed around the world, with certification labs available to our members in many countries to perform security evaluation of their products.

Q. What TCG technologies are anticipated for future certification programs?

A. TCG is announcing the launch of a certification program for Trusted Platform Modules (TPM), and is working on a program for products based on the Trusted Network Connect specifications. TCG is also considering which other TCG specifications are best positioned within their market for certification.

Q. Does TCG use third parties for certification?

A. Each TCG Work Group has the opportunity to choose the certification method that is best suited for their industry. Many of our groups strive to make compliance testing possible at the company's own lab through self-certification or through a third party lab of choice. If a group chooses to use Common Criteria (CC) security evaluation, however, that evaluation must be processed through an approved CC laboratory.

Q. Will individual technology certification programs change after launch?

A. It is expected that each program will continue to evolve as the specifications themselves mature and begin to encompass additional features. All programs will begin at 1.0 regardless of the revision of the specification it is designed to cover. A revision history and concise description of specification and features covered by each revision can be found on the individual technologies web page.

Q. What is the benefit of certification for vendors and for users?

A. For vendors, certification offers a way to help ensure consistency of implementation and interoperability of their products with those from other vendors using TCG specifications. Public recognition of certified products may translate into increased sales. For users, certification helps the selection of products that are tested to implement specific capabilities and specifications, and that will be interoperable with other products using those specifications.