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# **Financial services — Secure cryptographic devices (retail) — Part 2: Security compliance checklists for devices used in financial transactions**

*Services financiers — Dispositifs cryptographiques de sécurité  
(services aux particuliers) —*

*Partie 2: Listes de contrôle de conformité de sécurité pour les  
dispositifs utilisés dans les transactions financières*



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ISO copyright office  
Ch. de Blandonnet 8 • CP 401  
CH-1214 Vernier, Geneva, Switzerland  
Tel. +41 22 749 01 11  
Fax +41 22 749 09 47  
copyright@iso.org  
www.iso.org

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## Foreword

ISO (the International Organization for Standardization) is a worldwide federation of national standards bodies (ISO member bodies). The work of preparing International Standards is normally carried out through ISO technical committees. Each member body interested in a subject for which a technical committee has been established has the right to be represented on that committee. International organizations, governmental and non-governmental, in liaison with ISO, also take part in the work. ISO collaborates closely with the International Electrotechnical Commission (IEC) on all matters of electrotechnical standardization.

The procedures used to develop this document and those intended for its further maintenance are described in the ISO/IEC Directives, Part 1. In particular the different approval criteria needed for the different types of ISO documents should be noted. This document was drafted in accordance with the editorial rules of the ISO/IEC Directives, Part 2 (see [www.iso.org/directives](http://www.iso.org/directives)).

Attention is drawn to the possibility that some of the elements of this document may be the subject of patent rights. ISO shall not be held responsible for identifying any or all such patent rights. Details of any patent rights identified during the development of the document will be in the Introduction and/or on the ISO list of patent declarations received (see [www.iso.org/patents](http://www.iso.org/patents)).

Any trade name used in this document is information given for the convenience of users and does not constitute an endorsement.

For an explanation on the meaning of ISO specific terms and expressions related to conformity assessment, as well as information about ISO's adherence to the WTO principles in the Technical Barriers to Trade (TBT) see the following URL: [Foreword - Supplementary information](#)

The committee responsible for this document is ISO/TC 68, *Financial services*, Subcommittee SC 2, *Security*.

This third edition cancels and replaces the second edition (ISO 13491-2:2005), which has been technically revised.

ISO 13491 consists of the following parts, under the general title *Financial Services — Secure cryptographic devices (retail)*:

- *Part 1: Concepts, requirements and evaluation methods*,
- *Part 2: Security compliance checklists for devices user in financial transactions*

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## Introduction

This part of ISO 13491 specifies both the physical and logical characteristics and the management of the secure cryptographic devices (SCDs) used to protect messages, cryptographic keys, and other sensitive information used in a retail financial services environment.

The security of retail financial services is largely dependent upon the security of these cryptographic devices.

Security requirements are based upon the premise that computer files can be accessed and manipulated, communication lines can be “tapped”, and authorized data or control inputs in a system device can be replaced with unauthorized inputs. While certain cryptographic devices (e.g. host security modules) reside in relatively high-security processing centres, a large proportion of cryptographic devices used in retail financial services (e.g. PIN entry devices, etc.) now reside in non-secure environments. Therefore, when PINs, MACs, cryptographic keys, and other sensitive data are processed in these devices, there is a risk that the devices may be tampered with, or otherwise, compromised to disclose or modify such data.

It is to be ensured that the risk of financial loss is reduced through the appropriate use of cryptographic devices that have proper physical and logical security characteristics and are properly managed. To ensure that SCDs have the proper physical and logical security, they require evaluation.

This part of ISO 13491 provides the security compliance checklists for evaluating SCDs used in financial services systems in accordance with ISO 13491-1. Other evaluation frameworks exist and may be appropriate for formal security evaluations, e.g. ISO/IEC 15408-1, ISO/IEC 15408-2, ISO/IEC 15408-3, and ISO/IEC 19790, and are outside the scope of this part of ISO 13491.

Appropriate device characteristics are necessary to ensure that the device has the proper operational capabilities and provides adequate protection for the data it contains. Appropriate device management is necessary to ensure that the device is legitimate, that it has not been modified in an unauthorized manner, e.g. by “bugging”, and that any sensitive data placed within the device (e.g. cryptographic keys) have not been subject to disclosure or change.

Absolute security is not practically achievable. Cryptographic security depends upon each life cycle phase of the SCD and the complementary combination of appropriate device management procedures and secure cryptographic characteristics. These management procedures implement preventive measures to reduce the opportunity for a breach of cryptographic device security. These measures aim for a high probability of detection of any illicit access to sensitive or confidential data in the event that device characteristics fail to prevent or detect the security compromise.