

BSPA SECURITY CERTIFICATION



▶ Who is this for?

Dutch Governmental bodies making use of IT products, developers of IT products (software or embedded)

▶ What are the deliverables?

Evaluation Technical Report (ETR) and Deployment Advisory (DA), base for BSPA certificate



Government of the Netherlands

▶ What is the objective?

Demonstrating compliance of the evaluated IT products in line with Dutch BIO BBN1 regulation, improved market recognition

INSIGHT INTO YOUR SECURITY

Secura has worked in information security and privacy for nearly two decades. This is why we uniquely understand the challenges that you face like no one else and would be delighted to help you address your information security matters efficiently and thoroughly. We work in the areas of people, processes and technology. For our customers we offer a range of security assessment services varying in depth and scope.

What is BSPA?

The Baseline Security Product Assessment (BSPA) is a certification scheme developed by the Nationaal Bureau voor Verbindingsbeveiliging (NBV) that is part of the Dutch intelligence and Security Service (AIVD). AIVD is therefore the operator of the scheme.

The goal of this scheme is to provide a framework in which products can be tested in a **limited timeframe** (and cost) against a **baseline of security requirements** (Government security baseline, in short BIR:2012). Products can include both hardware and software components that are used in the sensitive, but unclassified domain. A successful BSPA evaluation result will allow a Dutch Governmental institution to demonstrate compliance for the product in scope with the BIO BBN1 requirements.



BSPA follows a clear structured and phased approach according to the BSPA requirements. An evaluation performed under the BSPA scheme has the following main characteristics:

- ▶ It is carried out in a constrained time frame and with limited resources with a recommendation of 25 person-days;
- ▶ It determines the conformity of the product with its Security Evaluation Target;
- ▶ It determines the effectiveness of the security features offered by the product.

The assessment process is designed to be performed as an independent evaluation with limited cooperation from the developer or vendor. The only requirements are the installed product itself and the accompanying documentation. The BSPA certification can be an attractive option for manufacturers

interested in working with the Dutch government or simply gaining an advantage against the competition when placing their products on the Dutch market. Additionally, it can also be used by the government agencies to test the security products they use or intend to use.

Secura is licensed by the AIVD to provide BSPA services and can help you throughout the whole process of the BSPA evaluation, starting from a preparatory stage, continuing with the testing itself and of course supporting the full certification process. Depending on the readiness for certification, Secura can also deliver BSPA as a pre-validation to prepare for the official BSPA certification.

Scope of Evaluation

BSPA assessments can be used for a wide variety of software and hardware products, as summarized in the table:

Product category	Examples
Network security	VPN, link encryption, Wi-Fi access point, etc.
Network filtering, detection and response	IDS, firewall, SSL proxy, etc.
Secure messaging	Secure mail, secure chat-app, secure voice-call-app etc.
Media and file security	Full disk encryption, container encryption, file encryption, data erasure, etc.
Identity and access management	Password manager, key management and distribution, two-factor authentication, access control and federation, etc.
Secure OS execution environment	Secure-OS, secure-hypervisor, micro-kernel, separation kernel, etc.
Hardware and embedded software	HW-based encryption, HW-based secure-boot, USB device, keyboard (KVM-) switch, smart-meter, tamper resistant device, etc.
Smart cards and similar devices	Secure ICs, JavaCards, transportation/access cards, etc.

BSPA Evaluation & Certification for Your IT Product

The main process steps related to a BSPA evaluation, as well as the involved stakeholders are summarized in the diagram below.



Before the actual evaluation starts, a **Security Evaluation Target (SET)** is produced to align the expectations between the Sponsor, the Evaluation Laboratory and the Overseer Body. This SET includes the security features to be tested, and the conditions under which the test is performed.

When the SET is approved, the next step is to perform the investigation. There are three main goals of the evaluation performed by the Evaluation Laboratory.

- ▶ The first one is to evaluate whether the product adheres to the security specification in the SET.
- ▶ Secondly, whether the security features of the product are effective, and protect against attackers with low and medium attack potential.
- ▶ Finally, it is important to evaluate whether the product has no negative impact on its host system and infrastructure.

Secura takes care of collecting the required documentation and performs document analysis as well as penetration testing on the product. Examples of testing required on the product include protection of cryptographic keys, known

vulnerabilities impact, user authentication and authorization, ports and interfaces access or insecure configurations.

The evaluation certification process follows a 10-steps approach:

1. Security Evaluation Target analysis
2. Product installation
3. Compliance analysis
4. Compliance analysis by source code review
5. Compliance analysis by product testing
6. Determination of the resistance against attacks
7. Vulnerability analysis
8. Usability analysis
9. Evaluation of cryptography
10. Reporting

Secura generates the **Evaluation Technical Report (ETR)**, including the evaluation results and conclusions. Together with the ETR, we produce a draft of the **Deployment Advisory (DA)** for the users, which the overseer body will review. Based on these documents, we support the certification process with AIVD, leading in the end to the **Certificate of Conformity** for your product.



Insight into your Security with Secura

Secura has worked in information security and privacy for two decades. By leveraging our experience and expertise, we are a strong partner to address your information security matters efficiently and thoroughly. As a licensed lab for BSPA, Secura is your partner through the whole evaluation and certification process. Step by step, we can:

- ▶ Guide you through the preparation of required documentation.
- ▶ Perform the required document review and testing on the evaluation product.
- ▶ Deliver a pre-validation if required.
- ▶ Execute the formal BSPA certification process.

By partnering with Secura for your BSPA evaluation, you have the guarantee of obtaining support during the whole process.

The BSPA Certificate of Conformity for your product is a demonstration of its security capabilities. Obtaining the Certificate of Conformity could lead to a considerable market advantage for manufacturers, especially in case of targeting the Dutch market. For Dutch Government agencies, this conformity certifies that the evaluated product is secure and complies with the BIO BBN1 level.

Moreover, due to the nature of the BSPA requirements and process, this evaluation can be used as a stepping-stone for other more extensive certifications, against internationally recognized schemes such as Common Criteria.

Would you like to know more about the BSPA security certification?

Contact us today to discuss our services in more detail and find out which service fits your product best.

