

No.W-43/6/2020-IPHW
Government of India
Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology
(IPHW Division)

Dated: 12th Feb, 2024

Subject: Clarification on Roles and Responsibilities of STQC and CERT-IN for Cyber Auditing and Hardware Testing of IoT Devices/CCTV Cameras

This has response to the queries received from various departments regarding the roles and responsibilities of STQC and CERT-IN, as per the directives of the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY), for cyber auditing and the testing of hardware for IoT devices and CCTV cameras.

2. The tenders issued by the Government agencies should include detailed requirements for security auditing and testing of IoT devices/CCTV cameras. The specifications must underscore the importance of security measures at both hardware and software levels to ensure the security and integrity of the IoT devices or systems. Additionally, the tender specifications must highlight the necessity for security auditing and testing of products/IoT devices intended for internet connectivity, including cameras and software, to mitigate vulnerabilities and breaches.
3. MeitY aims to provide clarity on the distinct roles of CERT-IN and its empanelled organizations and the expertise offered by the STQC Directorate regarding the testing of hardware for IoT devices, facilitating clarification to buyers and sellers by incorporating specifications for cyber auditing and hardware testing of IoT devices in their tenders:
 - i) CERT-IN empanelled organizations specialize in conducting security auditing, vulnerability assessments, and penetration testing of computer systems, networks, and applications. However, their primary domain may not encompass comprehensive hardware security testing and evaluation of IoT Devices/CCTV cameras.
 - ii) STQC, under the aegis of the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology, has a proven track record and expertise in quality assessment, testing, and certification of electronic products. STQC serves as a credible and reliable partner for the thorough evaluation of IoT Devices' hardware to ensure adherence to specified standards and comprehensive evaluation of security aspects in the IoT Devices.
4. In this regard, the Government Ministries, Departments are advised to follow the above proposed recommendations/clarifications under the purview of the Public Procurement Orders to ensure the overall security and integrity of IoT Devices.
5. This issues with the approval of the Competent Authority.



(Asha Nangia)
Group Coordinator & Scientist-'G'
Ph. 011-24301965

To,

- i) Secretaries of All Ministries /Departments of Government of India
- ii) Chief Secretaries/Administrators of Union Territories/National Capital Territory of Delhi