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[business:integrity]

GSM SAS preparation support

Consulting, training and specialist tools for the telecoms industry

The GSM Association's Security Accreditation Scheme (SAS) provides the global GSM community with a common standard and rigorous assessment process to evaluate the security controls in place at SIM/smartcard suppliers – helping to secure the information and physical assets that underpin the security of the GSM architecture.

In FML's experience sites can benefit significantly from support in preparing for audits – helping to ensure controls are appropriate, implemented correctly, managed appropriately and working effectively. FML provides a range of support services to sites preparing for SAS including:

Greenfield sites	Assist in the design of the environment, site layout, technical systems and business processes to ensure these are appropriate to meet the requirements of SAS from day 1.
Sites preparing for certification	Evaluate existing controls and assess compliance with SAS. Design and implement appropriate improvements and new controls to meet SAS requirements. Conduct pre-audits to help identify outstanding actions and to ensure the on-site team is prepared for the formal audit process.
Existing certified sites	Advise on changes and improvements to site layout, processes and systems to ensure compliance is maintained. Provide interim and pre-audit support to evaluate compliance.

Why seek external support?

SAS is one of the most rigorous security audit schemes in the card industry. Unlike many other certification programmes, SAS is not prescriptive in its requirements; different solutions can be accepted. However, ensuring that requirements are interpreted and applied appropriately is a significant task for new and inexperienced sites.

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The audit itself is also a challenge; even sites certified under other schemes (Visa, Mastercard, local banks, government departments, etc) are often surprised by the depth and intensity of the audit process.

Effective preparation can help to maximise the chances of success and minimise the risk of the delay, cost and inconvenience of a re-audit.

Sites new to SAS often benefit from external support to help ensure the approach is appropriate. In many cases, significant savings can be made by avoiding wasted effort and overly-complex solutions.

FML's approach provides a range of external support services to help sites to:

- understand the requirements of the SAS Standard and audit process
- evaluate existing controls and assess compliance with SAS
- design and implement appropriate improvements.

As every site is different, FML offers tailored support services based on the requirements of each; from a simple on-site pre-audit through to a detailed support programme combining on- and off-site work and, where necessary, liaison with external suppliers (system vendors, architects etc).

Why choose FML?

FML is one of two official audit companies appointed by the GSM Association to carry out SAS certification audits, and the only audit company that has been involved with SAS since the beginning of the scheme. FML has taken an active part in helping to develop the SAS Standard and documents and was instrumental in writing the official SAS Guidelines document that is published by the GSM Association to help sites understand the requirements of the Standard. FML's team has unrivalled knowledge of the requirements of the Standard, and the broadest perspective on how these may be interpreted and applied to the environment at each site.

SAS support services are delivered by experienced FML SAS auditors with many years' knowledge of the standard and audit process, and of the design and implementation of appropriate solutions.

Our consultant team brings the greatest possible depth of experience to our clients in identifying necessary improvements, designing and implementing SAS-compliant solutions, and evaluating performance pre-audit – helping sites to maximise their chance of success.



Find out more

For more information about tailored SAS support for your organisation, please contact FML.