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ITSO POST and PersoPOST Version Control and the requirements for Re-Certification

This paper has been prepared to clarify the obligations on Registered Suppliers and Licensed Operators to control POST and PersoPOST software and hardware and the circumstances under which re-certification is required.

ITSO's position on the certification of equipment, its subsequent development/deployment and the need (or not) for re-certification is embodied in a paper available on the ITSO website under the Certification and Testing Page with link:

http://itso.org.uk/content/documents/ITSO_self_testing_process_v1-1_Jul07.pdf.

Section 2 of the paper deals specifically with Version Control (and is quoted in full below):

Version Control of ITSO Certified Equipment and Software

Registered Supplier Version control of all ITSO Certified equipment and software should take the form:

Version number; Sub-Version number; Sub-Sub-Version number

A check-sum can be incorporated after the Version number as appropriate.

- 1.1. *Version number* is incremented after every major release. This includes the addition of any major new functionality, a fundamental change that directly affects its ITSO functionality, or a significant change to the hardware.
- 1.2. *Sub-Version number* is incremented after each minor release. This includes any minor changes to hardware or software or bug fixes to components within the scope of ITSO certification.
- 1.3. *Sub-Sub-Version number* should be used for upgrades and changes that are outside the scope of ITSO certification. This number should be used by the Supplier to provide ITSO with an auditable trail of upgrades

In particular, it includes reference to "SIGNIFICANT CHANGES IN HARDWARE".

For any piece of equipment dealing with the Media to POST interface, ITSO has always defined this is a materially significant area and hence any change of physical construct of a POST (including PersoPOST) will almost certainly constitute a Version Number change and therefore necessitate a re-certification. The paper also describes options such as the Self-Test option that will assist quicker (and cheaper) re-certification, particularly where the software is unchanged. By changes of physical hardware, for a PersoPOST this includes the speed and method of transport of a media through the device; the electromagnetic/RF environment, and the physical impact of handling and printing. For POSTs it also includes the shielding effect of the ticket machine structure, interference from gate actuators, EMV devices etc. All these could affect the media and its interface and its successful loading or handling of an ITSO Shell and / or Product Entities.



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Where a current ITSO certified POST or PersoPOST, or a module incorporating them, is then integrated into an alternative PersoPOST or POST machine or into a third party machine, a retest and re-certification is required. For the avoidance of doubt, ITSO expect that apart from minor changes to hardware design, ALL new versions of the embodiment of a PersoPOST or POST will require re-certification by means of an Interoperability Demonstration. The ITSO Certification and Testing Manual provides detail of the necessary submission requirements and the level of regression testing required, including the crucial Interoperability Demonstration.

Application for a re-certification

The application for re-certification required will depend on whether the existing Registered Supplier is applying for a new certificate for an alternative embodiment of their own manufacture, or whether the module is to be incorporated in a new or different Supplier's hardware.

- For an EXISTING Registered Supplier, whose certified PersoPOST or POST module is being used without change, the Supplier must apply for a new version of their existing certificate and apply to the Registrar and Test House for a Test Slot.
- For a NEW Supplier applying for certification of a new or different version of the PersoPOST or POST, they must first apply for ITSO Registered Supplier status (free to members but with a fee attached for non-members), then apply and pay for certification as above. ITSO will require a confirmation from the Registered Supplier who has supplied the certified PersoPOST or POST module that the new Supplier has permission to use the other's module, and any IPR associated with it, in the new unit under test.

On application for a re-certification and payment of any fees due, the necessary arrangements for a Test Slot can be made.

In those circumstances where an off-site Interoperability Demonstration is necessary (normally due to bulky or heavy equipment unsuited to loan to the Test House), the ITSO Registrar will arrange for an ITSO representative to attend at the Supplier's premises to observe the necessary Tests (as applicable) and the production of (approximately 50) Test media for return to the Test House for validation.

Under these circumstances, and assuming the unit under test incorporates the earlier certified module unchanged and in its entirety, then the level of Interoperability Demonstration required for the new version may be limited at ITSO's discretion to regression and / or interoperability testing. Assuming the unit completes its testing successfully, the necessary certificate can then be issued. For an existing Registered Supplier, this will normally take the form of a new version of the original certificate; for a new Supplier, this will be a new certificate.

Without this certificate, any Licensed Operator (or their agent) would be in breach of their ITSO Licence as they would be using non-compliant equipment in the ITSO environment.

ITSO Head of Compliance
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