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Abstract

This document describes the Internet X.509 Public Key Infrastructure (PKI) Certificate Management Protocols. Protocol messages are defined for all relevant aspects of certificate creation and management. Note that "certificate" in this document refers to an X.509v3 Certificate as defined in [[COR95](#), [X509-AM](#)].

The key words "MUST", "MUST NOT", "REQUIRED", "SHOULD", "SHOULD NOT", "RECOMMENDED", "MAY", and "OPTIONAL" in this document (in uppercase,

as shown) are to be interpreted as described in [[RFC2119](#)].

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## 1 PKI Management Overview

The PKI must be structured to be consistent with the types of individuals who must administer it. Providing such administrators with unbounded choices not only complicates the software required but also increases the chances that a subtle mistake by an administrator or software developer will result in broader compromise. Similarly, restricting administrators with cumbersome mechanisms will cause them not to use the PKI.

Management protocols are REQUIRED to support on-line interactions between Public Key Infrastructure (PKI) components. For example, a management protocol might be used between a Certification Authority (CA) and a client system with which a key pair is associated, or between two CAs that issue cross-certificates for each other.

### [1.1](#) PKI Management Model

Before specifying particular message formats and procedures we first define the entities involved in PKI management and their interactions (in terms of the PKI management functions required). We then group these functions in order to accommodate different identifiable types of end entities.

### [1.2](#) Definitions of PKI Entities

The entities involved in PKI management include the end entity (i.e., the entity to whom the certificate is issued) and the certification authority (i.e., the entity that issues the certificate). A registration authority MAY also be involved in PKI management.

#### [1.2.1](#) Subjects and End Entities

The term "subject" is used here to refer to the entity to whom the certificate is issued, typically named in the subject or subjectAltName field of a certificate. When we wish to distinguish the tools and/or software used by the subject (e.g., a local certificate management module) we will use the term "subject equipment". In general, the term "end entity" (EE) rather than subject is preferred in order to avoid confusion with the field name.

It is important to note that the end entities here will include not only human users of applications, but also applications themselves (e.g., for IP security). This factor influences the protocols which the PKI management operations use; for example, application software is far more likely to know exactly which certificate extensions are required than are human users. PKI management entities are also end entities in the sense that they are sometimes named in the subject or subjectAltName field of a certificate or cross-certificate. Where

appropriate, the term "end-entity" will be used to refer to end entities who are not PKI management entities.

All end entities require secure local access to some information -- at a minimum, their own name and private key, the name of a CA which is directly trusted by this entity and that CA's public key (or a fingerprint of the public key where a self-certified version is available elsewhere). Implementations MAY use secure local storage for more than this minimum (e.g., the end entity's own certificate or application-specific information). The form of storage will also vary -- from files to tamper-resistant cryptographic tokens. Such local trusted storage is referred to here as the end entity's Personal Security Environment (PSE).

Though PSE formats are beyond the scope of this document (they are very dependent on equipment, et cetera), a generic interchange format for PSEs is defined here - a certification response message MAY be used.

### [1.2.2](#) Certification Authority

The certification authority (CA) may or may not actually be a real "third party" from the end entity's point of view. Quite often, the CA will actually belong to the same organization as the end entities it supports.

Again, we use the term CA to refer to the entity named in the issuer

field of a certificate; when it is necessary to distinguish the software or hardware tools used by the CA we use the term "CA equipment".

The CA equipment will often include both an "off-line" component and an "on-line" component, with the CA private key only available to the "off-line" component. This is, however, a matter for implementers (though it is also relevant as a policy issue).

We use the term "root CA" to indicate a CA that is directly trusted by an end entity; that is, securely acquiring the value of a root CA public key requires some out-of-band step(s). This term is not meant to imply that a root CA is necessarily at the top of any hierarchy, simply that the CA in question is trusted directly.

A "subordinate CA" is one that is not a root CA for the end entity in question. Often, a subordinate CA will not be a root CA for any entity but this is not mandatory.

### 1.2.3 Registration Authority

In addition to end-entities and CAs, many environments call for the existence of a Registration Authority (RA) separate from the Certification Authority. The functions which the registration authority may carry out will vary from case to case but MAY include personal authentication, token distribution, revocation reporting, name assignment, key generation, archival of key pairs, et cetera.

This document views the RA as an OPTIONAL component - when it is not present the CA is assumed to be able to carry out the RA's functions so that the PKI management protocols are the same from the end-entity's point of view.

Again, we distinguish, where necessary, between the RA and the tools used (the "RA equipment").

Note that an RA is itself an end entity. We further assume that all RAs are in fact certified end entities and that RAs have private keys that are usable for signing. How a particular CA equipment identifies some end entities as RAs is an implementation issue (i.e., this document specifies no special RA certification operation). We do not

mandate that the RA is certified by the CA with which it is interacting at the moment (so one RA may work with more than one CA whilst only being certified once).

In some circumstances end entities will communicate directly with a CA even where an RA is present. For example, for initial registration and/or certification the subject may use its RA, but communicate directly with the CA in order to refresh its certificate.

### [1.3](#) PKI Management Requirements

The protocols given here meet the following requirements on PKI management.

1. PKI management must conform to the ISO 9594-8 standard and the associated amendments (certificate extensions)
2. PKI management must conform to the other parts of this series.
3. It must be possible to regularly update any key pair without affecting any other key pair.
4. The use of confidentiality in PKI management protocols must be kept to a minimum in order to ease regulatory problems.

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5. PKI management protocols must allow the use of different industry-standard cryptographic algorithms, (specifically including RSA, DSA, MD5, SHA-1) -- this means that any given CA, RA, or end entity may, in principle, use whichever algorithms suit it for its own key pair(s).
  6. PKI management protocols must not preclude the generation of key pairs by the end-entity concerned, by an RA, or by a CA -- key generation may also occur elsewhere, but for the purposes of PKI management we can regard key generation as occurring wherever the key is first present at an end entity, RA, or CA.
  7. PKI management protocols must support the publication of certificates by the end-entity concerned, by an RA, or by a CA. Different implementations and different environments may choose any of the above approaches.

8. PKI management protocols must support the production of Certificate Revocation Lists (CRLs) by allowing certified end entities to make requests for the revocation of certificates - this must be done in such a way that the denial-of-service attacks which are possible are not made simpler.
9. PKI management protocols must be usable over a variety of "transport" mechanisms, specifically including mail, http, TCP/IP and ftp.
10. Final authority for certification creation rests with the CA; no RA or end-entity equipment can assume that any certificate issued by a CA will contain what was requested -- a CA may alter certificate field values or may add, delete or alter extensions according to its operating policy. In other words, all PKI entities (end-entities, RAs, and CAs) must be capable of handling responses to requests for certificates in which the actual certificate issued is different from that requested (for example, a CA may shorten the validity period requested). Note that policy may dictate that the CA must not publish or otherwise distribute the certificate until the requesting entity has reviewed and accepted the newly-created certificate (typically through use of the certConf message).
11. A graceful, scheduled change-over from one non-compromised CA key pair to the next (CA key update) must be supported (note that if the CA key is compromised, re-initialization must be performed for all entities in the domain of that CA). An end entity whose PSE contains the new CA public key (following a CA key update) must also be able to verify certificates verifiable using the old public key. End entities who directly

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trust the old CA key pair must also be able to verify certificates signed using the new CA private key. (Required for situations where the old CA public key is "hardwired" into the end entity's cryptographic equipment).

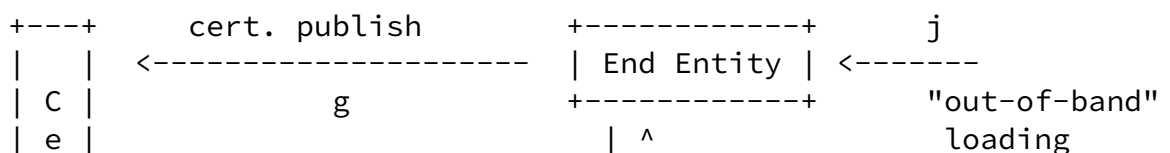
12. The Functions of an RA may, in some implementations or environments, be carried out by the CA itself. The protocols must be designed so that end entities will use the same protocol (but, of course, not the same key!) regardless of whether the communication is with an RA or CA.



13. Where an end entity requests a certificate containing a given public key value, the end entity must be ready to demonstrate possession of the corresponding private key value. This may be accomplished in various ways, depending on the type of certification request. See [Section 2.3](#), "Proof of Possession of Private Key", for details of the in-band methods defined for the PKIX-CMP (i.e., Certificate Management Protocol) messages.

#### [1.4](#) PKI Management Operations

The following diagram shows the relationship between the entities defined above in terms of the PKI management operations. The letters in the diagram indicate "protocols" in the sense that a defined set of PKI management messages can be sent along each of the lettered lines.





### 3 Certification: various operations result in the creation of new certificates:

- 3.1 initial registration/certification: This is the process whereby an end entity first makes itself known to a CA or RA, prior to the CA issuing a certificate or certificates for that end entity. The end result of this process (when it is successful) is that a CA issues a certificate for an end entity's public key, and returns that certificate to the end entity and/or posts that certificate in a public repository. This process may, and typically will, involve multiple "steps", possibly including an initialization of the end entity's equipment. For example, the end entity's equipment must be securely initialized with the public key of a CA, to be used in validating certificate paths. Furthermore, an end entity typically needs to be initialized with its own key pair(s).
- 3.2 key pair update: Every key pair needs to be updated regularly (i.e., replaced with a new key pair), and a new certificate needs to be issued.
- 3.3 certificate update: As certificates expire they may be "refreshed" if nothing relevant in the environment has changed.
- 3.4 CA key pair update: As with end entities, CA key pairs need to be updated regularly; however, different mechanisms are required.
- 3.5 cross-certification request: One CA requests issuance of a cross-certificate from another CA. For the purposes of this standard, the following terms are defined. A "cross-certificate" is a certificate in which the subject CA and the issuer CA are distinct and SubjectPublicKeyInfo contains a verification key (i.e., the certificate has been issued for the subject CA's signing key pair). When it is necessary to distinguish more finely, the following terms may be used: a cross-certificate is called an "inter-domain cross-certificate" if the subject and issuer CAs belong to different administrative domains; it is called an "intra-domain cross-certificate" otherwise.

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Notes:

Note 1. The above definition of "cross-certificate" aligns with the defined term "CA-certificate" in X.509. Note that this term is not to be confused with the X.500 "cACertificate" attribute type, which is unrelated.

Note 2. In many environments the term "cross-certificate", unless further qualified, will be understood to be synonymous with "inter-domain cross-certificate" as defined above.

Note 3. Issuance of cross-certificates may be, but is not necessarily, mutual; that is, two CAs may issue cross-certificates for each other.

- 3.6 cross-certificate update: Similar to a normal certificate update but involving a cross-certificate.
- 4 Certificate/CRL discovery operations: some PKI management operations result in the publication of certificates or CRLs:
- 4.1 certificate publication: Having gone to the trouble of producing a certificate, some means for publishing it is needed. The "means" defined in PKIX MAY involve the messages specified in Sections [3.3.13](#) - [3.3.16](#), or MAY involve other methods (LDAP, for example) as described in [RFC2559, [RFC2585](#)] (the "Operational Protocols" documents of the PKIX series of specifications).
- 4.2 CRL publication: As for certificate publication.
- 5 Recovery operations: some PKI management operations are used when an end entity has "lost" its PSE:
- 5.1 key pair recovery: As an option, user client key materials (e.g., a user's private key used for decryption purposes) MAY be backed up by a CA, an RA, or a key backup system associated with a CA or RA. If an entity needs to recover these backed up key materials (e.g., as a result of a forgotten password or a lost key chain file), a protocol exchange may be needed to support such recovery.
- 6 Revocation operations: some PKI operations result in the creation of new CRL entries and/or new CRLs:

6.1 revocation request: An authorized person advises a CA of an abnormal situation requiring certificate revocation.

7 PSE operations: whilst the definition of PSE operations (e.g., moving a PSE, changing a PIN, etc.) are beyond the scope of this specification, we do define a PKIMessage (CertRepMessage) which can form the basis of such operations.

Note that on-line protocols are not the only way of implementing the above operations. For all operations there are off-line methods of achieving the same result, and this specification does not mandate use of on-line protocols. For example, when hardware tokens are used, many of the operations MAY be achieved as part of the physical token delivery.

Later sections define a set of standard messages supporting the above operations. Transport protocols for conveying these exchanges in different environments (file based, on-line, E-mail, and WWW) are beyond the scope of this document and are specified separately.

## [2. Assumptions and restrictions](#)

### [2.1 End entity initialization](#)

The first step for an end entity in dealing with PKI management entities is to request information about the PKI functions supported and to securely acquire a copy of the relevant root CA public key(s).

### [2.2 Initial registration/certification](#)

There are many schemes that can be used to achieve initial registration and certification of end entities. No one method is suitable for all situations due to the range of policies which a CA may implement and the variation in the types of end entity which can occur.

We can however, classify the initial registration / certification

schemes that are supported by this specification. Note that the word "initial", above, is crucial - we are dealing with the situation where the end entity in question has had no previous contact with the PKI. Where the end entity already possesses certified keys then some simplifications/alternatives are possible.

Having classified the schemes that are supported by this specification we can then specify some as mandatory and some as optional. The goal is that the mandatory schemes cover a sufficient number of the cases which will arise in real use, whilst the optional schemes are available for special cases which arise less frequently. In this way we achieve a balance between flexibility and ease of implementation.

We will now describe the classification of initial registration / certification schemes.

### [2.2.1](#) Criteria used

#### [2.2.1.1](#) Initiation of registration / certification

In terms of the PKI messages which are produced we can regard the initiation of the initial registration / certification exchanges as occurring wherever the first PKI message relating to the end entity is produced. Note that the real-world initiation of the registration / certification procedure may occur elsewhere (e.g., a personnel department may telephone an RA operator).

The possible locations are at the end entity, an RA, or a CA.

#### [2.2.1.2](#) End entity message origin authentication

The on-line messages produced by the end entity that requires a certificate may be authenticated or not. The requirement here is to authenticate the origin of any messages from the end entity to the PKI (CA/RA).

In this specification, such authentication is achieved by the PKI (CA/RA) issuing the end entity with a secret value (initial authentication key) and reference value (used to identify the secret value) via some out-of-band means. The initial authentication key can then be used to protect relevant PKI messages.

We can thus classify the initial registration/certification scheme according to whether or not the on-line end entity -> PKI messages

are authenticated or not.

Note 1: We do not discuss the authentication of the PKI -> end entity messages here as this is always REQUIRED. In any case, it can be achieved simply once the root-CA public key has been installed at the end entity's equipment or it can be based on the initial authentication key.

Note 2: An initial registration / certification procedure can be secure where the messages from the end entity are authenticated via some out- of-band means (e.g., a subsequent visit).

#### [2.2.1.3](#) Location of key generation

In this specification, "key generation" is regarded as occurring wherever either the public or private component of a key pair first occurs in a PKIMessage. Note that this does not preclude a

centralized key generation service - the actual key pair MAY have been generated elsewhere and transported to the end entity, RA, or CA using a (proprietary or standardized) key generation request/response protocol (outside the scope of this specification).

There are thus three possibilities for the location of "key generation": the end entity, an RA, or a CA.

#### [2.2.1.4](#) Confirmation of successful certification

Following the creation of an initial certificate for an end entity, additional assurance can be gained by having the end entity explicitly confirm successful receipt of the message containing (or indicating the creation of) the certificate. Naturally, this confirmation message must be protected (based on the initial authentication key or other means).

This gives two further possibilities: confirmed or not.

#### [2.2.2](#) Mandatory schemes

The criteria above allow for a large number of initial registration / certification schemes. This specification mandates that conforming CA equipment, RA equipment, and EE equipment MUST support the second scheme listed below. Any entity MAY additionally support other

schemes, if desired.

#### [2.2.2.1](#) Centralized scheme

In terms of the classification above, this scheme is, in some ways, the simplest possible, where:

- initiation occurs at the certifying CA;
- no on-line message authentication is required;
- "key generation" occurs at the certifying CA (see [Section 2.2.1.3](#));
- no confirmation message is required.

In terms of message flow, this scheme means that the only message required is sent from the CA to the end entity. The message must contain the entire PSE for the end entity. Some out-of-band means must be provided to allow the end entity to authenticate the message received and decrypt any encrypted values.

#### 2.2.2.2 Basic authenticated scheme

In terms of the classification above, this scheme is where:

- initiation occurs at the end entity;
- message authentication is REQUIRED;
- "key generation" occurs at the end entity (see [Section 2.2.1.3](#));
- a confirmation message is REQUIRED.

In terms of message flow, the basic authenticated scheme is as follows:

End entity	RA/CA
=====	=====
out-of-band distribution of Initial Authentication	
Key (IAK) and reference value (RA/CA -> EE)	
Key generation	
Creation of certification request	
Protect request with IAK	



```

-->>--certification request-->>--
                                verify request
                                process request
                                create response
--<<--certification response--<<--
handle response
create confirmation
-->>--cert conf message-->>--
                                verify confirmation
                                create response
--<<-- conf ack (optional) --<<--
handle response

```

(Where verification of the cert confirmation message fails, the RA/CA MUST revoke the newly issued certificate if it has been published or otherwise made available.)

### [2.3](#) Proof of Possession (POP) of Private Key

In order to prevent certain attacks and to allow a CA/RA to properly check the validity of the binding between an end entity and a key pair, the PKI management operations specified here make it possible for an end entity to prove that it has possession of (i.e., is able to use) the private key corresponding to the public key for which a certificate is requested. A given CA/RA is free to choose how to enforce POP (e.g., out-of-band procedural means versus PKIX-CMP in-band messages) in its certification exchanges (i.e., this may be a policy issue). However, it is REQUIRED that CAs/RAs MUST enforce POP by some means because there are currently many non-PKIX operational protocols in use (various electronic mail protocols are one example) that do not explicitly check the binding between the end entity and the private key. Until operational protocols that do verify the

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binding (for signature, encryption, and key agreement key pairs) exist, and are ubiquitous, this binding can only be assumed to have been verified by the CA/RA. Therefore, if the binding is not verified by the CA/RA, certificates in the Internet Public-Key Infrastructure end up being somewhat less meaningful.

POP is accomplished in different ways depending upon the type of key for which a certificate is requested. If a key can be used for multiple purposes (e.g., an RSA key) then any appropriate method MAY be used (e.g., a key which may be used for signing, as well as other purposes, SHOULD NOT be sent to the CA/RA in order to prove possession).

This specification explicitly allows for cases where an end entity supplies the relevant proof to an RA and the RA subsequently attests to the CA that the required proof has been received (and validated!). For example, an end entity wishing to have a signing key certified could send the appropriate signature to the RA which then simply notifies the relevant CA that the end entity has supplied the required proof. Of course, such a situation may be disallowed by some policies (e.g., CAs may be the only entities permitted to verify POP during certification).

#### [2.3.1](#) Signature Keys

For signature keys, the end entity can sign a value to prove possession of the private key.

#### [2.3.2](#) Encryption Keys

For encryption keys, the end entity can provide the private key to the CA/RA, or can be required to decrypt a value in order to prove possession of the private key (see [Section 3.2.8](#)). Decrypting a value can be achieved either directly or indirectly.

The direct method is for the RA/CA to issue a random challenge to which an immediate response by the EE is required.

The indirect method is to issue a certificate which is encrypted for the end entity (and have the end entity demonstrate its ability to decrypt this certificate in the confirmation message). This allows a CA to issue a certificate in a form which can only be used by the intended end entity.

This specification encourages use of the indirect method because this requires no extra messages to be sent (i.e., the proof can be demonstrated using the {request, response, confirmation} triple of messages).

#### 2.3.3 Key Agreement Keys

For key agreement keys, the end entity and the PKI management entity (i.e., CA or RA) must establish a shared secret key in order to prove that the end entity has possession of the private key.

Note that this need not impose any restrictions on the keys that can be certified by a given CA -- in particular, for Diffie-Hellman keys the end entity may freely choose its algorithm parameters -- provided that the CA can generate a short-term (or one-time) key pair with the appropriate parameters when necessary.

#### [2.4](#) Root CA key update

This discussion only applies to CAs that are a root CA for some end entity.

The basis of the procedure described here is that the CA protects its new public key using its previous private key and vice versa. Thus when a CA updates its key pair it must generate two extra `cACertificate` attribute values if certificates are made available using an X.500 directory (for a total of four: `OldWithOld`; `OldWithNew`; `NewWithOld`; and `NewWithNew`).

When a CA changes its key pair those entities who have acquired the old CA public key via "out-of-band" means are most affected. It is these end entities who will need access to the new CA public key protected with the old CA private key. However, they will only require this for a limited period (until they have acquired the new CA public key via the "out-of-band" mechanism). This will typically be easily achieved when these end entities' certificates expire.

The data structure used to protect the new and old CA public keys is a standard certificate (which may also contain extensions). There are no new data structures required.

Note 1. This scheme does not make use of any of the X.509 v3 extensions as it must be able to work even for version 1 certificates. The presence of the `KeyIdentifier` extension would make for efficiency improvements.

Note 2. While the scheme could be generalized to cover cases where the CA updates its key pair more than once during the validity period of one of its end entities' certificates, this generalization seems of dubious value. Not having this generalization simply means that the validity period of a CA key pair must be greater than the validity period of any certificate issued by that CA using that key pair.

Note 3. This scheme ensures that end entities will acquire the new CA public key, at the latest by the expiry of the last certificate they owned that was signed with the old CA private key (via the "out-of-band" means). Certificate and/or key update operations occurring at other times do not necessarily require this (depending on the end entity's equipment).

#### [2.4.1](#) CA Operator actions

To change the key of the CA, the CA operator does the following:

1. Generate a new key pair;
2. Create a certificate containing the old CA public key signed with the new private key (the "old with new" certificate);
3. Create a certificate containing the new CA public key signed with the old private key (the "new with old" certificate);
4. Create a certificate containing the new CA public key signed with the new private key (the "new with new" certificate);
5. Publish these new certificates via the repository and/or other means (perhaps using a CAKeyUpdAnn message);
6. Export the new CA public key so that end entities may acquire it using the "out-of-band" mechanism (if required).

The old CA private key is then no longer required. The old CA public key will however remain in use for some time. The time when the old CA public key is no longer required (other than for non-repudiation) will be when all end entities of this CA have securely acquired the new CA public key.

The "old with new" certificate must have a validity period starting at the generation time of the old key pair and ending at the expiry date of the old public key.

The "new with old" certificate must have a validity period starting at the generation time of the new key pair and ending at the time by which all end entities of this CA will securely possess the new CA public key (at the latest, the expiry date of the old public key).

The "new with new" certificate must have a validity period starting at the generation time of the new key pair and ending at or before the time by which the CA will next update its key pair.

## 2.4.2 Verifying Certificates.

Normally when verifying a signature, the verifier verifies (among other things) the certificate containing the public key of the signer. However, once a CA is allowed to update its key there are a range of new possibilities. These are shown in the table below.

	Repository contains NEW and OLD public keys		Repository contains only OLD public key (due to, e.g., delay in publication)	
	PSE Contains NEW public key	PSE Contains OLD public key	PSE Contains NEW public key	PSE Contains OLD public key
Signer's certifi- cate is protected using NEW public key	Case 1: This is the standard case where the verifier can directly verify the certificate without using the repository	Case 3: In this case the verifier must access the repository in order to get the value of the NEW public key	Case 5: Although the CA operator has not updated the repository the verifier can verify the certificate directly - this is thus the same as case 1.	Case 7: In this case the CA operator has not updated the repository and so the verification will FAIL
Signer's certifi- cate is protected using OLD public key	Case 2: In this case the verifier must access the repository in order to get the value of the OLD public key	Case 4: In this case the verifier can directly verify the certificate without using the repository	Case 6: The verifier thinks this is the situation of case 2 and will access the repository; however, the verification will FAIL	Case 8: Although the CA operator has not updated the repository the verifier can verify the certificate directly - this is thus the same as case 4.

#### 2.4.2.1 Verification in cases 1, 4, 5 and 8.

In these cases the verifier has a local copy of the CA public key which can be used to verify the certificate directly. This is the same as the situation where no key change has occurred.

Note that case 8 may arise between the time when the CA operator has generated the new key pair and the time when the CA operator stores the updated attributes in the repository. Case 5 can only arise if the CA operator has issued both the signer's and verifier's certificates during this "gap" (the CA operator SHOULD avoid this as it leads to the failure cases described below).

#### [2.4.2.2](#) Verification in case 2.

In case 2 the verifier must get access to the old public key of the CA. The verifier does the following:

1. Look up the caCertificate attribute in the repository and pick the OldWithNew certificate (determined based on validity periods; note that the subject and issuer fields must match);
2. Verify that this is correct using the new CA key (which the verifier has locally);
3. If correct, check the signer's certificate using the old CA key.

Case 2 will arise when the CA operator has issued the signer's certificate, then changed key and then issued the verifier's certificate, so it is quite a typical case.

#### [2.4.2.3](#) Verification in case 3.

In case 3 the verifier must get access to the new public key of the CA. The verifier does the following:

1. Look up the CACertificate attribute in the repository and pick the NewWithOld certificate (determined based on validity periods; note that the subject and issuer fields must match);

2. Verify that this is correct using the old CA key (which the verifier has stored locally);
3. If correct, check the signer's certificate using the new CA key.

Case 3 will arise when the CA operator has issued the verifier's certificate, then changed key and then issued the signer's certificate, so it is also quite a typical case.

#### 2.4.2.4 Failure of verification in case 6.

In this case the CA has issued the verifier's PSE containing the new key without updating the repository attributes. This means that the verifier has no means to get a trustworthy version of the CA's old key and so verification fails.

Note that the failure is the CA operator's fault.

#### [2.4.2.5](#) Failure of verification in case 7.

In this case the CA has issued the signer's certificate protected with the new key without updating the repository attributes. This means that the verifier has no means to get a trustworthy version of the CA's new key and so verification fails.

Note that the failure is again the CA operator's fault.

#### [2.4.3](#) Revocation - Change of CA key

As we saw above the verification of a certificate becomes more complex once the CA is allowed to change its key. This is also true for revocation checks as the CA may have signed the CRL using a newer private key than the one that is within the user's PSE.

The analysis of the alternatives is as for certificate verification.

### [3.](#) Data Structures

This section contains descriptions of the data structures required for PKI management messages. [Section 4](#) describes constraints on their values and the sequence of events for each of the various PKI management operations.

### [3.1](#) Overall PKI Message

All of the messages used in this specification for the purposes of PKI management use the following structure:

```
PKIMessage ::= SEQUENCE {  
    header          PKIHeader,  
    body            PKIBody,  
    protection      [0] PKIProtection OPTIONAL,  
    extraCerts      [1] SEQUENCE SIZE (1..MAX) OF Certificate OPTIONAL  
}
```

```
PKIMessages ::= SEQUENCE SIZE (1..MAX) OF PKIMessage
```

The PKIHeader contains information which is common to many PKI messages.

The PKIBody contains message-specific information.

The PKIProtection, when used, contains bits that protect the PKI message.

The extraCerts field can contain certificates that may be useful to the recipient. For example, this can be used by a CA or RA to present an end entity with certificates that it needs to verify its own new certificate (if, for example, the CA that issued the end entity's certificate is not a root CA for the end entity). Note that this field does not necessarily contain a certification path - the recipient may have to sort, select from, or otherwise process the extra certificates in order to use them.

#### [3.1.1](#) PKI Message Header

All PKI messages require some header information for addressing and transaction identification. Some of this information will also be present in a transport-specific envelope; however, if the PKI message is protected then this information is also protected (i.e., we make no assumption about secure transport).

The following data structure is used to contain this information:



```

PKIHeader ::= SEQUENCE {
    pvno                INTEGER      { cmp1999(1), cmp2000(2) },
    sender              GeneralName,
    -- identifies the sender
    recipient           GeneralName,
    -- identifies the intended recipient
    messageTime         [0] GeneralizedTime      OPTIONAL,
    -- time of production of this message (used when sender
    -- believes that the transport will be "suitable"; i.e.,
    -- that the time will still be meaningful upon receipt)
    protectionAlg       [1] AlgorithmIdentifier  OPTIONAL,
    -- algorithm used for calculation of protection bits
    senderKID           [2] KeyIdentifier         OPTIONAL,
    recipKID            [3] KeyIdentifier         OPTIONAL,
    -- to identify specific keys used for protection
    transactionID       [4] OCTET STRING         OPTIONAL,
    -- identifies the transaction; i.e., this will be the same in
    -- corresponding request, response and confirmation messages
    senderNonce         [5] OCTET STRING         OPTIONAL,
    recipNonce          [6] OCTET STRING         OPTIONAL,
    -- nonces used to provide replay protection, senderNonce

```

---

```

    -- is inserted by the creator of this message; recipNonce
    -- is a nonce previously inserted in a related message by
    -- the intended recipient of this message
    freeText            [7] PKIFreeText          OPTIONAL,
    -- this may be used to indicate context-specific instructions
    -- (this field is intended for human consumption)
    generalInfo         [8] SEQUENCE SIZE (1..MAX) OF
                        InfoTypeAndValue        OPTIONAL
    -- this may be used to convey context-specific information
    -- (this field not primarily intended for human consumption)
}

```

```

PKIFreeText ::= SEQUENCE SIZE (1..MAX) OF UTF8String
    -- text encoded as UTF-8 String [RFC2279] (note: each UTF8String
    -- MAY include an RFC 1766/RFC 3066 language tag to indicate the
    -- language of the contained text -- see [RFC2482] for details)

```

The pvno field is fixed (at 2) for this version of this specification.

The sender field contains the name of the sender of the PKIMessage. This name (in conjunction with senderKID, if supplied) should be sufficient to indicate the key to use to verify the protection on the message. If nothing about the sender is known to the sending entity (e.g., in the init. req. message, where the end entity may not know its own Distinguished Name (DN), e-mail name, IP address, etc.), then the "sender" field MUST contain a "NULL" value; that is, the SEQUENCE OF relative distinguished names is of zero length. In such a case the senderKID field MUST hold an identifier (i.e., a reference number) which indicates to the receiver the appropriate shared secret information to use to verify the message.

The recipient field contains the name of the recipient of the PKIMessage. This name (in conjunction with recipKID, if supplied) should be usable to verify the protection on the message.

The protectionAlg field specifies the algorithm used to protect the message. If no protection bits are supplied (note that PKIProtection is OPTIONAL) then this field MUST be omitted; if protection bits are supplied then this field MUST be supplied.

senderKID and recipKID are usable to indicate which keys have been used to protect the message (recipKID will normally only be required where protection of the message uses Diffie-Hellman (DH) keys). These fields MUST be used if required to uniquely identify a key (e.g., if more than one key is associated with a given sender name) and SHOULD be omitted otherwise.

The transactionID field within the message header is to be used to allow the recipient of a message to correlate this with an ongoing transaction. This is needed for all transactions that consist of more than just a single request/response pair. For transactions that consist of a single request/response pair the rules are as follows. A client MAY populate the transactionID field of the request. If a server receives such a request which has the transactionID field set, then it MUST set the transactionID field of the response to the same value; if a server receives such request with a missing transactionID field then it MAY set transactionID field of the response.

For transactions that consist of more than just a single request/response pair the rules are as follows. Clients SHOULD generate a transactionID for the first request. If a server receives

such a request which has the transactionID field set, then it MUST set the transactionID field of the response to the same value; if a server receives such request with a missing transactionID field then it MUST populate transactionID field of the response with a server-generated ID. Subsequent requests and responses MUST all set the transactionID field to the thus established value. In all cases where a transactionID is being used, a given client MUST NOT have more than one transaction with the same transactionID in progress at any time (to a given server). Servers are free to require uniqueness of the transactionID or not, as long as they are able to correctly associate messages with the corresponding transaction. Typically this means that a server will require the {client, transactionID} tuple to be unique, or even the transactionID alone to be unique if it cannot distinguish clients based on transport level information. A server receiving the first message of a transaction (which requires more than a single request/response pair) that contains a transactionID that does not allow it to meet the above constraints (typically because the transactionID is already in use) MUST send back an ErrorMessageContent with a PKIFailureInfo of transactionIdInUse. It is RECOMMENDED that the clients fill the transactionID field with 128 bits of (pseudo-) random data for the start of a transaction to reduce the probability of having the transactionID in use at the server.

The senderNonce and recipNonce fields protect the PKIMessage against replay attacks. The senderNonce will typically be 128 bits of (pseudo-) random data generated by the sender, whereas the recipNonce is copied from the senderNonce of the previous message in the transaction.

The messageTime field contains the time at which the sender created the message. This may be useful to allow end entities to correct/check their local time for consistency with the time on a central system.

The freeText field may be used to send a human-readable message to the recipient (in any number of languages). The first language used in this sequence indicates the desired language for replies.

The generalInfo field may be used to send machine-processable additional data to the recipient. The following generalInfo extensions are defined and MAY be supported.

#### 3.1.1.1 ImplicitConfirm

This is used by the EE to inform the CA that it does not wish to send a certificate confirmation for issued certificates.

implicitConfirm OBJECT IDENTIFIER ::= {id-it 13}

ImplicitConfirmValue ::= NULL

If the CA grants the request to the EE, it MUST put the same extension in the PKIHeader of the response. If the EE does not find the extension in the response, it MUST send the certificate confirmation.

#### [3.1.1.2](#) ConfirmWaitTime

This is used by the CA to inform the EE how long it intends to wait for the certificate confirmation before revoking the certificate and deleting the transaction.

confirmWaitTime OBJECT IDENTIFIER ::= {id-it 14}

ConfirmWaitTimeValue ::= GeneralizedTime -- time CA will wait until

#### [3.1.2](#) PKI Message Body

```
PKIBody ::= CHOICE { -- message-specific body elements & Section ref
  ir      [0]    CertReqMessages,      --Initialization Req  (3.3.1)
  ip      [1]    CertRepMessage,       --Initialization Resp (3.3.2)
  cr      [2]    CertReqMessages,      --Certification Req   (3.3.3)
  cp      [3]    CertRepMessage,       --Certification Resp  (3.3.4)
  p10cr   [4]    CertificationRequest,  --PKCS #10 Cert. Req. [PKCS10]
    -- the PKCS #10 certification request (see [PKCS10])
  popdecc [5]    POPODecKeyChallContent --pop Challenge       (3.2.8)
  popdecr [6]    POPODecKeyRespContent, --pop Response        (3.2.8)
  kur     [7]    CertReqMessages,      --Key Update Request  (3.3.5)
  kup     [8]    CertRepMessage,       --Key Update Response (3.3.6)
  krr     [9]    CertReqMessages,      --Key Recovery Req    (3.3.7)
  krp     [10]   KeyRecRepContent,      --Key Recovery Resp   (3.3.8)
  rr      [11]   RevReqContent,         --Revocation Request  (3.3.9)
  rp      [12]   RevRepContent,         --Revocation Response (3.3.10)
  ccr     [13]   CertReqMessages,      --Cross-Cert. Request (3.3.11)
  ccp     [14]   CertRepMessage,       --Cross-Cert. Resp   (3.3.12)
  ckuann  [15]   CAKeyUpdAnnContent,    --CA Key Update Ann.  (3.3.13)
  kann    [16]   CertAnnContent,        --Certificate Ann.    (3.3.14)
  rann    [17]   RevAnnContent,         --Revocation Ann.     (3.3.15)
  crlann  [18]   CRLAnnContent,        --CRL Announcement   (3.3.16)
  pkiconf [19]   PKIConfirmContent,     --Confirmation        (3.3.17)
  nested  [20]   NestedMessageContent,  --Nested Message      (3.1.3)
  genm    [21]   GenMsgContent,         --General Message     (3.3.19)
  genp    [22]   GenRepContent,         --General Response    (3.3.20)
  error   [23]   ErrorMsgContent,       --Error Message       (3.3.21)
  certConf [24]  CertConfirmContent,    --Certificate confirm  (3.3.18)
  pollReq [25]   PollReqContent,        --Polling request     (3.3.22)
  pollRep [26]   PollRepContent         --Polling response    (3.3.22)
}
```

The specific types are described in [Section 3.3](#) below.

### [3.1.3](#) PKI Message Protection

Some PKI messages will be protected for integrity. (Note that if an asymmetric algorithm is used to protect a message and the relevant public component has been certified already, then the origin of the message can also be authenticated. On the other hand, if the public component is uncertified then the message origin cannot be automatically authenticated, but may be authenticated via out-of-band means.)

When protection is applied the following structure is used:

```
PKIProtection ::= BIT STRING
```

The input to the calculation of PKIProtection is the DER encoding of the following data structure:

```
ProtectedPart ::= SEQUENCE {  
    header    PKIHeader,  
    body      PKIBody  
}
```

There MAY be cases in which the PKIProtection BIT STRING is deliberately not used to protect a message (i.e., this OPTIONAL field is omitted) because other protection, external to PKIX, will instead be applied. Such a choice is explicitly allowed in this specification. Examples of such external protection include PKCS #7 [[PKCS7](#)] and Security Multiparts [[RFC1847](#)] encapsulation of the PKIMessage (or simply the PKIBody (omitting the CHOICE tag), if the relevant PKIHeader information is securely carried in the external mechanism). It is noted, however, that many such external mechanisms require that the end entity already possesses a public-key certificate, and/or a unique Distinguished Name, and/or other such infrastructure-related information. Thus, they may not be appropriate for initial registration, key-recovery, or any other process with "boot-strapping" characteristics. For those cases it may be necessary that the PKIProtection parameter be used. In the future, if/when external mechanisms are modified to accommodate boot-strapping scenarios, the use of PKIProtection may become rare or non-existent.

Depending on the circumstances the PKIProtection bits may contain a Message Authentication Code (MAC) or signature. Only the following cases can occur:

---

- shared secret information

In this case the sender and recipient share secret information (established via out-of-band means or from a previous PKI management operation). PKIProtection will contain a MAC value and the protectionAlg will be the following (see also [Appendix B2](#)):

```
id-PasswordBasedMac OBJECT IDENTIFIER ::= {1 2 840 113533 7 66 13}
PBMPParameter ::= SEQUENCE {
    salt                OCTET STRING,
    owf                 AlgorithmIdentifier,
    -- AlgId for a One-Way Function (SHA-1 recommended)
    iterationCount      INTEGER,
    -- number of times the OWF is applied
    mac                 AlgorithmIdentifier
    -- the MAC AlgId (e.g., DES-MAC, Triple-DES-MAC [PKCS11],
} -- or HMAC [RFC2104, RFC2202])
```

In the above protectionAlg the salt value is appended to the shared secret input. The OWF is then applied iterationCount times, where the salted secret is the input to the first iteration and, for each successive iteration, the input is set to be the output of the previous iteration. The output of the final iteration (called "BASEKEY" for ease of reference, with a size of "H") is what is used to form the symmetric key. If the MAC algorithm requires a K-bit key and  $K \leq H$ , then the most significant K bits of BASEKEY are used. If  $K > H$ , then all of BASEKEY is used for the most significant H bits of the key,  $\text{OWF}("1" || \text{BASEKEY})$  is used for the next most significant H bits of the key,  $\text{OWF}("2" || \text{BASEKEY})$  is used for the next most significant H bits of the key, and so on, until all K bits have been derived. [Here "N" is the ASCII byte encoding the number N and "||" represents concatenation.]

Note: it is RECOMMENDED that the fields of PBMPParameter remain constant throughout the messages of a single transaction (e.g., ir/ip/certConf/pkiConf) in order to reduce the overhead associated with PasswordBasedMac computation).

- DH key pairs

Where the sender and receiver possess Diffie-Hellman certificates with compatible DH parameters, then in order to protect the message the end entity must generate a symmetric key based on its private DH key value and the DH public key of the recipient of the PKI message.

PKIProtection will contain a MAC value keyed with this derived symmetric key and the protectionAlg will be the following:

```
id-DHBasedMac OBJECT IDENTIFIER ::= {1 2 840 113533 7 66 30}

DHBMParameter ::= SEQUENCE {
    owf          AlgorithmIdentifier,
    -- AlgId for a One-Way Function (SHA-1 recommended)
    mac          AlgorithmIdentifier
    -- the MAC AlgId (e.g., DES-MAC, Triple-DES-MAC [PKCS11],
    -- or HMAC [RFC2104, RFC2202])
}
```

In the above protectionAlg OWF is applied to the result of the Diffie-Hellman computation. The OWF output (called "BASEKEY" for ease of reference, with a size of "H") is what is used to form the symmetric key. If the MAC algorithm requires a K-bit key and  $K \leq H$ , then the most significant K bits of BASEKEY are used. If  $K > H$ , then all of BASEKEY is used for the most significant H bits of the key, OWF("1" || BASEKEY) is used for the next most significant H bits of the key, OWF("2" || BASEKEY) is used for the next most significant H bits of the key, and so on, until all K bits have been derived. [Here "N" is the ASCII byte encoding the number N and "||" represents concatenation.]

- signature

In this case the sender possesses a signature key pair and simply signs the PKI message. PKIProtection will contain the signature value and the protectionAlg will be an AlgorithmIdentifier for a digital signature (e.g., md5WithRSAEncryption or dsaWithSha-1).

- multiple protection

In cases where an end entity sends a protected PKI message to an RA, the RA MAY forward that message to a CA, attaching its own protection (which MAY be a MAC or a signature, depending on the information and certificates shared between the RA and the CA). This is accomplished by nesting the entire message sent by the end entity within a new PKI message. The structure used is as follows.

```
NestedMessageContent ::= PKIMessages
```

(The use of PKIMessages, a SEQUENCE OF PKIMessage, lets the RA batch the requests of several EEs in a single new message. For simplicity, all messages in the batch MUST be of the same type (e.g., ir)). If the RA wishes to modify the message(s) in some way (e.g., add particular field values or new extensions), then it MAY create its own desired PKIBody. The original PKIMessage from the EE MAY be included in the generalInfo field of PKIHeader (to accommodate, for example, cases in which the CA wishes to check POP or other information on the original EE message). The infoType to be used in this situation is {id-it 15} (see [Section 3.3.19](#) for the value of id-it) and the infoValue is PKIMessages (contents MUST be in the same order as the requests in PKIBody).

## [3.2](#) Common Data Structures

Before specifying the specific types that may be placed in a PKIBody we define some data structures that are used in more than one case.

### 3.2.1 Requested Certificate Contents

Various PKI management messages require that the originator of the message indicate some of the fields that are required to be present in a certificate. The CertTemplate structure allows an end entity or RA to specify as much as it wishes about the certificate it requires. CertTemplate is identical to a Certificate but with all fields optional.

Note that even if the originator completely specifies the contents of a certificate it requires, a CA is free to modify fields within the certificate actually issued. If the modified certificate is unacceptable to the requester, the requester MUST send back a certConf message which either does not include this certificate (via a CertHash), or does include this certificate (via a CertHash) along with a status of "rejected". See [Section 3.3.18](#) for the definition and use of CertHash and the certConf message.

See [Appendix D](#) and [[rfc2511bis](#)] for CertTemplate syntax.

### [3.2.2](#) Encrypted Values

Where encrypted values (restricted, in this specification, to be either private keys or certificates) are sent in PKI messages the EncryptedValue data structure is used.

See [[rfc2511bis](#)] for EncryptedValue syntax.

Use of this data structure requires that the creator and intended



recipient respectively be able to encrypt and decrypt. Typically, this will mean that the sender and recipient have, or are able to generate, a shared secret key.

If the recipient of the PKIMessage already possesses a private key usable for decryption, then the encSymmKey field MAY contain a session key encrypted using the recipient's public key.

### [3.2.3](#) Status codes and Failure Information for PKI messages

All response messages will include some status information. The following values are defined.

```
PKIStatus ::= INTEGER {
    accepted          (0),
    -- you got exactly what you asked for
    grantedWithMods   (1),
    -- you got something like what you asked for; the
    -- requester is responsible for ascertaining the differences
    rejection         (2),
    -- you don't get it, more information elsewhere in the message
```

```
    waiting           (3),
    -- the request body part has not yet been processed; expect to
    -- hear more later (note: proper handling of this status response
    -- MAY use the polling req/rep PKIMessages specified in Section
    -- 3.3.22; alternatively, polling in the underlying transport
    -- layer MAY have some utility in this regard)
    revocationWarning (4),
    -- this message contains a warning that a revocation is
    -- imminent
    revocationNotification (5),
    -- notification that a revocation has occurred
    keyUpdateWarning   (6)
    -- update already done for the oldCertId specified in
    -- the key update request message
}
```

Responders may use the following syntax to provide more information about failure cases.

```
PKIFailureInfo ::= BIT STRING {
    -- since we can fail in more than one way!
```

-- More codes may be added in the future if/when required.

- badAlg (0),  
-- unrecognized or unsupported Algorithm Identifier
- badMessageCheck (1),  
-- integrity check failed (e.g., signature did not verify)
- badRequest (2),  
-- transaction not permitted or supported
- badTime (3),  
-- messageTime was not sufficiently close to the system time,  
-- as defined by local policy
- badCertId (4),  
-- no certificate could be found matching the provided criteria
- badDataFormat (5),  
-- the data submitted has the wrong format
- wrongAuthority (6),  
-- the authority indicated in the request is different from the  
-- one creating the response token
- incorrectData (7),  
-- the requester's data is incorrect (used for notary services)
- missingTimeStamp (8),  
-- when the timestamp is missing but should be there (by policy)
- badPOP (9),  
-- the proof-of-possession failed
- certRevoked (10),  
-- the certificate has already been revoked
- certConfirmed (11),  
-- the certificate has already been confirmed
- wrongIntegrity (12),  
-- invalid integrity, password based instead of signature or  
-- vice versa
- badRecipientNonce (13),  
-- invalid recipient nonce, either missing or wrong value

---

- timeNotAvailable (14),  
-- the TSA's time source is not available
- unacceptedPolicy (15),  
-- the requested TSA policy is not supported by the TSA.
- unacceptedExtension (16),  
-- the requested extension is not supported by the TSA.
- addInfoNotAvailable (17),  
-- the additional information requested could not be understood  
-- or is not available
- badSenderNonce (18),  
-- invalid sender nonce, either missing or wrong size
- badCertTemplate (19),  
-- invalid certificate template or missing mandatory information

```

    signerNotTrusted      (20),
    -- signer of the message unknown or not trusted
    transactionIdInUse    (21),
    -- the transaction identifier is already in use
    unsupportedVersion     (22),
    -- the version of the message is not supported
    notAuthorized          (23),
    -- the sender was not authorized to make the preceding request
    -- or perform the preceding action
    systemUnavail          (24),
    -- the request cannot be handled due to system unavailability
    systemFailure          (25),
    -- the request cannot be handled due to system failure
    duplicateCertReq       (26)
    -- certificate cannot be issued because a duplicate certificate
    -- already exists
}

PKIStatusInfo ::= SEQUENCE {
    status          PKIStatus,
    statusString    PKIFreeText      OPTIONAL,
    failInfo        PKIFailureInfo  OPTIONAL
}

```

### 3.2.4 Certificate Identification

In order to identify particular certificates the CertId data structure is used.

See [[rfc2511bis](#)] for CertId syntax.

### [3.2.5](#) "Out-of-band" root CA public key

Each root CA must be able to publish its current public key via some "out-of-band" means. While such mechanisms are beyond the scope of this document, we define data structures which can support such mechanisms.

There are generally two methods available: either the CA directly publishes its self-signed certificate; or this information is available via the Directory (or equivalent) and the CA publishes a hash of this value to allow verification of its integrity before use.

OOBCert ::= Certificate

The fields within this certificate are restricted as follows:

- The certificate MUST be self-signed (i.e., the signature must be verifiable using the SubjectPublicKeyInfo field);
- The subject and issuer fields MUST be identical;
- If the subject field is NULL then both subjectAltNames and issuerAltNames extensions MUST be present and have exactly the same value;
- The values of all other extensions must be suitable for a self-signed certificate (e.g., key identifiers for subject and issuer must be the same).

```
OOBCertHash ::= SEQUENCE {  
    hashAlg      [0] AlgorithmIdentifier    OPTIONAL,  
    certId       [1] CertId                 OPTIONAL,  
    hashVal      BIT STRING  
    -- hashVal is calculated over the self-signed  
    -- certificate with the identifier certID.  
}
```

The intention of the hash value is that anyone who has securely received the hash value (via the out-of-band means) can verify a self-signed certificate for that CA.

Requesters may indicate that they wish the PKI to archive a private key value using the PKIArchiveOptions structure

See [[rfc2511bis](#)] for PKIArchiveOptions syntax.

### [3.2.7](#) Publication Information

Requesters may indicate that they wish the PKI to publish a certificate using the PKIPublicationInfo structure.

See [[rfc2511bis](#)] for PKIPublicationInfo syntax.

### [3.2.8](#) Proof-of-Possession Structures

If the certification request is for a signing key pair (i.e., a request for a verification certificate), then the proof of possession of the private signing key is demonstrated through use of the POP0SigningKey structure.

See [Appendix D](#) and [[rfc2511bis](#)] for POP0SigningKey syntax, but note that POP0SigningKeyInput has the following semantic stipulations in this specification.

```
POP0SigningKeyInput ::= SEQUENCE {
    authInfo          CHOICE {
        sender          [0] GeneralName,
        -- from PKIHeader (used only if an authenticated identity
        -- has been established for the sender (e.g., a DN from a
        -- previously-issued and currently-valid certificate))
        publicKeyMAC     PKMACValue
        -- used if no authenticated GeneralName currently exists for
        -- the sender; publicKeyMAC contains a password-based MAC
        -- (using the protectionAlg AlgId from PKIHeader) on the
        -- DER-encoded value of publicKey
    },
    publicKey          SubjectPublicKeyInfo    -- from CertTemplate
}
```

On the other hand, if the certification request is for an encryption key pair (i.e., a request for an encryption certificate), then the proof of possession of the private decryption key may be demonstrated in one of three ways.

- 1) By the inclusion of the private key (encrypted) in the CertRequest (in the thisMessage field of POP0PrivKey (see [Appendix D](#)) or in the PKIArchiveOptions control structure, depending upon whether or not archival of the private key is also desired).

- 2) By having the CA return not the certificate, but an encrypted certificate (i.e., the certificate encrypted under a randomly-generated symmetric key, and the symmetric key encrypted under the public key for which the certification request is being made) -- this is the "indirect" method mentioned previously in [Section 2.3.2](#). The end entity proves knowledge of the private decryption key to the CA by providing the correct CertHash for this certificate in the certConf message. This demonstrates POP because the EE can only compute the correct CertHash if it is able to recover the certificate, and it can only recover the certificate if it is able to decrypt the symmetric key using the required private key. Clearly, for this to work, the CA MUST NOT publish the certificate until the certConf message arrives (when certHash is to be used to demonstrate POP). See [Section 3.3.18](#) for further details.
- 3) By having the end entity engage in a challenge-response protocol (using the messages POPDecKeyChall and POPDecKeyResp; see below) between CertReqMessages and CertRepMessage -- this is the "direct" method mentioned previously in [Section 2.3.2](#). [This method would typically be used in an environment in which an RA verifies POP and then makes a certification request to the CA on behalf of the end entity. In such a scenario, the CA trusts the RA to have done POP correctly before the RA requests a certificate for the end entity.] The complete protocol then looks as follows (note that req' does not necessarily encapsulate req as a nested message):

```

EE          RA          CA
---- req ---->
<--- chall ---
---- resp --->
          ---- req' ---->
          <--- rep -----
          ---- conf ---->
          <--- ack -----
<--- rep -----
---- conf ---->
<--- ack -----

```

This protocol is obviously much longer than the 3-way exchange given in choice (2) above, but allows a local Registration Authority to be involved and has the property that the certificate itself is not actually created until the proof of possession is complete. In some environments a different order of the above messages may be required,

such as the following (this may be determined by policy):

```
EE          RA          CA
---- req ---->
<--- chall ---
---- resp --->
          ---- req' ---->
          <--- rep -----
<--- rep -----
---- conf --->
          ---- conf ---->
          <--- ack -----
<--- ack -----
```

If the cert. request is for a key agreement key (KAK) pair, then the POP can use any of the 3 ways described above for enc. key pairs, with the following changes: (1) the parenthetical text of bullet 2) is replaced with "(i.e., the certificate encrypted under the symmetric key derived from the CA's private KAK and the public key for which the certification request is being made)"; (2) the first parenthetical text of the challenge field of "Challenge" below is replaced with "(using PreferredSymmAlg (see [Section 3.3.19.4](#) and [Appendix C5](#)) and a symmetric key derived from the CA's private KAK and the public key for which the certification request is being made)". Alternatively, the POP can use the POPoSigningKey structure given in [\[rfc2511bis\]](#) (where the alg field is DHBasedMAC and the signature field is the MAC) as a fourth alternative for demonstrating POP if the CA already has a D-H certificate that is known to the EE.

The challenge-response messages for proof of possession of a private decryption key are specified as follows (see [[MvOV97](#), p.404] for details). Note that this challenge-response exchange is associated with the preceding cert. request message (and subsequent cert. response and confirmation messages) by the transactionID used in the PKIHeader and by the protection (MACing or signing) applied to the PKIMessage.

```
POPODecKeyChallContent ::= SEQUENCE OF Challenge
-- One Challenge per encryption key certification request (in the
-- same order as these requests appear in CertReqMessages).

Challenge ::= SEQUENCE {
    owf                AlgorithmIdentifier OPTIONAL,
    -- MUST be present in the first Challenge; MAY be omitted in any
    -- subsequent Challenge in POPODecKeyChallContent (if omitted,
    -- then the owf used in the immediately preceding Challenge is
    -- to be used).
    witness            OCTET STRING,
    -- the result of applying the one-way function (owf) to a
    -- randomly-generated INTEGER, A. [Note that a different
    -- INTEGER MUST be used for each Challenge.]
    challenge          OCTET STRING
    -- the encryption (under the public key for which the cert.
    -- request is being made) of Rand, where Rand is specified as
    -- Rand ::= SEQUENCE {
    --     int          INTEGER,
    --     - the randomly-generated INTEGER A (above)
    --     sender       GeneralName
    --     - the sender's name (as included in PKIHeader)
    -- }
}
```

Note that the size of Rand needs to be appropriate for encryption under the public key of the requester. Given that "int" will typically not be longer than 64 bits, this leaves well over 100 bytes



of room for the "sender" field when the modulus is 1024 bits. If, in some environment, names are so long that they cannot fit (e.g., very long DNSs), then whatever portion will fit should be used (as long as it includes at least the common name, and as long as the receiver is able to deal meaningfully with the abbreviation).

POPODecKeyRespContent ::= SEQUENCE OF INTEGER

-- One INTEGER per encryption key certification request (in the  
-- same order as these requests appear in CertReqMessages). The  
-- retrieved INTEGER A (above) is returned to the sender of the  
-- corresponding Challenge.

The text in this section provides several options with respect to POP techniques. Using "SK" for "signing key", "EK" for "encryption key", and "KAK" for "key agreement key", the techniques may be summarized as follows:

RAVerified;  
SKPOP;  
EKPOPThisMessage;  
KAKPOPThisMessage;  
KAKPOPThisMessageDHMAC;  
EKPOPEncryptedCert;  
KAKPOPEncryptedCert;  
EKPOPChallengeResp; and  
KAKPOPChallengeResp.

Given this array of options, it is natural to ask how an end entity can know what is supported by the CA/RA (i.e., which options it may use when requesting certificates). The following guidelines should clarify this situation for EE implementers.

RAVerified. This is not an EE decision; the RA uses this if and only if it has verified POP before forwarding the request on to the CA, so it is not possible for the EE to choose this technique.

SKPOP. If the EE has a signing key pair, this is the only POP method specified for use in the request for a corresponding certificate.

EKPOPThisMessage and KAKPOPThisMessage. It is an EE decision whether or not to give up its private key to the CA/RA. If the EE decides to reveal its key, then these are the only POP methods available in this specification to achieve this (and the key pair type will determine which of these two methods to use).

KAKPOPThisMessageDHMAC. The EE can only use this method if (1) the CA has a DH certificate available for this purpose, and (2) the EE already has a copy of this certificate. If both these conditions hold, then this technique is clearly supported and may be used by the EE, if desired.

EKPOPEncryptedCert, KAKPOPEncryptedCert, EKPOPChallengeResp, KAKPOPChallengeResp. The EE picks one of these (in the subsequentMessage field) in the request message, depending upon preference and key pair type. The EE is not doing POP at this point; it is simply indicating which method it wants to use. Therefore, if the CA/RA replies with a "badPOP" error, the EE can re-request using the other POP method chosen in subsequentMessage. Note, however, that this specification encourages the use of the EncryptedCert choice and, furthermore, says that the challenge-response would typically be used when an RA is involved and doing POP verification. Thus, the EE should be able to make an intelligent decision regarding which of these POP methods to choose in the request message.

### 3.3 Operation-Specific Data Structures

#### [3.3.1](#) Initialization Request

An Initialization request message contains as the PKIBody a CertReqMessages data structure which specifies the requested certificate(s). Typically, SubjectPublicKeyInfo, KeyId, and Validity are the template fields which may be supplied for each certificate requested (see [Appendix B](#) profiles for further information). This message is intended to be used for entities first initializing into the PKI.

See [Appendix D](#) and [[rfc2511bis](#)] for CertReqMessages syntax.

#### [3.3.2](#) Initialization Response

An Initialization response message contains as the PKIBody an CertRepMessage data structure which has for each certificate requested a PKIStatusInfo field, a subject certificate, and possibly a private key (normally encrypted with a session key, which is itself encrypted with the protocolEncrKey).

See [Section 3.3.4](#) for CertRepMessage syntax. Note that if the PKI Message Protection is "shared secret information" (see [Section 3.1.3](#)), then any certificate transported in the caPubs field may be directly trusted as a root CA certificate by the initiator.

### [3.3.3](#) Certification Request

A Certification request message contains as the PKIBody a CertReqMessages data structure which specifies the requested certificates. This message is intended to be used for existing PKI entities who wish to obtain additional certificates.

See [Appendix D](#) and [[rfc2511bis](#)] for CertReqMessages syntax.

Alternatively, the PKIBody MAY be a CertificationRequest (this structure is fully specified by the ASN.1 structure CertificationRequest given in [[PKCS10](#)]). This structure may be required for certificate requests for signing key pairs when interoperation with legacy systems is desired, but its use is strongly discouraged whenever not absolutely necessary.

### 3.3.4 Certification Response

A Certification response message contains as the PKIBody a CertRepMessage data structure which has a status value for each certificate requested, and optionally has a CA public key, failure information, a subject certificate, and an encrypted private key.

```
CertRepMessage ::= SEQUENCE {  
    caPubs          [1] SEQUENCE SIZE (1..MAX) OF Certificate OPTIONAL,  
    response        SEQUENCE OF CertResponse  
}
```

```
CertResponse ::= SEQUENCE {  
    certReqId       INTEGER,  
    -- to match this response with corresponding request (a value  
    -- of -1 is to be used if certReqId is not specified in the
```

```

-- corresponding request)
status          PKIStatusInfo,
certifiedKeyPair CertifiedKeyPair    OPTIONAL,
rspInfo         OCTET STRING         OPTIONAL
-- analogous to the id-regInfo-utf8Pairs string defined
-- for regInfo in CertReqMsg [rfc2511bis]
}

```

```

CertifiedKeyPair ::= SEQUENCE {
    certOrEncCert      CertOrEncCert,
    privateKey         [0] EncryptedValue    OPTIONAL,
    -- see [rfc2511bis] for comment on encoding
    publicationInfo    [1] PKIPublicationInfo OPTIONAL
}

```

```

CertOrEncCert ::= CHOICE {
    certificate      [0] Certificate,
    encryptedCert    [1] EncryptedValue
}

```

Only one of the failInfo (in PKIStatusInfo) and certificate (in CertifiedKeyPair) fields can be present in each CertResponse (depending on the status). For some status values (e.g., waiting) neither of the optional fields will be present.

Given an EncryptedCert and the relevant decryption key the certificate may be obtained. The purpose of this is to allow a CA to return the value of a certificate, but with the constraint that only the intended recipient can obtain the actual certificate. The benefit of this approach is that a CA may reply with a certificate even in the absence of a proof that the requester is the end entity which can use the relevant private key (note that the proof is not obtained

---

until the certConf message is received by the CA). Thus the CA will not have to revoke that certificate in the event that something goes wrong with the proof of possession (but MAY do so anyway, depending upon policy).

### [3.3.5](#) Key update request content

For key update requests the CertReqMessages syntax is used. Typically, SubjectPublicKeyInfo, KeyId, and Validity are the template fields which may be supplied for each key to be updated. This

message is intended to be used to request updates to existing (non-revoked and non-expired) certificates (therefore, it is sometimes referred to as a "Certificate Update" operation). An update is a replacement certificate containing either a new subject public key or the current subject public key (although the latter practice may not be appropriate for some environments).

See [Appendix D](#) and [\[rfc2511bis\]](#) for CertReqMessages syntax.

### [3.3.6](#) Key Update response content

For key update responses the CertRepMessage syntax is used. The response is identical to the initialization response.

See [Section 3.3.4](#) for CertRepMessage syntax.

### [3.3.7](#) Key Recovery Request content

For key recovery requests the syntax used is identical to the initialization request CertReqMessages. Typically, SubjectPublicKeyInfo and KeyId are the template fields which may be used to supply a signature public key for which a certificate is required (see [Appendix B](#) profiles for further information).

See [Appendix D](#) and [\[rfc2511bis\]](#) for CertReqMessages syntax. Note that if a key history is required, the requester must supply a Protocol Encryption Key control in the request message.

### [3.3.8](#) Key recovery response content

For key recovery responses the following syntax is used. For some status values (e.g., waiting) none of the optional fields will be present.

```
KeyRecRepContent ::= SEQUENCE {
    status          PKIStatusInfo,
    newSigCert      [0] Certificate OPTIONAL,
    caCerts         [1] SEQUENCE SIZE (1..MAX) OF
                                Certificate OPTIONAL,
    keyPairHist     [2] SEQUENCE SIZE (1..MAX) OF
                                CertifiedKeyPair OPTIONAL
}
```

### 3.3.9 Revocation Request Content

When requesting revocation of a certificate (or several certificates) the following data structure is used. The name of the requester is present in the PKIHeader structure.

```
RevReqContent ::= SEQUENCE OF RevDetails
```

```
RevDetails ::= SEQUENCE {  
    certDetails      CertTemplate,  
    -- allows requester to specify as much as they can about  
    -- the cert. for which revocation is requested  
    -- (e.g., for cases in which serialNumber is not available)  
    crlEntryDetails  Extensions      OPTIONAL  
    -- requested crlEntryExtensions  
}
```

### [3.3.10](#) Revocation Response Content

The response to the above message. If produced, this is sent to the requester of the revocation. (A separate revocation announcement message MAY be sent to the subject of the certificate for which revocation was requested.)

```
RevRepContent ::= SEQUENCE {  
    status      SEQUENCE SIZE (1..MAX) OF PKIStatusInfo,  
    -- in same order as was sent in RevReqContent  
    revCerts    [0] SEQUENCE SIZE (1..MAX) OF CertId OPTIONAL,  
    -- IDs for which revocation was requested (same order as status)  
    crls        [1] SEQUENCE SIZE (1..MAX) OF CertificateList OPTIONAL  
    -- the resulting CRLs (there may be more than one)  
}
```

### [3.3.11](#) Cross certification request content

Cross certification requests use the same syntax (CertReqMessages) as for normal certification requests with the restriction that the key pair MUST have been generated by the requesting CA and the private key MUST NOT be sent to the responding CA. This request MAY also be used by subordinate CAs to get their certificates signed by the parent CA.

See [Appendix D](#) and [\[rfc2511bis\]](#) for CertReqMessages syntax.

### 3.3.12 Cross certification response content

Cross certification responses use the same syntax (CertRepMessage) as for normal certification responses with the restriction that no encrypted private key can be sent.

See [Section 3.3.4](#) for CertRepMessage syntax.

### [3.3.13](#) CA Key Update Announcement content

When a CA updates its own key pair the following data structure MAY be used to announce this event.

```
CAKeyUpdAnnContent ::= SEQUENCE {
    oldWithNew      Certificate, -- old pub signed with new priv
    newWithOld      Certificate, -- new pub signed with old priv
    newWithNew      Certificate  -- new pub signed with new priv
}
```

### [3.3.14](#) Certificate Announcement

This structure MAY be used to announce the existence of certificates.

Note that this message is intended to be used for those cases (if any) where there is no pre-existing method for publication of certificates; it is not intended to be used where, for example, X.500 is the method for publication of certificates.

```
CertAnnContent ::= Certificate
```

### [3.3.15](#) Revocation Announcement

When a CA has revoked, or is about to revoke, a particular certificate it MAY issue an announcement of this (possibly upcoming) event.

```
RevAnnContent ::= SEQUENCE {
    status          PKIStatus,
    certId          CertId,
    willBeRevokedAt GeneralizedTime,
    badSinceDate    GeneralizedTime,
    crlDetails      Extensions OPTIONAL
    -- extra CRL details(e.g., crl number, reason, location, etc.)
}
```

A CA MAY use such an announcement to warn (or notify) a subject that its certificate is about to be (or has been) revoked. This would typically be used where the request for revocation did not come from the subject concerned.

The willBeRevokedAt field contains the time at which a new entry will be added to the relevant CRLs.

#### [3.3.16](#) CRL Announcement

When a CA issues a new CRL (or set of CRLs) the following data structure MAY be used to announce this event.

CRLAnnContent ::= SEQUENCE OF CertificateList

#### [3.3.17](#) PKI Confirmation content

This data structure is used in the protocol exchange as the final PKIMessage. Its content is the same in all cases - actually there is no content since the PKIHeader carries all the required information.

PKIConfirmContent ::= NULL

Use of this message for certificate confirmation is NOT RECOMMENDED; certConf SHOULD be used instead. The recipient on receiving a PKIConfirm for a certificate response MAY treat it as a certConf with all certificates being accepted.

#### [3.3.18](#) Certificate Confirmation content

This data structure is used by the client to send a confirmation to the CA/RA to accept or reject certificates.

CertConfirmContent ::= SEQUENCE OF CertStatus

CertStatus ::= SEQUENCE {  
    certHash     OCTET STRING,  
    -- the hash of the certificate, using the same hash algorithm  
    -- as is used to create and verify the certificate signature  
    certReqId    INTEGER,



```

-- to match this confirmation with the corresponding req/rep
statusInfo  PKIStatusInfo OPTIONAL
}

```

For any particular CertStatus, omission of the statusInfo field indicates ACCEPTANCE of the specified certificate. Alternatively, explicit status details (with respect to acceptance or rejection) MAY be provided in the statusInfo field, perhaps for auditing purposes at the CA/RA.

Within CertConfirmContent, omission of a CertStatus structure corresponding to a certificate supplied in the previous response message indicates REJECTION of the certificate. Thus, an empty CertConfirmContent (a zero-length SEQUENCE) MAY be used to indicate rejection of all supplied certificates. See [Section 3.2.8](#), item (2), for a discussion of the certHash field with respect to proof-of-possession.

### [3.3.19](#) PKI General Message content

```

InfoTypeAndValue ::= SEQUENCE {
    infoType          OBJECT IDENTIFIER,
    infoValue         ANY DEFINED BY infoType OPTIONAL
}
-- Example InfoTypeAndValue contents include, but are not limited to
-- the following (see subsequent subsections for further details and
-- Appendix F for exact syntax):
--
-- { CAProtEncCert      = {id-it 1}, Certificate }
-- { SignKeyPairTypes  = {id-it 2}, SEQUENCE OF AlgorithmIdentifier }
-- { EncKeyPairTypes   = {id-it 3}, SEQUENCE OF AlgorithmIdentifier }
-- { PreferredSymmAlg  = {id-it 4}, AlgorithmIdentifier }
-- { CAKeyUpdateInfo   = {id-it 5}, CAKeyUpdAnnContent }
-- { CurrentCRL        = {id-it 6}, CertificateList }
--
-- where {id-it} = {id-pkix 4} = {1 3 6 1 5 5 7 4}
-- This construct MAY also be used to define new PKIX Certificate

```

-- Management Protocol request and response messages, or general-  
-- purpose (e.g., announcement) messages for future needs or for  
-- specific environments.

GenMsgContent ::= SEQUENCE OF InfoTypeAndValue

-- May be sent by EE, RA, or CA (depending on message content).  
-- The OPTIONAL infoValue parameter of InfoTypeAndValue will typically  
-- be omitted in GenMsg for some of the examples given above (i.e., it  
-- will be used only in the corresponding GenRep message). The receiver  
-- is free to ignore any contained OBJ. IDs that it does not recognize.  
-- If sent from EE to CA, the empty set indicates that the CA may send  
-- any/all information that it wishes.

### 3.3.19.1 CA Protocol Encryption Certificate

This MAY be used by the EE to get from the CA a certificate to use to protect sensitive information during the protocol.

GenMsg: {id-it 1}, <absent>

GenRep: {id-it 1}, Certificate | <absent>

EEs MUST ensure that the correct certificate is used for this purpose.

### [3.3.19.2](#) Signing Key Pair Types

This MAY be used by the EE to get the list of signature algorithms (e.g., RSA, DSA) whose subject public key values the CA is willing to certify. Note that for the purposes of this exchange, rsaEncryption and rsaWithSHA1, for example, are considered to be equivalent; the question being asked is, "Is the CA willing to certify an RSA public key?"

GenMsg: {id-it 2}, <absent>

GenRep: {id-it 2}, SEQUENCE SIZE (1..MAX) OF AlgorithmIdentifier

### [3.3.19.3](#) Encryption/Key Agreement Key Pair Types

This MAY be used by the client to get the list of encryption/key agreement algorithms whose subject public key values the CA is willing

to certify.

GenMsg: {id-it 3}, <absent>

GenRep: {id-it 3}, SEQUENCE SIZE (1..MAX) OF AlgorithmIdentifier

#### [3.3.19.4 Preferred Symmetric Algorithm](#)

This MAY be used by the client to get the CA-preferred symmetric encryption algorithm for any confidential information that needs to be exchanged between the EE and the CA (for example, if the EE wants to send its private decryption key to the CA for archival purposes).

GenMsg: {id-it 4}, <absent>

GenRep: {id-it 4}, AlgorithmIdentifier

#### [3.3.19.5 Updated CA Key Pair](#)

This MAY be used by the CA to announce a CA key update event.

GenMsg: {id-it 5}, CAKeyUpdAnnContent

#### [3.3.19.6 CRL](#)

This MAY be used by the client to get a copy of the latest CRL.

GenMsg: {id-it 6}, <absent>

GenRep: {id-it 6}, CertificateList

#### [3.3.19.7 Unsupported Object Identifiers](#)

This is used by the server to return a list of object identifiers that it does not recognize or support from the list submitted by the client.

GenRep: {id-it 7}, SEQUENCE SIZE (1..MAX) OF OBJECT IDENTIFIER

#### [3.3.19.8 Key Pair Parameters](#)

This MAY be used by the EE to request the domain parameters to use for generating the key pair for certain public-key algorithms. It can be used, for example, to request the appropriate P, Q and G to generate the DH/DSA key, or to request a set of well-known elliptic curves.

GenMsg: {id-it 10}, OBJECT IDENTIFIER -- (Algorithm object-id)

GenRep: {id-it 11}, AlgorithmIdentifier | <absent>

An absent infoValue in the GenRep indicates that the algorithm specified in GenMsg is not supported.

EES MUST ensure that the parameters are acceptable to it and that the GenRep message is authenticated (to avoid substitution attacks).

#### [3.3.19.9](#) Revocation Passphrase

This MAY be used by the EE to send a passphrase to a CA/RA for the purpose of authenticating a later revocation request (in the case that the appropriate signing private key is no longer available to authenticate the request). See [Appendix E](#) for further details on the use of this mechanism.

```
GenMsg:    {id-it 12},    EncryptedValue
GenRep:    {id-it 12},    <absent>
```

#### [3.3.19.10](#) ImplicitConfirm

See [Section 3.1.1.1](#) for the definition and use of {id-it 13}.

#### [3.3.19.11](#) ConfirmWaitTime

See [Section 3.1.1.2](#) for the definition and use of {id-it 14}.

#### [3.3.19.12](#) Original PKIMessage

See [Section 3.1.3](#) for the definition and use of {id-it 15}.

#### [3.3.19.13](#) Supported Language Tags

This MAY be used to determine the appropriate language tag to use in subsequent messages. The sender sends its list of supported languages (in order, most preferred to least); the receiver returns the one it wishes to use. (Note: each UTF8String MUST include a language tag.) If none of the offered tags are supported, an error MUST be returned.

```
GenMsg:    {id-it 16},    SEQUENCE SIZE (1..MAX) OF UTF8String
GenRep:    {id-it 16},    SEQUENCE SIZE (1) OF UTF8String
```

### 3.3.20 PKI General Response content

GenRepContent ::= SEQUENCE OF InfoTypeAndValue

-- Receiver MAY ignore any contained OIDs that it does not recognize.

Example GenRep that MAY be supported include those listed in the subsections of 3.3.19.

#### [3.3.21](#) Error Message content

This data structure MAY be used by EE, CA, or RA to convey error info.

```

ErrorMsgContent ::= SEQUENCE {
    pKIStatusInfo          PKIStatusInfo,
    errorCode               INTEGER          OPTIONAL,
    -- implementation-specific error codes
    errorDetails            PKIFreeText      OPTIONAL
    -- implementation-specific error details
}

```

This message MAY be generated at any time during a PKI transaction. If the client sends this request the server MUST respond with a PKIConfirm response, or another ErrorMsg if any part of the header is not valid. Both sides MUST treat this message as the end of the transaction (if a transaction is in progress).

If protection is desired on the message, the client MUST protect it using the same technique (i.e., signature or MAC) as the starting message of the transaction. The CA MUST always sign it with a signature key.

### [3.3.22](#) Polling Request and Response

This pair of messages is intended to handle scenarios in which the client needs to poll the server in order to determine the status of an outstanding ir, cr, or kur transaction (i.e., when the "waiting" PKIStatus has been received).

```

PollReqContent ::= SEQUENCE OF SEQUENCE {
    certReqId    INTEGER }

PollRepContent ::= SEQUENCE OF SEQUENCE {
    certReqId    INTEGER,
    checkAfter   INTEGER, -- time in seconds
    reason       PKIFreeText OPTIONAL }

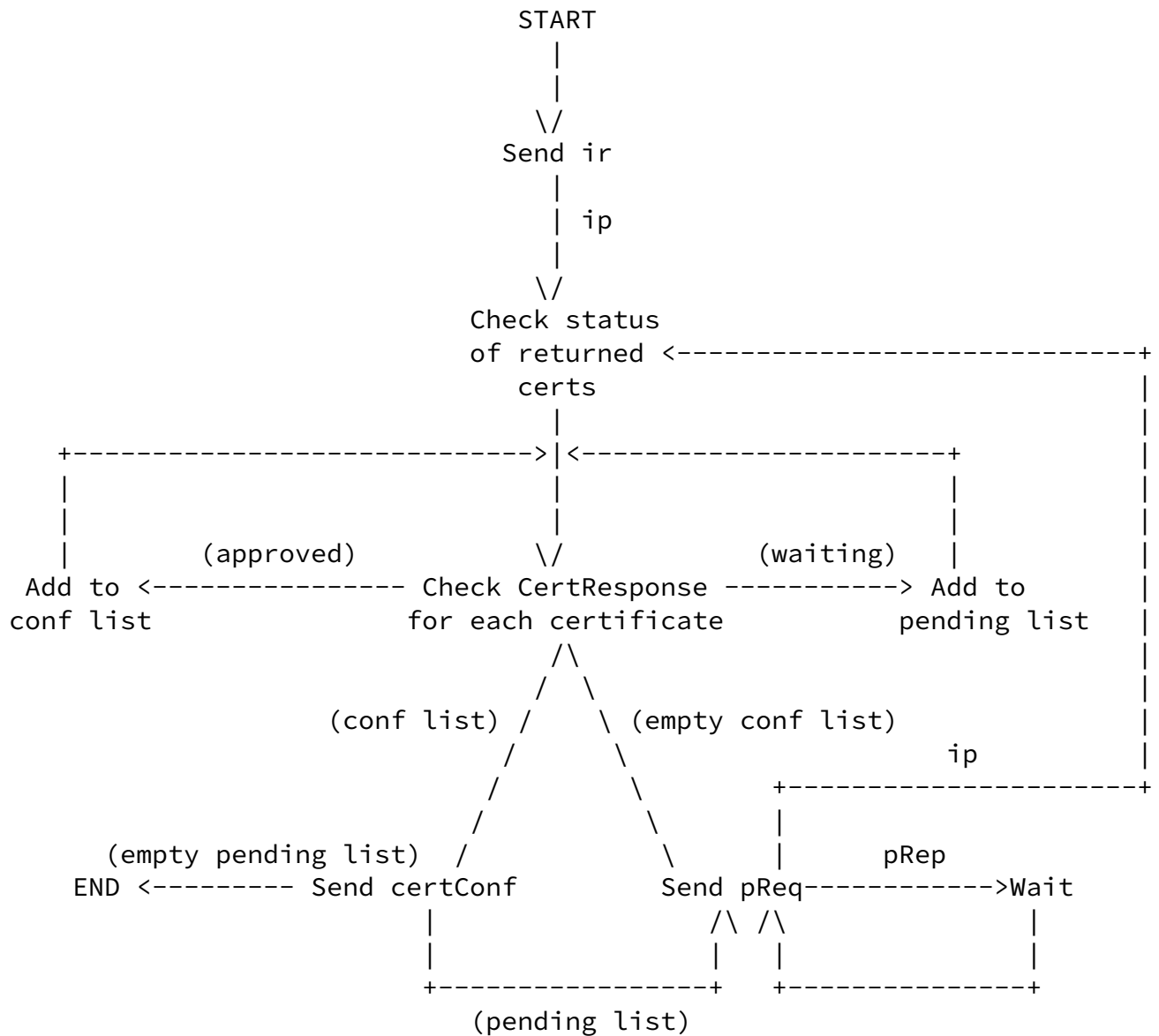
```

The following clauses describe when polling messages are used, and how they are used. It is assumed that multiple certConf messages can be sent during transactions. There will be one sent in response to each ip, cp, or kup containing a CertStatus for an approved certificate.

1. In response to an ip, cp, or kup message, an EE will send a certConf for all approved certificates and, following the ack, a pollReq for all pending certificates.

2. In response to a pollReq, a CA/RA will return an ip, cp, or kup if one or more of the pending certificates is ready; otherwise, it will return a pollRep.

3. If the EE receives a pollRep, it will wait for at least as long as the checkAfter value before sending another pollReq.
4. If an ip, cp, or kup is received in response to a pollReq, then it will be treated in the same way as the initial response.



In the following exchange, the end entity is enrolling for two certificates in one request.

Step	End Entity	PKI
1	Format ir	
2	-> ir	->
3		Handle ir
4		Manual intervention is required for both certs.

---

```

6      Process ip
7      Format pReq
8          -> pReq      ->
9          Check status of cert requests
10         Certificates not ready
11         Format pRep
12         <- pRep      <-
13     Wait
14     Format pReq
15         -> pReq      ->
16         Check status of cert requests
17         One certificate is ready
18         Format ip
19         <- ip        <-
20     Handle ip
21     Format certConf
22         -> certConf ->
23         Handle certConf
24         Format ack
25         <- pkiConf   <-
26     Format pReq
27         -> pReq      ->
28         Check status of certificate
29         Certificate is ready
30         Format ip
31         <- ip        <-
31     Handle ip
32     Format certConf
33         -> certConf ->
34         Handle certConf
35         Format ack
36         <- pkiConf   <-

```

#### [4.](#) Mandatory PKI Management functions

Some of the PKI management functions outlined in [Section 1](#) above are described in this section.

This section deals with functions that are "mandatory" in the sense that all end entity and CA/RA implementations MUST be able to provide the functionality described. This part is effectively the profile of the PKI management functionality that MUST be supported. Note, however, that the management functions described in this section do not need to be accomplished using the PKI messages defined in

[Section 3](#) if alternate means are suitable for a given environment (see [Appendix B](#) for profiles of the PKIMessages that MUST be supported).

#### [4.1](#) Root CA initialization

[See [Section 1.2.2](#) for this document's definition of "root CA".]

A newly created root CA must produce a "self-certificate" which is a Certificate structure with the profile defined for the "newWithNew" certificate issued following a root CA key update.

In order to make the CA's self certificate useful to end entities that do not acquire the self certificate via "out-of-band" means, the CA must also produce a fingerprint for its public key. End entities that acquire this fingerprint securely via some "out-of-band" means can then verify the CA's self-certificate and hence the other attributes contained therein.

The data structure used to carry the fingerprint is the OOB CertHash.

#### [4.2](#) Root CA key update

CA keys (as all other keys) have a finite lifetime and will have to be updated on a periodic basis. The certificates NewWithNew, NewWithOld, and OldWithNew (see [Section 2.4.1](#)) MAY be issued by the CA to aid existing end entities who hold the current self-signed CA certificate (OldWithOld) to transition securely to the new self-signed CA certificate (NewWithNew), and to aid new end entities who will hold NewWithNew to acquire OldWithOld securely for verification of existing data.

#### [4.3](#) Subordinate CA initialization

[See [Section 1.2.2](#) for this document's definition of "subordinate CA".]

From the perspective of PKI management protocols the initialization of a subordinate CA is the same as the initialization of an end entity. The only difference is that the subordinate CA must also produce an initial revocation list.

#### [4.4](#) CRL production

Before issuing any certificates a newly established CA (which issues CRLs) must produce "empty" versions of each CRL which is to be periodically produced.



## [4.5](#) PKI information request

When a PKI entity (CA, RA, or EE) wishes to acquire information about the current status of a CA it MAY send that CA a request for such information.

The CA must respond to the request by providing (at least) all of the information requested by the requester. If some of the information cannot be provided then an error must be conveyed to the requester.

If PKIMessages are used to request and supply this PKI information, then the request MUST be the GenMsg message, the response MUST be the GenRep message, and the error MUST be the Error message. These messages are protected using a MAC based on shared secret information (i.e., PasswordBasedMAC) or any other authenticated means (if the end entity has an existing certificate).

## 4.6 Cross certification

The requester CA is the CA that will become the subject of the cross-certificate; the responder CA will become the issuer of the cross-certificate.

The requester CA must be "up and running" before initiating the cross-certification operation.

### [4.6.1](#) One-way request-response scheme:

The cross-certification scheme is essentially a one way operation; that is, when successful, this operation results in the creation of one new cross-certificate. If the requirement is that cross-certificates be created in "both directions" then each CA in turn must initiate a cross-certification operation (or use another scheme).

This scheme is suitable where the two CAs in question can already verify each other's signatures (they have some common points of trust) or where there is an out-of-band verification of the origin of the certification request.

#### Detailed Description:

Cross certification is initiated at one CA known as the responder. The CA administrator for the responder identifies the CA it wants to cross certify and the responder CA equipment generates an

authorization code. The responder CA administrator passes this authorization code by out-of-band means to the requester CA administrator. The requester CA administrator enters the authorization code at the requester CA in order to initiate the on-line exchange.

The authorization code is used for authentication and integrity purposes. This is done by generating a symmetric key based on the authorization code and using the symmetric key for generating Message Authentication Codes (MACs) on all messages exchanged. (Authentication may alternatively be done using signatures instead of MACs, if the CAs are able to retrieve and validate the required public keys by some means, such as an out-of-band hash comparison.)

The requester CA initiates the exchange by generating a cross-certification request (ccr) with a fresh random number(requester random number). The requester CA then sends to the responder CA the ccr message. The fields in this message are protected from modification with a MAC based on the authorization code.

Upon receipt of the ccr message, the responder CA validates the message and the MAC, saves the requester random number, and generates its own random number (responder random number). It then

generates (and archives, if desired) a new requester certificate that contains the requester CA public key and is signed with the responder CA signature private key. The responder CA responds with the cross certification response (ccp) message. The fields in this message are protected from modification with a MAC based on the authorization code.

Upon receipt of the ccpmessage, the requester CA validates the message (including the received random numbers) and the MAC. The requester CA responds with the certConf message. The fields in this message are protected from modification with a MAC based on the authorization code. The requester CA MAY write the requester certificate to the Repository as an aid to later certificate path construction.

Upon receipt of the certConf message, the responder CA validates the message and the MAC, and sends back an acknowledgment using the PKIConfirm message. It MAY also publish the requester certificate as an aid to later path construction.

#### Notes:

1. The ccr message must contain a "complete" certification request,

- that is, all fields except the serial number (including, e.g., a BasicConstraints extension) must be specified by the requester CA.
2. The ccp message SHOULD contain the verification certificate of the responder CA - if present, the requester CA must then verify this certificate (for example, via the "out-of-band" mechanism).

(A simpler, non-interactive model of cross-certification may also be envisioned, in which the issuing CA acquires the subject CA's public key from some repository, verifies it via some out-of-band mechanism, and creates and publishes the cross-certificate without the subject CA's explicit involvement. This model may be perfectly legitimate for many environments, but since it does not require any protocol message exchanges, its detailed description is outside the scope of this specification.)

#### 4.7 End entity initialization

As with CAs, end entities must be initialized. Initialization of end entities requires at least two steps:

- acquisition of PKI information
- out-of-band verification of one root-CA public key

(other possible steps include the retrieval of trust condition information and/or out-of-band verification of other CA public keys).

##### [4.7.1](#) Acquisition of PKI information

The information REQUIRED is:

- the current root-CA public key
- (if the certifying CA is not a root-CA) the certification path from the root CA to the certifying CA together with appropriate revocation lists
- the algorithms and algorithm parameters which the certifying CA supports for each relevant usage

---

Additional information could be required (e.g., supported extensions or CA policy information) in order to produce a certification request which will be successful. However, for simplicity we do not mandate that the end entity acquires this information via the PKI messages. The end result is simply that some certification requests may fail (e.g., if the end entity wants to generate its own encryption key but the CA doesn't allow that).

The required information MAY be acquired as described in [Section 4.5](#).

#### [4.7.2](#) Out-of-Band Verification of Root-CA Key

An end entity must securely possess the public key of its root CA. One method to achieve this is to provide the end entity with the CA's self-certificate fingerprint via some secure "out-of-band" means. The end entity can then securely use the CA's self-certificate.

See [Section 4.1](#) for further details.

#### [4.8](#) Certificate Request

An initialized end entity MAY request an additional certificate at any time (for any purpose). This request will be made using the certification request (cr) message. If the end entity already possesses a signing key pair (with a corresponding verification certificate), then this cr message will typically be protected by the entity's digital signature. The CA returns the new certificate (if the request is successful) in a CertRepMessage.

#### [4.9](#) Key Update

When a key pair is due to expire the relevant end entity MAY request a key update – that is, it MAY request that the CA issue a new certificate for a new key pair (or, in certain circumstances, a new certificate for the same key pair). The request is made using a key update request (kur) message (referred to, in some environments, as a "Certificate Update" operation). If the end entity already possesses a signing key pair (with a corresponding verification certificate), then this message will typically be protected by the entity's digital signature. The CA returns the new certificate (if the request is successful) in a key update response (kup) message, which is syntactically identical to a CertRepMessage.

### 5. Version Negotiation

This section defines version negotiation used to support older protocols between client and servers.

If a client knows the protocol version(s) supported by the server (e.g. from a previous PKIMessage exchange or via some out-of-band means) then it MUST send a PKIMessage with the highest version supported by both it and the server. If a client does not know what version(s) the server supports then it MUST send a PKIMessage using the highest version it supports.

If a server receives a message with a version that it supports, then the version of the response message MUST be the same as the received version. If a server receives a message with a version higher or lower than it supports, then it MUST send back an ErrorMsg with the unsupportedVersion bit set (in the failureInfo field of the PKIStatusInfo). If the received version is higher than the highest supported version then the version in the error message MUST be the highest version the server supports; if the received version is lower than the lowest supported version then the version in the error message MUST be the lowest version the server supports.

If a client gets back an ErrorMsgContent with the unsupportedVersion bit set and a version it supports, then it MAY retry the request with that version.

## [5.1](#) Supporting [RFC 2510](#) implementations

[RFC 2510](#) did not specify the behaviour of implementations receiving versions they did not understand since there was only one version in existence. With the introduction of the present revision of the specification, the following versioning behaviour is recommended.

### [5.1.1](#) Clients talking to [RFC 2510](#) servers

If, after sending a cmp2000 message, a client receives an ErrorMsgContent with a version of cmp1999 then it MUST abort the current transaction. It MAY subsequently retry the transaction using version cmp1999 messages.

If client receives a non-error PKIMessage with a version of cmp1999 then it MAY decide to continue the transaction (if the transaction hasn't finished) using [RFC 2510](#) semantics. If it does not choose to do so and the transaction is not finished, then it MUST abort the transaction and send an ErrorMsgContent with a version of cmp1999.

### [5.1.2](#) Servers receiving version cmp1999 PKIMessages

If a server receives a version cmp1999 message it MAY revert to [RFC 2510](#) behaviour and respond with version cmp1999 messages. If it does not choose to do so, then it MUST send back an ErrorMsgContent as described above in [Section 5](#).

---

## SECURITY CONSIDERATIONS

This entire memo is about security mechanisms.

Some cryptographic considerations are worth explicitly spelling out. In the protocols specified above, when an end entity is required to prove possession of a decryption key, it is effectively challenged to decrypt something (its own certificate). This scheme (and many others!) could be vulnerable to an attack if the possessor of the decryption key in question could be fooled into decrypting an arbitrary challenge and returning the cleartext to an attacker. Although in this specification a number of other failures in security are required in order for this attack to succeed, it is conceivable that some future services (e.g., notary, trusted time) could potentially be vulnerable to such attacks. For this reason we re-iterate the general rule that implementations should be very careful about decrypting arbitrary "ciphertext" and revealing recovered "plaintext" since such a practice can lead to serious security vulnerabilities.

Note also that exposing a private key to the CA/RA as a proof-of-possession technique can carry some security risks (depending upon whether or not the CA/RA can be trusted to handle such material appropriately). Implementers are advised to exercise caution in selecting and using this particular POP mechanism.

A small subgroup attack during a Diffie-Hellman key exchange may be carried out as follows. A malicious end entity may deliberately choose D-H parameters that enable him/her to derive (a significant number of bits of) the D-H private key of the CA during a key archival or key recovery operation. Armed with this knowledge, the EE would then be able to retrieve the decryption private key of another unsuspecting end entity, EE2, during EE2's legitimate key archival or key recovery operation with that CA. In order to avoid the possibility of such an attack, two courses of action are available. (1) The CA may generate a fresh D-H key pair to be used as a protocol encryption key pair for each EE with which it interacts. (2) The CA may enter into a key validation protocol (not specified in this document) with each requesting end entity to ensure that the EE's protocol encryption key pair will not facilitate this attack. Option (1) is clearly simpler (requiring no extra protocol exchanges from either party) and is therefore RECOMMENDED.

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#### APPENDIX A: Reasons for the presence of RAs

The reasons which justify the presence of an RA can be split into those which are due to technical factors and those which are organizational in nature. Technical reasons include the following.

- If hardware tokens are in use, then not all end entities will have the equipment needed to initialize these; the RA equipment can include the necessary functionality (this may also be a matter of policy).
- Some end entities may not have the capability to publish certificates; again, the RA may be suitably placed for this.
- The RA will be able to issue signed revocation requests on behalf of end entities associated with it, whereas the end entity may not be able to do this (if the key pair is completely lost).

Some of the organizational reasons which argue for the presence of an RA are the following.

- It may be more cost effective to concentrate functionality in the RA equipment than to supply functionality to all end entities (especially if special token initialization equipment is to be used).
- Establishing RAs within an organization can reduce the number of

CAs required, which is sometimes desirable.

- RAs may be better placed to identify people with their "electronic" names, especially if the CA is physically remote from the end entity.
- For many applications there will already be in place some administrative structure so that candidates for the role of RA are easy to find (which may not be true of the CA).

## Appendix B. PKI Management Message Profiles (REQUIRED).

This appendix contains detailed profiles for those PKIMessages which MUST be supported by conforming implementations (see [Section 4](#)).

Profiles for the PKIMessages used in the following PKI management operations are provided:

- initial registration/certification
  - basic authenticated scheme
- certificate request
- key update

### B1. General Rules for interpretation of these profiles.

1. Where OPTIONAL or DEFAULT fields are not mentioned in individual profiles, they SHOULD be absent from the relevant message (i.e., a receiver can validly reject a message containing such fields as being syntactically incorrect).  
Mandatory fields are not mentioned if they have an obvious value

- (e.g., in this version of the specification, pvno is always 2).
2. Where structures occur in more than one message, they are separately profiled as appropriate.
  3. The algorithmIdentifiers from PKIMessage structures are profiled separately.
  4. A "special" X.500 DN is called the "NULL-DN"; this means a DN containing a zero-length SEQUENCE OF RelativeDistinguishedNames (its DER encoding is then '3000'H).
  5. Where a GeneralName is required for a field but no suitable value is available (e.g., an end entity produces a request before knowing its name) then the GeneralName is to be an X.500 NULL-DN (i.e., the Name field of the CHOICE is to contain a NULL-DN). This special value can be called a "NULL-GeneralName".
  6. Where a profile omits to specify the value for a GeneralName then the NULL-GeneralName value is to be present in the relevant PKIMessage field. This occurs with the sender field of the PKIHeader for some messages.
  7. Where any ambiguity arises due to naming of fields, the profile names these using a "dot" notation (e.g., "certTemplate.subject" means the subject field within a field called certTemplate).
  8. Where a "SEQUENCE OF types" is part of a message, a zero-based array notation is used to describe fields within the SEQUENCE OF (e.g., crm[0].certReq.certTemplate.subject refers to a subfield of the first CertReqMsg contained in a request message).
  9. All PKI message exchanges in Sections B4-B6 require a certConf message to be sent by the initiating entity and a PKIConfirm to be sent by the responding entity. The PKIConfirm is not included in some of the profiles given since its body is NULL and its header contents are clear from the context. Any authenticated means can be used for the protectionAlg (e.g., password-based MAC, if shared secret information is known, or signature).

## B2. Algorithm Use Profile

The following table contains definitions of algorithm uses within PKI management protocols. The columns in the table are:

Name: an identifier used for message profiles  
Use: description of where and for what the algorithm is used  
Mandatory: an AlgorithmIdentifier which MUST be supported by conforming implementations  
Others: alternatives to the mandatory AlgorithmIdentifier

Name	Use	Mandatory	Others
MSG_SIG_ALG	Protection of PKI	DSA/SHA-1	RSA/MD5,

MSG_MAC_ALG	messages using signature protection of PKI	PasswordBasedMac	ECDSA, ... HMAC, X9.9...
SYM_PENC_ALG	messages using MACing symmetric encryption of an end entity's private key where symmetric key is distributed out-of-band	3-DES (3-key-EDE, CBC mode)	RC5, CAST-128...
PROT_ENC_ALG	asymmetric algorithm used for encryption of (symmetric keys for encryption of) private keys transported in PKIMessages	D-H	RSA, ECDH, ...
PROT_SYM_ALG	symmetric encryption algorithm used for encryption of private key bits (a key of this type is encrypted using PROT_ENC_ALG)	3-DES (3-key-EDE, CBC mode)	RC5, CAST-128...

#### Mandatory AlgorithmIdentifiers and Specifications:

##### DSA/SHA-1:

AlgId: {1 2 840 10040 4 3};  
 NIST, FIPS PUB 186: Digital Signature Standard, 1994;  
 Public Modulus size: 1024 bits.

##### PasswordBasedMac:

{1 2 840 113533 7 66 13}, with SHA-1 {1 3 14 3 2 26} as the owf parameter and HMAC-SHA1 {1 3 6 1 5 5 8 1 2} as the mac parameter; (this specification), along with  
 NIST, FIPS PUB 180-1: Secure Hash Standard, April 1995;  
 H. Krawczyk, M. Bellare, R. Canetti, "HMAC: Keyed-Hashing for Message Authentication", Internet Request for Comments 2104, February 1997.  
 HMAC key size: 160 bits (i.e., "K" = "H" in [Section 3.1.3](#), "Shared secret information")

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##### 3-DES:

{1 2 840 113549 3 7};  
 (used in RSA's BSAFE and in S/MIME).

##### D-H:

AlgId: {1 2 840 10046 2 1};  
 ANSI X9.42;  
 Public Modulus Size: 1024 bits.  
 DomainParameters ::= SEQUENCE {

```

    p      INTEGER, -- odd prime, p=jq +1
    g      INTEGER, -- generator, g^q = 1 mod p
    q      INTEGER, -- prime factor of p-1
    j      INTEGER OPTIONAL, -- cofactor, j>=2
    validationParms ValidationParms OPTIONAL
}

ValidationParms ::= SEQUENCE {
    seed          BIT STRING, -- seed for prime generation
    pGenCounter   INTEGER      -- parameter verification
}

```

### B3. Proof of Possession Profile

POP fields for use (in signature field of pop field of ProofOfPossession structure) when proving possession of a private signing key which corresponds to a public verification key for which a certificate has been requested.

Field	Value	Comment
algorithmIdentifier	MSG_SIG_ALG	only signature protection is allowed for this proof
signature	present	bits calculated using MSG_SIG_ALG

<<Proof of possession of a private decryption key which corresponds to a public encryption key for which a certificate has been requested does not use this profile; the CertHash field of the certConf message is used instead.>>

Not every CA/RA will do Proof-of-Possession (of signing key, decryption key, or key agreement key) in the PKIX-CMP in-band certification request protocol (how POP is done MAY ultimately be a policy issue which is made explicit for any given CA in its publicized Policy OID and Certification Practice Statement). However, this specification MANDATES that CA/RA entities MUST do POP (by some means) as part of the certification process. All end entities MUST be prepared to provide POP (i.e., these components of the PKIX-CMP protocol MUST be supported).

### B4. Initial Registration/Certification (Basic Authenticated Scheme)

An (uninitialized) end entity requests a (first) certificate from a

CA. When the CA responds with a message containing a certificate, the end entity replies with a certificate confirmation. The CA sends a PKIConfirm back, closing the transaction. All messages are authenticated.

This scheme allows the end entity to request certification of a locally-generated public key (typically a signature key). The end entity MAY also choose to request the centralized generation and certification of another key pair (typically an encryption key pair).

Certification may only be requested for one locally generated public key (for more, use separate PKIMessages).

The end entity MUST support proof-of-possession of the private key associated with the locally-generated public key.

Preconditions:

1. The end entity can authenticate the CA's signature based on out-of-band means
2. The end entity and the CA share a symmetric MACing key

Message flow:

Step#	End entity			PKI
1	format ir			
2		->	ir	->
3				handle ir
4				format ip
5		<-	ip	<-
6	handle ip			
7	format certConf			
8		->	certConf	->
9				handle certConf
10				format PKIConf
11		<-	PKIConf	<-
12	handle PKIConf			

For this profile, we mandate that the end entity MUST include all (i.e., one or two) CertReqMsg in a single PKIMessage and that the PKI (CA) MUST produce a single response PKIMessage which contains the complete response (i.e., including the OPTIONAL second key pair, if it was requested and if centralized key generation is supported). For simplicity, we also mandate that this message MUST be the final one (i.e., no use of "waiting" status value).

The end entity has an out of band interaction with the CA/RA. This transaction established the shared secret, the referenceNumber and OPTIONALLY the distinguished name used for both sender and subject name in the certificate template. It is RECOMMENDED that the shared secret be at least 12 characters long.

---

ir:

Field	Value
-------	-------

recipient	CA name
-----------	---------

-- the name of the CA who is being asked to produce a certificate

protectionAlg	MSG_MAC_ALG
---------------	-------------

-- only MAC protection is allowed for this request, based on

-- initial authentication key

senderKID	referenceNum
-----------	--------------

-- the reference number which the CA has previously issued to

-- the end entity (together with the MACing key)

transactionID	present
---------------	---------

-- implementation-specific value, meaningful to end entity.

-- [If already in use at the CA then a rejection message MUST be

-- produced by the CA]

senderNonce	present
-------------	---------

-- 128 (pseudo-)random bits

freeText	any valid value
----------	-----------------



---

```
body                ir (CertReqMessages)
                    only one or two CertReqMsg
                    are allowed
    -- if more certificates are required requests MUST be packaged in
    -- separate PKIMessages
CertReqMsg           one or two present
    -- see below for details, note: crm[0] means the first (which MUST
    -- be present), crm[1] means the second (which is OPTIONAL, and used
    -- to ask for a centrally-generated key)

crm[0].certReq.      fixed value of zero
    certReqId
    -- this is the index of the template within the message
crm[0].certReq       present
    certTemplate
    -- MUST include subject public key value, otherwise unconstrained
crm[0].pop...        optionally present if public key
    POP0SigningKey   from crm[0].certReq.certTemplate is
                    a signing key
    -- proof of possession MAY be required in this exchange (see Section
    -- B3 for details)
crm[0].certReq.      optionally present
    controls.archiveOptions
    -- the end entity MAY request that the locally-generated private key
    -- be archived
crm[0].certReq.      optionally present
    controls.publicationInfo
    -- the end entity MAY ask for publication of resulting cert.

crm[1].certReq       fixed value of one
    certReqId
    -- the index of the template within the message
crm[1].certReq       present
    certTemplate
    -- MUST NOT include actual public key bits, otherwise unconstrained
    -- (e.g., the names need not be the same as in crm[0]). Note that
    -- subjectPublicKeyInfo MAY be present and contain an
    -- AlgorithmIdentifier followed by a zero-length BIT STRING for the
    -- subjectPublicKey if it is desired to inform the CA/RA of algorithm
    -- and parameter preferences regarding the to-be-generated key pair.
crm[1].certReq.      present [object identifier MUST be PROT_ENC_ALG]
```

```

    controls.protocolEncrKey
-- if centralized key generation is supported by this CA, this
-- short-term asymmetric encryption key (generated by the end entity)
-- will be used by the CA to encrypt (a symmetric key used to encrypt)
-- a private key generated by the CA on behalf of the end entity
crm[1].certReq.        optionally present
    controls.archiveOptions
crm[1].certReq.        optionally present
    controls.publicationInfo
protection              present
-- bits calculated using MSG_MAC_ALG

```

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---

```

ip:
Field                  Value

sender                  CA name
-- the name of the CA who produced the message
messageTime            present
-- time at which CA produced message
protectionAlg          MS_MAC_ALG
-- only MAC protection is allowed for this response
senderKID               referenceNum
-- the reference number which the CA has previously issued to the
-- end entity (together with the MACing key)
transactionID          present
-- value from corresponding ir message
senderNonce             present
-- 128 (pseudo-)random bits
recipNonce              present
-- value from senderNonce in corresponding ir message
freeText                any valid value
body                    ip (CertRepMessage)
                        contains exactly one response
                        for each request
-- The PKI (CA) responds to either one or two requests as appropriate.
-- crc[0] denotes the first (always present); crc[1] denotes the
-- second (only present if the ir message contained two requests and
-- if the CA supports centralized key generation).
crc[0].                 fixed value of zero
    certReqId
-- MUST contain the response to the first request in the corresponding
-- ir message
crc[0].status.          present, positive values allowed:
    status              "accepted", "grantedWithMods"
                        negative values allowed:
                        "rejection"
crc[0].status.          present if and only if

```

failInfo	crc[0].status.status is "rejection"
crc[0].	present if and only if
certifiedKeyPair	crc[0].status.status is "accepted" or "grantedWithMods"
certificate	present unless end entity's public key is an encryption key and POP is done in this in-band exchange
encryptedCert	present if and only if end entity's public key is an encryption key and POP done in this in-band exchange
publicationInfo	optionally present
	-- indicates where certificate has been published (present at -- discretion of CA)

---

crc[1].	fixed value of one
certReqId	
	-- MUST contain the response to the second request in the -- corresponding ir message
crc[1].status.	present, positive values allowed:
status	"accepted", "grantedWithMods"
	negative values allowed: "rejection"
crc[1].status.	present if and only if
failInfo	crc[0].status.status is "rejection"
crc[1].	present if and only if
certifiedKeyPair	crc[0].status.status is "accepted" or "grantedWithMods"
certificate	present
privateKey	present (see <a href="#">Appendix D</a> )
publicationInfo	optionally present
	-- indicates where certificate has been published (present at -- discretion of CA)
protection	present
	-- bits calculated using MSG_MAC_ALG
extraCerts	optionally present
	-- the CA MAY provide additional certificates to the end entity
certConf:	
Field	Value
sender	present
	-- same as in ir
recipient	CA name

```

-- the name of the CA who was asked to produce a certificate
transactionID      present
-- value from corresponding ir and ip messages
senderNonce        present
-- 128 (pseudo-) random bits
recipNonce         present
-- value from senderNonce in corresponding ip message
protectionAlg      MSG_MAC_ALG
-- only MAC protection is allowed for this message. The MAC is
-- based on the initial auth'n key shared between the EE and the CA.
senderKID          referenceNum
-- the reference number which the CA has previously issued to the
-- end entity (together with the MACing key)
body              certConf
-- see Section 3.3.18 for the contents of the certConf fields
-- Note: two CertStatus structures are required if both an
-- encryption and a signing certificate were sent.
protection         present
-- bits calculated using MSG_MAC_ALG

```

#### PKIConf:

Field	Value
sender	present
	-- same as in ip
recipient	present
	-- sender name from certConf
transactionID	present
	-- value from certConf message
senderNonce	present
	-- 128 (pseudo-) random bits
recipNonce	present
	-- value from senderNonce from certConf message
protectionAlg	MSG_MAC_ALG
	-- only MAC protection is allowed for this message.
senderKID	referenceNum
body	PKIConf
protection	present
	-- bits calculated using MSG_MAC_ALG

---

## B5. Certificate Request

An (initialized) end entity requests a certificate from a CA (for any reason). When the CA responds with a message containing a certificate, the end entity replies with a certificate confirmation. The CA replies with a PKIConfirm, to close the transaction. All messages are authenticated.

The profile for this exchange is identical to that given in Section B4 with the following exceptions:

- sender name SHOULD be present
- protectionAlg of MSG\_SIG\_ALG MUST be supported (MSG\_MAC\_ALG MAY also be supported) in request, response, certConfirm and PKIConfirm messages;
- senderKID and recipKID are only present if required for message verification;
- body is cr or cp;

- body may contain one or two CertReqMsg structures, but either CertReqMsg may be used to request certification of a locally-generated public key or a centrally-generated public key (i.e., the position-dependence requirement of Section B4 is removed);
- protection bits are calculated according to the protectionAlg field.

## B6. Key Update Request

An (initialized) end entity requests a certificate from a CA (to update the key pair and/or corresponding certificate that it already possesses). When the CA responds with a message containing a certificate, the end entity replies with a certificate confirmation. The CA replies with a PKIConfirm, to close the transaction. All messages are authenticated.

The profile for this exchange is identical to that given in Section B4 with the following exceptions:

- sender name SHOULD be present
- protectionAlg of MSG\_SIG\_ALG MUST be supported (MSG\_MAC\_ALG MAY also be supported) in request, response, certConfirm and PKIConfirm messages;
- senderKID and recipKID are only present if required for message verification;
- body is kur or kup;
- body may contain one or two CertReqMsg structures, but either CertReqMsg may be used to request certification of a locally-generated public key or a centrally-generated public key (i.e., the position-dependence requirement of Section B4 is removed);
- protection bits are calculated according to the protectionAlg field;
- regCtrl OldCertId SHOULD be used (unless it is clear to both sender and receiver - by means not specified in this document - that it is not needed).

## Appendix C. PKI Management Message Profiles (OPTIONAL).

This appendix contains detailed profiles for those PKIMessages which MAY be supported by implementations (in addition to the messages which MUST be supported - see [Section 4](#) and [Appendix B](#)).

Profiles for the PKIMessages used in the following PKI management operations are provided:

- root CA key update
- information request/response

- cross-certification request/response (1-way)
- in-band initialization using external identity certificate

<<Later versions of this document may extend the above to include profiles for the operations listed below (along with other operations, if desired).>>

- revocation request
- certificate publication
- CRL publication

## C1. General Rules for interpretation of these profiles.

(Identical to [Appendix B1.](#))

## C2. Algorithm Use Profile

(Identical to [Appendix B2.](#))

## C3. "Self-signed" certificates

Profile of how a Certificate structure may be "self-signed". These structures are used for distribution of "root" CA public keys. This can occur in one of three ways (see [Section 2.4](#) above for a description of the use of these structures):

Type	Function
newWithNew	a true "self-signed" certificate; the contained public key MUST be usable to verify the signature (though this provides only integrity and no authentication whatsoever)
oldWithNew	previous root CA public key signed with new private key
newWithOld	new root CA public key signed with previous private key

---

<<Such certificates (including relevant extensions) must contain "sensible" values for all fields. For example, when present subjectAltName MUST be identical to issuerAltName, and when present keyIdentifiers must contain appropriate values, et cetera.>>

#### C4. Root CA Key Update

A root CA updates its key pair. It then produces a CA key update announcement message which can be made available (via some transport mechanism) to the relevant end entities. A confirmation message is NOT REQUIRED from the end entities.

ckuann message:

Field	Value	Comment
sender	CA name	CA name
body	ckuann(CAKeyUpdAnnContent)	
oldWithNew	present	see Section C3 above
newWithOld	present	see Section C3 above
newWithNew	present	see Section C3 above
extraCerts	optionally present	can be used to "publish" certificates (e.g., certificates signed using the new private key)

#### C5. PKI Information request/response

The end entity sends general message to the PKI requesting details which will be required for later PKI management operations. RA/CA responds with general response. If an RA generates the response then it will simply forward the equivalent message which it previously received from the CA, with the possible addition of certificates to the extraCerts fields of the PKIMessage. A confirmation message is NOT REQUIRED from the end entity.

Message Flows:

Step#	End entity		PKI
1	format genm		
2		->	genm ->
3			handle genm
4			produce genp
5		<-	genp <-
6	handle genp		



genM:

Field	Value
recipient	CA name -- the name of the CA as contained in issuerAltName extensions or -- issuer fields within certificates
protectionAlg	MSG_MAC_ALG or MSG_SIG_ALG -- any authenticated protection alg.
SenderKID	present if required -- must be present if required for verification of message protection
freeText	any valid value
body	genr (GenReqContent)
GenMsgContent	empty SEQUENCE -- all relevant information requested
protection	present -- bits calculated using MSG_MAC_ALG or MSG_SIG_ALG

genP:

Field	Value
sender	CA name -- name of the CA which produced the message
protectionAlg	MSG_MAC_ALG or MSG_SIG_ALG -- any authenticated protection alg.
senderKID	present if required -- must be present if required for verification of message protection
body	genp (GenRepContent)
CAProtEncCert	present (object identifier one of PROT_ENC_ALG), with relevant value -- to be used if end entity needs to encrypt information for the CA -- (e.g., private key for recovery purposes)
SignKeyPairTypes	present, with relevant value -- the set of signature algorithm identifiers which this CA will -- certify for subject public keys
EncKeyPairTypes	present, with relevant value -- the set of encryption/key agreement algorithm identifiers which -- this CA will certify for subject public keys
PreferredSymmAlg	present (object identifier one of PROT_SYM_ALG) , with relevant value -- the symmetric algorithm which this CA expects to be used in later -- PKI messages (for encryption)
CAKeyUpdateInfo	optionally present, with relevant value -- the CA MAY provide information about a relevant root CA key pair -- using this field (note that this does not imply that the responding

-- CA is the root CA in question)

CurrentCRL                      optionally present, with relevant value  
    -- the CA MAY provide a copy of a complete CRL (i.e., fullest possible  
    -- one)  
protection                      present  
    -- bits calculated using MSG\_MAC\_ALG or MSG\_SIG\_ALG  
extraCerts                      optionally present  
    -- can be used to send some certificates to the end entity. An RA MAY  
    -- add its certificate here.

#### C6. Cross certification request/response (1-way)

Creation of a single cross-certificate (i.e., not two at once). The requesting CA MAY choose who is responsible for publication of the cross-certificate created by the responding CA through use of the PKIPublicationInfo control.

##### Preconditions:

1. Responding CA can verify the origin of the request (possibly requiring out-of-band means) before processing the request.
2. Requesting CA can authenticate the authenticity of the origin of the response (possibly requiring out-of-band means) before processing the response

The use of certificate confirmation and the corresponding server confirmation is determined by the generalInfo field in the PKIHeader (see [Section 3.1.1](#)). The following profile does not mandate support for either confirmation.

##### Message Flows:

Step#	Requesting CA				Responding CA
1	format ccr				
2		->	ccr	->	
3					handle ccr
4					produce ccp
5		<-	ccp	<-	
6	handle ccp				

---

ccr:

Field	Value
sender	Requesting CA name -- the name of the CA who produced the message
recipient	Responding CA name -- the name of the CA who is being asked to produce a certificate
messageTime	time of production of message -- current time at requesting CA
protectionAlg	MSG_SIG_ALG -- only signature protection is allowed for this request
senderKID	present if required -- must be present if required for verification of message protection
recipKID	present if required -- must be present if required for verification of message protection
transactionID	present -- implementation-specific value, meaningful to requesting CA. -- [If already in use at responding CA then a rejection message -- MUST be produced by responding CA]
senderNonce	present -- 128 (pseudo-)random bits
freeText	any valid value
body	ccr (CertReqMessages) only one CertReqMsg allowed -- if multiple cross certificates are required they MUST be packaged -- in separate PKIMessages
certTemplate	present -- details follow
version	v1 or v3 -- <<v3 STRONGLY RECOMMENDED>>
signingAlg	present -- the requesting CA must know in advance with which algorithm it -- wishes the certificate to be signed
subject	present -- may be NULL-DN only if subjectAltNames extension value proposed
validity	present -- MUST be completely specified (i.e., both fields present)

```

issuer                present
  -- may be NULL-DN only if issuerAltNames extension value proposed
publicKey             present
  -- the key to be certified (which must be for a signing algorithm)
extensions            optionally present
  -- a requesting CA must propose values for all extensions which it
  -- requires to be in the cross-certificate
POPOSigningKey        present
  -- see "Proof of possession profile" (Section B3)
protection            present
  -- bits calculated using MSG_SIG_ALG
extraCerts            optionally present
  -- MAY contain any additional certificates that requester wishes
  -- to include

```

```

ccp:
Field                Value

sender                Responding CA name
  -- the name of the CA who produced the message
recipient            Requesting CA name
  -- the name of the CA who asked for production of a certificate
messageTime          time of production of message
  -- current time at responding CA
protectionAlg         MSG_SIG_ALG
  -- only signature protection is allowed for this message
senderKID             present if required
  -- must be present if required for verification of message
  -- protection
recipKID             present if required
transactionID        present
  -- value from corresponding ccr message
senderNonce          present
  -- 128 (pseudo-)random bits
recipNonce           present
  -- senderNonce from corresponding ccr message
freeText             any valid value
body                 ccp (CertRepMessage)
  -- only one CertResponse allowed
  -- if multiple cross certificates are required they MUST be packaged
  -- in separate PKIMessages
response            present
status              present
PKIStatusInfo.status present
  -- if PKIStatusInfo.status is one of:
  --   accepted, or

```

```

-- grantedWithMods,
-- then certifiedKeyPair MUST be present and failInfo MUST be absent
failInfo          present depending on
                   PKIStatusInfo.status
-- if PKIStatusInfo.status is:
--   rejection
-- then certifiedKeyPair MUST be absent and failInfo MUST be present
-- and contain appropriate bit settings

certifiedKeyPair    present depending on
                   PKIStatusInfo.status
certificate          present depending on
                   certifiedKeyPair
-- content of actual certificate must be examined by requesting CA
-- before publication
protection          present
-- bits calculated using MSG_SIG_ALG
extraCerts          optionally present
-- MAY contain any additional certificates that responder wishes
-- to include

```

## C7. In-band initialization using external identity certificate

An (uninitialized) end entity wishes to initialize into the PKI with a CA, CA-1. It uses, for authentication purposes, a pre-existing identity certificate issued by another (external) CA, CA-X. A trust relationship must already have been established between CA-1 and CA-X so that CA-1 can validate the EE identity certificate signed by CA-X. Furthermore, some mechanism must already have been established within the Personal Security Environment (PSE) of the EE that would allow it to authenticate and verify PKIMessages signed by CA-1 (as one example, the PSE may contain a certificate issued for the public key of CA-1, signed by another CA that the EE trusts on the basis of out-of-band authentication techniques).

The EE sends an initialization request to start the transaction. When CA-1 responds with a message containing the new certificate, the end entity replies with a certificate confirmation. CA-1 replies with a PKIConfirm to close the transaction. All messages are signed (the EE messages are signed using the private key corresponding to the public key in its external identity certificate; the CA-1 messages are signed using the private key corresponding to the public key in a certificate that can be chained to a trust anchor in the EE's PSE).

The profile for this exchange is identical to that given in Section B4 with the following exceptions:

- the EE and CA-1 do not share a symmetric MACing key (i.e., there is no out-of-band shared secret information between these entities);
- sender name in ir MUST be present (and identical to the subject name present in the external identity certificate);
- protectionAlg of MSG\_SIG\_ALG MUST be used in all messages;
- external identity cert. MUST be carried in ir extraCerts field
- senderKID and recipKID are not used;
- body is ir or ip;
- protection bits are calculated according to the protectionAlg field.

---

## Appendix D: Request Message Behavioral Clarifications

The following definitions are from rfc2511bis. They are included here in order to codify behavioral clarifications to that request message; otherwise, all syntax and semantics are identical to rfc2511bis.

```

CertRequest ::= SEQUENCE {
    certReqId      INTEGER,
    certTemplate   CertTemplate,
    controls       Controls OPTIONAL }
-- If certTemplate is an empty SEQUENCE (i.e., all fields omitted), then
-- controls MAY contain the id-regCtrl-altCertTemplate control, specifying
-- a template for a certificate other than an X.509v3 public-key
-- certificate. Conversely, if certTemplate is not empty (i.e., at least
-- one field is present), then controls MUST NOT contain id-regCtrl-
-- altCertTemplate. The new control is defined as follows:
id-regCtrl-altCertTemplate OBJECT IDENTIFIER ::= {id-regCtrl 7}
AltCertTemplate ::= AttributeTypeAndValue

```

```

POPOSigningKey ::= SEQUENCE {
    poposkInput          [0] POPOSigningKeyInput OPTIONAL,
    algorithmIdentifier   AlgorithmIdentifier,
    signature             BIT STRING }
-- *****
-- * For the purposes of this specification, the ASN.1 comment given
-- * in rfc2511bis pertains not only to certTemplate, but also to
-- * the altCertTemplate control. That is,
-- *****
-- * The signature (using "algorithmIdentifier") is on the DER-encoded
-- * value of poposkInput (i.e., the "value" OCTETs of the
-- * POPOSigningKeyInput DER). NOTE: If CertReqMsg certReq certTemplate
-- * (or the altCertTemplate control) contains the subject and publicKey
-- * values, then poposkInput MUST be omitted and the signature MUST be
-- * computed on the DER-encoded value of CertReqMsg certReq (or the DER-
-- * encoded value of AltCertTemplate). If certTemplate/altCertTemplate
-- * does not contain both the subject and public key values (i.e., if
-- * it contains only one of these, or neither), then poposkInput MUST
-- * be present and MUST be signed.
-- *****

POPOPrivKey ::= CHOICE {
    thisMessage          [0] BIT STRING,
-- *****
-- * the type of "thisMessage" is given as BIT STRING in
-- * rfc2511bis; it should be "EncryptedValue" (in accordance with
-- * Section 3.2.2 of this specification). Therefore, this document makes
-- * the behavioral clarification of specifying that the contents of
-- * "thisMessage" MUST be encoded as an EncryptedValue and then wrapped
-- * in a BIT STRING. This allows the necessary conveyance and protection
-- * of the private key while maintaining bits-on-the-wire compatibility
-- * with rfc2511bis.
-- *****
    subsequentMessage [1] SubsequentMessage,
    dhMAC              [2] BIT STRING }

```

## Appendix E: The Use of "Revocation Passphrase"

A revocation request must incorporate suitable security mechanisms, including proper authentication, in order to reduce the probability of successful denial-of-service attacks. A digital signature on the request – MANDATORY to support within this specification if revocation requests are supported – can provide the authentication required, but there are circumstances under which an alternative mechanism may be desirable (e.g., when the private key is no longer accessible and the entity wishes to request a revocation prior to re-certification of another key pair). In order to accommodate such circumstances, a PasswordBasedMAC on the

request is also MANDATORY to support within this specification (subject to local security policy for a given environment) if revocation requests are supported and if shared secret information can be established between the requester and the responder prior to the need for revocation.

A mechanism that has seen use in some environments is "revocation passphrase", in which a value of sufficient entropy (i.e., a relatively long passphrase rather than a short password) is shared between (only) the entity and the CA/RA at some point prior to revocation, and this value is later used to authenticate the revocation request.

In this specification, the following technique to establish shared secret information (i.e., a revocation passphrase) is OPTIONAL to support. Its precise use in CMP messages is as follows.

- The OID and value specified in [Section 3.3.19.9](#) MAY be sent in a GenMsg message at any time, or MAY be sent in the generalInfo field of the PKIHeader of any PKIMessage at any time. (In particular, the EncryptedValue may be sent in the header of the certConf message that confirms acceptance of certificates requested in an initialization request or certificate request message.) This conveys a revocation passphrase chosen by the entity (i.e., the decrypted bytes of the encValue field) to the relevant CA/RA; furthermore, the transfer is accomplished with appropriate confidentiality characteristics (since the passphrase is encrypted under the CA/RA's protocolEncryptionKey).
- If a CA/RA receives the revocation passphrase (OID and value specified in [Section 3.3.19.9](#)) in a GenMsg, it MUST construct and send a GenRep message which includes the OID (with absent value) specified in [Section 3.3.19.9](#). If the CA/RA receives the revocation passphrase in the generalInfo field of a PKIHeader of any PKIMessage, it MUST include the OID (with absent value) in the generalInfo field of the PKIHeader of the corresponding response PKIMessage. If the CA/RA is unable to return the appropriate response message for any reason, it MUST send an error message with a status of "rejection" and, optionally, a failInfo reason set.
- The valueHint field of EncryptedValue MAY contain a key identifier (chosen by the entity, along with the passphrase itself) to assist in later retrieval of the correct passphrase (e.g., when the revocation request is constructed by the entity and received by the CA/RA).

- 
- The revocation request message is protected by a PasswordBasedMAC, with the revocation passphrase as the key. If appropriate, the senderKID field in the PKIHeader MAY contain the value previously



transmitted in valueHint.

Using the technique specified above, the revocation passphrase may be initially established and updated at any time without requiring extra messages or out-of-band exchanges. For example, the revocation request message itself (protected and authenticated through a MAC that uses the revocation passphrase as a key) may contain in the PKIHeader a new revocation passphrase to be used for authenticating future revocation requests for any of the entity's other certificates. In some environments this may be preferable to mechanisms that reveal the passphrase in the revocation request message, since this can allow a denial-of-service attack in which the revealed passphrase is used by an unauthorized third party to authenticate revocation requests on the entity's other certificates. However, because the passphrase is not revealed in the request message, there is no requirement that the passphrase must always be updated when a revocation request is made (that is, the same passphrase MAY be used by an entity to authenticate revocation requests for different certificates at different times).

Furthermore, the above technique can provide strong cryptographic protection over the entire revocation request message even when a digital signature is not used. Techniques that do authentication of the revocation request by simply revealing the revocation passphrase typically do not provide cryptographic protection over the fields of the request message (so that a request for revocation of one certificate may be modified by an unauthorized third party to a request for revocation of another certificate for that entity).

---

## Appendix F: "Compilable" ASN.1 Module using 1988 Syntax

```
PKIXCMP {iso(1) identified-organization(3) dod(6) internet(1)
  security(5) mechanisms(5) pkix(7) id-mod(0) id-mod-cmp2000(16)}

DEFINITIONS EXPLICIT TAGS ::=

BEGIN

-- EXPORTS ALL --

IMPORTS

  Certificate, CertificateList, Extensions, AlgorithmIdentifier,
  UTF8String -- if required; otherwise, comment out
    FROM PKIX1Explicit88 {iso(1) identified-organization(3)
      dod(6) internet(1) security(5) mechanisms(5) pkix(7)
      id-mod(0) id-pkix1-explicit-88(1)}

  GeneralName, KeyIdentifier
    FROM PKIX1Implicit88 {iso(1) identified-organization(3)
      dod(6) internet(1) security(5) mechanisms(5) pkix(7)
      id-mod(0) id-pkix1-implicit-88(2)}

  CertTemplate, PKIPublicationInfo, EncryptedValue, CertId,
  CertReqMessages
    FROM PKIXCRMF {iso(1) identified-organization(3)
      dod(6) internet(1) security(5) mechanisms(5) pkix(7)
      id-mod(0) id-mod-crmf(5)}
  -- see also the behavioral clarifications to CRMF codified in
  -- Appendix D of this specification

  CertificationRequest
    FROM PKCS-10 {iso(1) member-body(2) us(840) rsadsi(113549)
      pkcs(1) pkcs-10(10) modules(1) pkcs-10(1)}
  -- (specified in RFC 2986 with 1993 ASN.1 syntax and IMPLICIT
  -- tags). Alternatively, implementers may directly include
  -- the [PKCS10] syntax in this module

;
```

---

-- the rest of the module contains locally-defined OIDs and constructs --

```
CMPCertificate ::= CHOICE {
    x509v3PKCert      Certificate
}
```

-- This syntax, while bits-on-the-wire compatible with the standard  
-- X.509 definition of "Certificate", allows the possibility of future  
-- certificate types (such as X.509 attribute certificates, WAP WTLS  
-- certificates, or other kinds of certificates) within this  
-- certificate management protocol, should a need ever arise to support  
-- such generality. Those implementations that do not foresee a need to  
-- ever support other certificate types MAY, if they wish, comment out  
-- the above structure and "un-comment" the following one prior to  
-- compiling this ASN.1 module. (Note that interoperability with  
-- implementations that don't do this will be unaffected by this change.)

-- CMPCertificate ::= Certificate

```
PKIMessage ::= SEQUENCE {
    header          PKIHeader,
    body            PKIBody,
    protection      [0] PKIProtection OPTIONAL,
    extraCerts      [1] SEQUENCE SIZE (1..MAX) OF CMPCertificate OPTIONAL
}
```

PKIMessages ::= SEQUENCE SIZE (1..MAX) OF PKIMessage

```
PKIHeader ::= SEQUENCE {
    pvno            INTEGER      { cmp1999(1), cmp2000(2) },
    sender          GeneralName,
    -- identifies the sender
    recipient       GeneralName,
    -- identifies the intended recipient
}
```

---

```
messageTime      [0] GeneralizedTime      OPTIONAL,
-- time of production of this message (used when sender
-- believes that the transport will be "suitable"; i.e.,
-- that the time will still be meaningful upon receipt)
protectionAlg    [1] AlgorithmIdentifier   OPTIONAL,
-- algorithm used for calculation of protection bits
senderKID        [2] KeyIdentifier         OPTIONAL,
recipKID         [3] KeyIdentifier         OPTIONAL,
-- to identify specific keys used for protection
transactionID    [4] OCTET STRING         OPTIONAL,
-- identifies the transaction; i.e., this will be the same in
-- corresponding request, response, certConf, and PKIConf messages
senderNonce      [5] OCTET STRING         OPTIONAL,
recipNonce       [6] OCTET STRING         OPTIONAL,
-- nonces used to provide replay protection, senderNonce
-- is inserted by the creator of this message; recipNonce
-- is a nonce previously inserted in a related message by
-- the intended recipient of this message
freeText         [7] PKIFreeText          OPTIONAL,
-- this may be used to indicate context-specific instructions
-- (this field is intended for human consumption)
generalInfo      [8] SEQUENCE SIZE (1..MAX) OF
                        InfoTypeAndValue   OPTIONAL
-- this may be used to convey context-specific information
-- (this field not primarily intended for human consumption)
}
```

```
PKIFreeText ::= SEQUENCE SIZE (1..MAX) OF UTF8String
-- text encoded as UTF-8 String [RFC2279] (note: each UTF8String
-- MAY include an RFC 1766/RFC 3066 language tag to indicate the
-- language of the contained text - see [RFC2482] for details)
```

```
PKIBody ::= CHOICE {
    -- message-specific body elements
    ir      [0] CertReqMessages,      --Initialization Request
    ip      [1] CertRepMessage,       --Initialization Response
    cr      [2] CertReqMessages,      --Certification Request
}
```

cp	[3]	CertRepMessage,	--Certification Response
p10cr	[4]	CertificationRequest,	--imported from [ <a href="#">PKCS10</a> ]
popdecc	[5]	POPODecKeyChallContent,	--pop Challenge
popdecr	[6]	POPODecKeyRespContent,	--pop Response
kur	[7]	CertReqMessages,	--Key Update Request
kup	[8]	CertRepMessage,	--Key Update Response
krr	[9]	CertReqMessages,	--Key Recovery Request
krp	[10]	KeyRecRepContent,	--Key Recovery Response
rr	[11]	RevReqContent,	--Revocation Request
rp	[12]	RevRepContent,	--Revocation Response

ccr	[13]	CertReqMessages,	--Cross-Cert. Request
ccp	[14]	CertRepMessage,	--Cross-Cert. Response
ckuann	[15]	CAKeyUpdAnnContent,	--CA Key Update Ann.
cann	[16]	CertAnnContent,	--Certificate Ann.
rann	[17]	RevAnnContent,	--Revocation Ann.
crlann	[18]	CRLAnnContent,	--CRL Announcement
pkiconf	[19]	PKIConfirmContent,	--Confirmation
nested	[20]	NestedMessageContent,	--Nested Message
genm	[21]	GenMsgContent,	--General Message
genp	[22]	GenRepContent,	--General Response
error	[23]	ErrorMsgContent,	--Error Message
certConf	[24]	CertConfirmContent,	--Certificate confirm
pollReq	[25]	PollReqContent,	--Polling request
pollRep	[26]	PollRepContent	--Polling response

}

PKIProtection ::= BIT STRING

ProtectedPart ::= SEQUENCE {  
    header    PKIHeader,  
    body      PKIBody  
}

id-PasswordBasedMac OBJECT IDENTIFIER ::= {1 2 840 113533 7 66 13}

PBMPParameter ::= SEQUENCE {  
    salt                  OCTET STRING,  
    -- note: implementations MAY wish to limit acceptable sizes  
    -- of this string to values appropriate for their environment  
    -- in order to reduce the risk of denial-of-service attacks  
    owf                  AlgorithmIdentifier,  
    -- AlgId for a One-Way Function (SHA-1 recommended)  
    iterationCount        INTEGER,

```

-- number of times the OWF is applied
-- note: implementations MAY wish to limit acceptable sizes
-- of this integer to values appropriate for their environment
-- in order to reduce the risk of denial-of-service attacks
mac          AlgorithmIdentifier
-- the MAC AlgId (e.g., DES-MAC, Triple-DES-MAC [PKCS11],
} -- or HMAC [RFC2104, RFC2202])

```

```

id-DHBasedMac OBJECT IDENTIFIER ::= {1 2 840 113533 7 66 30}
DHBMParameter ::= SEQUENCE {
    owf          AlgorithmIdentifier,
    -- AlgId for a One-Way Function (SHA-1 recommended)
    mac          AlgorithmIdentifier
    -- the MAC AlgId (e.g., DES-MAC, Triple-DES-MAC [PKCS11],
} -- or HMAC [RFC2104, RFC2202])

```

```

NestedMessageContent ::= PKIMessages

```

```

PKIStatus ::= INTEGER {
    accepted          (0),
    -- you got exactly what you asked for
    grantedWithMods   (1),

```

```

-- you got something like what you asked for; the
-- requester is responsible for ascertaining the differences
rejection          (2),
-- you don't get it, more information elsewhere in the message
waiting            (3),
-- the request body part has not yet been processed; expect to hear
-- more later (note: proper handling of this status response MAY
-- use the polling req/rep PKIMessages specified in Section 3.3.22;
-- alternatively, polling in the underlying transport layer MAY
-- have some utility in this regard)
revocationWarning   (4),
-- this message contains a warning that a revocation is
-- imminent
revocationNotification (5),
-- notification that a revocation has occurred
keyUpdateWarning     (6)
-- update already done for the oldCertId specified in
-- CertReqMsg
}

```

```

PKIFailureInfo ::= BIT STRING {
    -- since we can fail in more than one way!
    -- More codes may be added in the future if/when required.

```

badAlg (0),  
-- unrecognized or unsupported Algorithm Identifier  
badMessageCheck (1),  
-- integrity check failed (e.g., signature did not verify)  
badRequest (2),  
-- transaction not permitted or supported  
badTime (3),  
-- messageTime was not sufficiently close to the system time,  
-- as defined by local policy  
badCertId (4),  
-- no certificate could be found matching the provided criteria  
badDataFormat (5),  
-- the data submitted has the wrong format  
wrongAuthority (6),  
-- the authority indicated in the request is different from the  
-- one creating the response token  
incorrectData (7),  
-- the requester's data is incorrect (for notary services)  
missingTimeStamp (8),  
-- when the timestamp is missing but should be there (by policy)  
badPOP (9),  
-- the proof-of-possession failed  
certRevoked (10),  
-- the certificate has already been revoked  
certConfirmed (11),  
-- the certificate has already been confirmed  
wrongIntegrity (12),  
-- invalid integrity, password based instead of signature or  
-- vice versa  
badRecipientNonce (13),  
-- invalid recipient nonce, either missing or wrong value

timeNotAvailable (14),  
-- the TSA's time source is not available  
unacceptedPolicy (15),  
-- the requested TSA policy is not supported by the TSA.  
unacceptedExtension (16),  
-- the requested extension is not supported by the TSA.  
addInfoNotAvailable (17),  
-- the additional information requested could not be understood  
-- or is not available  
badSenderNonce (18),  
-- invalid sender nonce, either missing or wrong size  
badCertTemplate (19),  
-- invalid cert. template or missing mandatory information  
signerNotTrusted (20),  
-- signer of the message unknown or not trusted

```

transactionIdInUse (21),
    -- the transaction identifier is already in use
unsupportedVersion (22),
    -- the version of the message is not supported
notAuthorized      (23),
    -- the sender was not authorized to make the preceding request
    -- or perform the preceding action
systemUnavail      (24),
    -- the request cannot be handled due to system unavailability
systemFailure      (25),
    -- the request cannot be handled due to system failure
duplicateCertReq   (26)
    -- certificate cannot be issued because a duplicate certificate
    -- already exists
}

PKIStatusInfo ::= SEQUENCE {
    status          PKIStatus,
    statusString    PKIFreeText    OPTIONAL,
    failInfo        PKIFailureInfo OPTIONAL
}

```

```

OoBCert ::= CMPCertificate

OoBCertHash ::= SEQUENCE {
    hashAlg    [0] AlgorithmIdentifier    OPTIONAL,
    certId     [1] CertId                  OPTIONAL,
    hashVal    BIT STRING
    -- hashVal is calculated over DER encoding of the
    -- subjectPublicKey field of the corresponding cert.
}

POPODecKeyChallContent ::= SEQUENCE OF Challenge

```



-- One Challenge per encryption key certification request (in the  
-- same order as these requests appear in CertReqMessages).

```
Challenge ::= SEQUENCE {
    owf                AlgorithmIdentifier OPTIONAL,
    -- MUST be present in the first Challenge; MAY be omitted in any
    -- subsequent Challenge in POPDecKeyChallContent (if omitted,
    -- then the owf used in the immediately preceding Challenge is
    -- to be used).
    witness            OCTET STRING,
    -- the result of applying the one-way function (owf) to a
    -- randomly-generated INTEGER, A. [Note that a different
    -- INTEGER MUST be used for each Challenge.]
    challenge          OCTET STRING
    -- the encryption (under the public key for which the cert.
    -- request is being made) of Rand, where Rand is specified as
    -- Rand ::= SEQUENCE {
    --     int          INTEGER,
    --     - the randomly-generated INTEGER A (above)
    --     sender       GeneralName
    --     - the sender's name (as included in PKIHeader)
    -- }
}
```

POPDecKeyRespContent ::= SEQUENCE OF INTEGER  
-- One INTEGER per encryption key certification request (in the  
-- same order as these requests appear in CertReqMessages). The  
-- retrieved INTEGER A (above) is returned to the sender of the  
-- corresponding Challenge.

```
CertRepMessage ::= SEQUENCE {
    caPubs             [1] SEQUENCE SIZE (1..MAX) OF CMPCertificate OPTIONAL,
    response            SEQUENCE OF CertResponse
}
```

```
CertResponse ::= SEQUENCE {
    certReqId          INTEGER,
    -- to match this response with corresponding request (a value
    -- of -1 is to be used if certReqId is not specified in the
    -- corresponding request)
```

```

    status                PKIStatusInfo,
    certifiedKeyPair       CertifiedKeyPair    OPTIONAL,
    rspInfo                OCTET STRING       OPTIONAL
    -- analogous to the id-regInfo-utf8Pairs string defined
    -- for regInfo in CertReqMsg [rfc2511bis]
}

CertifiedKeyPair ::= SEQUENCE {
    certOrEncCert          CertOrEncCert,
    privateKey             [0] EncryptedValue    OPTIONAL,
    -- see [rfc2511bis] for comment on encoding
    publicationInfo [1] PKIPublicationInfo    OPTIONAL
}

CertOrEncCert ::= CHOICE {
    certificate            [0] CMPCertificate,
    encryptedCert          [1] EncryptedValue
}

KeyRecRepContent ::= SEQUENCE {
    status                PKIStatusInfo,
    newSigCert            [0] CMPCertificate    OPTIONAL,
    caCerts               [1] SEQUENCE SIZE (1..MAX) OF
                                CMPCertificate    OPTIONAL,
    keyPairHist           [2] SEQUENCE SIZE (1..MAX) OF
                                CertifiedKeyPair    OPTIONAL
}

RevReqContent ::= SEQUENCE OF RevDetails

RevDetails ::= SEQUENCE {
    certDetails           CertTemplate,
    -- allows requester to specify as much as they can about
    -- the cert. for which revocation is requested
    -- (e.g., for cases in which serialNumber is not available)
    crlEntryDetails       Extensions    OPTIONAL
    -- requested crlEntryExtensions
}

RevRepContent ::= SEQUENCE {

```

```

    status      SEQUENCE SIZE (1..MAX) OF PKIStatusInfo,
    -- in same order as was sent in RevReqContent
    revCerts [0] SEQUENCE SIZE (1..MAX) OF CertId OPTIONAL,
    -- IDs for which revocation was requested (same order as status)
    crls        [1] SEQUENCE SIZE (1..MAX) OF CertificateList OPTIONAL
    -- the resulting CRLs (there may be more than one)
}

CAKeyUpdAnnContent ::= SEQUENCE {
    oldWithNew      CMPCertificate, -- old pub signed with new priv
    newWithOld      CMPCertificate, -- new pub signed with old priv
    newWithNew      CMPCertificate  -- new pub signed with new priv
}

CertAnnContent ::= CMPCertificate

RevAnnContent ::= SEQUENCE {
    status          PKIStatus,
    certId          CertId,
    willBeRevokedAt GeneralizedTime,
    badSinceDate    GeneralizedTime,
    crlDetails      Extensions OPTIONAL
    -- extra CRL details(e.g., crl number, reason, location, etc.)
}

CRLAnnContent ::= SEQUENCE OF CertificateList

CertConfirmContent ::= SEQUENCE OF CertStatus

CertStatus ::= SEQUENCE {
    certHash      OCTET STRING,
    -- the hash of the certificate, using the same hash algorithm
    -- as is used to create and verify the certificate signature
    certReqId     INTEGER,
    -- to match this confirmation with the corresponding req/rep
    statusInfo    PKIStatusInfo OPTIONAL
}

PKIConfirmContent ::= NULL

```

---

```
InfoTypeAndValue ::= SEQUENCE {
    infoType          OBJECT IDENTIFIER,
    infoValue         ANY DEFINED BY infoType OPTIONAL
}
-- Example InfoTypeAndValue contents include, but are not limited to,
-- the following (un-comment in this ASN.1 module and use as
-- appropriate for a given environment):
--
-- id-it-caProtEncCert    OBJECT IDENTIFIER ::= {id-it 1}
--   CAProtEncCertValue   ::= CMPCertificate
-- id-it-signKeyPairTypes OBJECT IDENTIFIER ::= {id-it 2}
--   SignKeyPairTypesValue ::= SEQUENCE OF AlgorithmIdentifier
-- id-it-encKeyPairTypes  OBJECT IDENTIFIER ::= {id-it 3}
--   EncKeyPairTypesValue  ::= SEQUENCE OF AlgorithmIdentifier
-- id-it-preferredSymmAlg OBJECT IDENTIFIER ::= {id-it 4}
--   PreferredSymmAlgValue  ::= AlgorithmIdentifier
-- id-it-caKeyUpdateInfo  OBJECT IDENTIFIER ::= {id-it 5}
--   CAKeyUpdateInfoValue  ::= CAKeyUpdAnnContent
-- id-it-currentCRL       OBJECT IDENTIFIER ::= {id-it 6}
--   CurrentCRLValue       ::= CertificateList
-- id-it-unsupportedOIDs  OBJECT IDENTIFIER ::= {id-it 7}
--   UnsupportedOIDsValue  ::= SEQUENCE OF OBJECT IDENTIFIER
-- id-it-keyPairParamReq  OBJECT IDENTIFIER ::= {id-it 10}
--   KeyPairParamReqValue  ::= OBJECT IDENTIFIER
-- id-it-keyPairParamRep  OBJECT IDENTIFIER ::= {id-it 11}
--   KeyPairParamRepValue  ::= AlgorithmIdentifier
-- id-it-revPassphrase    OBJECT IDENTIFIER ::= {id-it 12}
--   RevPassphraseValue    ::= EncryptedValue
-- id-it-implicitConfirm  OBJECT IDENTIFIER ::= {id-it 13}
--   ImplicitConfirmValue  ::= NULL
-- id-it-confirmWaitTime  OBJECT IDENTIFIER ::= {id-it 14}
--   ConfirmWaitTimeValue  ::= GeneralizedTime
-- id-it-origPKIMessage   OBJECT IDENTIFIER ::= {id-it 15}
--   OrigPkiMessageValue   ::= PKIMessages
-- id-it-supplLangTags    OBJECT IDENTIFIER ::= {id-it 16}
--   SupplLangTagsValue    ::= SEQUENCE OF UTF8String
--
-- where
--
-- id-pkix OBJECT IDENTIFIER ::= {iso(1) identified-organization(3)
--   dod(6) internet(1) security(5) mechanisms(5) pkix(7)}
-- and
-- id-it  OBJECT IDENTIFIER ::= {id-pkix 4}
--
```

--  
-- This construct MAY also be used to define new PKIX Certificate  
-- Management Protocol request and response messages, or general-  
-- purpose (e.g., announcement) messages for future needs or for  
-- specific environments.

GenMsgContent ::= SEQUENCE OF InfoTypeAndValue

-- May be sent by EE, RA, or CA (depending on message content).  
-- The OPTIONAL infoValue parameter of InfoTypeAndValue will typically  
-- be omitted for some of the examples given above. The receiver is  
-- free to ignore any contained OBJ. IDs that it does not recognize.  
-- If sent from EE to CA, the empty set indicates that the CA may send  
-- any/all information that it wishes.

GenRepContent ::= SEQUENCE OF InfoTypeAndValue

-- Receiver MAY ignore any contained OIDs that it does not recognize.

ErrorMsgContent ::= SEQUENCE {  
    pKIStatusInfo            PKIStatusInfo,  
    errorCode                INTEGER            OPTIONAL,  
    -- implementation-specific error codes  
    errorDetails            PKIFreeText          OPTIONAL  
    -- implementation-specific error details  
}

PollReqContent ::= SEQUENCE OF SEQUENCE {  
    certReqId                INTEGER  
}

PollRepContent ::= SEQUENCE OF SEQUENCE {  
    certReqId                INTEGER,  
    checkAfter               INTEGER, -- time in seconds  
    reason                   PKIFreeText OPTIONAL  
}

## Appendix G: Registration of MIME Type for E-Mail or HTTP use

To: [ietf-types@iana.org](mailto:ietf-types@iana.org)  
Subject: Registration of MIME media type application/pkixcmp

MIME media type name: application

MIME subtype name: pkixcmp

Required parameters: -

Optional parameters: -

### Encoding considerations:

Content may contain arbitrary octet values (the ASN.1 DER encoding of a PKI message, as defined in the IETF PKIX Working Group specifications). base64 encoding is required for MIME e-mail; no encoding is necessary for HTTP.

### Security considerations:

This MIME type may be used to transport Public-Key Infrastructure (PKI) messages between PKI entities. These messages are defined by the IETF PKIX Working Group and are used to establish and maintain an Internet X.509 PKI. There is no requirement for specific security mechanisms to be applied at this level if the PKI messages themselves are protected as defined in the PKIX specifications.

Interoperability considerations: -

Published specification: this document

Applications which use this media type:

Applications using certificate management, operational, or ancillary protocols (as defined by the IETF PKIX Working Group) to send PKI messages via E-Mail or HTTP.

Additional information:

Magic number (s): -

File extension (s): ".PKI"

Macintosh File Type Code (s): -

Person and email address to contact for further information:

Carlisle Adams, cadams@entrust.com

Intended usage: COMMON

Author/Change controller: Carlisle Adams

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