13.2 Certificate Status Checking

13.2.1 Mechanisms

The CA SHALL make revocation information for Subordinate Certificates and Subscriber Certificates available in accordance with Appendix B.

~~If the Subscriber Certificate is for a high-traffic FQDN, t~~The CA MAY rely on stapling, in accordance with [RFC4366], to distribute its OCSP responses. In this case, the CA SHALL ensure that the Subscriber "staples" the OCSP response for the Certificate in its TLS handshake. The CA SHALL enforce this requirement on the Subscriber either contractually, through the Subscriber or Terms of Use Agreement, or by technical review measures implement by the CA.

13.2.2 Repository

The CA SHALL maintain an online 24x7 Repository that application software can use to automatically check the current status of all unexpired Certificates issued by the CA.

For the status of Subscriber Certificates:

1. If the CA publishes a CRL, then the CA SHALL update and reissue CRLs at least once every seven days, and the value of the nextUpdate field MUST NOT be more than ten days beyond the value of the thisUpdate field; and
2. The CA SHALL update information provided via an Online Certificate Status Protocol at least every four days. OCSP responses from this service MUST have a maximum expiration time of ten days.

For the status of Subordinate CA Certificates:

1. The CA SHALL update and reissue CRLs at least (i) once every twelve months and (ii) within 24 hours after revoking a Subordinate CA Certificate, and the value of the nextUpdate field MUST NOT be more than twelve months beyond the value of the thisUpdate field; and
2. The CA SHALL update information provided via an Online Certificate Status Protocol at least (i) every twelve months and (ii) within 24 hours after revoking a Subordinate CA Certificate.

Effective 1 January 2013, the CA SHALL support an OCSP capability using the GET method for Certificates issued in accordance with these Requirements.

13.2.3 Response Time

The CA SHALL operate and maintain its CRL and OCSP capability with resources sufficient to provide a response time of ten seconds or less under normal operating conditions.

13.2.4 Deletion of Entries

Revocation entries on a CRL or OCSP Response MUST NOT be removed until after the Expiry Date of the revoked Certificate.

13.2.5 OCSP Signing

OCSP responses MUST conform to RFC2560 and/or RFC5019. OCSP responses MUST either:

1. Be signed by the CA that issued the Certificates whose revocation status is being checked, or
2. Be signed by an OCSP Responder whose Certificate is signed by the CA that issued the Certificate whose revocation status is being checked.

In the latter case, the OCSP signing Certificate MUST contain an extension of type id-pkix-ocsp-nocheck, as defined by RFC2560.

Appendix B – Certificate Extensions (Normative)

This appendix specifies the requirements for Certificate extensions for Certificates generated after the Effective Date.

(1) Root CA Certificate

Root Certificates MUST be of type X.509 v3.

A. basicConstraints

This extension MUST appear as a critical extension. The cA field MUST be set true. The pathLenConstraint field SHOULD NOT be present.

B. keyUsage

This extension MUST be present and MUST be marked critical. Bit positions for keyCertSign and cRLSign MUST be set. If the Root CA Private Key is used for signing OCSP responses, then the digitalSignature bit MUST be set.

C. certificatePolicies

This extension SHOULD NOT be present.

D. extendedKeyUsage

This extension MUST NOT be present.

(2) Subordinate CA Certificate

Subordinate CA Certificates MUST be of type X.509 v3.

A. certificatePolicies

This extension MUST be present and SHOULD NOT be marked critical.

certificatePolicies:policyIdentifier (Required)

The following fields MAY be present if the Subordinate CA is not an Affiliate of the entity that controls the Root CA.

certificatePolicies:policyQualifiers:policyQualifierId (Optional)

- id-qt 1 [RFC 5280].

certificatePolicies:policyQualifiers:qualifier:cPSuri (Optional)

- HTTP URL for the Root CA's Certificate Policies, Certification Practice Statement, Relying Party Agreement, or other pointer to online policy information provided by the CA.

B. cRLDistributionPoints

This extension MUST be present and MUST NOT be marked critical. It MUST contain the HTTP URL of the CA's CRL service.

C. authorityInformationAccess

~~With the exception of stapling, which is noted below, t~~This extension MUST be present. It MUST NOT be marked critical, and it MUST contain the HTTP URL of the Issuing CA's OCSP responder (accessMethod = 1.3.6.1.5.5.7.48.1).

Certificates that are not issued by a Root CA~~It~~ SHOULD ~~also~~ contain an AIA with the HTTP URL where a copy of the Issuing CA's certificate (accessMethod = 1.3.6.1.5.5.7.48.2) can be downloaded from a 24x7 online repository. ~~See Section 13.2.1 for details.~~

~~The HTTP URL of the Issuing CA's OCSP responder MAY be omitted, provided that the Subscriber "staples" the OCSP response for the Certificate in its TLS handshakes [RFC4366].~~

D. basicConstraints

This extension MUST be present and MUST be marked critical. The cA field MUST be set true. The pathLenConstraint field MAY be present.

E. keyUsage

This extension MUST be present and MUST be marked critical. Bit positions for keyCertSign and cRLSign MUST be set. If the Subordinate CA Private Key is used for signing OCSP responses, then the digitalSignature bit MUST be set.

F. nameConstraints (optional)

If present, this extension SHOULD be marked critical*.

* Non-critical Name Constraints are an exception to RFC 5280 that MAY be used until the Name Constraints extension is supported by Application Software Suppliers whose software is used by a substantial portion of Relying Parties worldwide."

(3) Subscriber Certificate

A. certificatePolicies

This extension MUST be present and SHOULD NOT be marked critical.

certificatePolicies:policyIdentifier (Required)

- A Policy Identifier, defined by the issuing CA, that indicates a Certificate Policy asserting the issuing CA's adherence to and compliance with these Requirements.

The following extensions MAY be present:

certificatePolicies:policyQualifiers:policyQualifierId (Recommended)

- id-qt 1 [RFC 5280].

certificatePolicies:policyQualifiers:qualifier:cPSuri (Optional)

- HTTP URL for the Subordinate CA's Certification Practice Statement, Relying Party Agreement or other pointer to online information provided by the CA.

B. cRLDistributionPoints

This extension MAY be present. If present, it MUST NOT be marked critical, and it MUST contain the HTTP URL of the CA's CRL service. See Section 13.2.1 for details.

C. authorityInformationAccess

~~With the exception of stapling, which is noted below, t~~This extension MUST be present. It MUST NOT be marked critical, and it MUST contain the HTTP URL of the Issuing CA's OCSP responder (accessMethod = 1.3.6.1.5.5.7.48.1).

~~It~~ Subscriber Certificates SHOULD ~~also~~ contain an AIA with the HTTP URL where a copy of the Issuing CA's certificate (accessMethod = 1.3.6.1.5.5.7.48.2) can be downloaded from a 24x7 online repository. ~~See Section 13.2.1 for details.~~

~~The HTTP URL of the Issuing CA's OCSP responder MAY be omitted provided that the Subscriber "staples" OCSP responses for the Certificate in its TLS handshakes [RFC4366].~~

D. basicConstraints (optional)

If present, this field MUST be marked critical and the cA field MUST be set false.

E. keyUsage (optional)

If present, bit positions for keyCertSign and cRLSign MUST NOT be set.

F. extKeyUsage (required)

Either the value id-kp-serverAuth [RFC5280] or id-kp-clientAuth [RFC5280] or both values MUST be present. id-kp-emailProtection [RFC5280] MAY be present. Other values SHOULD NOT be present.

G. TLS Feature Extension (optional)

Subscriber Certificates MAY contain the TLS Feature Extension advertising that the status_request feature of OCSP stapling is available and supported by the subscriber. If present, this field MUST NOT be marked critical.

(4) All Certificates

All other fields and extensions MUST be set in accordance with RFC 5280. The CA SHALL NOT issue a Certificate that contains a keyUsage flag, extendedKeyUsage value, Certificate extension, or other data not specified in this Appendix B unless the CA is aware of a reason for including the data in the Certificate.

CAs SHALL NOT issue a Certificate with:

(a) Extensions that do not apply in the context of the public Internet (such as an extendedKeyUsage value for a service that is only valid in the context of a privately managed network), unless:

i. such value falls within an OID arc for which the Applicant demonstrates ownership; or

ii. the Applicant can otherwise demonstrate the right to assert the data in a public context; or

(b) semantics that, if included, will mislead a Relying Party about the certificate information verified by the CA (such as including extendedKeyUsage value for a smart card, where the CA is not able to verify that the corresponding Private Key is confined to such hardware due to remote issuance).