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Characterization report
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Introduction

eCall refers to an interoperable in-vehicle emergency call service which is envisioned to be introduced and operated across Europe in 2014. According to reports from the European Commission, it is foreseen that eCall will be offered on all new vehicles in the EU by 2014.

The European Commission has brought together standardization bodies, the automotive industry, mobile telecommunication industry, public emergency authorities and others in the eSafety Forum initiative which has identified high-level requirements, recommendations and guidelines for this eCall service [2] and [3]. The eSafety Forum has assigned ETSI MSG to standardize those parts of the eCall service that affect the mobile communication system. The development of the eCall standard has been further delegated to the 3rd Generation Partnership Project (3GPP).

1 Scope

The present document characterizes the performance of the eCall In-band Modem, which is used for reliable transmission of the eCall Minimum Set of Data (MSD) from an In-Vehicle System (IVS) to the Public Safety Answering Point (PSAP) via the voice channel of cellular and PSTN networks.

The European Union eCall requirements, recommendations and guidelines were developed by eSafety Forum [3] and [4], with important additional work produced by ETSI MSG, GSME, 3GPP, and CEN.

Previous work in 3GPP TR 22.967 [5] "Transfer of Emergency Call Data", examined the issues associated with the transmission of emergency call data from a vehicle to a PSAP. This analysis identified that the preferred option be based on an in-band modem solution.

eCall provides reliable full-duplex data communications between IVS and PSAP in addition to emergency voice call (E112) via the cellular network, and can be initiated either automatically or manually [6]. The eCall In-band Modem uses the same voice channel as used for the emergency voice call. eCall allows reliable transmission of MSD alternating with a speech conversation through the existing voice communication paths in cellular mobile phone systems. The expected benefit is that emergency services will be made aware of accidents much more rapidly, will get precise information on location, vehicle type etc. and therefore will be able to reach accident victims faster, with the potential to save many lives annually.

The eCall in-band modems (IVS and PSAP) are fully specified by the 'General description' TS 26.267 [9] together with the C-code reference as provided in 3GPP TS 26.268 [7]. 3GPP TS 26.269 [8] deals with the conformance testing for eCall modem implementations.

The present document provides a detailed performance characterization of the eCall in-band modem solution. Results from the 3GPP selection tests as well as verification and characterization tests have been collected into this report. It is impossible to test the eCall modem for all conditions that might arise on the transmission path from the IVS to the PSAP. However, the selected set of test scenarios represents a wide range of conditions that are foreseen to potentially occur in the in-band transmission of eCall data over the radio access and core networks as well as the PSTN.

2 References

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- [1] 3GPP TR 21.905: "Vocabulary for 3GPP Specifications".
- [2] eSafety Forum eCall Driving Group: "European Memorandum of Understanding for Realisation of Interoperable In-Vehicle eCall", May 2004.
- [3] eSafety Forum: "Clarification Paper – EG.2 , High level requirements for a eCall in-vehicle system, Supplier perspective", March 2006, Version 1.0.
- [4] eSafety Forum: "Recommendations of the DG eCall for the introduction of the pan-European eCall", April 2006, Version 2.0.
- [5] 3GPP TR 22.967: "Transferring of Emergency Call Data".
- [6] 3GPP TS 22.101: "Service aspects; Service principles".
- [7] 3GPP TS 26.268: "eCall Data transfer; In-band modem solution; ANSI-C reference code".