

Accreditation Procedures

1.1 Membership requests

A community or organisation can apply for membership by sending a request to the PMA Chair. Such requests should come from:

- Authorities that intend to join the common trust domain; or
- Major relying parties, as defined in section 3 of the EUGridPMA Charter

The PMA, or its Chair acting on behalf on the PMA, may moderate such requests to ensure the procedural guidelines are met and the PMA meets its objectives in ensuring an operational Grid authentication infrastructure for e-Science.

Membership can be granted and authorities accredited only in face-to-face PMA meetings, and then only after an in-person appearance of a representative of the membership applicant.

The PMA may grant provisional membership without an in-person appearance only on proposition by the Chair, and then only by consensus of the current PMA membership. In such cases an additional vote must be conducted by e-mail. Provisional membership is valid no longer than till the next meeting.

1.2 Accreditation process

The PMA will accredit Authorities based on the positive outcome of an initial review with respect to all relevant guideline documents, and a successful registration process.

At the start of the acceptance process, the prospective members requests the PMA Chair to join the CA mailing list dq-eur-ca@services.cnrs.fr by sending a mail to the PMA Chair. The prospective member then sends the CP/CPS document around to the other members for comments. The chair will then ask two PMA members to review that CP/CPS in detail. If the first version has obvious inconsistencies, the chair may defer appointing the referees until the appropriate changes have been implemented.

After sufficient iteration a CP/CPS is considered ready for presentation at the next PMA meeting. At that meeting, it should be presented in person to the PMA and the most critical points of the CP/CPS - explain the authentication and vetting procedure and the physical security measures, record persistency, procedures and such - must be detailed. Based on the implemented recommendations of the assigned reviewers and the discussion in the meeting, the prospective member may either be approved immediately by the PMA, or this may be deferred until the recommended changes are implemented. In the latter case, the final CP/CPS must be sent to the full mailing list and a two-week voting period must ensue.

1.3 Registration process

Before an accredited CA to be included in the repositories of the PMA the relevant introduction ceremonies must have been completed successfully.

The following information must be conveyed to the PMA Chair – by a trusted means if required due to the nature of the information. Such details are to be described in the guideline documents, but will include at least:

- Name of the person representing the Authority in the PMA and possibly an alternate;
- contact information;
- geographical and community scope of the Authority;
- CP and CPS document(s) and a link to where the CP/CPS will be made available to interested parties;
- fingerprint(s) of the source of trust or root certificate;

The introduction process is not complete until all the information above has been conveyed to the PMA.

1.4 Acceptance

After approval and after the possible voting period has completed, the Authority will be included in the membership list. The PMA Chair or any other person on the Chair's behalf will distribute the RPM with the root certificates, the signing policy files, and the CRL distribution point, and the CA will be linked from the eugridpma.org site.

1.5 Modifications

Changes in the policies, practices and in the name space may void the accreditation unless approved by the PMA. A planned major change in policy, practice or namespace must thus be submitted to the PMA for approval. Complaints should be registered within a reasonable time after announcing the changes.