3GPP TSG_CN **Tdoc NP-00232**
Plenary Meeting #8, Düsseldorf, Germany
21st – 23rd June 2000.

Agenda item: **4.2**

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3GPP TSG SA WG3 Security — S3#13 *S3-000352*

23-26 May, 2000

Yokohama, Japan

Source: **3GPP TSG SA WG 3 (Security)**

To: **CN, CN1, CN4, T3, GSMA SG**

Title: **LS about hexadecimal coding of IMEI**

The current IMEI message structure is proposed to be changed to allow use of hexadecimal coding in addition of current BCD. The change is proposed in 3GPP TSG-CN,TSG-S, TSG-T and TSG-R to allow 16.7 million mobile terminals to be produced with one Type Approval Code - Final Assembly Code combination.

In the transition time there is a backward compatibility problem. Indeed, the mobile may have a new format IMEI which is not accepted (or understood) by the network.

S3 has studied the issue of IMEI change from BCD to hexadecimal. No security problems have been identified provided that the following guidelines are adopted. The important matter is to ensure uniqueness of all IMEIs throughout the transition process to allow continuous operation of all existing and new security-related procedures, e.g. for lawful interception and blacklisting purposes. In particular, no default IMEI shall be used.

- The new format IMEI is included in R99 and later release specifications (for both GSM and 3G systems). On the other hand, a suitable date must be agreed upon, to allow enough time for all networks to be updated to accept the new format IMEI values. It is suggested that the exact date should be agreed between the TSG plenary level and the GSM Association.
    - Prior to this date no terminal can have an IMEI with genuine hexadecimal symbols.
    - After the date IMEIs with genuine hexadecimal symbols can be used in terminals.

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