Cyber Security Audit Firm Registration Criteria

Scope: This policy is applicable for companies/firms conducting Cyber Security audits/Penetration Testing/Red Teaming engagements across infrastructure/information systems of PTA's Licensees.

A	**Mandatory Minimum Baseline Criteria for Company**	
1	Tax Payer	Active Tax Payer + Sales tax registration
2	Registration	SECP
3	Incorporation Time	1 year
4	Grace Period Timeline	March 2022
5	Audits Experience	2 Cyber Security Audit/Pentesting/Red Teaming projects of similar scope/project size of relevant category.
6	Company Profile & Documentation	As defined in section C
7	No. of Technical Resources	Minimum two (02)
8	No. of Certified Resources	Cyber Security audit firm should have at least two (02) certified, permanent technical employees, each having relevant security certification, from at least two (02) of the following bodies: ISACA, (ISC)², SANS, EC-Council and Offensive Security, ISO
B	**Mandatory Minimum Baseline Criteria for Individual Resource**	
1	Qualifying Certification Bodies	ISACA, (ISC)2, EC-Council, Offensive Security, SANS, ISO
2	Cyber Security Auditing Experience	2 years
3	Penetration testing Experience	2 years
4	Certifications	At least two (02) certified resources from qualifying certification bodies ISACA, (ISC)², SANS, EC-Council, Offensive Security
5	Association with Company as a permanent employee	6 months
C	**General Rules for Cyber Security Audit Firms**	
1	Cyber Security audit firm should be registered with SECP or relevant Registrar of firms. Company/firm should appear Active Taxpayer list (ATL) of income and sales tax issued by FBR.	
2	Cyber security audit must not be performed by a subsidiary/affiliate/associate firm of the Licensee in order to avoid conflict of interest.	
3	Cyber Security Audit Firm should not outsource its Cyber security auditing/pentesting/red teaming engagement to any foreign 3rd party assessor, auditor and audit firm.	
4	Foreign companies having their local representation Branch office in Pakistan can also apply, subject to registration with SECP and FBR or relevant registrar of firms in Pakistan.	
5	Cyber Security audit Firm should not be a blacklisted firm/company in Public/Private sector within Pakistan or abroad, due to any factor including but not limited to unsatisfactory performance, breach of general/specific instructions or NDA, corrupt practices and/or any fraudulent activity.	
6	Cyber Security audit firms can perform audit of their respective categories or downward in the hierarchy as per Annexure A. For instance, firms qualifying for Cat-I, can also perform audit of licensees falling under Cat-II to Cat-IV. Similarly, firms qualifying for Cat-II, can also perform audit of Cat-III and Cat-IV, however, firms qualifying for Cat-IV cannot perform audit of licensees upward in the hierarchy i.e. Cat-III to Cat-I.	

7	Cyber security audit firm should have documented policies and procedures including but not limited to Information Security processes and procedures, Personnel security and development.
8	While assessing the cyber security audit firm, PTA may review several key areas of discipline including but not limited to assessment methodology, profiles of certified individuals/resources, data storage and retention policies, Information sharing policy and procedure, Tools and reporting methodology.
9	Upon being listed under Cyber Security Audit Firm's approved list, PTA reserves the right to conduct a full assessment at any given point of time, which may require re-submission of all relevant documents submitted at the time of registration or any other additional document which may be required for additional scrutiny.
10	In case of violation of any clause in the NDA by the approved Cyber Security Audit Firm, licensee is mandated to provide information including necessary details to PTA. In that case, PTA reserves the right to terminate the membership of the Cyber Security Audit Firms and initiate legal proceedings wherever necessary. In case of termination of membership, prior intimation shall be provided to all the licensees and duly updated on the website.
11	List of approved Cyber security audit firms will be published on PTA website and would be updated on regular basis.
12	PTA reserves the right to revise Cyber Security Audit Firm Registration Criteria at any given point of time on need basis. Licensees shall be apprised prior to revision of this criteria.

Grace Period for Registration

A grace period until 31st March 2022 will be provided to companies whereby, companies registering with PTA shall have the minimum incorporation time relaxed by 6 months from 1 year. However, companies must fulfill the already defined minimum baseline criteria in order to avail exemption.

Annex-A

S. No.	Categories	Licensee Type	Licensee/ Telecom Operators	Cyber Security Audit Experience (in years) (Minimum)	No. of Permanent Technical Resources (Minimum)	No. of Technical Resources Certification (Minimum)
1.	Cat-I	CMOs & Large Operators with multiple Licenses	Ufone, Telenor, JAZZ, ZONG, PTCL, TWA, SCO, NTC	6	7	7
2.	Cat-II	Large Operators	Brain Telecom, Comsats Internet Services, Connect Communications, Cyber Internet Services, Fariya, KK networks, LinkDotNet, Master Communication, Multinet, Nayatel, REDtone, Wateen Telecom, Web Concepts, Wi-Tribe	4	5	5
3.	Cat-III	Medium and LDI Operators	DV Com Data, 4B Gentel, 7 Star telecom, ADG LDI, Aero Communication, Apex Internet, Apollo Telecom, AT & T Global, Circle Net, Cube Xs Weatherly, Dancom, East Tel AJK, Ebone Network, Equant Pakistan, Eureka Net, Evamp & Sanga, FDI Fast Developers, Fiber Beam, Fiber Link, Fiber2home, Future Networks, Galaxy Technology, Gemnet Enterprises, Geo IT, Gerry's, Hajwari Net Zone, Hazara Communication, Helium Communication, IJ Internet Services, Infostructure, Instacom, Khyber Internet Services, Micronet Broadband, Multan Cable and Internet, Multi City Broadband, Nexlinx, Optix , Orient Expressldi, Pak Datacom, Paragon Telecom, Prime Vision Communications , QuBees/Sharp Com, Satcomm, Sharp Tel, Sky Telecom, Smart telecom, Soft Ends AJK, Superior Connections, Supernet Limited, Telecard , Telenex, The Professional Communication, Tufa Telecommunication, Vision Telecom, WanCom, Waylink, Wideband Communication, WiseCom, Zeta Technologies	3	3	3
4.	Cat-IV	Small operators	Rest others…	1	2	2