

CTIA Launches Internet of Things Cybersecurity Certification

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Last month, CTIA, the wireless industry association, launched an initiative through which wireless-connected Internet of Things (“IoT”) devices can be certified for cybersecurity readiness. According to the CTIA [announcement](#), the CTIA Cybersecurity Certification Program (the “Program”) is intended to protect both consumers and wireless infrastructure by creating a more secure foundation for IoT applications that support “smart” cities, connected cars, mobile health apps, home appliances, and other IoT-enabled environments.

The Program was developed in collaboration with the nationwide wireless carriers, along with technology companies, security experts and test laboratories, and builds upon IoT security recommendations from the National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA) and the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST). According to the Program [Test Plan](#), devices eligible for certification include those that contain an IoT application layer that provides identity and authentication functionality and at least one communications module supporting either LTE or Wi-Fi networks.

A device submitted for certification will undergo a series of tests at a CTIA-authorized lab. The testing will assess the device for one of three certification levels or “categories.” To obtain a Category 1 certification, the device will be reviewed for the presence of “core” IoT device security elements, including a Terms of Service and a customer-facing privacy policy, along with technical elements including password management, authentication and access controls. A Category 2 certification includes the Category 1 elements, in addition to enhanced security features, such as an audit log, multi-factor authentication, remote deactivation, and threat monitoring. A Category 3 certification features the most comprehensive level of cybersecurity threat testing, and covers elements such as encryption of data at rest, digital signature validation, and tamper reporting, in addition to the elements under Categories 1 and 2.

The Program comes at a time of rapid growth for IoT devices. According to the latest [Ericsson Mobility Report](#), the global IoT market will expand to 3.5 billion cellular-connected devices in the next five years. Much of this growth is expected to be driven by the anticipated deployment of 5G technology and enhanced mobile broadband.

The Program will begin accepting devices for certification testing beginning in October 2018. Details on how to participate in the Program are available on the CTIA [website](#).