NFC-SEC:
NFCIP-1 Security Services and Protocol
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Introduction

This Standard specifies common NFC Security services and a protocol. This Standard is a part of the NFC Security series of standards. The NFC-SEC cryptography standards of the series complement and use the services and protocol specified in this Standard.
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NFC-SEC: NFCIP-1 Security Services and Protocol

1 Scope

This Standard specifies the NFC-SEC secure channel and shared secret services for NFCIP-1 and the PDUs and protocol for those services.

NOTE 1 NFC-SEC is exclusively designed for the data exchange protocol of ECMA-340.

NOTE 2 This Standard does not address application specific security mechanisms (as typically needed for smart card related use cases and standardized in the ISO/IEC 7816 series). NFC-SEC may complement application specific security mechanisms of ISO/IEC 7816.

2 Conformance

Conformant implementations employ the security mechanisms in the NFC-SEC cryptography part that defines the selected PID using one or more of the services specified in this Standard.

Conformant implementations that use the NFCIP-1 protocol shall also conform to the requirements in Annex B.

3 Normative references

The following referenced documents are indispensable for the application of this document. For dated references, only the edition cited applies. For undated references, the latest edition of the referenced document (including any amendments) applies.

ECMA-340, Near Field Communication Interface and Protocol (NFCIP-1)

ECMA-386, NFC-SEC-01: NFC-SEC Cryptography Standard using ECDH and AES


4 Terms and definitions

For the purpose of this Standard, the terms and definitions specified in ECMA-340, ISO/IEC 7498-1, ISO 7498-2, ISO/IEC 10731 and ISO/IEC 11770-1 apply. In addition, the following terms and definitions apply.

4.1 Connection
(N)-connection as specified in ISO/IEC 7498-1

4.2 Entity
(N)-entity as specified in ISO/IEC 7498-1

4.3 Link key
Secret key securing communications across a secure channel

4.4 NFC-SEC User
Entity using the NFC-SEC service

4.5 Protocol
(N)-protocol as specified in ISO/IEC 7498-1

4.6 Recipient
NFC-SEC entity that receives ACT_REQ

4.7 Secure channel
Secure NFC-SEC connection

4.8 Sender
NFC-SEC entity that sends ACT_REQ

4.9 Service
(N)-service as specified in ISO/IEC 7498-1

4.10 Shared Secret
Secret shared by two peer NFC-SEC Users

5 Conventions and notations

The following conventions and notations apply in this document unless otherwise stated.

5.1 Representation of numbers

The following conventions and notations apply in this document unless otherwise stated.

- Letters and digits in parentheses represent numbers in hexadecimal notation.
- The setting of bits is denoted by ZERO or ONE.
• Numbers in binary notation and bit patterns are represented by sequences of 0 and 1 bits shown with the most significant bit to the left. Within such strings, X may be used to indicate that the setting of a bit is not specified within the string.

• In octets the lsb is bit number 1, the msb bit number 8.

5.2 Names

The names of basic elements, e.g. specific fields, are written with a capital initial letter.

6 Acronyms

For the purposes of this Standard, the acronyms specified in ECMA-340 apply. Additionally, the following acronyms apply.

ACT_REQ Activation Request PDU
ACT_RES Activation Response PDU
ENC Encrypted Packet PDU
ERROR Error PDU
lsb least significant bit
LSB Least Significant Byte
msb most significant bit
MSB Most Significant Byte
MSG Message code
PCI Protocol Control Information (see ISO/IEC 7498-1)
PDU Protocol Data Unit (see ISO/IEC 7498-1)
PID Protocol Identifier
RFU Reserved for Future Use
SCH Secure Channel service
SDL Specification and Description Language (as specified in ITU-T Z.100)
SDU Service Data Unit (see ISO/IEC 7498-1)
SEP Security Exchange protocol Parameter
SN Sequence Number
SNV SN variable
SSE Shared Secret Service
SVC Service code
7 General

NFC-SEC as illustrated in Figure 1 uses the OSI reference model specified in ISO/IEC 7498-1.

![NFC-SEC architecture diagram](image)

**Figure 1 – NFC-SEC architecture**

NFC-SEC Users invoke and access the NFC-SEC services through NFC-SEC Service Access Points (NFC-SEC-SAP). NFC-SEC entities obtain NFC-SEC-SDUs (requests) from NFC-SEC Users and return NFC-SEC-SDUs (confirmations) to them.

This Standard specifies the Secure Channel Service (SCH) and the Shared Secret Service (SSE).

To provide the NFC-SEC services, Peer NFC-SEC entities exchange NFC-SEC-PDUs by conforming to the NFC-SEC protocol over NFC-SEC connections.

Peer NFC-SEC entities communicate with each other accessing the NFCIP-1 data service through NFCIP-1 Service Access Points (NFCIP-1-SAP), sending and receiving NFC-SEC-PDUs. A NFC-SEC-PDU consists of NFC-SEC Protocol Control Information (NFC-SEC-PCI) and a single NFC-SEC-SDU.

8 Services

This Clause specifies two services, SSE and SCH, that NFC-SEC provides to the NFC-SEC User. When invoked, these services enable the cryptographic protected transmission of NFC-SEC User messages between the peer entities by means of a protocol described in Clause 9.
Shared secrets established with the services specified below shall be cryptographically uncorrelated from any shared secrets established beforehand or afterwards.

8.1 Shared Secret Service (SSE)

The SSE establishes a shared secret between two peer NFC-SEC Users, which they can use at their discretion.

Invocation of the SSE shall establish a shared secret by the key agreement and key confirmation mechanisms, according to the NFC-SEC cryptography part that defines the PID.

8.2 Secure Channel Service (SCH)

The SCH provides a secure channel.

Invocation of the SCH shall establish a link key, by derivation from a shared secret established by the key agreement and key confirmation mechanisms, and shall subsequently protect all communications in either direction across the channel, according to the NFC-SEC cryptography part that defines the PID.

9 Protocol Mechanisms

The NFC-SEC protocol comprises the following mechanisms. Figure 2 specifies the sequence of the protocol mechanisms.

9.1 Key agreement

The peer NFC-SEC entities shall establish a shared secret using ACT_REQ and ACT_RES, according to the NFC-SEC cryptography part that defines the PID.

9.2 Key confirmation

The peer NFC-SEC entities shall verify their agreed shared secret using VFY_REQ and VFY_RES, according to the NFC-SEC cryptography part that defines the PID.

9.3 PDU security

PDU security is a mechanism of SCH service only.

The peer NFC-SEC entities shall protect data exchange using ENC, according to the NFC-SEC cryptography part that defines the PID.

This mechanism shall comprise one or more of the following, as specified in the respective NFC-SEC cryptography standard:

- Sequence Integrity, conforming to the requirements of 12.3;
- Confidentiality;
- Data integrity;
- Origin authentication.
9.4 Termination

The peer NFC-SEC entities shall terminate SSE and SCH using TMN. After Release or Deselect of NFCIP-1, or when the NFCIP-1 device is powered off, SSE and SCH instances shall be terminated. Upon transition to the IDLE state the associated shared secret and the link key shall be destroyed.

Figure 2 – General flow of the NFC-SEC services

10 States and Sub-states

The NFC-SEC protocol machine in Annex A specifies the state transitions for the states and sub-states in Table 1.
Table 1 – State

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>State</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Idle</td>
<td>NFC-SEC is ready to start a new service upon request from the NFC-SEC User</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>or the peer NFC-SEC Entity.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Select</td>
<td>NFC-SEC is awaiting an ACT_RES.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Established</td>
<td>An NFC-SEC Service is requested. The established state contains two</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>sub-states In the Established_Sender sub-state it is awaiting a VFY_RES.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>In the Established_Recipient Sub-state it is awaiting a VFY_REQ.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Confirmed</td>
<td>An NFC-SEC service is established. The Confirmed State contains two</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>sub-states, In the Confirmed_SSE sub-state, the shared secret is ready to</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>be retrieved. In the Confirmed_SCH sub-state, secure data exchange is</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>ready.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

11 NFC-SEC-PDUs

NFC-SEC-PDUs shall be conveyed in NFCIP-1 DEP "Secure Data" PDUs placing the SEP byte into byte 0 of the DEP transport data bytes. The DEP transport data bytes shall contain exactly one NFC-SEC-PDU.

The NFC-SEC-PDU structure is specified in Figure 3.

![Figure 3 – Structure of NFC-SEC PDU](image)

Table 2 specifies the NFC-SEC-PDUs fields as mandatory (m), prohibited (p), conditional (c). The conditionality (c) is further specified in 11.3.

Table 2 – NFC-SEC-PDU Fields

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>NFC-SEC-PDU</th>
<th>SEP</th>
<th>PID</th>
<th>NFC-SEC Payload</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ACT_REQ</td>
<td>m</td>
<td>m</td>
<td>c</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ACT_RES</td>
<td>m</td>
<td>p</td>
<td>c</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>VFY_REQ</td>
<td>m</td>
<td>p</td>
<td>c</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>VFY_RES</td>
<td>m</td>
<td>p</td>
<td>c</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ENC</td>
<td>m</td>
<td>p</td>
<td>c</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TMN</td>
<td>m</td>
<td>p</td>
<td>p</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ERROR</td>
<td>m</td>
<td>p</td>
<td>c</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

11.1 Secure Exchange Protocol (SEP)

The 1-byte Secure Exchange Protocol (SEP) field is specified as follows:

- The value of 00b in the SVC indicates that the PDU is part of an SSE exchange. The value of 01b in the SVC indicates that the PDU is part of an SCH exchange.
- The MSG code identifies the PDU type as specified in Table 3. All other codes are RFU.
The RFU bits shall be set ZERO. Receivers shall reject PDUs with RFU bits set to ONE.

Figure 4 specifies the bit assignment.

```
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Bit 8</th>
<th>Bit 7</th>
<th>Bit 6</th>
<th>Bit 5</th>
<th>Bit 4</th>
<th>Bit 3</th>
<th>Bit 2</th>
<th>Bit 1</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>RFU</td>
<td>SVC</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
```

**Figure 4 – Bit assignment of SEP**

### Table 3 – PDU types and their MSG codes

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Code</th>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>0000</td>
<td>ACT_REQ</td>
<td>Activation request to request a new service.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>0001</td>
<td>ACT_RES</td>
<td>Activation response, to accept a service request.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>0010</td>
<td>VFY_REQ</td>
<td>Verification request to submit check values for verification of the Sender's shared secret.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>0011</td>
<td>VFY_RES</td>
<td>Verification response to submit check values for verification of the Recipient’s shared secret.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>0100</td>
<td>ENC</td>
<td>Encrypted packet for secure data exchange.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>0110</td>
<td>TMN</td>
<td>Terminate request to terminate a service.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1111</td>
<td>ERROR</td>
<td>Error an indication of an error.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other</td>
<td>RFU</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**11.2 Protocol Identifier (PID)**

Each NFC-SEC cryptography part of this Standard defines a distinct 8-bit PID that is only included in ACT_REQ.

**11.3 NFC-SEC Payload**

The TMN PDU shall contain no NFC-SEC Payload field. The NFC-SEC Payload field shall consist of an integer number of octets. Its use in the ERROR PDU is specified in the Error sub-clause below. Its use, structure and encoding in all other PDUs is specified in NFC-SEC cryptography part that defines the PID.

**11.4 Terminate (TMN)**

The TMN PDU consists of the SEP field only as specified in Table 2.

**11.5 Error (ERROR)**

The ERROR PDU starts with the SEP field and, if it contains a payload, this payload shall contain a zero-terminated octet string in the NFC-SEC Payload field.

**12 Protocol Rules**

This Clause specifies rules for the NFC-SEC protocol.
12.1 Protocol and Service Errors

- When a NFC-SEC entity receives a PDU in a state where it is not allowed, it shall respond with an ERROR PDU.
- When a NFC-SEC entity receives a PDU that it does not support or with invalid contents as specified in NFC-SEC cryptography standard, it shall respond with an ERROR PDU.
- When a NFC-SEC entity receives or sends an ERROR PDU, it shall set the protocol state to Idle.
- When a NFC-SEC entity receives or sends an ERROR PDU, it shall send an ERROR SDU to the NFC-SEC User.
- When a NFC-SEC entity receives a SDU in a state where it is not allowed or with invalid contents, it shall respond with an ERROR SDU and leave the state unchanged.

12.2 Interworking Rules

- A NFC-SEC implementation may set an upper bound on the NFC-SEC-SDU length. Send Data requests specified in A.2 with longer SDUs shall be rejected.
- One NFC-SEC-PDU shall contain exactly one NFC-SEC-SDU.
- NFC-SEC Entities shall discard any duplicate NFC-SEC-PDUs, as specified in the Sequence Integrity clause.

12.3 Sequence Integrity

NFC-SEC cryptography standards providing sequence integrity shall specify the sequence integrity mechanism in conformance to the following:

- Each NFC-SEC Entity shall maintain its SNV.
- Upon SCH establishment, the Recipient shall initialise its SNV with the same initial value as the Sender’s SNV as specified in the NFC-SEC cryptography part that defines the PID.
- The NFC-SEC cryptography part that defines the PID specifies a range on the SNV values.
- Upon sending of ENC, the NFC-SEC Entity shall increase their SNV by 1, and then place it into the SN field.
- The SN field shall be protected by the PDU security mechanism to make any change detectable.
- Upon receipt of an ENC, the NFC-SEC Entity shall extract the SN field and compare it with its SNV. If SN == SNV, then the PDU shall not be submitted to the NFC-SEC User but discarded, and the state and SNV shall remain unchanged as specified in A.4.4.
- The NFC-SEC entity shall increase its SNV by 1.

The ‘PDU content valid?’ condition in A.4.4 shall be true if SN equals SNV and false otherwise.

NOTE In case of sequence integrity errors, NFC-SEC aborts the SCH and notifies both peer-NFC-SEC-USERs of the incident. It is up to the NFC-SEC-USERs to re-establish a SCH with new keys or to abort the transaction.
12.4 Cryptographic Processing

Before sending and after receipt of PDUs other than TMN and ERROR, cryptographic processing occurs as specified by the cryptography part that defines the PID. If the outcome of the cryptographic processing of incoming PDUs is negative, then the 'PDU content valid' decision in Annex A is false.
Annex A
(normative)

Protocol Machine Specification

The NFC-SEC protocol machine in this Annex specifies the sequence of PDUs to establish and terminate the SSE, and to establish, use and terminate the SCH.

In addition the Protocol machine specifies which PDUs may be sent or received in which state.

A.1 SDL Symbols

- **Incoming NFC-SEC-PDU**: NFC-SEC-PDU received from the peer NFC-SEC entity, delivered by the local NFCIP-1 entity.
- **Outgoing NFC-SEC-PDU**: NFC-SEC-PDU sent to the peer NFC-SEC entity, submitted to the local NFCIP-1 entity.
- **NFC-SEC-SDU from user**: NFC-SEC-SDU obtained from the NFC-SEC User, requesting the NFC-SEC entity to perform an action.
- **NFC-SEC-SDU to user**: NFC-SEC-SDU submitted to the NFC-SEC User, either in response to a previous request or to indicate an event.
- **State**: In a state the protocol machine awaits an event. Events not foreseen in the diagrams constitute protocol errors.
- **Decision**: A branching condition in the processing of events.

A.2 Request SDUs

Request SDUs are submitted by NFC-SEC Users to request the NFC-SEC service. Parameters are given in brackets. Requirements on the parameter values are specified in NFC-SEC cryptography standards.

**NOTE** The actual implementation method of the request primitives (e.g. method calls, inter-process PDUs), is outside the scope of this Standard.

- **Service Invocation**: Request the invocation of a new service (type of service, PID).
Send Data Request the sending of data. Admitted only to SCH (data).
Retrieval Data Request the retrieval of data received. Admitted only to SCH.
Retrieve Secret Request the retrieval of a shared secret established. Admitted only to SSE.
Terminate Request termination of service (type of service).

A.3 Confirm SDUs

Confirm SDUs are submitted by NFC-SEC entities to NFC-SEC Users. Parameters are given in brackets. Requirements on the parameter values are specified in NFC-SEC cryptography standards.

NOTE The actual implementation method of the confirm primitives (e.g. method calls, inter-process PDUs), is outside the scope of this Standard.

- Established Indicates the successful establishment of a service (type of service).
- Data Sent Indicates the result of a Send Data request (status). This result may be positive or negative, the latter due to a send error, or because the NFC-SEC entity was not ready for sending.
- Data Available Indicates the receipt of data.
- Return Data Response to a Retrieve Data request (data).
- Return Secret Response to a Retrieve Secret request (shared secret).
- Terminated Indicates to a user the termination of a service (type of service).
- Error Indicates an error during processing of a request or a PDU, or any other error. The parameters may reflect the error reason and details (details).
A.4 SDL Diagrams

A.4.1 Idle State
A.4.2 Select State

Select

ACT_RES

ERROR

PDU content valid?

yes

no

VFY_REQ

Established_Sender

ERROR

Error

Idle
A.4.3 Established State

1. **VFY_REQ** → **VFY_RES**
   - PDU content valid?
     - yes: **Established**
     - no: **ERROR**

2. **VFY_RES** → **Established**
   - Type of service:
     - SCH
     - SSE
     - Confirmed_SCH
     - Confirmed_SSE

3. **ERROR** → **Idle**
A.4.4 Confirmed State

- **SCH**
  - **Confirmed**
  - **SSE**

- **SendData**
  - **ENC**
    - **SN==SNV**
      - **PDU contents valid?**
        - **yes**
          - **Data Sent**
        - **no**
          - **ERROR**

- **RetrieveData**
  - **Return Data**
  - **Data Available**

- **ENC**

- **ERROR**
  - **Terminate**
  - **TMN**
    - **RetrieveSecret**

- **TMN**
  - **Terminated**

- **Confirmed**

- ** Idle**
Annex B
(normative)

Additional requirements when using NFC-SEC with
ECMA-340 (NFCIP-1)

When using this Standard with ECMA-340 implementations, the following additional requirements shall apply. These additional requirements are stated in B.4 relate to the following functions:

B.1 The method by which NFCIP-1 devices indicate their support of NFC-SEC

An initiator indicates its support of NFC-SEC with the SECi field in the ATR_REQ.
A target indicates its support of NFC-SEC with the SECt field in the ATR_RES.
For the definitions of the SECi and SECt fields, see B.4.

B.2 Introduction of Protected PDU

Additional Protected PDUs are used in the data exchange protocol as specified in B.4.

B.3 Extension of PDU numbering rules for Protected PDU

Protected PDUs are included in the rules for numbering PDUs as specified in B.4.

B.4 NFCIP-1 amendments

The following amendments to ECMA-340 shall apply:

Replace in 12.5.1.1.1 the definition of bit 7 of PPI by the following:

- bit 7: SECi. The initiator shall set SECi to ONE if it supports NFC-SEC; ZERO indicates no support

Replace in 12.5.1.2.1 the definition of bit 7 of PPI by the following:

- bit 7: SECt. The target shall set SECt to ONE if it supports NFC-SEC; ZERO indicates no support

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"Byte 0: PFB

The PFB byte shall contain bits to control the data transmission and error recovery. The PFB byte is used to convey the information required controlling the transmission. The data exchange protocol defines these fundamental types of PDU's:

- Information PDU's to convey information for the application layer.
- Protected PDU's to convey protected information
- Acknowledge PDU's to convey positive or negative acknowledgements. An Acknowledge PDU never contains a data field. The acknowledgement relates to the last received block.
- Supervisory PDU's to exchange control information between the Initiator and the Target. Two types of supervisory PDU's are defined.
  - Timeout extensions containing a 1 byte long data field.
  - Attention containing no data field.

The coding of PFB depends on its type and is defined in Table B.3.

Table B.3 – Coding of the PFB bits 7 to 5

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>bit 7</th>
<th>bit 6</th>
<th>bit 5</th>
<th>PFB</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>Information PDU</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>Protected PDU</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>0</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>Acknowledge PDU</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>Supervisory PDU</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Other settings are RFU

Add in 12.6.1.1.1 the definition of a Protected PDU and add Figure B.3 as follows:

"Definition of the Protected PDU:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>bit 7</th>
<th>bit 6</th>
<th>bit 5</th>
<th>bit 4</th>
<th>bit 3</th>
<th>bit 2</th>
<th>bit 1</th>
<th>bit 0</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>RFU</td>
<td>RFU</td>
<td>ONE</td>
<td>MI</td>
<td>NAD</td>
<td>DID</td>
<td>PNI</td>
<td>PNI</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Figure B.3 – Coding of the Protected PDU

- bit 7 to bit 6: RFU. The Initiator shall set it to ZERO. The Target shall ignore it.
- Bit 5: Shall be set to ONE
- bit 4: If bit set to ONE then it indicates Multiple Information chaining activated.
- bit 3: If bit set to ONE then it indicates NAD available.
- bit 2: If bit set to ONE then it indicates DID available.
- bit 1 and bit 0: PNI packet number information.

The Packet Number Information (PNI) counts the number of packet send by the Initiator to the Target and vice versa starting by 0. These bytes are used for error detection during the protocol handling."
Replace 12.6.1.2 by the following:

"12.6.1.2 Handling of PDU number information

12.6.1.2.1 Initiator rules

The PNI of the Initiator shall be initialized for each Target with all ZEROs.
When an Information, Protected or Acknowledge PDU with an equal PNI is received, the Initiator shall increment the current PNI for that Target before optionally sending a new frame.

12.6.1.2.2 Target rules

The PNI of the Target shall be initialized with all ZEROs.
When an Information, Protected or Acknowledge PDU with an equal PNI was received the Target shall send its response with this PNI and shall increment the PNI afterwards."

Replace 12.6.1.3.1 by the following:

"12.6.1.3.1 General rules

The first PDU shall be sent by the Initiator.
When an Information or Protected PDU indicating more information is received the PDU shall be acknowledged by an Acknowledge PDU (ACK).
Supervisory PDUs are only used in pairs. A Supervisory Request shall always be followed by a Supervisory Response."

Replace 12.6.1.3.3 by the following:

"12.6.1.3.3 Target rules

The Target is allowed to send a Supervisory PDU (RTO) instead of an Information PDU.
When an Information or Protected PDU not containing chaining is received it shall be acknowledged by an Information or Protected PDU.
When an Acknowledge PDU (NACK) is received, if the PNI is equal to the PNI of the previous sent PDU, the previous block shall be re-transmitted.
When an erroneous PDU is received the Target shall not answer but stay in same State.
When a Supervisory PDU (Attention) is received, the Target shall respond sending a Supervisory PDU (Attention) response."