# SASE Certification: Service Providers

Introduction

MEF 3.0 SASE (Secure Access Service Edge) Certification empowers service providers to deliver cybersecurity services that protect enterprise customers in the constantly evolving worlds of cybercrime and cybersecurity.

The cybercrime economy is projected to reach $10.5 trillion USD annually by 2025 (source: Cybersecurity Ventures). Enterprises face increasing demands for compliance and a daunting range of cybersecurity solutions. In response to these major challenges, MEF has developed industry standards and a modular certification program underpinned by those standards.

MEF's SASE Certification enables service providers to validate that their SASE cloud services are secure and address the persistent and increasingly malicious cyberthreats that threaten the public and private landscape.

MEF's SASE Certification tests the following functionality:

- Application performance during simulated WAN impairments.

- Scale and performance of a SASE cloud service.

- Correct classification of applications so that performance and/or security polices can be applied.

- Threat protection testing consisting of 1,000,000+ current malware samples; 2,000+ exploits that take advantage of a vulnerability in a protocol, product, operating system, or application; 10,000+ evasions that disguise and modify attacks to avoid detection by security products.

- TLS/SSL functionality to validate cryptographic suites, version functionality, etc.

- Zero Trust principles for authentication and authorization of applications, users, and devices via policies at the network level.

- Compliance with MEF standards that enable an industry-wide vocabulary, language, constructs, and service definition.
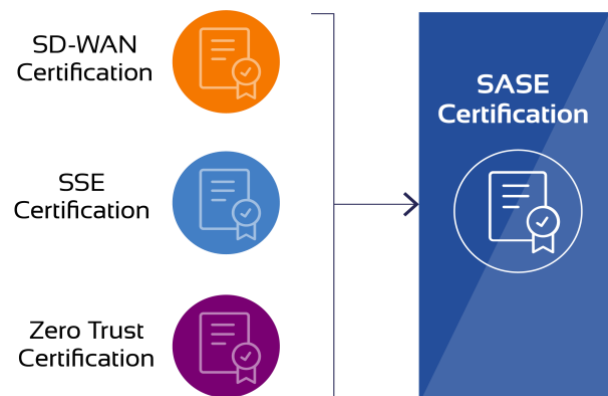
Testing Partner

MEF Accredited Test and Certification Partner (MEF-ATCP), CyberRatings.org, is a non-profit 501(c)6 entity dedicated to quantifying cyber risk and providing transparency on cybersecurity product efficacy through testing and ratings programs. CyberRatings.org provides unique security testing expertise and a proficiency spanning more than three decades of testing at the highest technical standards and building trust with vendors and enterprises worldwide. They provide tests for both remote and in-lab facilities, test suite implementations, personnel, and private testing. Their testing and certification incorporate the latest testing methodologies, including 100,000+ simultaneous VMs for emulating large environments, with automation and test systems, and additional tooling from test partners like Spirent and Keysight.

Certification Model

MEF SASE Certification is comprised of three individual certification programs:

- SD-WAN (Software-Defined Wide-Area Network)

- SSE (Security Service Edge)

- Zero Trust

Service providers inherit the ratings of their technology providers in a particular service offering. A service provider can inherit individual certifications on SD-WAN, SSE, and Zero Trust, which will appear in the MEF Services Certification Registry. SASE certification will be achieved if the service provider's SASE solution contains a technology provider certification for each of the three categories (SD-WAN, SSE, and Zero Trust).

It is possible for service providers to have multiple certification badges, with each badge representing a specific service offering derived from different technology provider certifications, for each certification category (i.e. SD-WAN, SSE, and Zero Trust). For a given service provider service offering, the technology provider certifications for each certification category will be averaged to provide the service provider's SASE rating. The scoring and rating system is based on a rating from D (lowest) to AAA (highest).

MEF's SASE Certification program (SD-WAN, SSE, Zero Trust, and SASE) is a subscription-based Continuous Integration/Continuous Test (CI/CT) model and process that allows service providers unlimited testing and the ability to progressively improve their certification scores to deliver exceptional SD-WAN and cloud-based cybersecurity products to the market. The subscription period is 1 year for each certification from the initiation of the first certification; it should be noted that a yearly subscription must be maintained to keep any previous certifications and badges.

More information on technology provider certification can be found in the MEF Specification Sheet, SASE Certification: Technology Providers.
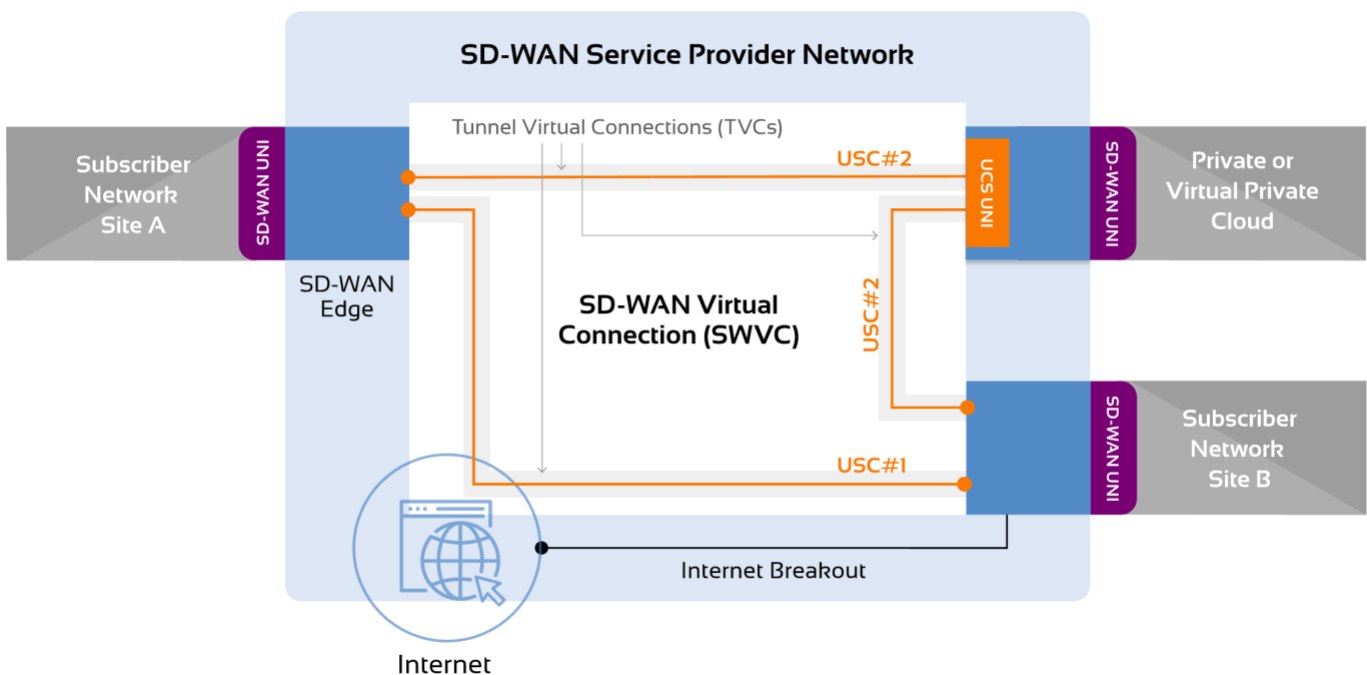
Certifications

SD-WAN Certification

A service provider inherits the SD-WAN certification from the certified technology provider used in the SD-WAN service offering. The service provider's service offering must use the same hardware family and same major release software revision as was tested in the inherited technology provider's SD-WAN certification.

An SD-WAN technology provider implementation is tested for:

- Routing and Access Control
- WAN Impairments
- Performance
- Classification Verification
- Conformance to MEF 70.1 SD-WAN Service Attributes and Service Framework
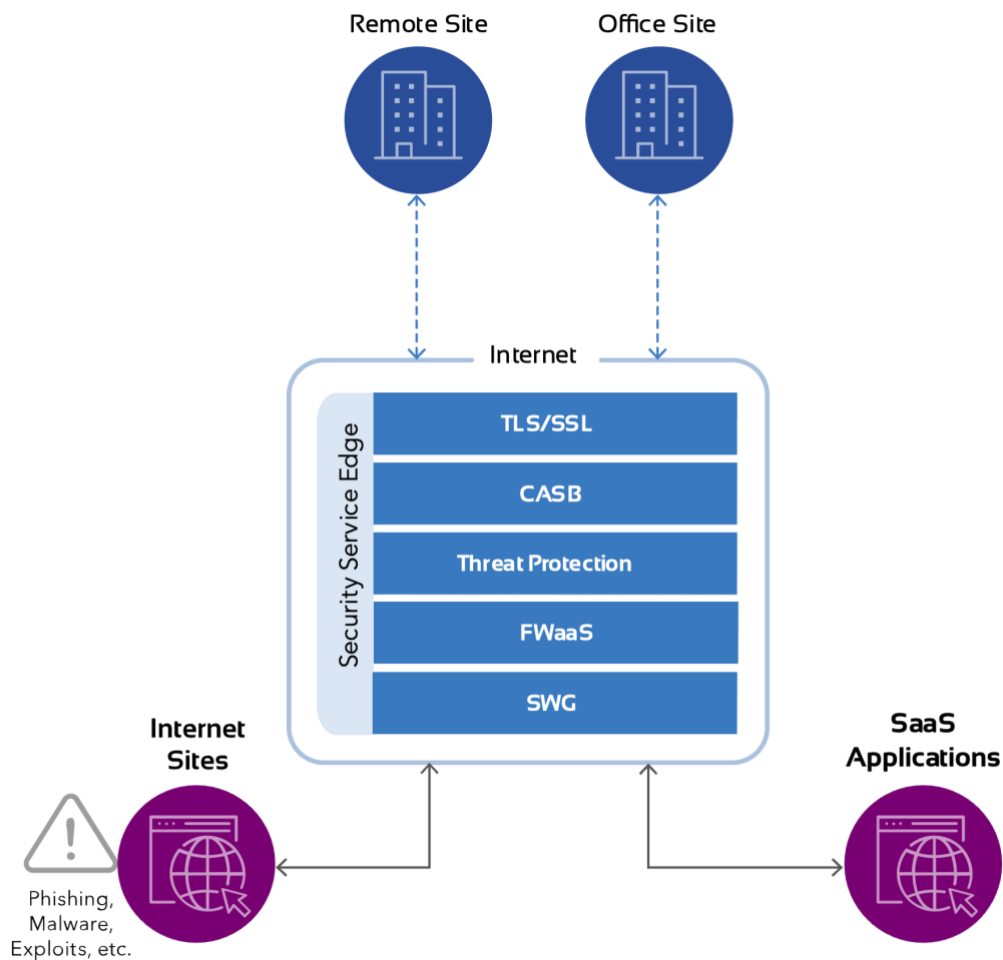- Future evolving standards

Security Service Edge (SSE)

A service provider inherits the SSE certification from the certified technology provider used in the SSE service offering. The service provider's service offering must use the same hardware family and major release software revision as was tested in the inherited technology provider's SSE certification.

An SSE technology provider implementation is tested for:

- Threat Protection (evasion, exploits and malware)
- TLS/SSL Functionality
- Scalability Performance
- Classification Verification
- Conformance to MEF 117 SASE Service Attributes and Service Framework and MEF 138 Security Functions for IP Services
- Future evolving standards

Zero Trust

A service provider inherits the Zero Trust certification from the certified technology provider used in the Zero Trust service offering. The service provider's service offering must use the same hardware family and major release software revision as was tested in the inherited technology provider's Zero Trust certification.

A Zero Trust technology provider implementation is tested for:

- Access Control

- Authentication

- Authorization

- Policy

- Change Control

- Reporting Capabilities, including logs and reports.

- Cloud Access/Application Control

- Conformance to MEF 118 Zero Trust Framework for MEF Services

- Future evolving standard
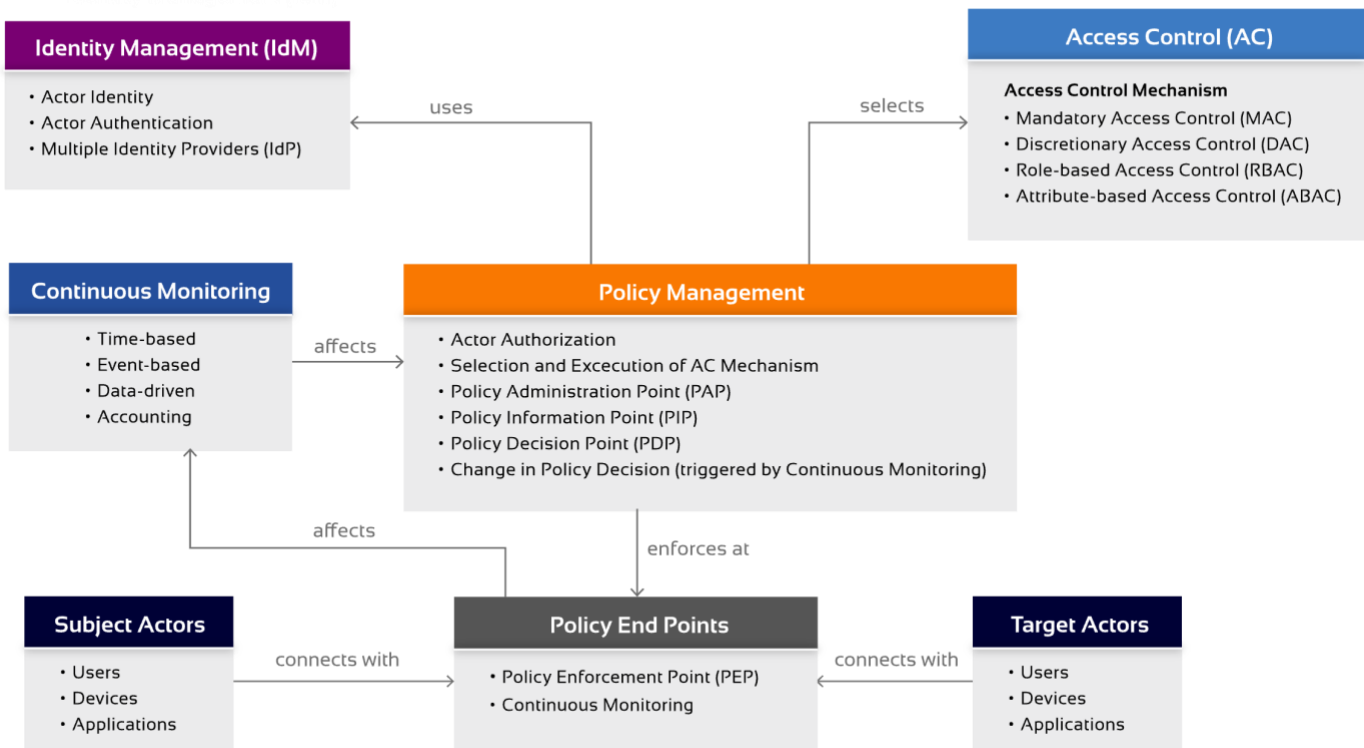
SASE (Secure Access Service Edge)

A service provider receives a SASE certification from the inherited technology provider certifications of SD-WAN, SSE, and Zero Trust used in the service provider's SASE service offering. The service provider's service offering must use the same hardware family and major release software revision as was tested in the inherited technology provider certification for SD-WAN, SSE, and Zero Trust. The service provider score and rating are based on an average of the three inherited technology provider certifications.

Scoring and Rating

The scoring and rating system is based on a rating from D (lowest) to AAA (highest). Tests performed for SASE certification (SD-WAN, SSE, and Zero Trust) are based on a score from 0-to-800-points. Each category of testing begins with the allocation of 800 points. Points are then deducted from the 800 points when the category of tests does not perform as specified. The scores for each area of testing are then averaged to provide the overall rating.

Rating	Minimum Points	Maximum Points
AAA	775	800
AA	720	774
A	660	719
BBB	590	659
BB	540	589
B	480	539
CCC	420	479
CC	360	419
C	300	359
D	0	299

Badges and Report Cards

Badges with attributes will appear in the MEF Services Certification Registry with the Ratings and additional details including:

- Service Provider Name (full legal name, if applicable)
- Hardware Family/Software Version
- Type of Certification
- Rating
- Date Tested

For each service provider certification, MEF associates the technology provider report card(s) to the certified service provider based on the inherited technology provider certification(s). The report card contains the overall rating (AAA-D), pass/fail for MEF certification, and the score in each category of the testing. The scores from each category are calculated based on 800 points with the penalties deducted for each test where appropriate, thus resulting in a score per category. For single category certification, the service provider rating is based on the inherited technology provider certification. For the SASE certification, the pre-requisite certification scores are averaged, determining the overall score. The service provider certification details, inherited from the technology provider certification, are displayed on the MEF Services Certification Registry next to the badge.

Examples of the information displayed:

Service Provider Name	Certification Date
Overall Score (AAA-D)	SD-WAN Technology Provider
Service Provider's SD-WAN Hardware Family	Service Provider's SD-WAN Software Version
Technology Provider's SD-WAN Report Cards (up to 3 entries)	

Example SD-WAN Certification Information

Service Provider Name	Certification Date
Overall Score (AAA-D)	Zero Trust Technology Provider
Service Provider's Zero Trust Hardware Family	Service Provider's Zero Trust Software Version
Technology Provider's Zero Trust Report Cards (up to 3 entries)	

Example Zero Trust Certification Information

Service Provider Name	Certification Date
Overall Score (AAA-D)	SSE Technology Provider
Service Provider's SSE Hardware Family	Service Provider's SSE Software Version
Technology Provider's SSE Report Cards (up to 3 entries)	

Example SSE Certification Information

Service Provider Name	Certification Date
Overall Score (AAA-D)	SD-WAN Technology Provider
SSE Technology Provider	Zero Trust Technology Provider
Service Provider's SD-WAN Hardware Family	Service Provider's SD-WAN Software Version
Service Provider's SSE Hardware Family	Service Provider's SSE Software Version
Service Provider's Zero Trust Hardware Family	Service Provider's Zero Trust Software Version

Example SASE Certification Information

A service provider can certify different SD-WAN, SSE, Zero Trust, or SASE service offerings utilizing different technology providers, hardware models, or software revisions.

Service providers can request service certifications based upon certified technology providers. MEF will review the service provider request and, if applicable, issue the appropriate badge. At the service provider's discretion, the MEF Certification is updated on the MEF Services Certification Registry. Badges can be updated, at the

service provider's discretion, with new ratings every time a technology provider achieves a new certification. The service provider determines which certification is updated by the new certification.

Deliverables

Items provided to the service provider upon certification include:

- Certification rating badge associated with the report card(s).
- Listing of the certification in the [MEF Services Certification Registry](#).
- MEF Certification marketing kit.

Engagement Process

MEF Membership	MEF Certification Contract	Complete the MEF Certification Questionnaire.	Validation of technology provider certification details.	Issuance of badge, marketing kit & technical inclusion in MEF registries

- Service provider becomes a MEF member.
- Complete the MEF Certification contract and payment.
- Complete the MEF Certification Questionnaire.
- MEF validates the inheritance of the technology provider certification.
- Issuance of report card, badge, marketing kit, and technical inclusion in MEF registries.