

Sirtfi compliance of SAFIRE

This is a self-assessment of the South African Identity Federation's compliance with the REFEDS Security Incident Response Trust Framework for Federated Identity (Sirtfi). It is unusual for federations to assess their own infrastructure, but such an assessment is necessary because the Federation uses a hub-and-spoke architecture and thus some Federation components are in scope for identity- and service-providers' own Sirtfi assessments.

Scope

The scope of this review is limited to systems that are directly involved in the operations of the South African Identity Federation. It does **not** consider other, unrelated systems operated by the SA NREN (either the Tertiary Education and Research Network of South Africa or the SANReN Group of the NICIS).

Systems in scope

Federation infrastructure, including the metadata registry and aggregator; hub; IdP proxies; test IdP & SP; and ancillary support systems. Some of the underlying data is hosted in private repositories on Github, and the assessment of those is based on Github's publicly accessible documentation.

Systems excluded from scope

Individual identity- and service providers are explicitly excluded from scope (including the SA NREN's own identity- and service providers). However, the Federation may assert compliance for such providers on receipt of an equivalent confirmation of compliance from such providers (i.e. this document is an adjunct to the documentation provided by such providers and additionally covers systems such as the IdP proxies they may use due to the Federation's architecture.)

Expression of compliance

To whom it may concern:

Re: Expression of Sirtfi compliance for the South African Identity Federation

This serves to confirm that the Tertiary Education and Research Network of South Africa NPC completed self-assessments of the South African Identity Federation (SAFIRE) using the Sirtfi v1.0 framework on 21 July 2017 and 23 July 2018, and again using the revised Sirtfi v2.0 framework on 9 October 2025.

TENET hereby attests that, at the time of the aforementioned assessment, our identity provider (as well as the underlying systems on which it depends) satisfied the normative assertions set out in the REFEDS Security Incident Response Trust Framework for Federated Identity (Sirtfi) v2.0, as described at <https://refeds.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/08/Sirtfi-v2.pdf>.

This expression of compliance is scoped to the following SAML entities:

- <https://iziko.safire.ac.za/>
- <https://testsp.safire.ac.za/Shibboleth.sso/Metadata>
- <https://testidp.safire.ac.za/simplesaml/saml2/idp/metadata.php>
- <https://proxy.safire.ac.za/...> (*only where the underlying entity has itself attested compliance*)

Sincerely,

G.A. Halse
Executive Officer: Trust & Identity
Tertiary Education and Research Network of South Africa NPC