



# N4 Interface Compliance with 3GPP Specification

This chapter covers the following topics:

- [Feature Summary and Revision History, on page 1](#)
- [Feature Description, on page 2](#)

## Feature Summary and Revision History

### Summary Data

*Table 1: Summary Data*

Applicable Product(s) or Functional Area	5G-UPF
Applicable Platform(s)	VPC-SI
Feature Default Setting	Enabled - Always-on
Related Changes in this Release	Not Applicable
Related Documentation	Not Applicable

### Revision History

*Table 2: Revision History*

Revision Details	Release
In this release, PFCP library is upgraded to support the latest version of Outer Header IE.	2020.02.5
First introduced.	2020.02.0

## Feature Description

In compliance with 3GPP TS 29.244, the User Plane Function (UPF) supports the following IEs:

- Averaging Window
- Paging Policy Indicator (PPI)
- Outer Header Creation
- Outer Header Removal

### Averaging Window

Averaging window IE contains the duration over which the GBR and MBR is calculated. It is sent from SMF to UPF with Create QER or Update QER parent IE, if the default pre-configured value under UPF needs to be overridden.

The following format is used for encoding and decoding of the IE:

	Bits							
Octets	8	7	6	5	4	3	2	1
1 to 2	Type = 157 (decimal)							
3 to 4	Length = n							
5 to 8	Averaging Window							
9 to (n+4)	These octet(s) is/are present only if explicitly specified							

**NOTE:** The value should be in milliseconds.

### Paging Policy Indicator

The SMF sends PPI value in Create QER or Update QER, if UPF requires to set Paging Policy Indicator in outgoing packets.

In the case of Network Triggered Service Request and UPF buffering downlink data packet, the UPF includes the DSCP in TOS (IPv4) / TC (IPv6) value from the IP header of the downlink data packet. It also sends an indication of the corresponding QoS Flow in the data notification message to the SMF. When PPD applies, the SMF determines the Paging Policy Indicator (PPI) based on the DSCP received from the UPF.

In the case of Network Triggered Service Request and SMF buffering downlink data packet, when PPD applies, the SMF determines the PPI based on the DSCP in TOS (IPv4) / TC (IPv6) value from the IP header of the received downlink data packet and identifies the corresponding QoS Flow from the QFI of the received downlink data packet.

The following format is used for encoding and decoding of the IE:

	Bits							
Octets	8	7	6	5	4	3	2	1

1 to 2	Type = 158 (decimal)	
3 to 4	Length = n	
5	Spare	PPI value
6 to (n+4)	These octet(s) is/are present only if explicitly specified	

**NOTE:** The PPI should be encoded as a 3-bit value between 0 and 7.

## Outer Header Creation

Per 3GPP TS 29.244 v16.4.0, the Outer Header Creation Description field, when present, is encoded as specified in following table. It takes the form of a bitmask where each bit indicates the outer header to be created in the outgoing packet. Spare bits are ignored by the receiver.

Octet / Bit	Outer Header Created in the Outgoing Packet
5/1	GTP-U/UDP/IPv4
5/2	GTP-U/UDP/IPv6
5/3	UDP/IPv4
5/4	UDP/IPv6
5/5	IPv4
5/6	IPv6
5/7	C-TAG
5/8	S-TAG
6/1	N19 Indication
6/2	N6 Indication
6/3	TCP/IPv4
6/4	TCP/IPv6

**NOTE:**

- Currently, the UP/UPF doesn't support the following values of Outer Header Creation Description:
  - IPv4
  - IPv6
  - C-TAG
  - S-TAG
  - N19 Indication
  - N6 Indication
- Third and fourth bits of sixth Octet (that is, 6/3 and 6/4) are spare bits (that is, not part of 3GPP TS) used for LI over TCP.



---

**Important** If SMF/CP uses older version for Outer Header Creation, then undefined behavior (including crashes) can be seen.

---