Problem 1: MACs and encryption

Consider the following symmetric encryption scheme $(KG, E, D)$. $KG$ chooses an AES key. $E(k, m) := E_{AES}(k, m)\|0^{32}$. ($0^{32}$ stands for a string consisting of 32 zeros.) And the decryption $D(k, c)$ does the following: Let $c'\|p := c$ where $p$ has length 32 bit and $c'$ is all but the last 32 bits of $c$. $m := D_{AES}(k, c')$. If $p = 0^{32}$, then $D(k, c)$ returns $m$. If $p \neq 0^{32}$ and $k_p = 0$ (here $k_p$ is the $p$-th bit of the key $k$), then $D(k, c)$ returns $m$. If $p \neq 0^{32}$ and $k_p = 1$, then $D(k, c)$ aborts.

(a) Show that $(KG, E, D)$ can be totally broken using a chosen ciphertext attack. That is, show that it is possible to recover the key $k$ using a chosen ciphertext attack.

(b) To avoid the issue, we try to use authentication: Let $MAC$ be an EF-CMA secure MAC. We construct a new encryption scheme $E'$. The key of this scheme consists of an AES key $k_1$ and a MAC-key $k_2$. Encryption is as follows: $E'(k_1k_2, m) := E(k_1, (MAC(k_2, m), m))$. Decryption $D'$ checks the tag $MAC(k_2, m)$ and aborts if it is incorrect. (This is called MAC-then-encrypt.) Does $E'$ withstand chosen ciphertext attacks that reveal the whole key $k_1$? If yes, explain why (without proof). If no, how to attack?

(c) We try to use authentication in another way: Let $MAC$ be an EF-CMA secure MAC. We construct a new encryption scheme $E''$. The key of this scheme consists of an AES key $k_1$ and a MAC-key $k_2$. Encryption is as follows: $E''(k_1k_2, m) := MAC(k_2, c)\|c$ with $c := E(k_1, m)$. Decryption $D'$ checks the tag $MAC(k_2, c)$ and aborts if it is incorrect. (This is called encrypt-then-MAC.) Does $E''$ withstand chosen ciphertext attacks that reveal the whole key $k_1$? If yes, explain why (without proof). If no, how to attack?

Hint: One of (b), (c) is secure, the other is insecure.

---

1In a chosen ciphertext attack, the adversary is also allowed to submit plaintexts for encryption, not only ciphertexts for decryption.

2We assume that you cannot distinguish between an abort due to a wrong tag or an abort of the underlying algorithm $D$.

3We assume that you cannot distinguish between an abort due to a wrong tag or an abort of the underlying algorithm $D$. 