United States
Election Assistance Commission

Making every vote count.

Voting System Testing and Certification Program

Prepared for
The Technical Guidelines Development Committee
(TGDC) Plenary Session
Boulder, CO September 29, 2005

The Help America Vote Act of 2002 (HAVA) directs:

The Commission shall serve as a national clearing house and resource for the compilation of information and review of procedures with respect to the administration of Federal elections by —

(1) carrying out the duties ... relating to the adoption of voluntary voting system guidelines), ... ;

(2) carrying out the duties ... relating to the testing, certification, decertification, and recertification of voting system hardware and software;

(3) carrying out the duties ... relating to conducting studies and carrying out other activities to promote the effective administration of Federal elections;

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National Program	State & Local Programs
The primary concern of the EAC program is that the system design, as represented in the system submitted for testing, meets the requirements of Standards/Guidelines	*The primary concern of the state and local election official is that the units delivered meet and continue to meet the requirements over their useful life.*

Key Issues for Certification System

- *What is a minimally acceptable system?*

- *Are the testing lab/testers/lab assessors qualified?*

- *Will the vendor deliver units within manufacturing tolerances to those tested?*

- *How will the election officials know if non-compliant units are delivered and what corrective actions can it take?*

- *Will election officials and poll workers use the systems as intended?*

Processes

- ## Technical Standard
  - *Establish normative standard*
    2002 VSS & EAC VVSG
  - *Refine and Keep standard current*

- ## Interim ITA Grandfathering / NVLAP Accreditation
  - *Limited to NASED ITA's*
  - *NIST NVLAP Accredit to ISO 17025*
  - *EAC Accredit as Voting System Test Laboratory*

Processes

- ## Technical Reviewers
  - *Review and give recommendations to EAC*
  - *TR's will be experts on contract to EAC*
  - *TR's will has specialized qualifications for various topics*
  - *EAC will perform routine performance evaluations of TR's*

- ## Product Evaluation
  - *Test plan*
  - *Testing and test report*
  - *Witness testing will be part of the process*
  - *Test report review and system certification*

Processes

- **Interpretations / Petitions / Appeals / Complaints**
  - *Processes for getting clarification, initiating change or redressing grievances*

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Vendor Registration

- **Review the vendor configuration control system**
- **Review the vendor quality control system**
- **Establish a secure mean of electronic communication (name/password)**

Vendor's Registration Package Requirements and Structure

1. EAC Registration Application
2. Vendor Information
3. Vendor's Quality System
4. Vendor's Change Control Management System (hardware and software)

Possible Future Processes

- ## Component Evaluation & Qualification
  - *Certification of individual components & units*
  - *Certification of system independent components*
  - *Change control & qualification process*

- ## Field Surveillance
  - *Methods of data collection*
  - *Methods of response*
  - *Audits*

Implementation Timeline

- **October 2005**
  - **Applications from ITA's**
  - **Vendor registrations accepted**
  - **Applications for TR's accepted**

- **January 2006**
  - **Complete transition from NASED to EAC**