



U.S. ELECTION ASSISTANCE COMMISSION

633 3rd St. NW, Suite 200

Washington, DC 20001

EAC Decision on Request for Interpretation 2021-01

VVSG 2.0 Principle 4 – Interoperability

Guideline 4.3:

Widely used hardware interfaces and communications protocols are used.

Sections of Standards or Guidelines:

4.3-A Standard device interfaces

Standard, common hardware interfaces and protocols must be used to connect devices.

Date:

May 27th, 2021

Question(s):

What is considered the boundary of the hardware interface?

Discussion:

This interoperability requirement is intended to facilitate ease of connectivity between devices of a voting system without requiring licensing, proprietary hardware, or wiring schematics. Electrical and electronic connections must utilize standardized formats. Published communication protocols are necessary to allow for widely understood data transmission mechanisms.

There are instances where proprietary hardware or cabling is part of the EAC Certified configuration of a device that constitutes the “interface” to the device. These are considered adapters and may be implemented for reasons such as electrical compatibility or for security purposes.

Conclusion:

The intent of *4.3-A Standard device interfaces* may be considered satisfied if the proprietary hardware or cabling terminates in a standardized electrical format and utilizes a published communication protocol. Components utilized in this capacity must be documented in the manufacturer TDP, and part numbers must be documented appropriately by the VSTL in the Test Report.

This termination may be considered the boundary of the hardware interface.



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Effective Date:

Immediately effective for all applications submitted for VVSG 2.0 evaluation.