



Testimony
Before the U.S. Election Assistance Commission

VVSG 1.1 Briefing

Public Meeting March 31, 2015

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Chairwoman McCormick, Commissioner Hicks, Commissioner Masterson and Acting Executive Director Miller:

Thank you for allowing me to testify today regarding the proposed revision to the 2005 Voluntary Voting System Guidelines (VVSG).

Background

The EAC adopted the 2005 VVSG in December of 2005 within the nine-month timeframe prescribed by HAVA. The 2005 VVSG was introduced in 2007. For a period of time, manufacturers could request to be tested to the 2002 VSS or the 2005 VVSG. By December 2007, voting systems could no longer be approved for testing to the 2002 VSS and the 2005 VVSG was fully implemented.

In the course of testing voting systems the Testing & Certification program learned a great deal regarding the testability and clarity of the guidelines. It is this practical experience that led to the decision to revise the 2005 VVSG. The purpose of the revision was three-fold; (1) clarify the guidelines to make them more testable; (2) enable the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) to create test suites for the proposed revisions; (3) update portions of the guidelines that could be easily updated without dramatically altering the guidelines. In essence, EAC wanted to improve the consistency and efficiency of the testing process in a short period of time.

To accomplish these goals EAC worked with its partners at NIST to take portions of the next iteration of the VVSG and incorporate them into the 2005 VVSG. Those sections of 2.0 selected for use in 1.1 represent areas EAC identified as being most in need of clarification and updating. These items included:

- Human factors requirements

- Security (VVPAT, Electronic records, Cryptography, System security specifications and external interface);
- Core requirements (S/W workmanship, reliability, accuracy, and humidity);
- incorporation of Request for Interpretations issued on the 2005 VVSG during test campaigns;
- and two public comment periods with a combined review period of 250 days.

2009 (1st) comment period

The first 120-day public comment period on VVSG 1.1 opened on June 1, 2009 and closed on September 28, 2009. EAC received 244 public comments during this period. EAC and NIST worked together to determine which comments would be accepted and which would not. Seventy-eight (78) comments were not accepted. One hundred and fifty-nine (159) comments were either accepted or partially accepted and changed in 1.1. Seven (7) comments were grouped into a five (5) policy decisions presented to Commissioners Bresso, Davidson and Hillman on September 21, 2010.

After the comment period in 2009, the EAC's Testing & Certification Program discovered additional best practices, experienced anomalies and deficiencies with voting systems entering the Testing and Certification Program, and clarified many ambiguities with the standard through the Request for Interpretation (RFI) process. Changes were made after the 2009 120-day public comment period to address these issues. After the 2009 public comment, changes were made to the following areas:

- Telecommunications
- Removed references to NSRL
- Software Validation
- Access Control
- Quality Assurance and Configuration Management
- Coding Conventions
- Ideographic languages
- Audit and Election Logging
- All relevant Requests for Interpretations within the latest draft of VVSG 1.1.

2012 (2nd) public comment period

The second 130-day public comment period on 1.1 opened on September 6, 2012 and closed on January 14, 2013. EAC received seven hundred and six (706) comments during this comment period. EAC reviewed the comments and divided them in to 4 categories: accept, not accepted, comments on not highlighted sections and comments for discussion with NIST. After initial sorting, EAC met with NIST to resolve the comments that needed discussion. After this meeting, EAC made final determinations on all comments and began revising 1.1. EAC accepted or partially accepted one hundred and seventy (170) comments. One hundred and sixty-nine (169) comments were not accepted. Three hundred and sixty-seven comments (367) were on sections of 1.1 that were not highlighted and not open for comment, based on the Federal Register Notice for the second comment period.

After the 2012 public comment changes were made throughout the document, including:

- Definitions added to glossary;
- Appendix D added to Volume II;
- Updated references and links throughout the document;
- Clarifications of specific HW, SW, Accessibility and Security requirements;
- Numbering scheme corrected;
- Clean up grammatical errors;
- Formatting cleaned up.

VVSG 1.1 and a spreadsheet on how each individual comment from the second public comment period was resolved will be posted on the EAC website after Commissioner approval.

Implementation plan

EAC recommend that after Commissioner approval, VVSG 1.1 is immediately available for testing and certifying voting systems. Additionally, within the next six months the Commissioners, after speaking with stakeholders, can identify the timeline for transitioning fully from the 2005 VVSG to VVSG 1.1.

Also, EAC staff recommends that **modifications** to systems certified to the 2005 VVSG can still be submitted for testing and certification to the 2005 VVSG **after** the transition to VVSG 1.1.

Request for Vote

Chairwoman McCormick, Commissioner Hicks, and Commissioner Masterson:

The EAC staff recommends that the Commissioners vote to adopt the Voluntary Voting Systems Guidelines 1.1 and the proposed implementation plan as presented today.