VVSG Lifecycle Policy

Technical Guidelines Development Committee

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VVSG Lifecycle Policy

- EAC has been seeking to establish a process of standardizing updates to the VVSG.

- Updates to become more regular than previously.

- The lifecycle policy outlines the initiation, review, implementation and retirement of VVSG versions.

Configuration Management

- Updates will be categorized as either major or minor.

- Major Changes
  - Significant changes that could potentially render current certified systems to become obsolete.
  - Primary number will increment by one. E.g., VVSG 2.0 to VVSG 3.0
  - May require VSTL re-accreditation under NIST's NVLAP program

Configuration Management

- Minor Changes
  - Will not require new hardware or other components that render currently certified systems to become obsolete.
  - Maintenance of the VVSG to ensure they are up to date. E.g., update of referenced standards.
  - Incorporation of Requests for Interpretation, error corrections and similar updates.
  - Will not require VSTL re-accreditation by NVLAP
- EAC will determine whether an update is major or minor.

Standard Deprecation

- Deprecation does NOT mean decertification
  - Decertification can only take place following the process in chapter 7 of the program manual
- A standard will become deprecated 24 months after a VSTL is accredited to a new standard.
- Minor revisions will not be deprecated.

Maintenance of Systems to Deprecated VVSG

- Permitted if changes are in one or more of five categories:
  - Security Update
  - Bug fix
  - COTS replacement
  - Jurisdictional rule change
  - Updating a component to the current VVSG standard
- Modifications outside these categories will not be accepted
- Manufacturers will be required to state which category they are applying under.

Review and Update Process

- Annual review process will follow section 222 of HAVA.

- Proposed updates will be collected from stakeholders throughout the year.

- EAC Testing and Certification program will summarize proposed updates in an annual report.

- Testing and Certification team will also engage with TGDC to identify any updates.

- EAC will work with NIST to address those updates, and the Executive Director will forward updates to the Standards Board and Board of Advisors.

- If there aren't any substantive changes to the standards, then no further action will be taken.

Questions, Comments, and Thoughts