



U. S. ELECTION ASSISTANCE COMMISSION
VOTING SYSTEM TESTING AND CERTIFICATION PROGRAM
1225 New York Avenue, NW, Suite 1100
Washington, DC. 20005

Notice of Clarification

NOC 07-003: State Testing Done in Conjunction with Federal Testing within the EAC Program.

Issued by Program Director, August 6, 2007: 

This notice addresses the ability of State election officials to use EAC accredited test laboratories to conduct State certification testing at the same time that the laboratory is conducting EAC certification testing. While Federal and State certification testing both serve important and unique functions to ensure that voting systems are secure, usable and ready for the voting public, it is anticipated that significant cost savings can be realized by combining these testing efforts to the greatest extent practicable.

EAC's Voting System Testing and Certification Program is only one part of the overall conformity assessment process that includes companion efforts at the State and local levels. The process to ensure that voting equipment meets specific technical requirements is a distributed, cooperative effort of Federal, State, and local officials in the United States.

Under this distributed system, the EAC has the responsibility for ensuring that voting systems submitted for EAC certification testing meet Federal standards/guidelines established by the Commission. At the same time, State officials have a concurrent responsibility for testing voting systems to ensure that they will support the specific requirements of each individual State. Pursuant to Section 1.6.1.2 of the *EAC Testing and Certification Program Manual*, **“States may use EAC Voting System Test Laboratories (VSTLs) to perform testing of voting systems to unique State requirements during the same time period in which the systems are being tested to Federal standards.”**

The EAC seeks to encourage concurrent state and Federal testing. This policy will serve to lower overall testing costs by promoting state use of EAC accredited laboratories to conduct the more expensive and time consuming State testing requirements. These requirements could include items such as volume testing, any State specific environmental testing, and other State specific functionality testing. When states authorize a VSTL to perform concurrent testing, they are responsible for monitoring these testing procedures as they would if the testing was being conducted by the State itself. Additionally, the State remains responsible for State certification actions based

upon the outcome of testing conducted by a VSTL. Concurrent state testing is not subject to EAC Certification or oversight. For the purpose of concurrent testing, VSTL's shall consider the following.

- To facilitate VSTL testing for state specific requirements, state testing should be considered at the earliest possible time during the certification process. This is the only way to ensure that the process will be efficient and result in cost savings.
- VSTL's shall maintain a separate test plan for state testing according to state or other applicable requirements and standards. Both the EAC and state test plans must be stand-alone documents. If any given test meets requirements for both, the test shall be independently stated on each plan.
- VSTLs shall not unduly delay Federal testing to meet the needs of concurrent state testing.
- VSTL's shall ensure that its test plan or amended test plan contain a simple statement that concurrent state testing will be conducted and specifying what additional testing will be conducted outside the normal scope of the VSTL's work under the EAC testing and certification program. The statement shall include a list of the states for which testing will be conduct and an acknowledgement that that all required Federal testing is performed according to applicable Federal standards.