Testing and Certification Program

Policies, Process, and Procedures

Ryan Macias
Senior Election Technology Specialist
U.S. Election Assistance Commission
Policy, Process, and Procedure Overview

• Version 2.0 of Testing and Certification Program Manuals expire in 2018
• EAC decided to revamp manuals to coincide with structure of VVSG 2.0
  ▪ Commissioners’ Policy documents: high-level policy governing the Testing and Certification Program (i.e. Principles and Guidelines)
  ▪ EAC’s Testing and Certification Program Process and Procedure documents: lower-level procedures (i.e. Requirement and Test Assertions)
The Structure

Testing and Certification Program Quality & Policy Manual
(new)

- Operating Procedures
- Requirement & Test Assertions (new)
- Manufacturer Registration
- VSTL Accreditation
- Voting System Testing and Certification
Requirements and Test Assertions: The Process
Development

• EAC and NIST are using a public working group (PWG) process to facilitate the development of the requirements and test assertions.
  - PWGs provide recommendations to the NIST and EAC

• With consideration of PWG recommendations, NIST will provide EAC requirements and test assertions, entitling the document **VVSG 2.0 Requirements and Test Assertions.**
Distribution and Implementation

• The Executive Director will distribute the initial version of the *VVSG 2.0 Requirements and Test Assertions* to each of the EAC’s advisory boards.
  - Distribute in the same order of VVSG 2.0 Principles and Guidelines:
    • TGDC
    • Board of Advisors and Standards Board simultaneously.
  - Submitted for public comment.

• Comments will be addressed and then Commissioner vote to adopt final version.
VVSG 2.0

Public Working Groups

Requirements

Test Assertions

VVSG 2.0
Requirements and Test Assertions

Commissioner Vote

EAC Implementation

TGDC, Standards Board & Board of Advisors Review and Comment
Recommendations

- Recommendation is a suggested revision or update to the *VVSG 2.0 Requirements and Test Assertions*

  - By the public through the PWG process. The Chair (NIST) or Co-Chair (EAC or TGDC) of the PWGs can make a recommendation directly to the EAC to revise or update the *VVSG 2.0 Requirements and Test Assertions*.

  - Directly to the EAC by a State or Local election official or an EAC advisory board.
Recommendations

PWGs

Boards

Election Officials

Recommendations

EAC
Annual Review

• Testing and Certification Program must review *VVSG 2.0 Requirements and Test Assertions* with EAC’s advisory boards (TGDC, Standards Board, and BoA)
  - Review must include any Updates and/or outstanding recommendations

• Recommendations from the annual review will be handled similar to any other recommendation.
Requests

• Only a registered manufacturers or accredited VSTLs may request a revision or update.
• Request may only be made if, in the course of developing or testing a voting system, the meaning of a particular requirement or test assertion becomes ambiguous, unclear, and/or doesn’t exist.

This is the same process as a request for interpretation (RFI) of the VVSG version 1.0 or 1.1.
Recommendation & Request Process

- PWGs
- Boards
- Election Officials
- VSTLs
- Reg. Mfrs.

Recommendation

EAC

Request

Updated version of VVSG 2.0 Requirements and Test Assertions
Updates

• Update is a substantive change to the document (i.e. a new set of requirement(s) and their respective test assertions or the deletion of a set of requirement(s) and their respective test assertions)
  - Typically made to accommodate modernization and innovation in technology and security.

• Reviewed by the EAC advisory boards, registered manufacturers, and accredited voting system laboratories.
Review Process

Recommendations & Requests

Updates

EAC Advisory Boards
Registered Manufacturers
Accredited VSTLs

EAC

Updated version of VVSG 2.0 Requirements and Test Assertions
Revisions

• Revision is a non-substantive modification to an existing requirement or the addition, deletion, or modification to a test assertion

• Program Director must determine which revisions get incorporated.

Derived from the current process for a request for interpretation (RFI) of the VVSG version 1.0 or 1.1.
Questions?
Contact us

Director Testing and Certification Program

Brian Hancock
(202) 459-7861
bhancock@eac.gov

Senior Election Technology Specialist

Ryan Macias
(202) 579-5496
rmacias@eac.gov
Social media

Email
listen@eac.gov

Facebook
Facebook.com/eacgov1

Twitter
@EACgov

Youtube Channel
Election Assistance Commission

Website
www.eac.gov