



## **EAC Decision on Request for Interpretation 2008-08**

### **2002 VSS Vol. I, Glossary**

### **2005 VVSG Vol. I, Glossary**

#### ***Date:***

August 1, 2008

#### ***Question(s):***

Should a component such as automatic bar code readers be considered part of a voting system and be tested as such?

#### ***Section of Standards or Guidelines:***

##### **VSS/VVSG Glossary**

A Voting system is defined as : The total combination of mechanical, electromechanical or electronic equipment (including the software, firmware, and documentation required to program, control, and support the equipment) that is used to define ballots; to cast and count votes; to report or display election results; and to maintain and produce any audit trail information; and the practices and associated documentation used to identify system components and versions of such components; to test the system during its development and maintenance; to maintain records of system errors and defects; to determine specific system changes to be made to a system after the initial qualification of the system; and to make available any materials to the voter (such as notices, instructions, forms or paper ballots).

#### ***Background:***

An automatic bar code reader (ABCR) has been claimed by the manufacturer as not covered under the definition of a voting system and therefore not subject to testing, including the accuracy test. The ABCR is described by the voting system manufacturer as: "...a device that audits and recounts the printout generated by the (DRE VVPAT) printer. The automatic bar code reader device interfaces with ABCR software installed on a PC to generate reports based upon the scanned barcodes from the (DRE VVPAT) printout."

***Conclusion:***

An Automatic Bar Code Reader is considered part of voting system based on the definition of a voting system. Specifically, the Automatic Bar Code Reader “supports” the system and is used to produce audit trail information, therefore it must be included as part of the testing of a voting system.

***Effective Date:***

Immediately upon publication and distribution.