



EAC Decision on Request for Interpretation 2013 – 03 (Timestamps)

Date:

May 29, 2013

Question:

Shall the proper presentation and implementation of timestamps include the year?

Section of Guidelines:

2005 VVSG Volume 1 Section 2.1.5.1.a.iii

2.1.5.1.a. The timing and sequence of audit record entries is as important as the data contained in the record. All voting systems shall meet the requirements for time, sequence and preservation of audit records outlined below.

iii. All audit record entries shall include the time-and-date stamp.

Discussion:

In metadata, the term **date** is a representation term used to specify a calendar date in the Gregorian calendar. Many data representation standards such as XML, XML Schema, Web Ontology Language specify that ISO date format ISO 8601 should be used. The most commonly accepted English definition of the word defines “date” as “Time stated in terms of **the day, month, and year.**” (Emphasis added)

Conclusion:

The EAC agrees that the year must be included in the timestamp and will implement the following interpretation:

*All timestamps **shall** include the date and time, including hours, minutes and seconds. When possible, the complete date will be defined as follows:*

Year - Month - Day = YYYY-MM-DD (e.g. 2013-05-28)

*Other variations including MM-DD-YYYY and 2 digit year designations such as YY = ('13) will be accepted **only** until the implementation of the next iteration of the Voluntary Voting System Guidelines.*

Effective Date:

Effective for all systems without an approved application for testing.