Voting System Testing and Certification Program

Prepared for
The Technical Guidelines Development Committee (TGDC) Plenary Session
Boulder, CO  September 29, 2005
The Help America Vote Act of 2002 (HAVA) directs:

The Commission shall serve as a national clearing house and resource for the compilation of information and review of procedures with respect to the administration of Federal elections by —

(1) carrying out the duties ... relating to the adoption of voluntary voting system guidelines), ... ;
(2) carrying out the duties ... relating to the testing, certification, decertification, and recertification of voting system hardware and software;
(3) carrying out the duties ... relating to conducting studies and carrying out other activities to promote the effective administration of Federal elections;
<table>
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<tr>
<th>National Program</th>
<th>State &amp; Local Programs</th>
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<td>The primary concern of the EAC program is that the system design, as represented in the system submitted for testing, meets the requirements of Standards/Guidelines</td>
<td>The primary concern of the state and local election official is that the units delivered meet and continue to meet the requirements over their useful life.</td>
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Key Issues for Certification System

- What is a minimally acceptable system?
- Are the testing lab/testers/lab assessors qualified?
- Will the vendor deliver units within manufacturing tolerances to those tested?
- How will the election officials know if non-compliant units are delivered and what corrective actions can it take?
- Will election officials and poll workers use the systems as intended?
Processes

• Technical Standard
  • Establish normative standard
  2002 VSS & EAC VVSG
  • Refine and Keep standard current

• Interim ITA Grandfathering
  / NVLAP Accreditation
  • Limited to NASED ITA’s
  • NIST NVLAP Accredit to ISO 17025
  • EAC Accredit as Voting System Test Laboratory
Processes

• **Technical Reviewers**
  • Review and give recommendations to EAC
  • TR’s will be experts on contract to EAC
  • TR’s will have specialized qualifications for various topics
  • EAC will perform routine performance evaluations of TR’s

• **Product Evaluation**
  • Test plan
  • Testing and test report
  • Witness testing will be part of the process
  • Test report review and system certification
Processes

- Interpretations / Petitions / Appeals / Complaints
  - Processes for getting clarification, initiating change or redressing grievances
Vendor Registration

- Review the vendor configuration control system
- Review the vendor quality control system
- Establish a secure mean of electronic communication (name/password)
Vendor’s Registration Package
Requirements and Structure

1. EAC Registration Application
2. Vendor Information
3. Vendor’s Quality System
4. Vendor’s Change Control Management System (hardware and software)
Possible Future Processes

- **Component Evaluation & Qualification**
  - Certification of individual components & units
  - Certification of system independent components
  - Change control & qualification process

- **Field Surveillance**
  - Methods of data collection
  - Methods of response
  - Audits
Implementation Timeline

- **October 2005**
  - Applications from ITA’s
  - Vendor registrations accepted
  - Applications for TR’s accepted

- **January 2006**
  - Complete transition from NASED to EAC