



VOTING SYSTEM

TESTING AND CERTIFICATION

PROGRAM E-NEWSLETTER

PROGRAM DIRECTOR'S NOTE

A member of the audience asked an interesting question of me and my fellow panelists (representatives of two EAC registered voting system manufacturers) during our recent presentation at the NASED Winter Meeting here in Washington on January 26th. The question was:

“How long do you think Federal certification test campaigns should take?”

Interestingly enough, we all answered the question with the same general timeframes. 8 to 12 months to test and certify a completely new, never before tested voting system, and 1 to 3 months for the testing of modifications to certified systems (depending on the complexity of the modification).

You might be wondering why, if we all feel this way, some of the voting systems submitted to the EAC have taken 24 months or longer to test and certify?

Numerous factors affect how long it takes us to test and certify a voting system. These factors include:

- Is the system ready to be tested when it is submitted to the EAC for testing? Factors affecting system readiness include sufficient design verification and beta testing by the manufacturer; sufficient internal testing to ensure the system is compliant with the requirements of the VVSG; submission of all materials, to the VSTL, including all hardware, software and associated documentation.
- Number of lines of source code and length of the Technical Data Package (TDP). (And overall system complexity).
- System stability during testing. (Does the manufacturer, add, change or delete components or significantly change software during the course of the test campaign)?
- Number of discrepancies (instances in which the system or component of the system fails a test of a VVSG requirement,) and how long the manufacturer takes to address and correct the discrepancies.
- EAC review and response timeframes for the VSTL Test Plan(s) and Test Report(s). (There might be several iterations of each of these documents).

For the most part, system readiness, number of lines of source code and TDP length, and manufacturer response timeframes are outside of our control. The EAC has, in general, 20 days to review initial submissions of Test Plans and Test Reports, and 10 days to review subsequent resubmissions of these documents. The EAC is committed to responding at or, in many cases, well before our required response timeframes. In fact, over the past 3 years, the EAC has missed only one of these deadlines, and that only by 3 days. We are also looking at procedural and technological solutions to cut the review time for both TDP and source code review at our VSTLs. State and local election officials should know that we are committed to continually improving the program and getting every voting system through our process as quickly as possible.

- Brian Hancock

PROGRAM UPDATES

GENERAL INFORMATION

Vacancy Announcement - NEW

The EAC is seeking a Computer Engineer to provide expert services for the agency's Voting System Testing and Certification Program. Background: The Help America Vote Act (HAVA) requires the U.S. Election Assistance Commission (EAC) to provide for the testing, certification, decertification, and recertification of voting system hardware and software by accredited test laboratories. [View Vacancy.](#)

Useful Links

[Voting System Test Laboratory Program Manual](#)
[Voting System Testing & Certification Manual](#)
[Frequently Asked Questions \(FAQ\)](#)
[EAC Blog, Twitter and YouTube](#)
[EAC map](#)

Subscription Status

Email rsargent@eac.gov to change your subscription status

TECHNICAL UPDATES

Meetings

EAC hosted a Nov. 17 roundtable discussion on voting system preparation for the 2012 elections. Election officials and technical experts discussed ballot proofing, acceptance testing, and logic & accuracy best practices for conducting voting system preparation. See the [participant list, questions, and webcast for details](#).

Voting System Reports Collection

The California Secretary of State's Office submitted [two amended reports](#) to EAC's Voting System Reports Clearinghouse. EAC encourages state and local governments to submit their voting system reports and studies so they may be shared with the broader election community and the public.

IEEE Voting Systems Electronic Data Interchange Project 1622

The IEEE finalizes 1622 -2011 Standard for Electronic Distribution of Blank Ballots for Voting Systems. The standard was developed to satisfy needs of the Uniformed and Overseas Citizens Absentee Voting Act (UOCAVA) and Military and Overseas Voter Empowerment (MOVE) Act. This standard defines common data formats to allow export for blank ballots from voting systems. [Learn more](#).

TGDC work on Voting Systems Guidelines

The Technical Guidelines Development Committee (TGDC) assists EAC in developing the [Voluntary Voting System Guidelines](#) and provides technical guidance on implementing election related technologies. The TGDC met Dec 15-16 at NIST. Watch the webcast, read the agenda and get more information [here](#).

Quality Monitoring Program

EAC's [Quality Monitoring Program](#) is designed to ensure that voting systems certified by EAC are the same systems sold by manufacturers. The quality monitoring process is a mandatory part of the program and includes elements such as fielded voting system review, anomaly reporting, and manufacturing site visits. The advisory alerts include recommended procedures, possible root causes and contact information for those jurisdictions with additional questions. View the most recent system advisory submitted by [Dominion Voting](#) and all other [System Advisory Notices](#) issued by the EAC.

Election Officials may now use the new [Voting System Anomaly Reporting Web Form](#) to report voting system anomalies to the EAC.

EAC's [Formal Investigation Report](#) is available regarding the Election Systems & Software (ES&S) DS200 Precinct Count Optical Scanner in the EAC-certified Unity 3.2.0.0 voting system. The conclusion is that three of the four anomalies that were originally identified are substantiated. The next steps are 1) a manufacturer site audit to evaluate testing and quality assurance practices and 2) issuance of a Notice of Noncompliance. Jurisdictions using EAC certified voting systems are identified on the website [here](#).

Conformity Assessment Testing

Read this [article](#) to find out more about how EAC conducts conformity assessment testing for voting systems, a process EAC calls the [Voting System Testing and Certification Program](#).

VOTING SYSTEM STATUS REPORT: ACTIVE

MANUFACTURER	VOTING SYSTEM NAME VERSION	TESTING STANDARD	VSTL	TESTING APPLICATION	TEST PLANS STATUS CURRENT VERSION	TEST REPORTS STATUS CURRENT VERSION	CERTIFICATION STATUS
Dominion	Sequoia WinEDS 4.0	2002 VSS	SLI Global	08/09/2007	Approved Ver. 1.3 08/23/2011	n/a	Currently under testing
Dominion	Democracy Suite 4.0	2005 VVSG	Wyle	04/20/2010	Approved Rev. D 12/06/2011	n/a	Currently under testing Certification Testing Timeline
Dominion	Premier Assure 1.3 (Modification)	2005 VVSG	SLI Global	11/22/2011	Approved Ver. 1.4 01/24/2012	n/a	Currently under testing
ES&S	Unity 3.4.0.0 (Modification)	2005 VVSG	Wyle	07/29/2011	Draft Test Plan 12/05/2011	n/a	Currently under testing
ES&S	EVS 5.0.0.0	2005 VVSG	Wyle	12/02/2011	n/a	n/a	n/a
ES&S	Unity 3.2.0.0 Rev. 3 (Modification)	2005 VVSG	Wyle	01/27/2012	n/a	n/a	n/a
Unisyn	OpenElect v. 1.1 (Modification)	2005 VVSG	Wyle	07/28/2011	Approved Rev.A 11/17/2011	n/a	Currently under testing

VOTING SYSTEMS STATUS REPORT: CERTIFIED

MANUFACTURER	VOTING SYSTEM NAME VERSION	TESTING STANDARD	VSTL	TESTING APPLICATION	TEST PLANS STATUS CURRENT VERSION DATE	TEST REPORTS STATUS CURRENT VERSION DATE	CERTIFICATION STATUS
MicroVote	EMS Ver. 4.0B (Modification)	2005 VVSG	Wyle	06/23/2009	Final Modification 09/08/2009	Final Rev. C 06/21/2010	Certified Voting System Final Decision 08/17/2010 Certification of Conformance Initial Decision on Certification made on 08/12/2010
MicroVote	EMS Ver. 4.0	2005 VVSG	iBeta	07/17/2007	Final Ver. 3.0 updated version 4.0 submitted with Test Report V.4.0 12/19/2008	Final Ver. 5.0 03/02/2009	Certified Voting System Final Decision 02/06/2009 Certification of Conformance Initial Decision on Certification made on 12/31/2008
ES&S	Unity 3.2.1.0 Previously Unity 3.0.1.0 & Unity 3.0.1.1 v. ATS 1.3	2002 VSS	Wyle	06/12/2007 Revised 08/17/2009	Approved Rev. B 02/28/2011	Final Rev. A 03/10/2011	Certified Voting System Final Decision 03/29/2011 Certification of Conformance Initial Decision on Certification made on 03/22/2011
ES&S	Unity 3.2.0.0 Rev. 1 (Modification)	2005 VVSG & 2002 VSS	iBeta	06/22/2010	Final Ver. 4.0 09/23/2010	Final Ver. 4.0 10/12/2010	Certified Voting System Final Decision 08/24/2010 Certification of Conformance Initial Decision on Certification made on 07/22/2010
ES&S	Unity 3.2.0.0	2002 VSS	iBeta	03/19/2007	Final Ver. 2.0 (iBeta) 04/03/2009	Final Ver. 4.0 07/22/2009	Certified Voting System Final Decision 07/21/2009 Certification of Conformance Initial Decision on Certification made on 07/20/2009
ES&S/Dominion (Premier)	Assure 1.2	2002 VSS	iBeta	04/05/2007	Final Ver. 2.0 (iBeta) 04/06/2009	Final Ver. 3.0 08/06/2009	Certified Voting System Final Decision 08/06/2009 Certification of Conformance Initial Decision on Certification made on 08/03/2009
Unisyn	OpenElect 1.0.1 (Modification)	2005 VVSG	Wyle	03/24/2011	Final Rev. A 04/15/2011	Final Rev. A 06/21/2011	Certified Voting System Final Decision 07/21/2011 Certification of Conformance Initial Decision on Certification made on 06/28/2011
Unisyn	OpenElect 1.0	2005 VVSG	Wyle	06/03/2008	Final Rev. B 07/23/2009	Final Rev. B 01/14/2010	Certified Voting System Final Decision 01/13/2010 Certification of Conformance Initial Decision on Certification made on 01/12/2010

TECHNICAL UPDATES CONT...

New Design

We've recently improved the layout of our [certification page](#) to make it easier to find information.

Requests for Interpretations (RFI)

To view all of the RFIs published by the EAC, please visit the [Request for Interpretations](#) section of the Certification Program Web site.

Notice of Clarifications (NOC)

To view all of the NOCs published by the EAC, please visit the [Notice of Clarifications](#) section of the Certification Program Web site.

Web Forms for Manufacturers

EAC has launched web forms which are now available for use: [Manufacturer Registration](#) and [Application for System Testing](#). Please use these forms when registering or applying.