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## EAC Testing and Certification Program and VVSG Deprecation

Q: What does an Election Assistance Commission (EAC) certification mean?

An EAC certified voting system has been tested by a federally accredited test laboratory and has successfully met the requirements of the VVSG and any other claims made by the voting system manufacturer.

Q: What are the voluntary voting system guidelines (VVSG)?

The voluntary voting system guidelines are a set of specifications that voting systems, voting devices, and software must meet to receive certification from the U.S. Election Assistance Commission (EAC). EAC accredited laboratories test voting systems, voting devices, and software against these guidelines.

Q: How are the laboratories that test voting systems accredited?

HAVA states that the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) assists the EAC through its National Voluntary Laboratory Accreditation Program (NVLAP), which assesses and provides recommendations to the EAC regarding laboratory accreditation. After the EAC receives the recommendations from NVLAP, EAC conducts further assessment of the recommended laboratories. After the EAC review, the Commission votes regarding full accreditation. Once the Commission votes to accredit a laboratory it is referred to as a voting system test laboratory (VSTL).

Q: Did the accreditation of the Voting System Testing Laboratories (VSTLs) expire?

The accreditation of the EAC's VSTLs has not expired. Despite claims made to the contrary during the 2022 midterm elections and periodically going back to the 2020 election, both VSTLs have been in good standing with the EAC. Both VSTL's have been assessed and accredited twice since 2020.

The Voluntary Voting System Guidelines (VVSG) are a set of voluntary federal specifications and requirements against which voting systems can be tested. Federal law mandates that the United States Election Assistance Commission (EAC) develop and maintain these requirements. Over time, changes to the VVSG are necessary. Old versions of the standard need to be discontinued and new versions need to take their place. The new VVSG 2.0 standard was fully implemented on November 15, 2022. On November 16, 2023, VVSG versions 1.0 and 1.1 will be deprecated.



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Q: What Does VVSG Deprecation Mean?

Deprecation of a VVSG standard means testing new voting systems to the standard (e.g. VVSG 1.0) will be discontinued, while also limiting modifications to existing systems certified under a previous standard to the areas of security and maintenance.

Q: Will Voting Systems Be Decertified?

No voting system will be decertified by the EAC as part of VVSG deprecation.

Q: What Does This Mean for EAC Certified Voting Systems?

VVSG deprecation does not affect the status of any previously EAC certified system. Systems certified under a previous standard are still certified and may still be acquired and used.

Q: What Does This Mean for Jurisdictions?

Jurisdictions are not required to replace or update any system with a VVSG 2.0 certified version. Jurisdictions may continue to acquire and use systems certified to deprecated standards.

Q: Will Current Voting Systems Still Receive Updates?

Yes. Limited maintenance modifications will be allowed for systems certified to deprecated standards. This includes security patches, bug fixes, end-of-life component updates, and functionality required by jurisdictional rule changes.

Q: What Initiates VVSG Deprecation?

The EAC's VVSG Lifecycle Policy outlines the process for standard deprecation when a new VVSG version has been approved by the EAC's Commissioners.