



U.S. ELECTION ASSISTANCE COMMISSION

Voting System Testing and Certification Program

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Silver Spring, MD. 20910

Notice of Clarification

NOC 16-03: Test Case Upload

Issued by Program Director, September 8, 2016

Section of the Manual(s) to Be Clarified:

Voting System Test Laboratory Program Manual, Version 2.0

2.12.3. Test Case.

After approval of the VSTLs Test Plan, the VSTL shall develop Test Cases. A Test Case is a system specific, step-by-step test procedure or laboratory testing process that provides detailed test operation procedures sufficient for trained laboratory personnel to fully conduct a given test and produce repeatable results. The VSTL shall inform the EAC, in writing, when all test cases for the voting system under test have been completed. This notice shall include an index identifying each test case created to test the system. The notification should indicate if these are standard test cases, modified standard test cases, or a new test case. These test cases shall be available to the EAC for review and approval upon request.

Testing & Certification Program Manual, Version 2.0

4.6.4.1. Review (of Test Plans).

This Section of the Manual notes that:

Although Manufacturers may direct test labs to begin testing before approval of a test plan, the Manufacturer bears the full risk that the test plan (and thus any tests performed) may be deemed unacceptable.

Purpose:

Tight project schedules and other realities of voting system testing and certification have generally made manufacturers choose to move forward with “at risk” testing

performed well before test plan approval. This reality conflicts with the requirement that the VSTL inform the EAC in writing once test cases have been completed. The EAC has generally not seen test cases until after test plan approval, even for at risk testing that may have occurred much earlier. In order to remedy this situation and to allow the EAC to more productively and appropriately comment on test cases **before** they have been run, the following clarification is noted.

Clarification:

The practical remedy for the situation noted above is that Section 2.12.3 of the *Voting System Test Laboratory Program (VSTL) Manual* will be clarified to require the VSTLs to notify the EAC in writing and to upload test cases to the VRT when requested by the EAC **before** any tests have been run using the particular test case or test cases. This process will allow EAC to review test cases proximate to when they will be run and will hopefully eliminate any issues arising from after-the-fact test case review that might cause meaningful and potentially harmful delays in the testing and ultimate certification of the voting system.

Conclusion:

Section 2.12.3 of the *VSTL Program Manual* shall be modified to add a final sentence that reads:

"Test cases must be uploaded to the VRT before any testing using the particular test case or test cases can be initiated."