



# National Information Assurance Partnership

## Common Criteria Evaluation and Validation Scheme

### CCEVS Policy Letter #12

8 December 2011

**SUBJECT:** Acceptance Requirements of a Product for CCEVS Evaluation

**PURPOSE:** This policy describes the acceptance requirements for CCEVS evaluations.

**BACKGROUND:** A Protection Profile (PP) describes the security requirements for a product within a Technical Community. Technical Communities will develop one PP or a base PP with associated extended packages. Because of the effort and coordination required, Technical Communities and their associated Protection Profiles are being developed over time.

Upon initial publication of a NIAP approved PP, NIAP will determine the **Transition Window** (TW) for the PP. Typically, the Transition Window for a NIAP approved PP will be six months, but this may vary. The Transition Window Start and End dates will be posted with the publication of the PP. During the Transition Window, products will be accepted into evaluation against the PP or, on a case by case basis, against a Security Target at EAL2 with a signed Letter of Intent (LOI) from the Government Customer (U.S. government, NATO, or foreign government covered by the Common Criteria Mutual Recognition Arrangement). Once the Transition Window closes, all relevant products submitted for evaluation must be evaluated against the PP.

**POLICY:** All products to be validated by CCEVS will be evaluated against a NIAP approved Protection Profile (PP). If a [NIAP approved PP](#) exists for the product's Technology Community and the PP is past the Transition Window, the vendor must submit an Evaluation Acceptance Package (See [CCEVS Pub #4](#) section 3) that complies with the PP and no LOI (Letter of Intent) is required.

A Letter of Intent (LOI) must be included in the Evaluation Acceptance Package (EAP) submitted by the Common Criteria Testing Laboratory (CCTL) when:

1. A NIAP approved PP does not exist for the product's Technology Community or,
2. The product does not claim compliance to a NIAP approved PP that is within its Transition Window.

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9800 Savage Road, STE 6940, Ft. Meade, MD 20755-6940

Phone: (410) 854-4458 Fax: (410) 854-6615

E-mail: [scheme-comments@niap-ccevs.org](mailto:scheme-comments@niap-ccevs.org)

<http://www.niap-ccevs.org/cc-scheme>

Additionally, such evaluations must meet the requirements defined in [CCEVS Policy Letter #10](#) (“Acceptance of Security Targets into NIAP CCEVS Evaluation”). If a Letter of Intent is required, CCEVS will confirm the validity of the LOI and determine validation resource availability.

The LOI must be submitted on official government agency letterhead, signed by the Chief, Office of Designated Approving Authority, and include the following information:

1. Full product name and version number.
2. Description of the expected usage scenario and operational environment in which the product will be implemented and,
  - a. If no NIAP approved PP exists, the government agency must also identify the security related features for which the product is intended to be used. This will allow CCEVS to verify that no NIAP approved PP exists and will provide input to determine whether a new PP should be developed for that particular technology type.
  - b. If a NIAP approved PP exists that is within its Transition Window, the government agency must provide a security relevant justification detailing why the product cannot be evaluated against the PP.
3. Name of the government policy, regulation, or directive that stipulates the requirement for the product to undergo a CC evaluation.
4. Government agency technical point of contact to include organization/office designator, phone number and email address.
5. Government agency acquisition authority point of contact to include organization/office designator, phone number and email address.
6. A statement to the effect that this LOI in no way binds the government customer to purchase the product.

**Note:** Vendors are encouraged to submit the LOI to CCEVS for an acceptance decision prior to engaging in pre-evaluation activities that expend time and resources (e.g. evidence development).

Protection of Information:

All information provided to CCEVS to meet this policy will be handled as proprietary and protected accordingly.

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Effect:

The primary intent of this policy is to ensure CCEVS resources are used effectively to evaluate products that meet NIAP approved PPs.

Effective Date:

All new evaluations submitted to CCEVS must conform to this policy.

**Original Signed By**

CAROL SAULSBURY HOUCK  
Director