



# National Information Assurance Partnership

## Common Criteria Evaluation and Validation Scheme

### CCEVS Policy Letter #4, Addendum 1

12 March 2004

**SUBJECT:** Inactive Validation Projects: What constitutes activity in an evaluation?

**PURPOSE:** CCEVS Policy Letter 4, dated June 7, 2002 outlines the policy for inactive validation projects. This addendum provides additional information on what constitutes “activity” on a project with respect to that policy letter.

The purpose of Policy Letter 4 is to allow for the most efficient use of limited validation resources. Therefore, if a project is not making continued measurable progress, CCEVS will terminate the project according to the steps outlined in Policy Letter 4.

**BACKGROUND:** Validators prepare a monthly status report for each validation, in which all validation activities are reported for the project. In order for a project to be considered active in any given month, there must be *measurable* activity performed by the evaluation team, with corresponding evidence of that activity provided to the validator. For the purpose of Policy Letter 4, evaluation activity may consist of:

- analysis of evaluation deliverables (ST, vendor test information, or other evaluation evidence) with delivery of the analysis results to the validator;
- test preparation with delivery of the resulting test plans/procedures to the validator;
- configuration management/lifecycle procedure review with evidence of the review (either written results from evidence review or written site visit results) to the validator;
- testing with test results provided to the validator (unless the validator has witnessed testing, in which case that activity will be reported as such).

There may be additional evidence of evaluation activity that can be provided to the validator. However, the evidence of evaluation activity must demonstrate that there was *measurable* work performed.

Resubmitting previously submitted information to the validator with only minor modifications does not demonstrate evaluation activity for a given month. CCEVS validators have been involved in projects where minor updates are made to evaluation evidence in order to avoid a “no activity” report in an MSR. Henceforth, these types of minor updates will be reported as “no activity”.

If the evaluation activity for a month consists of analyzing previously evaluated evidence, the evaluation team's analysis must show that there were *considerable* updates made to the document. Demonstration of considerable updates can be shown through reversal of a *significant number* of previously failed or inconclusive verdicts for a given ETR section.

**Original Signed by**

JEAN H. SCHAFFER  
Director