



National Information Assurance Partnership Common Criteria Evaluation and Validation Scheme

NIAP Policy Letter #31

10 April 2024

SUBJECT: Remote Testing

REFERENCES: NIAP Labgram 78

NIAP Publication 4

NVLAP Handbook 150-20

PURPOSE: This policy defines the requirements to verify the Common Criteria Test Laboratories (CCTL) have comparable control over any alternative test environment and the process for submitting remote testing requests.

BACKGROUND: Remote testing is very difficult for the CCTLs to ensure proper control over the test environment, and difficult for validators to ascertain if the proper control was maintained. Therefore, remote testing or remote observation of testing is only acceptable on a Common Criteria Evaluation and Validation Scheme (CCEVS)-approved case-by-case basis.

POLICY: Remote testing consists of any testing conducted on a TOE physically located at any location other than the NVLAP accredited lab. Remote testing requests require NIAP approval in advance of beginning the test and must be submitted for each evaluation. Remote testing requests should be submitted early in the evaluation process even if it is in draft state. If there are any changes to the remote testing parameters originally approved, an updated request must immediately be resubmitted. NIAP has identified three Remote testing options:

1. Alternate Location Testing (any location other than the accredited NVLAP lab)
 - a. Evaluation team is physically on-site and directly involved with access control
 - b. Evaluation team is performing testing and witnessing test results in-person
2. Remote Access Testing (any network other than the accredited NVLAP lab's)
 - a. Evaluation team is not physically on-site nor directly responsible for physical access control of the TOE.
 - b. Evaluation team is performing testing and witnessing test results remotely
3. Remote Observation
 - a. Evaluation team has no in-person visual confirmation of security and access controls
 - b. Evaluation team is not performing testing, and is witnessing test results remotely

All submitted requests must use the Remote Testing Request Form (F8005) and be uploaded to the project files in the NIAP portal along with an email notification sent to the NIAP ETAs and data manager.

EFFECTIVE DATE: This policy is effective immediately for all new Remote Testing Requests submitted to NIAP.