

National Information Assurance Partnership

Common Criteria Evaluation and Validation Scheme



Entropy Submission and Review Process

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1. Background

As evaluations against new-style Protection Profiles (PP) progress, The National Information Assurance Partnership (NIAP) has gained an understanding of the processes and procedures necessary to facilitate a timely, effective evaluation. To that end, in an effort to codify the processes for submission, tracking, and documentation of entropy reviews, NIAP has established the below step-by-step procedure. It is expected in the future, NIAP will begin to automate these processes where each step may be completed electronically – resulting in a faster, more convenient entropy process.

2. Vendor Submission

- To initiate the process, the vendor submits the Entropy Assessment Report (EAR) to the CCTL with whom they have a contract to perform the evaluation of their product.
- The CCTL then conducts the first review of the EAR and ensures completeness with respect to the sections outlined in the Entropy Documentation and Assessment Annex of the respective PP as well as any additional clarification created by NIAP. The CCTL does not judge the suitability of an entropy source.
 - If the CCTL finds issues with the EAR, the report should be sent back to the vendor for correction.
 - If the EAR is deemed acceptable, it is forwarded to NIAP Operations, crecords@niap-ccevs.org for further action.

3. NIAP Operations

- Upon receipt of the EAR from the CCTL, NIAP Operations assigns a NIAP validator and VID number.
 - To facilitate tracking of email messages pertaining to EARs, the following format is to be used in the subject line for all entropy related correspondence: “Entropy Assessment: VID 12345 - <Foo Inc.>” – where “12345” is the appropriate Validation Identifier and “Foo Inc.” is the vendor’s company name.
- NIAP operations then forward the EAR to the assigned validator via email with a courtesy copy to the NIAP EAR POC.
- NIAP Operations log the date the EAR was received and the date it was forwarded to a validator in the CCEVS database.
- NIAP Operations responds to the CCTL with an estimated completion date for the validator’s EAR review.

4. Validator

- The NIAP Validator reviews the EAR to ensure it contains the information specified within the entropy annex and forwards any questions they have to the CCTL for clarification.
- The NIAP Validator’s review of the EAR should take no longer than 5 business days.
- Once all questions have been answered and agreement is reached between the CCTL and the NIAP Validator, the EAR is sent to the NIAP EAR POC using the crecords@niap-ccevs.org alias.

5. NIAP EAR POC

- The NIAP EAR POC logs receipt of the validator-approved EAR and submits it to the IAD Entropy SME for review.
- NIAP Operations responds to the CCTL with an estimated completion date for the IAD SME's entropy review.
- It is expected that review of the EAR by the IAD Entropy SME should take no longer than 5 business days.
- Any comments and/or questions received from IAD are sent back to the NIAP EAR POC using the crecords@niap-ccevs.org alias.
- The NIAP EAR POC forwards the IAD comments to the CCTL and the assigned NIAP Validator and logs the activity in the CCEVS database. The IAD Entropy SME may make one of three determinations:
 - If there are no comments on the entropy, allow the evaluation to proceed to check-in;
 - If there are minor comments on the entropy, proceed to check-in with the understanding that the comments must be addressed prior to evaluation completion;
 - If there are significant comments on the entropy, delay check-in until the comments are properly resolved.
- The evaluation then proceeds based on the requirements from the IAD Entropy SME.
 - If there were major issues with entropy, the validator sends the final EAR back to the NIAP EAR POC for resubmission to IAD and the CCEVS database is updated.
 - Once the EAR is approved by IAD, the CCEVS database is updated to reflect the date of approval and the evaluation proceeds in accordance with the CCEVS evaluation process.

6. Acronyms and Abbreviations Used in this Document

NIAP	National Information Assurance Partnership
PP	Protection Profile
CCTL	Common Criteria Testing Lab
ST	Security Target
EAR	Entropy Assessment Report
VID	Validation Identification Designator
IAD	Information Assurance Directorate
SME	Subject Matter Expert

7. Definitions

Entropy Assessment Report	A document submitted in response to a NIAP PP describing how the product meets the requirements specified in the Entropy Reporting annex of the PP.
NIAP EAR POC	A point-of-contact within NIAP operations tasked with tracking the EAR through evaluation.
NIAP Operations	A division of NIAP with the sole purpose of tracking, documenting, and scheduling product validations throughout the NIAP process.