



National Information Assurance Partnership

Common Criteria Evaluation and Validation Scheme

Scheme Policy Letter #14

21 April 2006

Subject: Requirements for Committing NSA Resources to CCEVS Evaluations

Purpose: This paper, issued as an addendum to [Scheme Policy Letter #5](#) (“Evaluation [of] TOEs at Evaluation Assurance Levels (EALs) Above 4”, 13 September 2002), clarifies the requirements for the commitment of NSA evaluation resources to CCEVS evaluations. This policy is necessary to ensure that NSA evaluation resources are allocated only when the TOE undergoing evaluation warrants, and when the evaluation schedule is firm.

Background: NSA evaluation resources are completely separate from CCEVS. CCEVS serves in a liaison capacity between the NSA evaluators and the vendor whose product is being evaluated. Typically, the vendor will not interact closely with NSA evaluators until just prior to the start of the NSA evaluation of the product. An overview of the NSA Vulnerability Analysis (AVA) evaluation process for CCEVS evaluations can be found [here](#).

Scheme Policy Letter #5 characterizes evaluations that require NSA evaluation resources. It should be noted that vendors must contract with a CCTL to perform the evaluation of all assurance components at or below EAL4. The CCTL evaluation results will feed into the NSA evaluation of higher assurance components. NSA evaluation resources are required for evaluations that include any of the following CC assurance requirements:

CC v2.1/2.2 components:

- Formal functional specification - ADV_FSP.4
- Formal high level design - ADV_HLD.5
- Formal low-level design - ADV_LLD.3
- Formal TOE security policy model - ADV_SPM.3
- Formal correspondence demonstration – ADV_RCR.3
- Any component within the covert channel analysis (AVA_CCA) family
- Moderately or highly resistant vulnerability analysis - AVA_VLA.3 or AVA_VLA.4
- Any explicitly-stated component that is part of Medium or High Robustness.

Policy:

NSA Evaluation Resource Assignment

Until NSA evaluation resources are allocated, the evaluation’s listing on the CCEVS website will not mention any of the components exceeding those of EAL4. Alternatively, if the assurance claims for an evaluation are explicit (e.g., Medium or High Robustness), no EAL will be listed on the CCEVS website until NSA evaluation resources are allocated.

The following conditions must be met in order for the assignment of NSA evaluation resources to occur:

1. The evaluation must claim compliance to a Medium or High Robustness U.S. Government Protection Profile, if a validated PP for the technology type exists¹;
2. The NSA evaluators require thirty days to review the Security Target. The ST review, which will commence upon receipt of an ST that passes CCEVS Policy 10 and Policy 13 reviews, will allow the NSA evaluators to verify that the evaluated configuration and defined environment are both reasonable, and that the stated threats and assumptions are appropriate for the described configuration and environment; and
3. The vendor agrees to the conditions for NSA evaluations. At a minimum, these conditions include vendor submission of configured hardware & software and signature of the NSA Bailment agreement (copy available upon request), all evaluation results from the CCTL (including relevant vendor test results), all source code, and vendor technical support (as needed to support the evaluation). NSA may impose additional requirements, depending on the technology, complexity of the TOE, and assurance requirements.

When the above three conditions are met, NSA evaluation resources will be assigned to the project, an evaluation point of contact will be identified, and the vendor will be notified by CCEVS.

Maintaining NSA Evaluation Resources

Because CCEVS has no direct control over NSA evaluation resources, any slippage in the CCTL evaluation schedule may result in the removal of NSA evaluation resources from the project and will invalidate any previously established NSA testing schedule.

The vendor must notify the NSA evaluation point of contact (who will be identified when NSA evaluation resources are assigned) of any schedule slippages in the vendor's delivery or the CCTL evaluation. This notification must occur as early as possible in order to mitigate the risk of removing resources and in order to determine whether NSA testing can be rescheduled.

¹ If no PP exists for a TOE's technology type, then NSA will determine whether there is an existing PP to which the TOE may conform. In this case, the vendor and/or CCTL are strongly encouraged to work with CCEVS in the early stages of writing the ST in order to begin the process of determining whether there is an existing PP to which the TOE may conform. If there is no applicable existing PP, then NSA will determine whether they have resources available to apply to the evaluation. CCEVS will notify the vendor of the NSA resource allocation decision upon completion of the 30 day ST review.

Effective Date:

All new evaluations (i.e. those for which the Evaluation Acceptance Package (EAP) has not been received by the date of this policy) must conform to this policy.

Original Signed By

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Director

Cancelled - For reference only