



National Information Assurance Partnership

Common Criteria Evaluation and Validation Scheme

CCEVS Policy Letter #21

30 April 2014

SUBJECT: NIAP Evaluated Product Assurance Maintenance – Products with Evaluation Assurance Level (EAL) Claims

REFERENCE: Common Criteria Evaluation and Validation Scheme Publication #6, “Assurance Continuity: Guidance for Maintenance and Re-evaluation”

National Information Assurance Partnership Policy Letter #12, “Acceptance Requirements of a product for NIAP Evaluation.”

Common Criteria Recognition Arrangement Vision Statement, 2.0, “Vision statement for the future direction of the application of the CC and the CCRA.”

PURPOSE: This policy describes the requirements for Assurance Continuity, including Maintenance and Re-evaluation of NIAP validated products with an EAL conformance claim. All references to validated or evaluated products in this policy are **only** applicable to products with an EAL compliance claim.

BACKGROUND: NIAP strives to ensure the availability of current evaluated products on the Product Compliant List (PCL). To that end, NIAP is enforcing Assurance Maintenance requirements described in [NIAP Publication #6 "Assurance Continuity: Guidance for Maintenance and Re-evaluation"](#) and product compliance with NIAP-approved Protection Profiles (PPs) described in [NIAP Policy #12 "Acceptance Requirements of a product for NIAP Evaluation."](#)

Each NIAP validated product will have an *Assurance Maintenance Date* associated with it. A product will be removed from the Validated Products List (VPL) after its Assurance Maintenance Date. The Assurance Maintenance Date will typically be 24 months after completion of the original evaluation.

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) section has been added to address many of the common types of questions received for NIAP Policies 21 and 22. Please see https://www.niap-ccevs.org/Documents_and_Guidance/ccevs/FAQ_Policies_21-22.pdf which is located on the “Scheme Publications” page at the bottom under “CCEVS Guidance Documents”.

POLICY: Effective immediately, each product with an EAL claim on the NIAP VPL will be assigned an Assurance Maintenance Date of 24 months after completion of the final evaluation or 6 months from the date of this policy, whichever timeframe is longer. The product will maintain certification as designated by its Assurance Maintenance Date.

Impact Analysis Reports will be accepted for a validated product until 30 days prior to the Assurance Maintenance Date; after that date, no IARs will be accepted for the product. IARs will be reviewed by NIAP as described in NIAP Publication #6 and the product will remain on the VPL until the Assurance Maintenance review is completed. The assigned Assurance Maintenance Date will not be updated for EAL compliant products, regardless of maintenance updates.

If IAR changes are determined to be **minor** (not security relevant) as defined in NIAP Publication #6, the product VPL listing will be updated and the product is considered “maintained.”

If IAR changes are **major** (security relevant) per NIAP Publication #6, the product must be re-evaluated.

- If a NIAP-approved PP exists for the technology, re-evaluation of the product must be against the latest version of that PP.
- If no PP exists, the NIAP “Guidelines for When No PP Exists” document will be followed.

A product will be removed from the VPL after its Assurance Maintenance Date. Products removed from the VPL will be placed on the Archived Product Compliant List (APCL).

PROTECTION OF INFORMATION: All information provided to NIAP to meet this policy will be handled as proprietary and protected accordingly.

EFFECT: The primary intent of this policy is to ensure NIAP resources are used effectively to evaluate products against NIAP approved PPs and the most current products are available for use on National Security Systems. In keeping with the [CCRA Vision Statement](#), this policy will allow for a gradual transition of EAL compliant products off the VPL and onto the APCL.

EFFECTIVE DATE: All evaluations with an EAL compliance claim (current and previous) must comply with this policy immediately.

Original Signed By

JANINE S. PEDERSEN
Acting Director, NIAP