



# National Information Assurance Partnership

## Common Criteria Evaluation and Validation Scheme

### CCEVS Policy Letter #22

30 April 2014

**SUBJECT:** NIAP Evaluated Product Assurance Maintenance - Protection Profile Compliant Products

**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 compliant to Protection Profiles (PPs). All references to validated or evaluated products in this policy are **only** applicable to products with a Protection Profile conformance 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 PCL unless it successfully completes an Assurance Maintenance Review prior to the Assurance Maintenance Date. The Assurance Maintenance Date will typically be 24 months after completion of the evaluation, but may vary depending on the technology. A product is considered "maintained" until its Assurance Maintenance Date.

**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](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 on the NIAP Product Compliant List (PCL) will be assigned an Assurance Maintenance Date. Assurance Maintenance dates will typically be 24 months after completion of the evaluation, but may vary depending on the technology. Products on the PCL will maintain certification as designated by the Assurance Maintenance Date.

User installation of vendor-delivered bug fixes and security patches is encouraged between completion of the evaluation and the Assurance Maintenance Date; and with such updates properly installed, the product is still considered by NIAP to be in its evaluated configuration, thus, an IAR is not required.

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 PCL until the Assurance Maintenance review is completed. A successful Assurance Maintenance activity must be completed or the product will be removed from the PCL and moved to the Archived Product Compliant List (APCL) after the Assurance Maintenance Date.

If IAR changes are determined to be **minor** (not security relevant) as defined in NIAP Publication #6, the product PCL 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 against the latest version of that PP. If additional applicable PPs or EPs have been published, those must also be considered for product compliance claims.

**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 PP-compliant evaluated products to remain current and available for use.

**EFFECTIVE DATE:** All evaluations with a PP compliance claim (current and previous) must comply with this policy immediately.

**Original Signed By**

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