National Information Assurance Partnership

Common Criteria Evaluation and Validation Scheme

NIAP Policy Letter #17

29 August 2014

SUBJECT: Effects of Vulnerabilities in Evaluated Products

REFERENCE:

National Information Assurance Partnership Policy Letter #21, "NIAP Evaluated Product Assurance Maintenance – Products with Evaluation Assurance Level (EAL) Claims."

National Information Assurance Partnership Letter #22, "NIAP Evaluated Product Assurance Maintenance – Protection Profile Compliant Products."

Common Criteria and Validation Scheme Publication #6, "Assurance Continuity: Guidance for Maintenance and Re-evaluation."

PURPOSE: Ensure products receiving a NIAP Common Criteria certificate do not contain known vulnerabilities.

BACKGROUND: A CC certificate carries with it an expectation of quality. As such, consumers expect evaluated products do not contain known security-relevant vulnerabilities at the time the certificate was issued. Although it is not unusual for vulnerabilities to be discovered after a certificate has been issued, NIAP will not issue a certificate for a product with known security-relevant vulnerabilities.

POLICY: This policy is applicable to products included on the NIAP Product Compliant List. If a vulnerability is discovered before, during, or after an evaluation, NIAP may notify the company and require modifications in order for the Target of Evaluation (TOE) to remain on the Product compliant List (PCL). Any such notification will be sent out to the company point of contact. In response to such notification, the company must:

1. Present evidence to the NIAP as to why such modifications are unnecessary;
    a. NIAP will determine if the company's rationale is sufficient to allow the product to be listed, or remain listed, on the PCL.
2. Present to NIAP the company's plan to address the identified vulnerabilities;
    a. NIAP will determine if the company's mitigation of vulnerabilities is sufficient to allow the product to be listed, or remain listed, on the PCL.
3. Request NIAP remove or not place the product on the PCL.

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If a company independently discovers or is made aware of a vulnerability associated with a product listed on the PCL, the company must notify NIAP and follow one of the three aforementioned options.

EFFECTIVE DATE: This policy is effective immediately.

Original Signed By

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