

National Information Assurance Partnership
Common Criteria Evaluation and Validation Scheme



Guidance on Protection Profile Requirements:
Objective to Mandatory

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BACKGROUND:

Some National Information Assurance Partnership (NIAP) Protection Profiles (PPs) specify dates when objective requirements¹ become mandatory. The purpose of this objective-to-mandatory requirement specification in PPs is to provide Technical Communities a way to raise the security bar for a given technology over time. Giving advance notice of PP objective requirements that will become mandatory allows time for product planning and development so Commercial-Off-The-Shelf products procured for use in National Security Systems will meet evolving use cases.

Feedback on this objective-to-mandatory approach has been positive, so NIAP will continue to provide a timeframe for when objective requirements will become mandatory in PPs.

However, there are cases where external circumstances impact the date for mandating objective PP requirements, such as the recent issuance of the Committee on National Security Systems Advisory Memorandum "[Use of Public Standards for the Secure Sharing of Information among National Security Systems](#)," dated July 2015.

RESOLUTION:

For all PPs, updates changing objective requirements to mandatory will be issued via a NIAP Technical Decision (TD) or through a PP update. All objective requirements in current NIAP PPs should therefore be considered objective until explicitly updated to mandatory by either a TD or a PP update.

EFFECTIVE DATE:

This process is effective immediately. TDs can be found on the NIAP website: [https://www.niap-ccevs.org/Documents and Guidance/view_tds.cfm](https://www.niap-ccevs.org/Documents%20and%20Guidance/view_tds.cfm)

¹Objective requirements specify security functionality which also addresses threats. The requirements are not currently mandated in the body of a PP as they describe security functionality not yet widely-available in commercial technology. However, these requirements may be included in the ST such that the TOE is still conformant to the PP, and it is expected that they be included as soon as possible.