



EAC Testing and Certification Program and VVSG Deprecation

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At the **Hopkins County Elections Office**, we use voting systems that meet federal and state certification requirements to help ensure elections are secure, accurate, and reliable. The U.S. Election Assistance Commission (EAC) establishes standards and certification processes that help verify voting systems meet required security, accessibility, and functionality standards.

Below are frequently asked questions regarding EAC certification, Voluntary Voting System Guidelines (VVSG), and VVSG deprecation.

Frequently Asked Questions

Q: What does an Election Assistance Commission (EAC) certification mean?

An **EAC-certified voting system** has been tested by a federally accredited testing laboratory and has successfully met the requirements established by the **Voluntary Voting System Guidelines (VVSG)**, as well as any additional claims made by the voting system manufacturer.

This certification process helps verify that voting systems meet established requirements for security, accuracy, reliability, and accessibility.



Q: What are the Voluntary Voting System Guidelines (VVSG)?

The **Voluntary Voting System Guidelines (VVSG)** are a set of technical requirements and specifications that voting systems, voting devices, and election software must meet in order to receive certification from the **U.S. Election Assistance Commission (EAC)**.

Federally accredited laboratories test voting systems, devices, and software against these guidelines to ensure they meet required standards.

Q: How are laboratories that test voting systems accredited?

The **Help America Vote Act (HAVA)** established a process for accrediting voting system testing laboratories.

The **National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST)** assists the EAC through its **National Voluntary Laboratory Accreditation Program (NVLAP)** by evaluating laboratories and providing recommendations.

After receiving recommendations from NVLAP, the EAC conducts additional reviews. The EAC Commission then votes on whether to approve full accreditation.

Once approved, the laboratory becomes a **Voting System Test Laboratory (VSTL)**.

Q: Did the accreditation of Voting System Testing Laboratories (VSTLs) expire?

No. The accreditation of EAC Voting System Test Laboratories has not expired.

EAC-accredited laboratories remain subject to review and oversight to ensure they continue meeting required standards.



Voluntary Voting System Guidelines (VVSG) Updates

The **Voluntary Voting System Guidelines (VVSG)** are updated over time to reflect changes in technology, security practices, and election administration needs.

The newer **VVSG 2.0** standard was implemented on **November 15, 2022**.

The transition from older standards to newer standards allows future voting systems to continue improving while maintaining strong security and reliability requirements.

Q: What does VVSG deprecation mean?

Deprecation of a VVSG standard means that **new voting systems will no longer be tested or certified under that older standard**.

Existing voting systems certified under previous VVSG standards may continue to be used, with certain limitations on future modifications.

Deprecation does **not** mean that a voting system is no longer certified or that it cannot continue to be used.

Q: Will voting systems be decertified?

No.

A voting system is **not automatically decertified** because a VVSG standard has been deprecated.

Voting systems that were previously certified remain certified unless they are separately decertified through the appropriate process.



Q: What does VVSG deprecation mean for EAC-certified voting systems?

VVSG deprecation does not change the certification status of previously certified voting systems.

Systems certified under previous VVSG standards may continue to be:

- Certified
- Maintained
- Used by election jurisdictions

Q: What does VVSG deprecation mean for election jurisdictions?

Election jurisdictions are **not required to immediately replace or upgrade voting systems** because a newer VVSG standard has been implemented.

Jurisdictions may continue using voting systems that meet applicable certification requirements.

Any future equipment decisions are based on federal and state requirements, election needs, security considerations, and available resources.



Q: Will current voting systems continue receiving updates?

Yes.

Voting systems certified under previous standards may continue receiving limited maintenance updates.

These updates may include:

- Security updates
- Bug fixes
- Hardware component updates
- Maintenance improvements
- Changes required by election laws or jurisdiction requirements

Q: What starts the VVSG deprecation process?

The EAC's **VVSG Lifecycle Policy** outlines the process for updating and retiring older standards when a new version of VVSG is approved.

This process ensures voting system standards continue evolving while maintaining secure and reliable election technology.



Hopkins County Elections Office Commitment

The Hopkins County Elections Office is committed to using secure election procedures, maintaining certified voting systems, protecting election equipment, and following all federal and Texas election requirements.

Our goal is to provide voters with confidence that every election is conducted securely, accurately, and transparently.

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