Testing and Certification Division: End-of-Year Report

Presented at the EAC Public Meeting, December 11, 2007, Austin, Texas

Management Guidelines:

7 New Quick Start Guides for Election officials-

1. Voting System Certification
2. Acceptance Testing
3. Absentee Voting and Vote-by-Mail
4. Contingency and Disaster Planning
5. Media and Public Relations
6. Managing Change in an Election Office
7. Polling Places and Vote Centers

We are currently finalizing the accompanying chapters in the Management Guidelines Manual detailing more specifics in these important areas.

Laboratory Accreditation:

This year we accredited 4 Voting System Test laboratories under our HAVA mandated program, working in conjunction with our partners at the National Voluntary Laboratory Accreditation Program (NVLAP) at NIST. These Labs are:

- iBeta Quality Assurance
- SysTest Laboratories
- infoGard Laboratories
- Wyle Laboratories

In addition we will have posted on our web site tomorrow, the new EAC Laboratory Accreditation Program Manual. The document will be noticed in the Federal Register for a 30 day public comment period and a 60 day public comment period required under the Paperwork Reduction Act.

Voting System Testing and Certification:

At the December 2006 EAC Public Meeting, the Commissioners voted to adopt the EAC Testing and Certification Program Manual. This document outlines the detailed EAC process and procedures for moving a voting system through our certification program, beginning with the registration of voting system manufacturers, and ending with a certified product.

Pursuant to the requirements of the Manual, in 2007, the EAC staff processed:

- **11** Manufacturer Registrations;
- **8** Applications for testing voting systems (One of which has since been terminated.)
- Issued **6** interpretations of the 2002 VSS or 2005 VVSG;
- Issued **5** Notices of Clarification regarding various aspects of our Certification Program Manual;
- Drafted and release at least **10** notices of non-compliance and other correspondence to either voting system manufacturers or test labs.
- In addition, the EAC has posted Test Plans and will post final Test Reports on the EAC web site as well as any other relevant information related to systems and system testing.

Voluntary Voting System Guidelines:

The Technical Guidelines Development Committees (TGDC) recommendations for the next iteration of Voluntary Voting System Guidelines were received by the EAC from NIST on August 31st 2007. During September and October, the EAC worked to develop a plan for the public review and ultimate adoption of these Guidelines and to develop an HTML version of the document and a web based comment portal to provide easy access to the members of the public who wish to comment on the TGDC recommendations. The initial public comment period began with Notice in the Federal Register on November 6, 2007, and will end on March 5, 2008. This initial phase is only the beginning of the process for adopting the next iteration Guidelines. Work will continue well in 2008 and into 2009 so that the EAC can receive as much input from all our stakeholders both on the current TGDC document, and later, on the EAC draft VVSG.

A full description of the EAC process for reviewing and adopting the next iteration VSG is available on the EAC web site.