

JP002381:SS
262255-150003
02/10/2004

To: Daniel D. McMillan

DIEBOLD ELECTION SYSTEMS, INC.

Re: Federal Qualification and NASED Number

I. ISSUE

Whether a voting system is federally qualified after the ITA confirms that the voting system has passed the qualification testing?

II. SHORT ANSWER

Maybe. It is not clear whether a voting system is qualified after it passes ITA qualification testing, or whether the voting system is qualified when it receives a NASED number.

III. DISCUSSION

The ITA shall prepare a Qualification Test Report that confirms the voting has passed the testing conducted by the ITA. The ITA shall include in the Qualification Test Report the date testing was completed, the specific system version addressed by the report, the version numbers of all system elements separately identified with a version number by the vendor, and the scope of tests conducted. A recommended outline for the test report is contained in Volume II;

Where a system is tested by multiple ITAs, each ITA shall prepare a Qualification Test Report;

The ITA shall deliver the Qualification Test Report to the vendor and to NASED;

NASED shall issue a single Qualification Number for the system to the vendor and to the ITAs. The issuance of a Qualification Number indicates that the system has been tested by

certified ITAs for compliance with the national test standards and qualifies for the certification process of states that have adopted the national standards;

This number applies to the system as a whole only for the configuration and versions of the system elements tested by the ITAs and identified in the Qualification Test Reports. The Qualification Number does not apply to individual system components or untested configurations; and

The Qualification Number is intended for use by the states and their jurisdictions to support state and jurisdiction processes concerning voting systems. States and their jurisdictions shall request ITA Qualification Test Reports based on the Qualification Number as part of their voting system certification and procurement processes systems that rely on the Standards.

The NASED Voting Systems Board (the Board) is responsible for resolving questions about the application of the Standards in the testing of voting systems. The Secretariat for the Board will relay its decisions to the NASED certified ITAs and voting system vendors. The Federal Election Commission will monitor these decisions in order to determine which of them, if any, should be reflected in a subsequent version of the standards.

"Qualified" voting systems, meaning that they have been tested to meet or exceed the standards specified in the FVSS.

Once a system is completely through the ITA process, it receives a NASED Qualified identification number.

NASED selects and approves testing laboratories which can perform testing related to voting systems to meet the FVSS. The standards are not NASED standards and NASED does not have authority over the FVSS or its individual components of the standards. NASED does select and qualify Independent Test Authorities to perform the work of doing professional testing

to assure that voting systems manufacturers comply with the FVSS. NASED has no ability to determine whether a system passes or fails; the ITAs operate independently to determine objectively whether the vendor has met or exceeded the FVSS. When a system passes testing through a qualified ITA, the ITA informs NASED of its compliance and then NASED issues one or more numbers which identify to the states that the system has been qualified by NASED.

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February 10, 2004