Frequently Asked Questions for NIAP Policy #31

1. *Why is this policy being issued?*

   This policy standardizes the remote testing requests submitted to NIAP and helps to reduce the amount of time required to respond and approve those requests. This policy does not guarantee remote testing requests will be approved but rather outlines a systematic process for submission and evaluation.

2. *The policy states to submit requests "early in the evaluation process." What does this mean for the CCTL's timeline?*

   Remote testing Requests can be submitted as early as project proposal. This allows NIAP to evaluate proposed testing procedures well in advance of the CCTL completing the testing to avoid future scheduling delays. The remote testing request must be completed with sufficient detail, meaning each applicable question on the request form must be filled out. If answers to some of the questions are unknown, the lab can assume it is too early in the process to submit the request. If the lab believes there are special circumstances that require the request to be submitted prior to project proposal, please contact NIAP.

3. *What is the difference between the remote testing request options?*

   The remote testing options are an effort to distinguish the different possibilities for remote testing enabling NIAP to consistently review submissions and assess the appropriate level of security controls. The key distinctions are that alternate location testing is performed **in-person by the CCTL**, while remote access testing is performed **remotely by the CCTL**, and remote observation testing is performed **by vendor and observed by the CCTL.**

   Remote observation testing will only be considered if all other options have been exhausted.

4. *Is it required to use form F8005?*

   Yes, all submissions must use the Remote testing Request Form F8005. If you are experiencing an issue completing the form, please contact NIAP.

5. *How should requests be submitted for testing done at multiple locations?*

If the remote testing request involves two different locations but the same testing option (alternate location, remote access, remote observation) it can be submitted using the same form. For this case, the CCTL must answer each question on the form for **each** location.

   If the remote testing request involves two different locations but different testing options (alternate location, remote access, remote observation) the request must be submitted separately for each testing option.