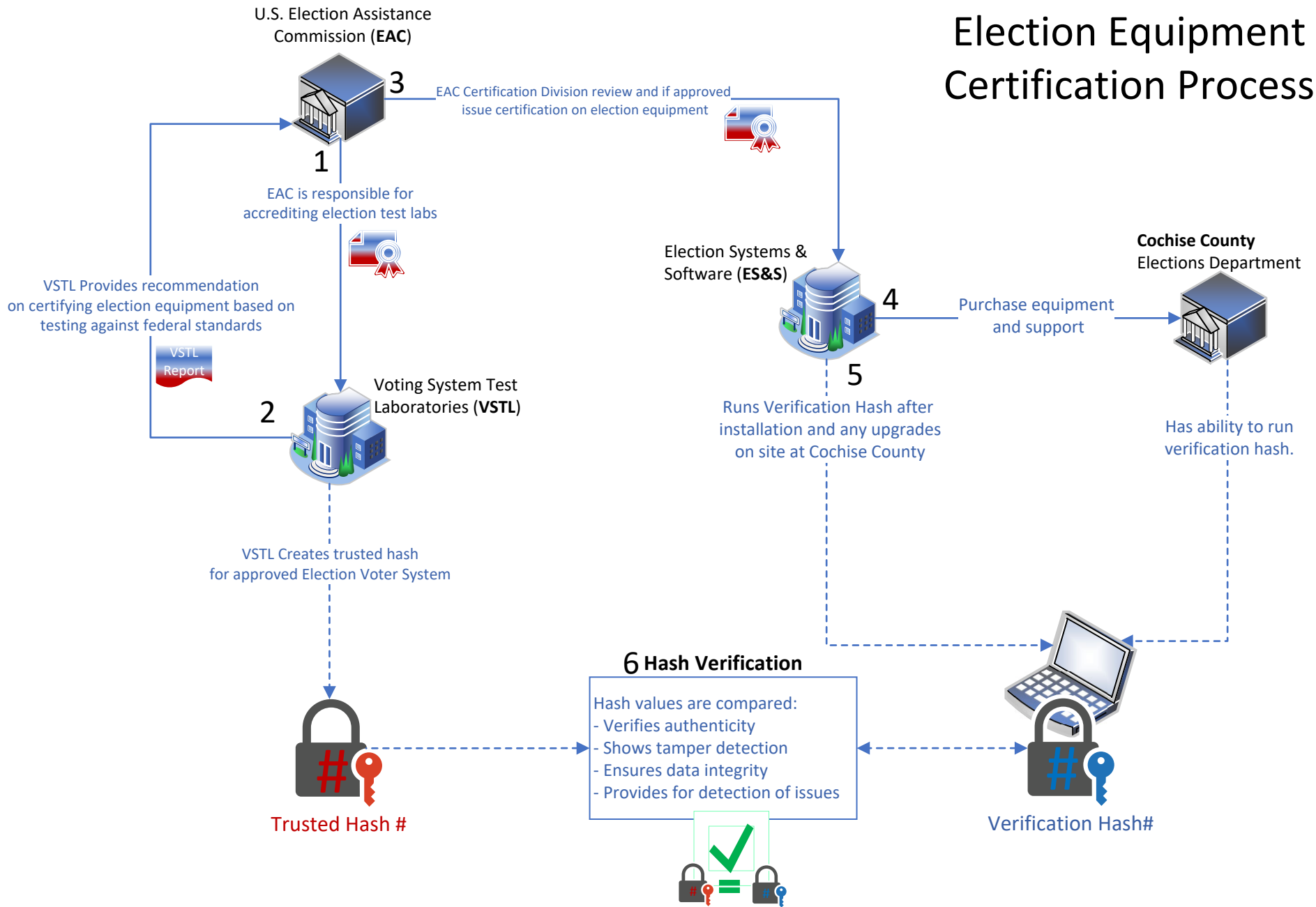


High Level Election Equipment Certification Process



Election Equipment Process Guide

This document outlines the certification and verification process. The process involves multiple organizations and steps designed to maintain the integrity of election systems.

U.S. Elections Assistance Commission (EAC)

1. The EAC is responsible for accrediting special election laboratories to check and test voting equipment, called Voting System Test Laboratories (VSTLs).
3. The EAC Certification division reviews and if approved issues a certification of the Electionware Voting System (EVS).

Additional notes:

- Arizona law A.R.S. 16-442(B) states all voting equipment must follow HAVA rules and be tested by an accredited VSTL.
- The U.S. Election Assistance Commission (EAC) was created in 2002 by the Help America Vote Act (HAVA) law, established by Congress.

Voting System Test Laboratories (VSTLs)

2. VSTL submits required documents to EAC to request certification for equipment that meets federal standards.

Additional notes:

- VSTLs are independent labs that are not part of the government. The National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) helps decide which labs should be approved. The testing and approval are specific to each voting machine model, software version, and hardware or firmware.
- The Help America Vote Act (HAVA) of 2002 provides the authority for the EAC to approve VSTL's and if needed remove their approval.

Election Equipment Vendor - Election Systems & Software (ES&S)

4. ES&S sales election equipment and support to the County.
5. ES&S Runs a verification hash on election equipment after installation and after any upgrade to compare against the Trusted Hash created by the VSTL.

Additional notes:

- Cochise County currently uses Election Systems & Software (ES&S) which is a company in the United States that makes voting technology. It started in 1979 and is based in Omaha.
- The voting system includes:
 - A ballot marking device, called Express Vote that helps people mark their ballots.
 - The machine uses firmware version 4.2.1.0.
 - The software it runs on is called Electionware version 6.3.0.0.

Hash Verification

6. The Verification Hash is compared to the Trusted Hash

Additional notes:

- VSTL Creates a trusted hash for each version and model of tested equipment to compare to latter in the process.
- A trusted hash is like a digital fingerprint made by the VSTL. This fingerprint is made for the software, firmware, or files of a voting system that has been tested and approved. It helps to:
 - Make sure nothing has been changed: It shows the voting system or firmware is the same and hasn't been tampered with.
 - Check the version: It proves the version on the voting machines is the same as the one approved by the U.S. Election Assistance Commission (EAC).
 - Keep track of the system: It helps prove everything is correct during testing before an election or during an audit after an election.