



CHANGES IN DSD'S COMMON CRITERIA PROGRAM AND POLICY

Background on Common Criteria

The Common Criteria for information technology security evaluation is a framework for testing products against security claims of vendors. Products certified at Evaluation Assurance Levels (EAL) 1-4 are understood among 26 nations to be a recognised evaluation.

Product evaluations at EAL 4 are lengthy where security patching and version changes often occur by the time the product is certified.

Changes in the Common Criteria

DSD recognises the need for faster evaluations without sacrificing security standards. Therefore DSD is working with the International Common Criteria community to develop comprehensive standardised security requirements for evaluation. The requirements are captured in documents called Common Criteria Protection Profiles. These are tailored to a specific technology.

Protection Profiles are created through technical groups of government and industry experts. DSD will advise on the various technologies being developed into Protection Profiles on the Evaluated Products List (EPL) found at: www.dsd.gov.au/infosec/epl. DSD will be publishing approved Common Criteria Protection Profiles in 2011 on the EPL.

Where an approved Protection Profile becomes available, those technology vendors will be given the highest priority for evaluation. The Product Selection and Acquisition section of the Australian Government Information Security Manual (ISM) will also be updated to reflect the priority of Protection Profile evaluated products.

Changes in DSD's Common Criteria program and policy

Four changes will occur in DSD:

1. DSD will prioritise Protection Profile compliance in the Australian Government Information Security Manual in 2011.
2. As Protection Profile compliant products become available, EAL numbers will be removed from the ISM.
3. Where an approved Common Criteria Protection Profile exists for a technology, vendors will be required to comply with it for evaluation no later than 6 months after it is published on the EPL. Existing evaluations will remain valid. Protection Profile evaluations will not require a government sponsorship.
4. Technologies that do not have an approved Common Criteria Protection Profile can be evaluated at an EAL number based on Australian/New Zealand government sponsor requirements.

DSD will advise the cut-off date for EAL based evaluations in 2013.

Contact

Please email assist@dsd.gov.au for any related questions.