



USER GUIDE FOR THE CVP CERTIFICATION EXAM

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Document Version Control

Version	Date	Update
1.0	3/14/17	Initial draft
1.1	5/8/17	Added cost, duration, minimum score and period of certification
1.2	7/1/20	Updated for new exam

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Introduction

Effective October 1, 2017, National Voluntary Laboratory Accreditation Program (NVLAP) accredited laboratories are required to employ a minimum of two Cryptographic Validation Program (CVP) *Certified Testers* throughout their accreditation period. To become a *CVP Certified Tester*, candidates are required to pass the CVP Certification Exam. The Cryptographic Module Validation Program (CMVP) contracted with Pearson VUE for the administration of the CVP Certification Exam because of their extensive experience administering professional certification exams.

Candidates who pass the CVP Certification Exam can be an Approved Signatory or independent tester (Independent testers are those who perform testing with no direct oversight). Testers who do not take and pass the exam (e.g. testers in training) may not be an Approved Signatory or independent tester and must have direct oversight from testers who have passed the exam.

Because the exam is administered to individuals, the certification lies with the individual, and not the employer. Only individuals authorized by CMVP are permitted to schedule the exam with Pearson VUE.

The exam is a general knowledge test for the minimally acceptable candidate. The CMVP evaluated each question to determine if 2 out of 3 candidates are expected to know the answer. The result of this analysis determined the minimum passing score. The exam encompasses the same domains as listed in NIST Handbook 150-17, Annex B; however, the grouping is modified as listed in [Appendix A](#) of this document. The exam is pass/fail, closed-book, and computer-based with 100 multiple choice questions. The amount of time to complete the certification exam is 3.5 hours with .25 hours for a tutorial and completing the Non-Disclosure Agreement (NDA). The NDA is provided in [Appendix B](#). A score of 75% or greater is required to pass the exam. Pass/fail results are provided to candidates by CMVP within 14 days of completing the exam.

CMVP receives a copy of all exam results and maintains a list of *CVP Certified Testers*. Maintaining the certification will require individuals to retake and pass the certification exam every 4 years unless a new standard is adopted requiring a new exam to be administered.

This guide provides the process and information for candidates registering for the CVP Certification Exam through Pearson VUE. If you have questions that are not covered in this guide, contact the [CMVP](#).

Exam Authorization

Each testing candidate must be authorized by the CMVP before the candidate may schedule the exam through Pearson VUE. Each NVLAP accredited laboratory must have a CVP Certification Exam point of contact (POC) who provides candidate names to CMVP. Contact your Laboratory Director or Laboratory Manager if you do not know who your CVP Certification Exam POC is.

The laboratory CVP Certification Exam POC provides the following information for each candidate to CMVP:

1. Salutation, optional
2. First Name (as it appears on the candidate's identification)
3. Middle Name, optional
4. Last Name (as it appears on the candidate's identification)
5. Suffix, optional
6. Phone Number
7. Phone Number Extension, if applicable
8. Email Address
9. Test accommodations, if applicable

Candidates must provide [identification](#) before being permitted to begin the exam. Therefore, the candidate's name on the identification must exactly match the candidate's name in the exam authorization. If the names are not identical, the CVP Certification Exam POC must contact CMVP to have the error corrected before the candidate schedules the exam. If the correction is not made, the candidate will be refused entry for the exam.

The purpose of test accommodations is to provide candidates with full access to the test. Accommodations are not a guarantee of improved performance or test completion. Accommodations can be provided to candidates with documented disabilities who demonstrate a need for them. Accommodations are individualized and considered on a case-by-case basis. The request for accommodations must be provided to CMVP prior to CMVP authorizing the candidate for the exam. Once the candidate is authorized for the exam, requests for accommodations are not accepted.

CMVP will provide the above information along with the laboratory's address to Pearson VUE on a bi-weekly schedule to authorize candidates for the exam. Candidates may only update their phone number

and email address. For all other updates (e.g. name changes, address changes¹), the CVP Certification Exam POC provides the updates to CMVP who will in turn provide the updates to Pearson VUE.

Pearson VUE processes CMVP requests within 24 hours. Once processed, Pearson VUE notifies candidates via email (using the email address provided in #8 of candidate information) that they may register for the exam. An example email is provided in [Appendix C](#).

Upon receipt of the authorization email, candidates may register for the CVP Certification Exam. The authorization allows the candidate to take the exam with at least 60 days between failed attempts.

If a candidate arrives more than 15 minutes late or does not show for a scheduled exam, the candidate will count as a no show with no fees refunded. The candidate may schedule another attempt as soon as one is available.

If the candidate fails the exam, the candidate may register for another exam after 60 days.

The CMVP reserves the right to delay or deny exam authorizations.

Exam Registration

After receiving the authorization email, the candidate may register for the exam through the Pearson VUE web site or by contacting the Pearson VUE call center. The candidate needs the authorization email information (e.g. candidate ID, candidate authorization) to register for the exam. Candidates may schedule the exam up to 1 day prior and as appointments are available. Note that it may take several weeks to obtain an appointment at some testing centers. Candidates from the same laboratory may schedule the exam at different dates, times and locations as long as the laboratory has at least two *CVP Certified Testers* prior to the on-site NVLAP assessment and throughout the accreditation period, starting October 1, 2017.

Pearson VUE has testing locations throughout the world. All laboratories have at least one testing center within 30 miles of their laboratory location. Candidates may register for the exam at any Pearson VUE location that offers the exam regardless of the proximity to the laboratory.

¹ The laboratory is required to notify NVLAP and CMVP of any physical moves and include a move plan. The laboratory is required to notify NVLAP and CMVP of any personnel changes within thirty (30) days. Failure to communicate personnel or laboratory changes may result in an adverse action regarding accreditation.

When registering for the exam, the candidate will be required to select their laboratory. If the candidate selects a laboratory which does not align with CMVP records, CMVP will notify NVLAP to resolve the discrepancy.

The cost for each candidate to take the certification exam is \$400.00. Payment by the candidate or laboratory (on behalf of the candidate) is required to complete the registration. Candidates may pay using various forms of payment listed on the Pearson VUE website. The fee is not associated with the NVLAP admin/tech support fee or the onsite fee and will not be collected by NVLAP.

Laboratories may obtain pre-paid vouchers to provide to candidates in place of other forms of payment. Vouchers expire one year from the date they are issued and are non-refundable and non-extendable. Contact [Pearson VUE](#) for more information about payment vouchers.

When successfully registered, the candidate receives a confirmation email from Pearson VUE. An example email is provided in [Appendix D](#).

Exam Reminder

Candidates receive an email reminder 3 days before the scheduled exam. If the candidate schedules the exam within the 3-day window, the candidate will not receive the reminder. An example email is provided in [Appendix E](#).

Exam Cancellation or Reschedule

Exams may be cancelled or rescheduled up to 48 hours prior to the start of the exam. Candidates work directly with Pearson VUE to cancel or reschedule the exam.

If a candidate arrives more than 15 minutes late or does not show for a scheduled exam, the candidate will need to reschedule and no fees will be refunded. If a candidate fails they will need to reschedule after a 60 day period of time and pay the exam fees again.

CMVP reserves the right to delay or deny exam authorizations.

When the exam is successfully cancelled or rescheduled, the candidate receives a confirmation email from Pearson VUE. [Appendix F](#) shows an example email for cancelling an exam. [Appendix G](#) shows an example email for rescheduling an exam.

Taking the Exam

Candidates should arrive at the test center 30 minutes before the scheduled appointment time. This gives the candidate adequate time to complete the necessary sign-in procedures. If a candidate arrives

more than 15 minutes late for the appointment, the candidate will be refused admission and will not be permitted to take the exam.

CMVP reserves the right to delay or deny exam authorizations.

Candidates must provide [identification](#) before being permitted to begin the exam. Therefore, the candidate's name on the identification must exactly match the candidate's name in the exam authorization. If the names are not identical, the CVP Certification Exam POC must contact CMVP to have the error corrected before the candidate schedules the exam. If the correction is not made, the candidate will be refused entry for the exam.

As part of the check-in process, candidates are photographed and digitally sign the registration form. Where available, a palm vein scan will be captured. [Appendix H](#) provides information on the palm vein scan.

Pearson VUE provides videos to assist candidates in preparing for the exam.

- [Virtual tour of a Pearson VUE Professional Center](#)
- [What to expect in a Pearson VUE Test Center](#)

The allotted time for the exam is 3.5 hours which is allocated as follows:

- 5 minutes to review the Non-Disclosure Agreement ([NDA](#))
- 10 minutes for the tutorial on navigating the exam
- 195 minutes to complete the 100 multiple choice questions

If the candidate uses less than 5 minutes to review the NDA or less than 10 minutes for the tutorial on navigating the exam, the remaining minutes are not added to the 195 minutes to complete the 100 multiple choice questions.

During the exam, candidates may take breaks. The candidate has 195 minutes to complete the exam which includes any breaks. The amount of time allotted for the exam will not be extended based on the amount of time of the candidate's break(s). The amount of time allotted for the exam is considered sufficient to allow candidates to complete the exam, including a reasonable break(s).

During the exam, candidates may provide feedback to CMVP on ambiguous or confusing questions. Pearson VUE provides the candidate with a comment field for each question which Pearson VUE provides to CMVP. The candidate will not receive a response to their feedback. The amount of time to complete the exam is not altered based on the amount of time the candidate spends writing feedback.

The exam is a general knowledge test for the minimally acceptable candidate. The CMVP evaluated each question to determine if 2 out of 3 candidates are expected to know the answer. The result of this

analysis determined the minimum passing score. The exam encompasses the same domains as listed in NIST Handbook 150-17, Annex B; however, the grouping is modified as listed in [Appendix A](#) of this document. The exam is pass/fail, closed-book, and computer-based with 100 multiple choice questions. The amount of time to complete the certification exam is 3.5 hours with .25 hours for a tutorial and completing the Non-Disclosure Agreement ([NDA](#)). A score of 75% or greater is required to pass the exam. Pass/fail results are provided to candidates by CMVP within 15 days of completing the exam.

Unless otherwise stated, all exam questions assume the Approved mode of operation. Candidates must proceed through all 100 questions one-by-one (skipping questions if needed) and then will be able to navigate throughout the exam to review answers or complete unanswered questions. An on-line scientific calculator will be available to candidates during the exam.

All candidates will have a few Security Level 4 questions. Including Security Level 4 questions in the certificate exam will allow *CVP Certified Testers* to move from a Security Level 3 laboratory to a Security Level 4 laboratory without CMVP having to retest the *CVP Certified Tester* for Security Level 4 knowledge.

The exam results will be available through the candidate's Pearson VUE account indefinitely. CMVP receives a copy of all exam results and maintains a list of *CVP Certified Testers*. Maintaining the certification will require individuals to retake and pass the certification exam every 4 years.

Please direct all certification questions to [CMVP](#).

Appendix A - Domains

Domain 1: Physical Security (11%)

- Understand the different embodiments for modules
- Understand requirements for physical security for modules specific to levels 1-3
- Understand the requirements for physical security for modules specific to level 4

Domain 2: Authentication, Roles, Services, and Operational Environment (20%)

- Understand authentication requirements and concepts
- Define the requirements for role
- Understand the concepts of services using approved and non-approved functions, and bypass
- Understand the concepts of reviewing and testing Software Modules
- Describe the operational environment requirements/concepts and how to test them

Domain 3: Algorithms & Self-Tests (20%)

- Understand the concepts of the approved and allowed algorithms
- Identify which algorithms are approved or allowed
- Understand the issues related to testing the components of the algorithms
- Identify the tester's responsibilities when reviewing an algorithm's implementation
- Identify the power-up tests and know the associated requirements
- Understand the requirements for conditional tests

Domain 4: Key Establishment (20%)

- Understand the requirements for key generation, key agreement, key transport and key derivation and applicable standards and guidance
- Understand and identify the approved random bit generators
- Understand the notion of entropy and methods of entropy estimation
- Possess general knowledge of the key establishment protocols and standards in the IT industry

Domain 5: Key Management (12%)

- Understand the requirements for key entry/output and trusted paths
- Understand the requirements for key storage
- Understand the various types of key and CSP zeroization

Domain 6: Security Assurances (17%)

- Understand the requirements of module specification including approved and non-approved modes

- Understand the FIPS Standards, programmatic guidance, implementation guidance and associated documentation requirements
- Understand the requirements for ports & interfaces, finite state model, EMI/EMC, Mitigation of Other Attacks and design assurance
- Understand the concept and testing requirements for formal modeling

Appendix B – NDA

Your participation in the CVP certification exam is subject to the following terms:

The CVP certification exam (including, without limitation, questions, answers, or content in or related to the certification) are the property of the CMVP and access is reserved to authorized users only.

The content of the exam, including the questions and answers, are for the use of completing the exam only and are not releasable without the prior written consent of the CMVP.

By participating in the CVP certification exam, you accept the responsibility to protect the integrity of this exam by not disclosing, disseminating, copying, publishing, or transmitting any parts of the exam in any form to any person.

You may be disqualified from participating in the CVP certification program and your certification may be revoked if you:

Participate in the CVP certification exam under a false identify.

Circumvent or violate the program procedures or security mechanisms.

Accept

Deny

Appendix C - Authorization to Test Email

****PLEASE DO NOT RESPOND TO THIS E-MAIL****

Authorization to Test

You have been authorized to take an exam with Pearson VUE. Information including exam rules and scheduling instructions are shown below. If the details of your authorization do not seem correct, please contact your test sponsor immediately.

Authorized Candidate: Candidatefirst Candidatemiddle Candidatelastr Suffix

Candidate ID: 123456

Authorization ID: 333333 **Pearson VUE Authorization ID:** 123456

Exam: NIST-EXAM-001 – CVP Certification Exam

Number of Attempts Authorized: 2

Authorized Dates: 1 April 2017 – 30 September 2017

Candidate ID and Authorization ID are assigned by the CMVP

Testing candidates are authorized to take the exam up to 2 times within 6 months with at least 60 days between attempts

INSTRUCTIONS FOR SCHEDULING YOUR EXAM

You may schedule, reschedule, or cancel your appointment through the Pearson VUE website, or by calling a Pearson VUE Call Center.

To manage your appointment on the website, please go to www.Pearson VUE.com. This website provides additional information about the exam, programs and test center locations.

To manage your exam or get more information through a Call Center, you may call the Pearson VUE Call Center for your region. Telephone numbers can be found at www.Pearson VUE.com/contact.

After scheduling your exam, you will be sent a confirmation providing details about your appointment, including directions to the test center, instructions on what to bring and other pertinent information.

<http://www.Pearson VUE.com/legal/privacy/>

Appendix D – Confirmation Email

****PLEASE DO NOT RESPOND TO THIS E-MAIL****

Thank you for selecting Pearson VUE. This e-mail contains important information about the exam(s) you scheduled, the location and the rules. Please ensure these details are correct. If any information is not correct, please contact Pearson VUE immediately.

Appointment Details

Order Number: 0000-1111-2222

Exam:	NIST-EXAM-001 – CVP Certification Exam - English
Candidate:	Salutation Candidatefirst Candidatemiddle Candidatelast Suffix
Candidate ID:	123456
Registration ID:	38383838
Date:	Thursday, May 11, 2017
Time:	8:00 AM (Time shown is test center local time.)
Appointment Length:	210 Minutes
Test Center Location (Directions shown below)	PEARSON VUE PROFESSIONAL CENTERS - NONAME CITY (DISTRICT 1) 999 ADDRESS LINE ONE CITY STATE 55555 COUNTRY

Admission Policy

We ask that you arrive at the test center 30 minutes before your scheduled appointment time. This will give you adequate time to complete the necessary sign-in procedures. If you arrive more than 15 minutes late for your appointment, you will be refused admission and removed from the application process.

Please be prepared to show one form of original (no photo copies), valid (unexpired) government issued ID that includes your name, recent recognizable photograph, and signature. Carefully review the ID requirements prior to your exam appointment using this [link](#).

No personal items may be taken into the testing room. This includes all bags, books not authorized by the sponsor, notes, phones, tablets, watches and wallets.

Reschedule Policy

If you wish to reschedule your exam, you must contact Pearson VUE at least 48 hours prior to your scheduled appointment. Rescheduling less than 48 hours prior to your appointment will result in removal from the application process.

Cancellation Policy

If you wish to cancel your exam, you must contact Pearson VUE 48 hours prior to your scheduled appointment. Cancelling an exam less than 48 hours prior to your appointment or missing your exam will result in removal from the application process.

INSTRUCTIONS FOR SCHEDULING YOUR EXAM

You may schedule, reschedule, or cancel your appointment through the Pearson VUE website, or by calling a Pearson VUE Call Center.

To manage your appointment on the website, please go to www.Pearson VUE.com. This website provides additional information about the exam, programs and test center locations.

To manage your exam or get more information through a Call Center, you may call the Pearson VUE Call Center for your region. Telephone numbers can be found at www.Pearson VUE.com/contact.

Pearson VUE will not be held responsible for expenses incurred beyond the cost of the exam, including but not limited to travel expense and lost wages on the day of the exam.

Pearson VUE's goal is to make your exam experience a pleasant one. We want to thank you for selecting Pearson VUE as your exam service provider, and we look forward to serving you again. Please feel free to contact us with your comments or questions. Our contact information can be found on our website: www.Pearson VUE.com/contact.

Sincerely,

Pearson VUE

Directions to Test Center

Center: PEARSON VUE PROFESSIONAL CENTERS - NONAME CITY (DISTRICT 1)

On the corner of 19 and 37

<http://www.Pearson VUE.com/legal/privacy/>

Appendix E – Reminder Email

****PLEASE DO NOT RESPOND TO THIS E-MAIL****

This is a reminder of your upcoming exam appointment.

The details about the exam you scheduled, the location and rules are shown below. If any of the information is not correct, please contact Pearson VUE immediately.

Appointment Details

Order Number: 0000-1111-2222

Exam:	NIST-EXAM-001 – CVP Certification Exam - English
Candidate:	Salutation Candidatefirst Candidatemiddle Candidatelast Suffix
Candidate ID:	123456
Registration ID:	38383838
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Reschedule Policy

If you wish to reschedule your exam, you must contact Pearson VUE at least 48 hours prior to your scheduled appointment. Rescheduling less than 48 hours prior to your appointment will result in removal from the application process.

Cancellation Policy

If you wish to cancel your exam, you must contact Pearson VUE 48 hours prior to your scheduled appointment. Cancelling an exam less than 48 hours prior to your appointment or missing your exam will result in removal from the application process.

INSTRUCTIONS FOR SCHEDULING YOUR EXAM

Pearson VUE's goal is to make your exam experience a pleasant one. We want to thank you for selecting Pearson VUE as your exam service provider, and we look forward to serving you again. Please feel free to contact us with your comments or questions. Our contact information can be found on our website: www.Pearson VUE.com/contact.

Sincerely,

Pearson VUE

Directions to Test Center

Center: PEARSON VUE PROFESSIONAL CENTERS - NONAME CITY (DISTRICT 1)

How to get there: On the corner of 19 and 37

<http://www.Pearson VUE.com/legal/privacy/>

Appendix F – Exam Cancellation Email

****PLEASE DO NOT RESPOND TO THIS E-MAIL****

This e-mail contains important information about the exam you cancelled. Please ensure these details are correct. If any information is not correct, please contact Pearson VUE immediately.

Cancelled Exam Appointment Details

Order Number: 0000-1111-2222

Exam:	NIST-EXAM-001 – CVP Certification Exam - English
Candidate:	Salutation Candidatefirst Candidatemiddle Candidatelast Suffix
Candidate ID:	123456
Registration ID:	38383838
Date:	Thursday, May 11, 2017
Time:	8:00 AM (Time shown is test center local time.)
Test Center Location (Directions shown below)	PEARSON VUE PROFESSIONAL CENTERS - NONAME CITY (DISTRICT 1) 999 ADDRESS LINE ONE CITY STATE 55555 COUNTRY

Pearson VUE's goal is to make your exam experience a pleasant one. We want to thank you for selecting Pearson VUE as your exam service provider, and we look forward to serving you again. Please feel free to contact us with your comments or questions. Our contact information can be found on our website: www.Pearson VUE.com/contact.

Sincerely,

Pearson VUE

<http://www.Pearson VUE.com/legal/privacy/>

Appendix G – Exam Rescheduled Email

****PLEASE DO NOT RESPOND TO THIS E-MAIL****

Exam Rescheduled

This e-mail contains important information about the exam you rescheduled, the location and the rules. Please ensure these details are correct. If any information is not correct, please contact Pearson VUE immediately.

Appointment Details

Order Number: 0000-1111-2222

Exam:	NIST-EXAM-001 – CVP Certification Exam - English
Candidate:	Salutation Candidatefirst Candidatemiddle Candidatelast Suffix
Candidate ID:	123456
Registration ID:	38383838
Date:	Friday, May 12, 2017
Time:	8:00 AM (Time shown is test center local time.)
Appointment Length:	210 Minutes
Test Center Location (Directions shown below)	PEARSON VUE PROFESSIONAL CENTERS - NONAME CITY (DISTRICT 1) 999 ADDRESS LINE ONE CITY STATE 55555 COUNTRY

Admission Policy

We ask that you arrive at the test center 30 minutes before your scheduled appointment time. This will give you adequate time to complete the necessary sign-in procedures. If you arrive more than 15 minutes late for your appointment, you will be refused admission and removed from the application process.

Please be prepared to show one form of original (no photo copies), valid (unexpired) government issued ID that includes your name, recent recognizable photograph, and signature. Carefully review the ID requirements prior to your exam appointment using this [link](#).

No personal items may be taken into the testing room. This includes all bags, books not authorized by the sponsor, notes, phones, tablets, watches and wallets.

Reschedule Policy

If you wish to reschedule your exam, you must contact Pearson VUE at least 48 hours prior to your scheduled appointment. Rescheduling less than 48 hours prior to your appointment will result in removal from the application process.

Cancellation Policy

If you wish to cancel your exam, you must contact Pearson VUE 48 hours prior to your scheduled appointment. Cancelling an exam less than 48 hours prior to your appointment or missing your exam will result in removal from the application process.

INSTRUCTIONS FOR SCHEDULING YOUR EXAM

Pearson VUE will not be held responsible for expenses incurred beyond the cost of the exam, including but not limited to travel expense and lost wages on the day of the exam.

Pearson VUE's goal is to make your exam experience a pleasant one. We want to thank you for selecting Pearson VUE as your exam service provider, and we look forward to serving you again. Please feel free to contact us with your comments or questions. Our contact information can be found on our website: www.Pearson VUE.com/contact.

Sincerely,

Pearson VUE

Directions to Test Center

Center: PEARSON VUE PROFESSIONAL CENTERS - NONAME CITY (DISTRICT 1)

How to get there: On the corner of 19 and 37

<http://www.Pearson VUE.com/legal/privacy/>

State-of-the-art identification

Palm vein pattern recognition



Pearson Professional Centers (PPCs) and Pearson VUE® Authorized Test Center (PVTC) Selects around the world are equipped with advanced palm vein recognition technology.

This state-of-the-art system offers a comprehensive level of security for examination programs that is quick and simple to use. Palm vein recognition examines the unique patterns in your palm veins using a safe, near-infrared light source like that in a TV remote control. This new technology is fast, highly accurate and secure, with many safeguards built in to protect your privacy and is virtually impossible to forge.

Why is Pearson VUE using palm vein technology?

Pearson VUE is using palm vein recognition because it offers a form of positive identification that is much more accurate than older identity verification technologies, such as digital fingerprinting. Palm vein recognition allows Pearson VUE to accurately identify people trying to take exams under assumed tester identities. By preventing proxy testers, the technology helps Pearson VUE maintain the integrity of our clients' examinations which maintains the value of your credential.

How does the palm vein recognition system work, and how do I use it?

Palm vein recognition works by scanning the veins inside of your hand and creating a digital template that represents your vein pattern. To use the system, place your hand on the device as shown in the photo. Palm vein patterns are unique to each individual — even identical twins have different patterns.

What can I expect at the testing center, and how will my vein pattern be used?

You will have your palm vein patterns scanned when you arrive at the testing center to check in for your exam. Your pattern will also be matched when you return to the testing room after a break. Your palm vein patterns will also be compared with those of other candidates to allow Pearson VUE to find people who may have tested under multiple names or identities. After you finish taking your exam, your scan is sent via encrypted transmission with your test results to Pearson VUE. Your vein pattern template is stored separately from other information about you in the system.