I-0434: 3rd Party Hardware/Software And Assurance

TYPE:	Guidance
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STATUS:	Ready for External Review
TITLE:	3rd Party Hardware/Software And Assurance
COMMENTS DUE BY:	Tuesday, July 1, 2003 to cc-cmt@nist.gov
RELATED TO:	<None>
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ISSUE:

How is 3rd party hardware and software to be addressed with respect to the assurance requirements? Consider requirements such as ACM or ALC. There are aspects of these requirements that are not visible to a vendor incorporating 3rd party hardware (for example, the configuration management mechanisms used by the 3rd party vendor, or the development site security or compiler options)?

STATEMENT

Third-Party software included in the TSF is treated no differently from software provided directly by the developer.

SUPPORT:

The TOE is the TOE. The definitions of TOE and TSF make no distinction based on who is providing the software, nor do flaws go away simply because the software or hardware is developed by someone other than the direct developer of the TOE.

If assurance cannot be provided for some element of third-party software, that element should be relegated to the IT environment, with the SFRs being adjusted accordingly.