

Software Certification Program

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FEMA

IPAWS Software Certification & Compliance

The IPAWS Software Certification Program was established under the National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA) of 2020 to **ensure the reliability and integrity of third-party software used by IPAWS**. To meet the requirements for software quality and compliance, the goals of the IPAWS Software Certification Program are to:

- ✓ **Enhance Cybersecurity** by protecting information confidentiality, integrity, and availability.
- ✓ **Authenticate Users** by restricting system access to authorized personnel only.
- ✓ **Minimize Inaccurate Alerts** by improving public warning accuracy through software requirements and testing.
- ✓ **Encourage Innovation** by promoting advanced alerting technology with clear guidelines.

The IPAWS Software Certification Program's rigorous standards and testing procedures have been designed to create a **reliable and secure alerting system capable of delivering timely and accurate public alerts to protect communities nationwide**.



IPAWS Software Certification Requirements

Approach to Determining Certification Requirements

The FEMA IPAWS third-party **software certification requirements used existing federal standards and guidelines** including NIST SP 800-53, Revision 5, DHS 4300A Sensitive systems handbook, IPAWS-OPEN IDG, and ADA 508 regulatory standards. IPAWS gathered feedback from several Alert Originator Software Providers (AOSPs), AOs, and AAs to understand the experience and impact while interacting with the IPAWS platform.

Research of Federal Standards and Guidelines

Standards and guidelines included NIST SP 800-53, Revision 5, DHS 4300A Sensitive systems handbook, IPAWS-OPEN IDG, and ADA 508 regulatory standards.

Engagement with Stakeholders

Interviews were conducted with key stakeholders to **understand their experience interacting with IPAWS**. Visits to the Technical Support Services Facility (TSSF) also provided greater understanding of the alerting process.

Certification Grouping

After analysis of the data collected was completed, the certification requirements were grouped by **security and applications** to enhance the reliability, security, and performance of AOS.



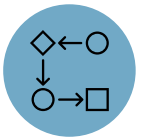
IPAWS Software Certification Program

IPAWS is developing a Software Certification Program (SCP) that will **test and certify third-party Alert Origination Software (AOS) to ensure compliance with security, reliability, and performance requirements** in alignment with National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST), DHS, IPAWS, and National Defense Authorization (NDAA) standards.

OBJECTIVES



Research and recommend **cybersecurity and software solutions standards and best practices.**



Develop processes to **test, certify, and monitor AOS for compliance** on standards approved by FEMA with insights from the working group.



Engage regularly with Alert Origination Software Providers (AOSPs) and **launch an AOSP Software Certification Kickoff Session** in December.

TESTING APPROACH



Enrollment
AOSP contacts FEMA IPAWS to enroll in the Software Certification Program.



Documentation
The certification team will request necessary documentation from AOSPs.



Testing
Once the documentation has been submitted and verified, testing begins.



Reporting
After testing, reporting is divided into manual and automated testing.



IPAWS Working Group

The IPAWS Working Group was designed as a forum for key program stakeholders to support IPAWS leadership **with feedback, recommendations and support that will impact the alert and warning ecosystem.**

Members share useful perspectives and the unique experiences of the communities they represent to **improve alert efficiency, risk management, and IPAWS strategic planning, and leverage their professional experience and networks** to provide IPAWS with **informed recommendations and support** for program activities.



Thank you for your time and participation!

IPAWS & Your Continued Involvement



Stay Tuned for Future IPAWS Communications

Keep an eye out for IPAWS Bulletins and Newsletters for key updates and opportunities to provide input on the new program.



Reach Out with Questions

If you have questions or ideas to share, please email us at:

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