

Approved by Decision 5/31 dated on June 05, 2013, amended by the Decision # 1/5 dated on May 29, 2014 and by Decision # 2/6, dated on April 7, 2017 of Central Election Commission of the Republic of Azerbaijan

Rules on installation and use of web cameras in election precincts

The rules has been prepared in accordance with articles 40.1 and 110 of the Election Code of the Republic of Azerbaijan (hereafter referred to as Election Code) and covers the issues on further ensuring transparency institution in the elections (referendum) of the Republic of Azerbaijan.

1. Goal of installation and function of web cameras in polling stations

1.1. Election process must be transparent as established by Article 40.1 of the Election Code. A new technological means – web camera (hereafter referred to as camera) will be used in order to ensure extensive implementation of transparency, to increase public confidence in elections by watching the voting process on voting day by wide public. Proper implementation of duties by precinct election commission members, processing the election documents by them, creation of proper conditions for voters to express their wills freely without any illegal influence, casting ballot papers into the ballot box by voters, vote count, determination of voting results and other procedures shall be viewed by this equipment to demonstrate conduct of elections in line with requirements of legislation in election precincts.

1.2. Use of cameras should in no way violate secrecy of voting during elections and referendums, as well as must exclude any control over the expression of wills by voters.

1.3. Camera is appropriate equipment intended to cover processes taking place inside the election precinct on voting day, except the voting booth, and to demonstrate the images on a mass scale by displaying them on the website of the Central Election Commission of the Republic of Azerbaijan (hereafter referred to as the Central Election Commission).

1.4. Cameras shall be installed by the Ministry of Transport, Communication and High Technologies of the Republic of Azerbaijan, by request of the Central Election Commission.

2. Requirements for installation, usage of web cameras and information storage

2.1. Cameras must be placed and installed in required manner, function nonstop on voting day, the information must be obtained and transmitted in a secure way, and stored for the defined period of time.

2.2. Use of cameras and other related issues shall be defined by relevant decision of the Central Election Commission. Control over the appropriate use and function of cameras shall be implemented by the Central Election Commission.

2.3. A static camera that will allow viewing only the area where it is focused shall be installed in polling station. The cameras must be installed in election precincts in such a way to be able to cover the desk where precinct election commission members sit and issue ballot papers to voters and implement other processes with election documents, and to cover the ballot box.

2.4. The cameras will be working nonstop starting from opening of election precinct on voting day until the closing of election precinct after voting results are determined and protocol on voting results is completed. In order to ensure the working condition of cameras, they shall be tested 2 days prior to the voting day in a relevant manner.

2.5. The following is prohibited once the cameras are installed: to move cameras; to change focus of cameras; to disrupt their nonstop functioning; to interfere illegally the process of obtaining, transmitting and maintaining the information, as well as tamper with equipment and means used these purposes; to cover voting booths and inside the voting booths. Violation of these rules imposes accountability considered by the legislation of the Republic of Azerbaijan.

2.6. All video images obtained during the cameras' functioning period shall be recorded in a centralized manner. Such video records can be used as evidence while investigating the complaints and storage of these video records for 5 years shall be guaranteed by the installing party.

3. Final provisions

3.1. Since the enforcement of the Rules, the "Rules on installation and use of web cameras in election precincts" approved by Decision # 27/132 dated October 8, 2008 of the Central Election Commission shall be considered invalid.