

Approved by Decision 5/31 dated 5 June 2013, Amended by Decision # 1/5 dated 29 May 2014 and Decision # 2/6 dated 7 April 2017, Decision # 1/4 dated 17 March 2022 of Central Election Commission of the Republic of Azerbaijan

Rules on installation and use of web cameras in election precincts

The rules prepared in accordance with articles 40.1 and 110 of the Election Code of the Republic of Azerbaijan (hereafter referred to as Election Code) regulate the issues on ensuring further 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 webcam) shall be used by community for monitoring the voting process on voting day, thereby ensuring extensive implementation of transparency and increasing public confidence in elections. Proper implementation of duties by Precinct Election Commission (PEC) members, processing the election documents, creation of necessary 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 observed by the equipment to demonstrate the conduct of elections in line with requirements of legislation in election precincts.

1.2. Use of webcams 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. Webcam is appropriate equipment installed to demonstrate processes taking place inside the election precinct on voting day, excluding the voting booth and to post the images on the website of the Central Election Commission of the Republic of Azerbaijan (hereafter referred to as the Central Election Commission).

1.4. Webcams shall be installed by the Ministry of Digital Development and Transport of the Republic of Azerbaijan, by request of the Central Election Commission.

2. Requirements for installation, usage of webcams and information storage

2.1. Webcams shall be placed and installed in a required manner and function incessantly on voting day, the data shall be collected and transmitted in a secure way, meanwhile maintained for the defined period of time.

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

2.3. A static webcam that allows monitoring only the area where it is focused shall be installed in a polling station. The webcams shall be installed in election precincts in such a way to be able to cover the desk where precinct election commission members issue ballot papers to voters and implement other processes with election documents, also to observe the ballot box.

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

2.5. The following is prohibited once the webcams are installed: to move webcams; to change focus of webcams; to disrupt their incessant functioning; to interfere illegally in the process of obtaining, transmitting and maintaining the information, as well as tamper with equipment and means used for 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 webcam's 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.