

Limited Scope Performance Testing

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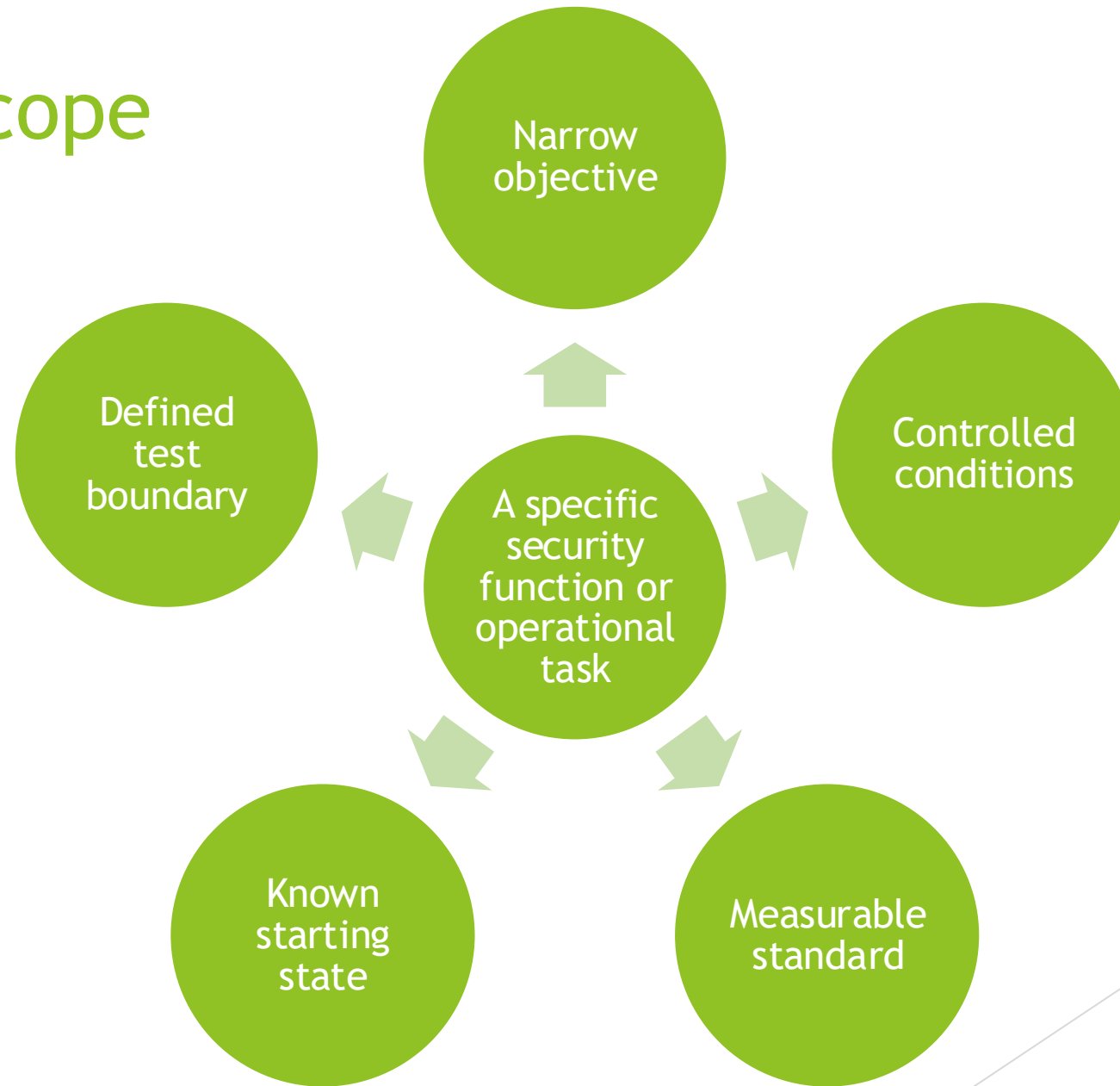
Kozloduy Nuclear Power Plant

Bulgaria

The role of security exercises in performance testing a guard force

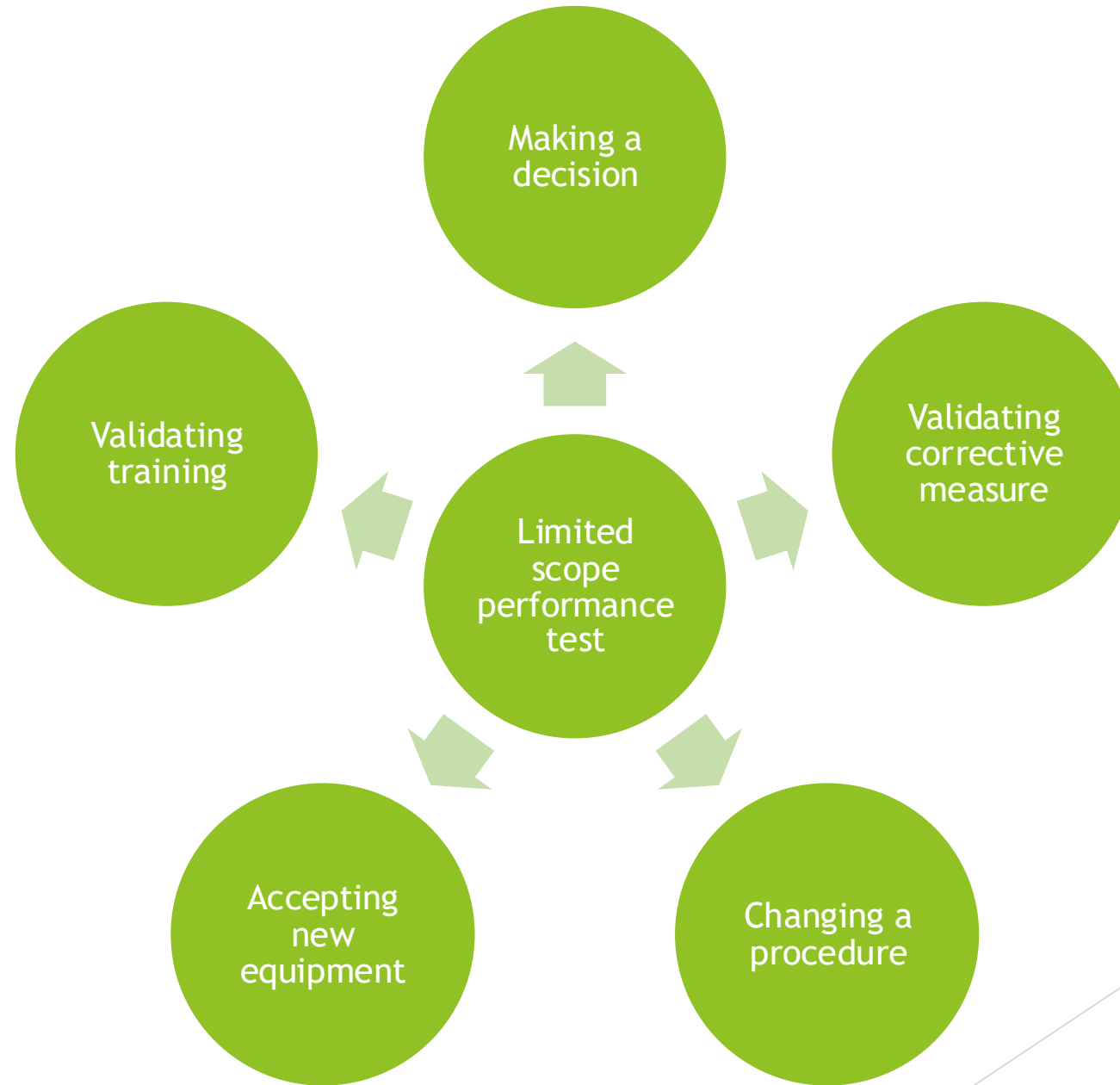
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Limited Scope



Use it when you need defensible evidence on one component of the protection system without launching a full-scale exercise

Triggers



What elements can be performance tested?

Detection

- Alarm generation, observation, patrol discovery

Assessment

- Operator judgement, camera use, alarm classification

Communication

- Reporting discipline, radio procedure, escalation

Delay

- Barrier use, access control discipline, denial actions

Response

- Mobilization, arrival, coordination, command decisions

Interruption

- Timely positioning to stop or contain adversary action

A limited scope test should usually focus on one or two elements, while still recording interactions with the rest of the system

Planning a limited scope performance test

Initiate

- Need, trigger, resources, scope boundary

Design

- Goal, objectives, scenario, standards

Prepare

- Roles, observers, safety controls, notifications

Execute

- Start/stop rules, evidence capture, inject control

Improve

- Debrief, findings, owner, due date, retest

Planning output: a test plan approved before execution, with clear scope, standards, controls, evidence and corrective-action route

Design of a limited scope test

Goal

- Why are we testing?

Objective

- What observable performance must be demonstrated?

Scenario

- What event or adversary action triggers the test?

Standard

- How will success be measured?

Controls

- What safety, security and realism limits apply?

Evidence

- What records will prove the result?

Design rule: every objective needs a standard, every standard needs evidence, every finding needs an owner

Design matrix

Situation	Unarmed guards	Armed guards	Mixed / layered
Personnel ACP	ID challenge	Contraband alarm	Escalation handoff
Vehicle ACP	Search discipline	Barrier closure	Command decision
Perimeter	Patrol discovery	Response route	Interruption timing
CAS	Assessment quality	Dispatch clarity	Event command

Use a matrix to choose realistic combinations without overloading the exercise. Avoid combining too many schemes, locations or adversary actions in one limited-scope test.

Designing for different guarding schemes

Armed guards	Unarmed guards
Challenge, cover, communication and escalation	Recognition, reporting and safe containment
Weapon safety / rules of engagement controls	Use of barriers, locks, distance and observation
Response coordination and interruption positioning	Reliance on response force / law enforcement support
Decision-making under time pressure	Avoidance of unsafe confrontation

Do not copy standards mechanically between schemes. Maintain the same protection objective, but adapt expected actions, safety controls, evidence collection and pass/fail criteria to the authority, equipment and training of the assigned guard force.

Critical considerations

Authority & notifications

- Who approves? Who must know? Who must not know to preserve realism?

Safety and security controls

- Weapons policy, no-go areas, stop words, real incident override, protected information handling.

Operational impact

- Shift schedule, plant operations, access control workload, emergency response availability.

Observers and data

- Observer placement, timekeeping, evidence capture, debrief method, confidentiality.

Abort rule: any real security or safety event immediately takes priority over exercise play.

Standards, evidence and evaluation

Time

- alarm acknowledged, assessed, response dispatched, arrival

Correctness

- right classification, right procedure, right escalation

Quality

- communication discipline, command clarity, documentation

Effectiveness

- delay maintained, adversary action interrupted, asset protected

Safety & control

- no unsafe actions, no compromise of real security posture

Avoid vague standards such as “adequate”, “quickly” or “properly”

Evaluation worksheet: what to record

Function	Observable evidence	Typical standard
Detection	Time of alarm/observation; source; location accuracy	Detected before adversary reaches critical delay point
Assessment	Classification decision; camera/field verification; false/real determination	Correct classification and escalation path
Delay	Barrier status; access control action; adversary progress slowed	Delay preserved for required response window
Response	Dispatch time; arrival time; command and communication quality	Response arrives with correct information and coordination
Interruption	Position of force vs adversary; ability to stop/contain action	Interruption before completion of selected adversary action

Decision rules

PASS

- All critical standards met; no safety or security control violation; minor observations only.

CONDITIONAL PASS

- Protection objective achieved, but supporting procedure, communication, equipment or documentation weaknesses require correction.

FAIL

- Critical standard not met, interruption not achieved, unsafe action occurred, or result cannot be validated because control/evidence failed.

Discovered discrepancies become lessons learned only when corrective actions are owned, tracked and verified.

Example limited-scope test situations



Personnel access control point

Focus: abnormal access attempt, challenge, notification and queue control.

Scenarios: expired authorization, tailgating, badge sharing, prohibited item.



Vehicle access control point

Focus: inspection discipline, barrier control, suspicious indicators and response handover.

Controls: traffic separation, no hazardous materials, clear abort signal.



Perimeter / patrol

Focus: sensor activation, camera assessment, patrol discovery, delay point and response timing.

Controls: defined path, start point, observer locations.

Design control: preserve operational safety and avoid exposing sensitive procedures during discussion or exercise play.

Summary

Limited-scope testing provides practical evidence for continuous improvement without waiting for a comprehensive exercise.

Before the test

- Confirm authority and notifications; define safety/security controls; check operational impact; assign observers and evidence collection.

During the test

- Use start/stop rules, real incident override, inject control, observer discipline and controlled communications.

After the test

- Apply pass / conditional pass / fail rules; identify causes; assign action owner, due date and retest requirement.

A good limited scope test should leave the organization with a clear answer: what worked, what did not work, who will fix it, when it will be fixed, and how we will confirm improvement.

