USDA HSPD-12

Light Activation

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

Prepared for

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Office of Safety Security and Protection (OSSP)

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Revision Information

Version	Date	Revision Notes
1.0	Unknown	Initial FAQs created
2.0	Unknown	Updated FAQs
3.0	June 2020	Revised FAQs to make current for 2020

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1   What is Light Activation?

The Light Activation service provides agencies issuing USAccess credentials with an alternative to the standard fixed-site USAccess Credentialing Center workstation. The Light Activation capability enables credentials to be activated, and post-issuance activities performed from any computer meeting the minimum requirements. No need for dedicated VPN access, but instead, activators use an internet web portal to access the USAccess system.

The populations of USAccess credential holders change daily as do some identity characteristics such as a last name or email address. These circumstances create a significant demand for activation and post-issuance activities. In addition, most credential holders will conduct at least one routine certificate update during the credential's maximum life of five years. To keep pace with credential holders' need for these changes, the USAccess Program offers the Light Activation service to provide agencies with a more efficient way to have their employees and contractors complete those routine transactions.

2   What is a Light Activation Kit?

The Light Activation Kit is a pre-packaged set of hardware peripherals and custom software that installs on any Federal Desktop Compliant Configuration (FDCC) workstation. The Light Activation Kit provides software that is installed on a workstation and is necessary to enable the Light Activation capability. The following functions can be performed using a Light Activation Kit:

- Attended/Unattended Activation
- Attended/Unattended PIN Unlock
- Attended/Unattended Certificate Update

3   What is in a Light Activation Kit and what Hardware and software is supplied when a Light Activation station has become established with USDA?

The Light Activation Kit contains:

- One Suprema single fingerprint device and drivers
- Two HID OMNIKEY smart card readers, (one for activator assistance and one for user who needs credentialing services)

The latest Light Activation software is available on the USDA SFTP server. Access to the USDA SFTP server is granted by the USDA HSPD12 Help Desk (USDAHSPD12HELP@usda.gov).

4   What is the difference between a Light Activation station, Mobile Credentialing Unit and Fixed Credentialing Unit at a USAccess Credentialing Center?

Fixed Credentialing Units (FCUs) allow agency sites the capabilities of enrolling people into the managed service and activating PIV credentials. This managed service includes all equipment, maintenance, Security certification, break/fix services, technical refresh after 5 years, and help desk access. FCUs are not mobile so should be housed at a permanent credentialing location. All software upgrades/patches are pushed directly by USAccess through a pre-configured VPN router supplied with the unit.

A **Mobile Credentialing Unit (MCU)** is a mobile kit that enables enrollment and activation of LincPass/AltLinc credentials and post issuance activities from an Internet Web portal. Agencies can use and move the stations as the need arises providing additional convenience for applicants. This managed service includes all equipment, maintenance, Security certification, break/fix services, technical refresh after 5 years of deployment, and help desk access. Software updates/patches become the responsibility of the agency as no VPN router is supplied with this type of unit.

The **Light Activation Solution (LAS)** is a mobile kit that provides agencies issuing LincPass/AltLinc credentials with an alternative to the standard FCU/MCU workstations. The Light Activation capability enables credentials to be activated and post-issuance activities performed from any computer meeting the minimum requirements. Agencies can use and move the stations as the need arises providing additional convenience for applicants. The following functions can be performed on a LAS:

- Attended / Unattended Activation
- Attended / Unattended PIN Unlock
- Attended / Unattended Certificate Update

5   What responsibilities are involved when accepting a Light Activation Kit?

To be able to operate a Light Activation Kit, a person must have the Activator role. To become an Activator, a person must have an active LincPass and must be trained (via GSA Online Activator training in the GoLearn Portal) and designated as an activator by their Agency Role Administrator. The Activator, or other designated personnel, must be able to receive cards via a local printer, a central distribution center or through card reroute. Once cards are received, the Activator must log the card in the Credential Inventory Tool so that an activation email will be to the applicant. Activators will assist end users in activating cards.

6   If I have questions about Light Activation, whom do I contact?

For Light Activation installation and technical support, contact your internal IT USDA helpdesk. For general Light Activation questions, please contact your Agency Lead or the USDA HSPD-12 helpdesk.

7   How do I obtain a Light Activation Kit?

For Light Activation Kit requests, please contact the USDA HSPD-12 Help Desk.

8   Where can I find a list of Light Activation locations?

The USDA HSPD-12 Help Desk maintains the 'Master Deployment List'. An updated list can be provided upon request by contacting the USDA HSPD-12 Help Desk at USDAHSPD12HELP@USDA.GOV. Alternately, you are able to search for active credentialing stations by going to www.FedIDCard.Gov and selecting 'Find USAccess Centers' under the Credential Info drop down.