



RELIABILITY FIRST

Jan. 2, 2024

To: ReliabilityFirst Compliance Contacts
Subject: RF Compliance Program Update Letter – January 2024

NEW! NERC Reliability Standards Effective Jan. 1, 2024

- CIP-004-7 – Cyber Security – Personnel & Training
- CIP-011-3 – Cyber Security - Information Protection
- FAC-001-4 – Facility Interconnection Requirements | Implementation Plan
- FAC-002-4 – Facility Interconnection Studies | Implementation Plan
- TPL-007-4 – Transmission System Planned Performance for Geomagnetic Disturbance Events (Requirements R7, 7.1–7.3, 7.3.1–7.3.2, 7.4, 7.4.1–7.4.3, 7.5, 7.5.1., R11, 11.1–11.3, 11.3.1–11.3.2, 11.4, 11.4.1–11.4.3, 11.5, and 11.5.1)

IMPORTANT - If your entity is party to an approved CFR applicable to any of the above listed Standards, please make sure you make the necessary updates to the CFRs to ensure they are current and up to date with the latest Standards and Requirements. Any changes or updates made to existing CFR registrations and/ or respective division of compliance responsibilities must be completed using the NERC CFR tool.

NEW! Compliance Guidance Updates

There are three updates to ERO Enterprise-endorsed Implementation Guidance documents on the NERC Compliance Guidance [web page](#). The updates to previously endorsed Implementation Guidance are titled:

- CIP-013 Supply Chain Risk Management Plans (NATF)
- CIP-013 Using Independent Assessments of Vendors (NATF)
- Compliance Guidance web page—CIP-004-7 R6 and CIP-011-3 R1 - Cloud Solutions for BCSI (RSTC).

These documents are also posted on the [Supply Chain Risk Mitigation Program web page](#) under Endorsed Implementation Guidance.

Save the Date! RF Fall Reliability and Security Summit, Sept. 17-18

Formerly known as the Fall Workshop, next year's Fall Reliability and Security Summit will take place **Sept. 17-18** at the vibrant Conrad Indianapolis (50 West Washington Street, Indianapolis, IN 46204). Please save the date, mark your calendars, and stay tuned for additional information on topics and agendas.

LAST CHANCE! RF to host Critical Infrastructure Protection Committee (RF CIPC) in January 2024

The ReliabilityFirst Critical Infrastructure Protection Committee (RF CIPC) will be holding its first quarterly meeting of 2024 at the RF offices on Jan. 16 – 17. The purpose of the RF CIPC is to promote the physical and cyber security of critical electricity infrastructure in accordance with the NERC Critical Infrastructure Protection (CIP) Standards within the RF footprint.

The RF CIPC provides an industry-led forum for discussion and input among RF CIPC representatives responsible for physical and cyber security, including supply chain management. Any registered entity in the RF footprint can designate employees as CIPC representatives.

To prepare for this meeting, please ensure your list of RF CIPC Representatives is up to date. To obtain the list of your representatives or to make changes please email Lew Folkerth at lew.folkerth@rfirst.org or Nicholas Morton at namorton@aep.com.

To RSVP, [click here](#).

Save the Dates! 2024 RF Protection System and Human Performance Workshops

Please mark your calendars for the 2024 RF Protection System and Human Performance Workshops. that will be held Aug. 7-8 at the RF offices in Independence, Ohio. The agenda and registration information will be made available closer to the meeting dates.

Important NERC Registration Information You Need to Know

Notification of Additional Changes in Status

Section 501.1.3.5 of NERC's Rules of Procedure requires the **registered entity to notify NERC through its corresponding Regional Entity of any changes in registration, ownership, corporate structure, or similar matters that affect the entity's responsibilities with respect to the Reliability Standards.** Failure to notify NERC through its corresponding Regional Entity will not relieve the registered entity from any responsibility to comply with the Reliability Standards or be liable for any penalties or sanctions associated with failing to comply with such standards. **RF requests that registered entities provide RF Registration with 30-60 days advance notice of any such changes impacting NERC Registration.** Contact Bob Folt, Principal Analyst, RAM and NERC Registration, with any questions at bob.folt@first.org.

REMINDER - E-ISAC Membership

As a registered entity, it is important, and expected, that you will join the Electricity Information Sharing and Analysis Center (E-ISAC). E-ISAC membership is available to North American asset owners and operators (AOOs) and select partner organizations, and there is no cost to join. The E-ISAC encourages security individuals with cyber, physical, or operational technology security responsibilities to apply for membership.

Please complete the E-ISAC Membership application here: <https://www.eisac.com/portal>. You may also contact the E-ISAC at memberservices@eisac.com with any questions.

NERC Alert System Registration

NERC's Alert System is the tool used to disseminate information that is critical to ensuring the reliability of the BPS in North America. NERC distributes Alerts broadly to owners, operators, and users of the BPS utilizing the listing of the NCR. Entities registered with NERC are required to provide and maintain up-to-date compliance and cyber security contacts.

As a separate part of the NERC registration process and inclusion on the NCR, please contact NERC via email at NERC.Alert@nerc.net to register or revise your listing for the NERC Alert System. Alternately, you may call the NERC Alerts Hotline at 404.446.9797 to speak with someone. Each registered entity identified in the NCR is required to notify NERC Alert of any corrections, revisions, deletions, changes in ownership, corporate structure, or similar matters that affect the registered entity's responsibilities with respect to the Reliability Standards.



Monthly Technical Talk with RF Call

The next Tech Talk with RF will be held on **Monday, Jan. 22**, from 2 to 3:30 p.m. EST.

January 2024 Technical Talk with RF

Monday, Jan. 22, 2024 2 p.m. – 3:30 p.m. EST (US & Canada)

<https://reliabilityfirst.webex.com/reliabilityfirst/j.php?MTID=m1b7276897dabbd17039b6b2613c4b138>

Meeting Number: **2309 155 0051**

Meeting Password: **0123456 (0123456 from phones and video systems)**

Join by phone: **1-650-479-3207 Call-in toll number (US/Canada)**

Access code: 230 915 50051

Please join us on Slido.com using **#TechTalkRF** as the event code.

Agenda Topics

2023 Enforcement actions: Year in review

Kristen Senk, Director of Enforcement, ReliabilityFirst

- Kristen Senk will provide an overview of RF's enforcement actions from 2023, including noteworthy trends and highlights.

NERC and RF Long-Term Reliability Assessments

Tim Fryfogle, Principal Engineer, Engineering and System Performance, ReliabilityFirst

- Tim Fryfogle, will discuss both NERC and RF's latest Long Term Reliability Assessments. NERC's report projects sharp increases in peak demand and, with the potential for higher generator retirements, highlights increased concerns for electric reliability over the next 10 years.

For all Technical Talk with RF calls: WebEx dial-in details will be posted on a monthly basis to the RF website. Please contact [Michelle Cross](#), Manager External Affairs, with any questions, suggestions, or topics of interest for future calls.



IMPORTANT REMINDER – UPDATE COMPLIANCE CONTACT INFORMATION in CORES

Registered entities are expected to review and update their compliance contacts information as changes occur. Updating compliance contact information is critical to ensure that our contact data remains fresh, accurate and is current always. **Please verify and update as necessary the names, addresses, phone numbers (cell) and email addresses for each Primary Compliance Contact (PCC), Primary Compliance Officer (PCO) and Alternate Compliance Contact (ACC) in the ERO Portal/CORES system.**



Align Violations Reporting

As a reminder, any new violation of a Reliability Standard identified by a registered entity should be immediately self-reported to RF via the ERO Align system. Contact [Shirley Ortiz](#), Senior Paralegal, at (216) 503-0674 with any questions concerning self-reports.

Align Release Notes

The ERO is continuously working to improve the Align system to fix system bugs, make improvements to the system, and enhance system functionality and the user experience for the registered entities, Regional Entities and NERC. Accordingly, NERC publishes Release Notes that provide details on the specific changes or improvements made, specify the users affected, and inform users about modifications made to any training materials. **The detailed release notes can be found on the NERC public website [Align and SEL web page](#) under the Release Materials section.**

NERC Align Training Resources

The [NERC Align Project page](#) and FAQ document contain helpful information for registered entities. Self-service training resources provided for registered entity staff, including training videos and user guides, are available on the [NERC Training Site](#).

NERC's training site provides training and materials on a variety of topics for Align and other tools used by NERC, Regional Entity, and registered entity staff. Your Primary Compliance Contact is the designated Access Approver for Align for your company. Remember to check out NERC's Align project page or reach out to AskAlign@NERC.net for additional information.

Align support – ERO Help Desk Ticketing System

If users encounter any access or system problems with Align, CORES or any of the other NERC applications, first and foremost, try to resolve the issues yourself by using any one of the many self-service resources, guides and videos NERC has made available to you at training.nerc.net.

If you are unable to resolve the issue on your own, place a ticket using the NERC Helpdesk Ticket Submission System: support.nerc.net.

The ERO Help Desk Ticketing System (Footprints) is available to registered entity users 24/7 and is monitored by the regions and NERC. We will do our best to address your questions, issues, and tickets as promptly as possible during normal business hours.

2024 Upcoming Standards Subject to Future Enforcement		
CIP-004-7 NEWLY EFFECTIVE	Cyber Security – Personnel & Training	Jan. 1, 2024
CIP-011-3 NEWLY EFFECTIVE	Cyber Security – Information Protection	Jan. 1, 2024
FAC-001-4 NEWLY EFFECTIVE	Facility Interconnection Requirements	Jan. 1, 2024
FAC-002-4 NEWLY EFFECTIVE	Facility Interconnection Studies	Jan. 1, 2024

TPL-007-4 NEWLY EFFECTIVE	Transmission System Planned Performance for Geomagnetic Disturbance Events (Requirements R7, 7.1–7.3, 7.3.1–7.3.2, 7.4, 7.4.1–7.4.3, 7.5, 7.5.1., R11, 11.1–11.3, 11.3.1–11.3.2, 11.4, 11.4.1–11.4.3, 11.5, and 11.5.1)	Jan. 1, 2024
FAC-003-5	Transmission Vegetation Management	April 1, 2024
FAC-011-4	System Operating Limits Methodology for the Operations Horizon	April 1, 2024
FAC-014-3	Establish and Communicate System Operating Limits	April 1, 2024
IRO-008-3	Reliability Coordinator Operational Analyses and Real-time Assessments	April 1, 2024
PRC-002-3	Disturbance Monitoring and Reporting Requirements Implementation Plan	April 1, 2024
PRC-023-5	Transmission Relay Loadability Implementation Plan	April 1, 2024
PRC-026-2	Relay Performance During Stable Power Swings Implementation Plan	April 1, 2024
TOP-001-6	Transmission Operations	April 1, 2024
EOP-012-1	Extreme Cold Weather Preparedness and Operations (Requirements 1–2 effective 4/1/28; Requirement 4 effective 10/1/29)	Oct. 1, 2024

2025 Upcoming Standards Subject to Future Enforcement

IRO-010-5 NEW!	IRO-010-5 – Reliability Coordinator Data and information Specification and Collection Implementation Plan TOP-003-6.1 – Transmission Operator and Balancing Authority Data and Information Specification and Collection Implementation Plan	July 1, 2025
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Please refer to the [U.S. Effective Dates](#) page on the NERC website for additional detail.

Periodic Data Submittals Due in January 2024

1/12/2024 COMING DUE SOON!	Section 800	GO, GOP, TO, TOP	Section 800 Reliability Assessment Request: Assess the Extent of Cross-Border Operation Control of Bulk Power System Elements – ERO Portal Submittal (PCs only respond)
1/20/2024	FAC-003	GO, TO	FAC-003-4 - Transmission Vegetation Management: Q4, 2023 Vegetation Outage Reporting – Align Data Submittal

Periodic Data Submittals Due in February 2024

2/28/2024	PRC-004	GO, TO, DP	Protection System Misoperations - Section 1600 data request for Q4-2023 (Oct. 1 – Dec. 31). Submit in MIDAS portal.
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