

Compliance Template Review 2026

The Reliability Panel has made a draft Template for Compliance Programs

As part of the Compliance Template Review, the Reliability Panel (Panel) invites stakeholder feedback on a draft Template for Compliance Programs (Template). The draft Template:

- includes revised and new compliance tables that help plant owners and operators institute testing and monitoring regimes for their plant
- expands its application to integrated resource systems (typically batteries), synchronous condensers, loads, distribution networks and HVDC links
- provides more detailed guidance on topics such as continuous monitoring and the potential impact of plant changes on compliance
- includes other changes to reflect modern plant technologies and monitoring methodologies, including the use of models for compliance purposes.

The Panel is also consulting on two recommendations for potential rule changes related to the scope and administration of the Template review process.

The Template assists plant owners and operators to develop and maintain effective compliance programs

Under the National Electricity Rules (NER), Registered Participants must create and maintain compliance programs for their plant that are consistent with the Panel's Template. These compliance programs are critical in supporting the safety, security and reliability of the power system by ensuring compliance with technical performance standards.

The draft template accounts for several changes since the Panel's last review in 2019

The draft template includes revised and new compliance tables

The existing Template includes compliance tables which provide suggested testing and monitoring methods for Registered Participants to demonstrate compliance with each of their performance standards. To account for changes made by the *Improving the NEM access standards - Package 1* 2025 rule, the revised compliance tables reflect changes to the technical requirements in the NER and broaden their application to more plant types, beyond generators.

The draft Template's compliance tables also incorporate new continuous monitoring methods and consolidate some existing methods to improve the clarity of the tables.

The draft template provides guidance on topics such as continuous plant monitoring and the impact of plant changes on compliance

The draft Template includes a set of revised compliance principles that Registered Participants should follow when developing, instituting and maintaining their compliance programs. The principles reflect the Panel's view that:

- continuous monitoring regimes are generally preferable to periodic testing only, but these arrangements are not appropriate in all situations
- Registered Participants should assess the impact of any plant changes on compliance with their performance standards and the risk of adverse impacts to power system security
- deviations from the Template's guidance should be generally consistent with the compliance principles.

In addition, the Panel has included more detailed guidance on the broader compliance framework and on interpreting the compliance tables when creating or updating existing compliance programs.

The draft template reflects changes in technology and compliance methodologies

The draft template has accounted for the increased diversity of plant in the NEM, by including suitable guidance for battery energy storage systems, synchronous condensers, loads and HVDC links. In comparison, the existing Template only focuses on generating systems.

The draft template has also included new suggested continuous monitoring methods where practicable, recognising that these arrangements can often provide more timely and cost-effective compliance assurance than periodic testing alone.

In addition, the draft template provides updated guidance on the use and validation of plant models for compliance purposes, and how hardware-in-the-loop testing should be considered as part of a compliance program. This recognises the increasing proportion of inverter-based resources in the NEM, whose behaviour depends on software-defined settings and controls.

The Panel is seeking feedback on two potential rule changes to improve the compliance framework

While developing the draft template, the Panel identified two potential changes to the NER that could improve the effectiveness and efficiency of the compliance framework. These potential changes would:

1. Allow greater flexibility for the timing of the Panel's review of the Template, to allow for the timing of future reviews to be better coordinated with future changes to the NER technical requirements
2. Expand the scope of the Template's guidance to allow the Template to provide useful guidance on obligations that relate to performance standards, but may not themselves be strictly part of a performance standard (such as guidance on ancillary service provision).

The Panel is interested in stakeholder feedback on these two potential rule change requests, including whether an expedited or fast-tracked rule change process would be appropriate for their consideration.

The Panel is seeking stakeholder feedback on the draft template

The Panel welcomes stakeholder feedback to help inform and shape the final Template for Compliance Programs. Stakeholder submissions to the draft template and report are due by **Thursday, 14 May 2026**.

Owing to a high degree of stakeholder interest in this review, the Panel requested an extension to the due date for the publication of the final report and revised template, so that the Panel may better consider stakeholder submissions to the draft template and report. The Commission has approved an extension, and the Panel will publish a final report and Template by no later than **Thursday, 27 August 2026**.

Registered Participants would be required to ensure that their compliance programs are consistent with the Template within 6 months of the publication of the final revised Template.

For information contact:

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Submissions to the draft Template are due by 14 May 2026.