

Compliance Template Review 2026

The Reliability Panel has published a new Template for Compliance Programs

The Panel has completed its Compliance Template Review and has revised the Template for compliance programs (Template), which was last updated in 2019. The new Template provides plant owners and operators with useful guidance and suggested testing and monitoring methodologies to demonstrate ongoing compliance with their performance standards.

The final 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.

Registered Participants' compliance programs must be consistent with the revised Template from 27 February 2027

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 to supporting the safety, security and reliability of the power system by ensuring compliance with technical performance standards.

Under NER rule 4.15(c)(3), a Registered Participant's compliance program must be modified to be consistent with any amendments to the Template, by no later than six months after amendments to the Template are published or by a date determined by the Panel.

The Panel has determined that the final Template takes effect from 27 August 2026, and that Registered Participants will have until 27 February 2027 to make any necessary amendments to their compliance programs to be consistent with the updated Template.

The final template accounts for technology and compliance changes since the Panel's last review in 2019

The final Template includes revised and new compliance tables

To account for changes made by the *Improving the NEM access standards - Package 1* 2025 rule and other rule changes, the revised compliance tables reflect changes to the technical requirements in the NER and broaden their application to more plant types beyond generators, such as battery energy storage systems, loads, distribution networks and HVDC links.

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

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

The final 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 necessarily 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 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 final Template reflects changes in technology and compliance methodologies

The final Template accounts for a broader range of plant beyond the historical focus on generating systems. The revised template now also provides compliance guidance for battery energy storage systems, synchronous condensers, loads and HVDC links.

The final 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 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 intends to submit a rule change request to improve the flexibility around the timing of future Compliance Template reviews

During the review, the Panel identified an issue where the minimum requirement to review the Template at least once every five years may prevent the Panel from considering potential or likely amendments to the NER technical requirements in a future review. Ideally, future Template reviews should align with AEMO's five-yearly review of the access standards and any final rule made by the AEMC that amends the technical requirements in the NER.

The rule change request will propose to retain the minimum five-year review frequency, but only when there is no AEMC-issued standing Terms of Reference for a Compliance Template Review. The AEMC can then issue a standing Terms of Reference that would require the Panel to commence a review as soon as practicable after the completion of a Rule that amends the NER access standards.

The Panel considers that this change would provide it with greater flexibility to align future Template reviews with future relevant rule changes.

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