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| NPRR Number | [1237](https://www.ercot.com/mktrules/issues/NPRR1237) | NPRR Title | Retail Market Qualification Testing Requirements |
| Date Posted | | June 7, 2024 | |
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| Requested Resolution | | Normal | |
| Nodal Protocol Sections Requiring Revision | | 19.8, Retail Market Testing | |
| Related Documents Requiring Revision/Related Revision Requests | | None | |
| Revision Description | | This Nodal Protocol Revision Request (NPRR) provides conditions in which ERCOT requires all Competitive Retailers (CRs), new and existing, and Transmission and/or Distribution Service Providers (TDSPs) to successfully complete retail market qualification testing. | |
| Reason for Revision | | [Strategic Plan](https://www.ercot.com/files/docs/2023/08/25/ERCOT-Strategic-Plan-2024-2028.pdf) Objective 1 – Be an industry leader for grid reliability and resilience  [Strategic Plan](https://www.ercot.com/files/docs/2023/08/25/ERCOT-Strategic-Plan-2024-2028.pdf) Objective 2 - Enhance the ERCOT region’s economic competitiveness with respect to trends in wholesale power rates and retail electricity prices to consumers  [Strategic Plan](https://www.ercot.com/files/docs/2023/08/25/ERCOT-Strategic-Plan-2024-2028.pdf) Objective 3 - Advance ERCOT, Inc. as an independent leading industry expert and an employer of choice by fostering innovation, investing in our people, and emphasizing the importance of our mission  General system and/or process improvement(s)  Regulatory requirements  ERCOT Board/PUCT Directive  *(please select ONLY ONE – if more than one apply, please select the ONE that is most relevant)* | |
| Justification of Reason for Revision and Market Impacts | | This NPRR documents the scenarios in which Market Participants are required to successfully complete retail qualification testing regardless of whether Market Participants previously received their qualification letter from ERCOT as a result of prior retail flight testing.  As part of ERCOT’s Texas Standard Electronic Transaction (SET) V5.0 project market communications, on May 8, 2024 ERCOT issued a Market Notice stating retail market qualification testing requirements that are not specifically outlined in the Protocols. Memorializing these scenarios into Section 19.8 may prevent future disagreements between ERCOT and Market Participants, since this retail qualification testing is mandatory in order that Market Participants can maintain their eligibility **to serve Customers in the ERCOT Market. This requirement applies to all Market Participants regardless of if they are a new entrant or an existing entity.** | |

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| Proposed Protocol Language Revision |

19.8 Retail Market Testing

(1) The Texas Standard Electronic Transaction (TX SET) Working Group works with the ERCOT flight administrator to develop and maintain a test plan and related testing standards for all retail transactional changes within the ERCOT market.

(2) There are events in the retail market where market-facing, Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) subcommittee-approved changes require Market Participants to successfully test as a means of confirming that each Market Participant is qualified to transit TX SET transactions under the new standards prior to production implementation. Some of these changes include, but may not be limited to:

(a) North American Energy Standards Board (NAESB) Practice Standards version upgrade(s) as outlined in the TDTMS NAESB Electronic Delivery Mechanism V 1.6 Implementation Guide; and/or

(b) TX SET version release upgrade(s) as outlined in the Texas Standard Electronic Transaction Implementation Guides.

(3) ERCOT may also deem testing to be necessary by Market Participants in order that ERCOT may maintain mission critical retail systems’ performance, reliability and integrity as outlined in the Retail and ListServ Market IT Services Service Level Agreement and the Market Data Transparency Service Level Agreement.

(4) Testing of these changes shall be scheduled by ERCOT to allow ERCOT and all impacted Market Participants adequate time to modify their systems and participate in the testing process. Testing processes, procedures, schedules and success criteria are defined in the Texas Market Test Plan (TMTP) Guide and on the ERCOT website. The ERCOT flight administrator is the final authority on all levels of retail business process qualification among trading partners.

(5) ERCOT may enlist the services of an Independent Third Party Testing Administrator (ITPTA) for testing retail processes.