

Industry Readiness Approach - Draft

Improving Security Frameworks
Release 1.1

March 2026



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1. Purpose of industry readiness approach

The industry readiness approach is the overarching plan to guide AEMO and NEM participants' readiness activities and operational preparedness for both ISF releases 1.1a and 1.1b. It is intended to:

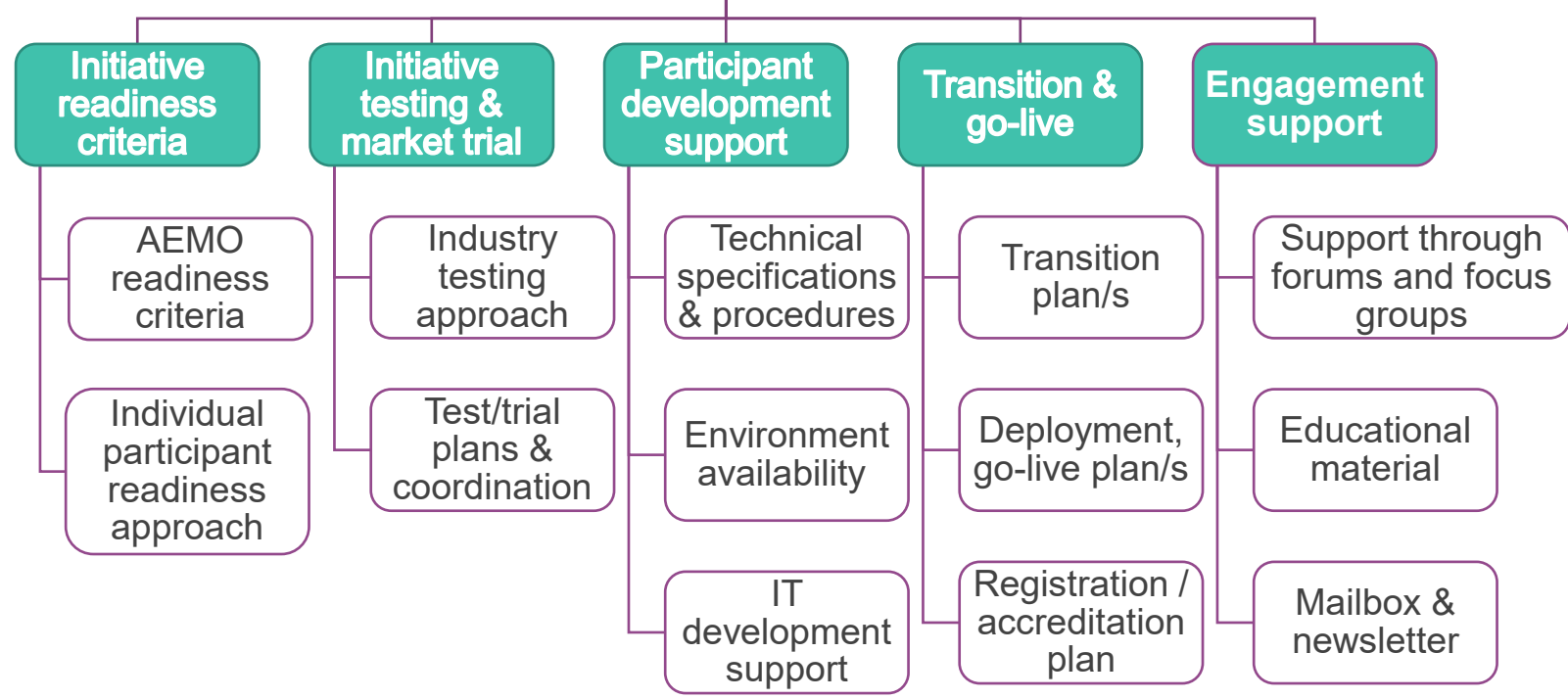
- Assist industry with their own planning and delivery activities to be ready for ISF Release 1.1 as it is operationalised.
- Align to and support the implementation approach for ISF Release 1.1.

2. NEM Reform program industry readiness strategy

NEM Reform program framework for industry readiness across initiatives

NEM REFORM PROGRAM INDUSTRY READINESS STRATEGY

INITIATIVE READINESS APPROACH FRAMEWORK



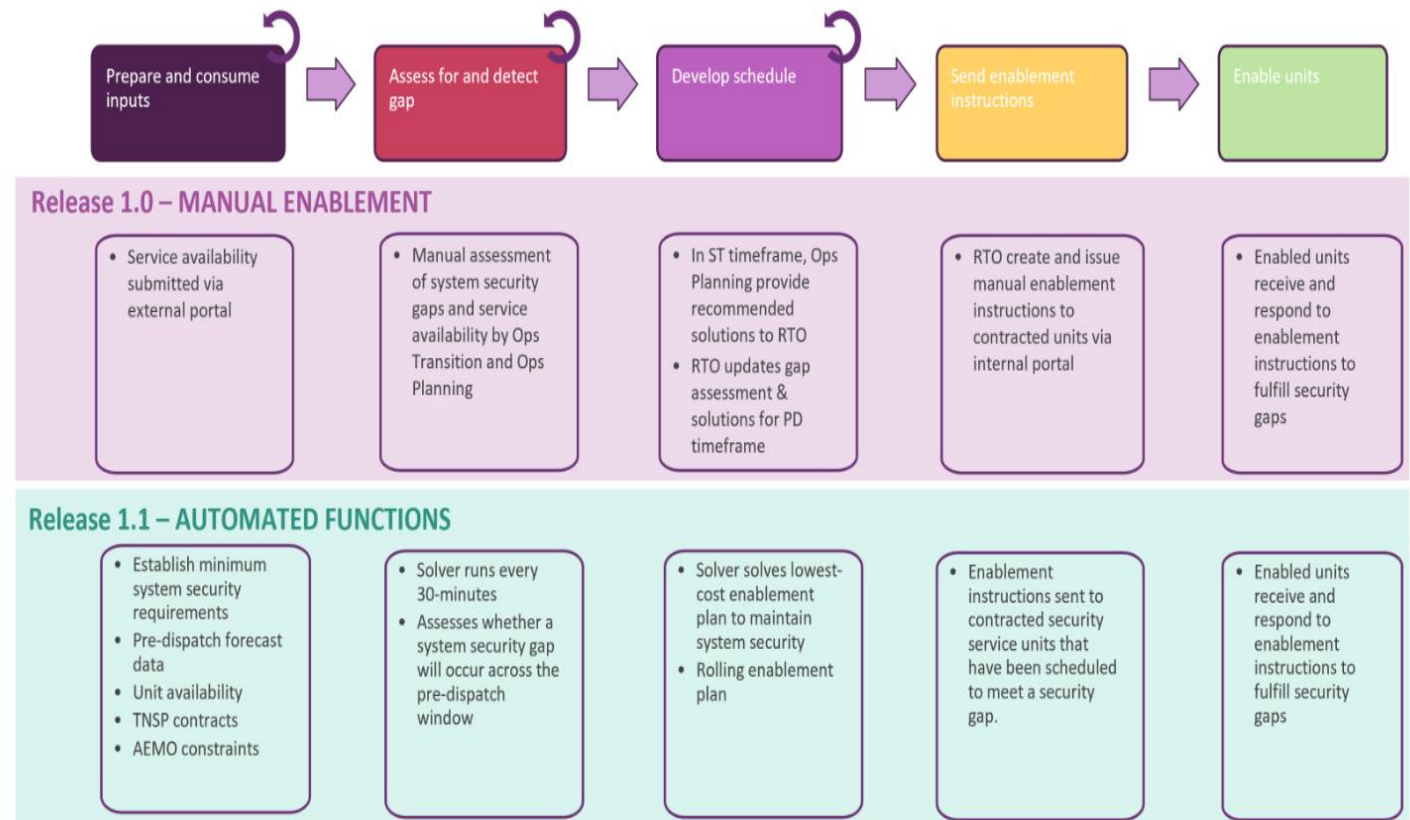
RISK & CONTINGENCY MANAGEMENT

INITIATIVE READINESS REPORTING & GO-LIVE CRITERIA MANAGEMENT

READINESS ELEMENT	DESCRIPTION
Initiative readiness criteria	Criteria against which the decision to implement the initiative will be made. Includes impact on ongoing NEM operation.
Initiative testing and market trial	Agreed approach to support participant testing of the market processes impacted by initiative
Participant development support	Approaches to provide affected participants the information required for successful development and implementation of their required changes.
Transition & go-live	Approach and management of transitional activities and go-live timings, dependencies and communication approaches.
Engagement support	Approach to support affected participants with their required changes.
Risk & contingency management	Identification and management of Implementation risks and agreed contingencies for the initiative
Initiative readiness reporting & go-live criteria management	Progressive management of agreed delivery milestones and checkpoints for evaluation against agreed criteria

3. Context: ISF Initiative

- The ISF rule change enhances existing system security procurement frameworks to ensure AEMO has the tools it needs to maintain system security through the energy transition and reduce reliance on directions.
- On 2 December 2025 (release 1), AEMO delivered a range of changes for the ISF rule, with the project focused on AEMO’s obligation to enable system security service contracts for minimum and efficient levels.
- Release 1.1 will deliver fully automated enablement.



High-level Enablement process

4. Scope of ISF 1.1 industry readiness approach

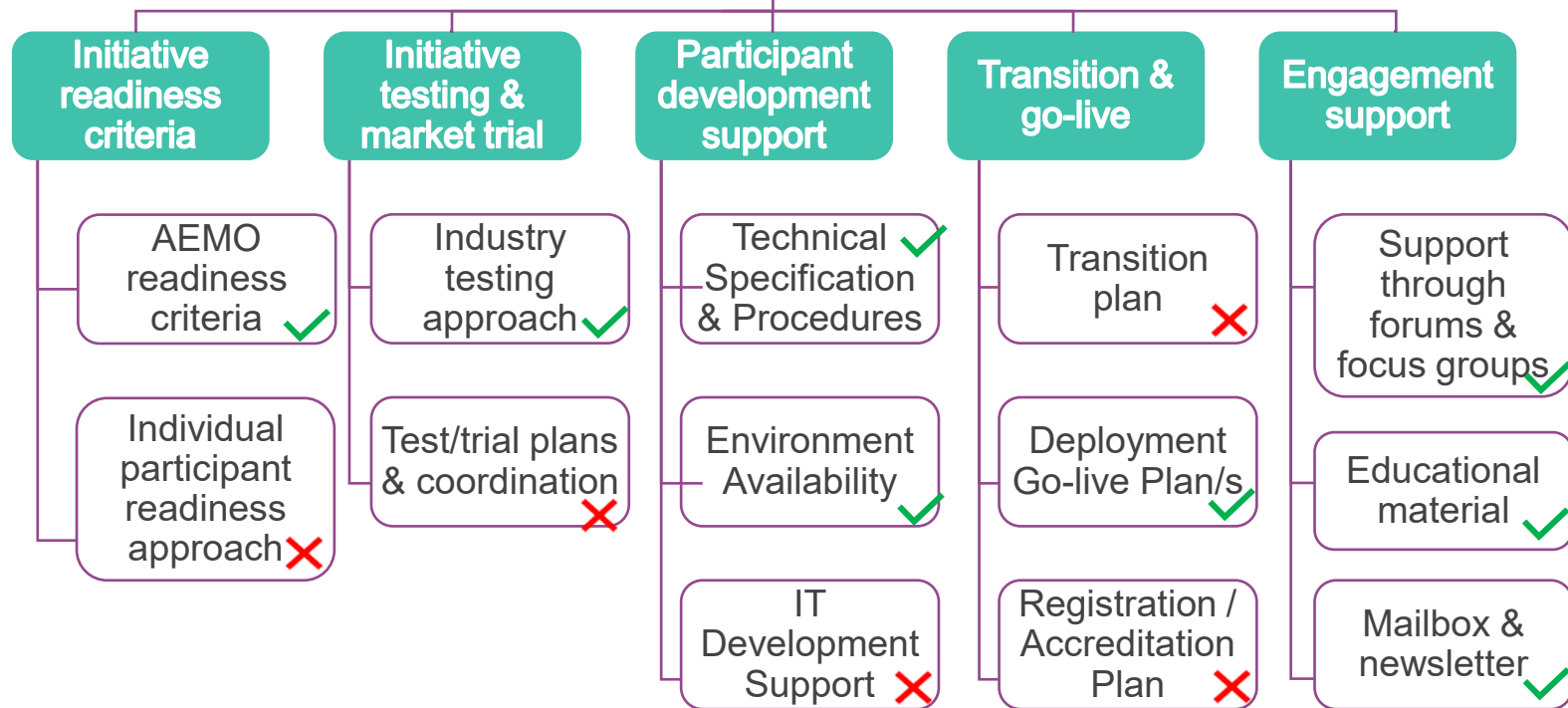
ISF Release 1.1 will be delivered in two Production deployments:

- **3 June 2026 (Release 1.1A): Enhanced manual solution**
 - Changes for constraints and internal portal contract management screens
 - [R 1.0 minor enhancements](#) to external SSM pages on the Markets Portal
- **4 November 2026 (Release 1.1B): Full automation**
 - Automated enablement and other non-core functionality
 - Reports (available on Participant Data Model and Markets Portal):
 - New SSM Indicative Rolling DUID Schedule Report
 - Updates to Enablement Periods Day+1 Report

5. ISF 1.1 industry readiness approach

NEM REFORM INDUSTRY READINESS STRATEGY (ALL INITIATIVES)

Draft ISF 1.1 READINESS APPROACH



ISF readiness approach adopts the standard NEM Reform program framework

✓ Required
 ✗ Not required

RISK & CONTINGENCY MANAGEMENT ✓

INITIATIVE READINESS REPORTING ✓ & GO-LIVE CRITERIA MANAGEMENT ✓

5(a) ISF Release 1.1 Readiness Approach

Readiness Component	ISF Release 1.1a	ISF Release 1.1b
AEMO Readiness Criteria	For 3 June 2026 release: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• AEMO’s solution needs to be built and tested for the enhanced manual solution• Business needs to be ready to operate• IT support needs to be in place	For 4 November 2026 release: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• AEMO’s solution needs to be built and tested for full automation• Business needs to be ready to operate• IT support needs to be in place
Participant Readiness Criteria	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Individual participant (or participant category) readiness is not a dependency for go-live.• No impact to participant systems/processes.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Individual participant (or participant category) readiness is not a dependency for go-live.• However, impacted participants will likely need to adopt Data Model 5.7 changes to receive reports.

5(b) ISF Release 1.1 Readiness Approach

Readiness Component	Release 1.1a	Release 1.1b
Industry Testing	<p>Industry Test Approach:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> AEMO proposes a ‘lite’ industry test approach for releases 1.1a and 1.1b as both releases contain minor changes impacting a small number of eligible participants. For release 1.1a, AEMO proposes that an Industry Test Strategy document is not required. AEMO intends to communicate the test approach at the Implementation Forum and ITWG and walk through the changes with impacted participants during 1:1 sessions. A test period of 3 weeks is proposed: 12 May to 2 Jun 2026. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> For release 1.1b, AEMO will develop a Test Strategy in collaboration with participants. AEMO is considering combining test approaches for ISF 1.1b with other initiatives, planned for a November 2026 release, into one Industry Test Strategy document. A test period of 4 weeks is proposed from 8 October
Participant Development Support	<p>Procedures: no procedure consultations required for release 1.1a.</p> <p>Technical Specifications: no specifications required for release 1.1a</p>	<p>Procedures: Update to Security Enablement Procedure</p> <p>Technical Specifications:</p> <p>EMMS technical specification – initial draft expected 1 April 2026</p> <p>EMMS DM v5.7 Technical Specification:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Draft version available, next update due 6 March 2026 Deployment to preproduction: 14 April 2026 Deployment to production: 14 May 2026
<p>Environment Availability: AEMO’s pre-production will be available to support industry testing.</p>		

5(c) ISF Release 1.1 Readiness Approach

Readiness Component	Release 1.1a and 1.1b
Transition and Go-live	<p>Transition plans</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• No transition activities have been identified <p>Deployment / go-live plan</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• AEMO will develop, for release 1.1b only, in consultation with industry to confirm AEMO deployment activities and timeframes, participant co-ordinated activity and required notifications to industry. <p>Registration / accreditation plan</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Registration / accreditation plans not required
Engagement Support	<p>Forums and Focus Groups</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• AEMO will continue to engage with impacted participants/providers via ISF working groups and 1:1 sessions• Updates will be provided as required via NEM Reform Program forums including the EWCF, Implementation Forum, ITWG and MSUG. <p>Educational material</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• AEMO will provide educational material to support awareness, assessment and preparation for affected participants, as required. All material will be made available through the projects dedicated webpage. <p>Mailbox & newsletter</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Participant support provided via monitored mailbox: nemreform@aemo.com.au• Regular communications around project milestones.

5(d) ISF Release 1.1 Readiness Approach

Readiness Component	Release 1.1a and 1.1b	
Readiness reporting	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Formalised participant readiness reporting is not required, as there are no mandatory participant transition or preparatory activities that would affect technical readiness for the NEM or other participants • AEMO will report to industry via NEM Reform Program forums: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Progress against agreed milestones ○ Any changes to confirmed L1/L2 industry milestones and their impacts on industry ○ Checkpoints on go-live criteria in the lead-up to implementation. 	
Go-live criteria management	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • AEMO will confirm the ISF 1.1 go-live criteria with participants in April 2026. • AEMO will also take formal checkpoints against go-live criteria to provide assurance of implementation preparations ahead of industry test period and go-live, allowing time for finalising AEMO's and Participants business preparations. 	
	<p>1.1a Checkpoints</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1-month – 6 May 2026 	<p>1.1b checkpoints</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 3-month – 12 August 2026 • 1-month – 7 October 2026


Feedback

AEMO welcomes your [feedback](#) on the readiness approach.

Appendices

- A. HOW TO KEEP INFORMED
- B. RELEASE 1.1a ENHANCEMENTS
- C. GLOSSARY

A. How to keep informed: NEM Reform program engagement

Forums	Forum focus 	Cadence	Approach
Executive Forum	Program overview and status update	3 per Year	Nomination
Reform Delivery Committee (RDC)	Long term implementation planning perspective	Quarterly	Nomination
Program Consultative Forum (PCF)	Inflight initiatives status & co-ordination	Monthly	Open
Implementation Forum	Implementation of reforms	Monthly	Open
Electricity Wholesale (EWCF) & Electricity Retail (ERCF) Consultative Forums	Procedures working groups	Monthly	Open
Industry Testing Working Group	Testing	Monthly	Open
Working Groups	Inflight	As appropriate	As appropriate



To learn more, please visit:

- [AEMO | NEM Reform Program Forums](#)
- [AEMO | NEM Reform Program Initiatives](#)
- [AEMO | Industry Meetings Calendar](#)
- or contact the program at NEMReform@aemo.com.au.

Subscribe to the NEM Reform Newsletter [here](#)

Focus / working groups for inflight initiatives include:

Initiative working groups

Market Integration Technology Enhancement WG (IDX/IDAM/PC)

Industry Testing Working Group (ITWG) – IT technical implementations

B. Release 1.1A Enhancements

Key	Story	External Portal Impact	External Portal Impact Summary
ISF-1406	Update in validation rule of min dispatch MW in Asset Availability, Enablement instruction and Contract management screens.	Yes	Changes the validation on external (and internal) portal to restrict dispatch min MW to a nine digit integer.
ISF-1389	Shorten the Contract ID field in SSM to align with Settlements	No	No impact to the external portal, but any contracts with an ID longer than 10 characters will need to be deleted and recreated as a business process that will involve external parties.
ISF-1460	Rename the field naming convention in the CSV file to TEST_CONFIRMATION_DATE instead of TEST_CONFIRMATION_DATETIME	No	None
ISF-1431	Asset Availability : Incorporation of appropriate validation error message to handle past dated records during edit	Yes	Adds validation to Asset Availability in external portal to prevent the editing of availability for time intervals that are the current or next time interval to the current time, or in the past.
ISF-1183	Internal portal Enablement Instruction : Incorporation of validation during cancellation	No	None
ISF-1273	Enablement Instruction : Search Functionality	Yes	Changes the way the search dropdowns behave after a search returns no results (i.e. retains the selected values rather than clearing the dropdowns).
ISF-1506	Refactor the behaviour of dropdowns and open search in Enablement Instructions screen	Yes	Improves the behaviour of the filter dropdowns in the enablement instruction screen of the external (and internal) portal. Specifically, it makes the dropdown options dependant on what has been selected in the other dropdowns on the page.

C. Glossary

Term	Definition
AEMO	Australian Energy Market Operator
AEMC	Australian Energy Market Commission
DM	Data Model
DUID	Dispatchable unit identifier
HLIA	High Level Implementation Assessment
ITWG	Industry Testing Working Group
MSUG	Market Systems User Group
NEM	National Electricity Market
NER	National Electricity Rules
NSP	Network Service Provider
PD	Predispatch
RTO	Real Time Operations
TNSP	Transmission Network Service Provider
SSM	System Security Management



For more information visit

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