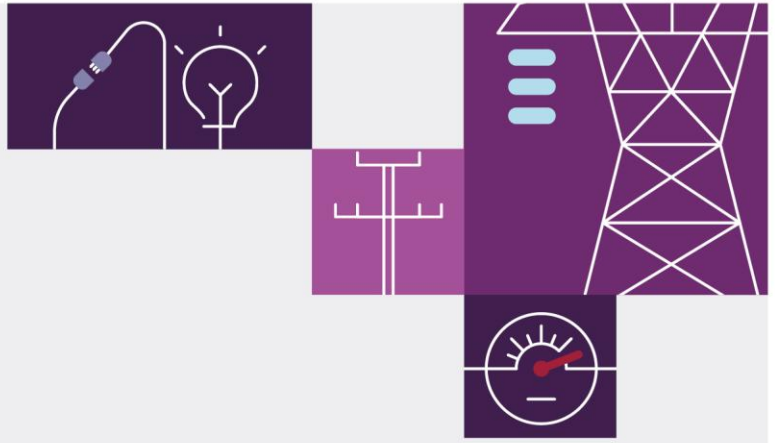


Improving Security Frameworks – Release 1 (2 Dec 2025)

Industry Go-live Plan





Important notice

Purpose

This document describes the go-live approach for upgrading AEMO’s wholesale systems for Improving Security Frameworks phase1/release 1 and rule effective date on 2 December 2025. Noting that release 1.1 is planned for August 2026.

Disclaimer

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Version control

Version	Release date	Changes
0.1	1 October 2025	Draft for Industry Review
1.0	7 November 2025	Final version

Executive summary

On 28 March 2024, the Australian Energy Market Commission (AEMC) made a final determination rule to enhance system security procurement frameworks to improve market arrangements for system security services within the power system. It addresses system security challenges during the energy transition by reducing reliance on directions and providing better incentives for participants to invest in providing system security in the longer term. It also increases transparency on system security needs and understanding, and how AEMO plans to manage system security as the NEM transitions to a secure net zero emissions power system.

The rule sets forth multiple implementation milestones, scheduled between 30 June 2024 and 2 December 2025:

30 June 2024	Transitional Services Framework commenced
1 December 2024	Contracts able to be procured following publication of the Transitional Services Guideline. AEMO published the first Transition Plan for system security and the new inertia framework commenced.
31 August 2025	Publication of Full Security Enablement Procedure (SEP)
2 December 2025	Operational commencement of full enablement obligations.

Improving Security Frameworks is being delivered in 2 phases. Phase 1 consists of 2 releases.

Release 1	Full enablement obligations as specified in the SEP, delivered through system-initiated manual enablement, automated back-end processing and reporting on 2 December 2025.
Release 1.1	Automated enablement functions, additional reports and other non-core functionality on 9 August 2026.

The Go-live Plan provides deployment activities for both preproduction and production environments for Release 1 only. A separate go-live plan will be provided for release 1.1, prior to August 2026.

AEMO has a key coordination role, through collaboration with its industry working groups, to ready Industry and itself for the various system and market “go-live” dates.

At a high level, the go-live responsibilities are set out below:

- AEMO to facilitate the Market Trial for ISF Release 1.
- AEMO to enable the market software to commence operations in line with requirements.
- Participants are encouraged to complete their preparations in readiness for the release.



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1. Introduction

This chapter describes the implementation of the first release for the National Electricity Market (NEM) Reform Program's Improving Security Frameworks (ISF) initiative.

1.1 Audience

This document provides information to Participants and IT staff that will be impacted by the functional and technical changes being implemented with ISF Release 1 on 2 December 2025. It is the first of two releases planned for the Phase 1 implementation of ISF.

1.2 Improving Security Frameworks (ISF) rule change

On 28 March 2024, the Australian Energy Market Commission (AEMC) made a final determination and preferable final rule to improve market arrangements for system security services. The final ISF rule builds on existing tools and frameworks within the power system to enhance system security procurement frameworks. It addresses system security challenges during the energy transition by reducing reliance on directions and providing better incentives for participants to invest in providing system security in the longer term. It also increases transparency on system security needs and understanding, and how AEMO plans to manage system security as the NEM transitions to a secure net zero emissions power system.

The AEMC's revised approach will result in the:

- alignment of the existing inertia and system strength frameworks (introducing a NEM-wide inertia floor, aligning procurement timeframes with the system strength framework, and removing restrictions on the procurement of synthetic inertia);
- removal of the exclusion to procuring inertia network services and system strength in the network support and control ancillary services (NSCAS) framework;
- creation of a new transitional non-market ancillary services (NMAS) framework for AEMO to procure security services necessary for the energy transition;
- requirement for AEMO to enable (or 'schedule') system strength and inertia services (including those procured under the NSCAS framework) across the whole NEM, and at its discretion enable other NSCAS and transitional services via a new enablement tool; and
- changing of the directions reporting framework

The rule sets forth multiple implementation milestones, scheduled between 30 June 2024 and 2 December 2025:

30 June 2024	Transitional Services Framework commenced
1 December 2024	AEMO able to procure transitional services contracts following publication of the Transitional Services Guideline. AEMO published the first Transition Plan for System Security and the new inertia framework commenced.
31 August 2025	Publication of Full Security Enablement Procedure
2 December 2025	Operational commencement of full enablement obligations.



1.3 ISF Release 1 changes

Release 1 introduces changes to support manual scheduling of security services (with automated back-end processing and reporting) with a focus on participant facing solution components to minimise the impact of the split release delivery approach.

Fully automated enablement, planned for Release 1.1, is scheduled for August 2026 with further enhancements and optimisations to be delivered progressively beyond August 2026.

1.4 EMMS Data Model changes

Participants wanting to receive the ISF information in their Data Interchange environments must upgrade to EMMS Data Model v5.6. Data Model design is documented in EMMS Data Model v5.6 – November 2025 technical specification¹.

System related changes, from a participant perspective, are documented in the EMMS Technical Specification for December 2025².

1.5 Go-live planning engagement

The ISF Industry Go-Live Plan is developed in consultation with industry through the Implementation Forum. Table 1 below illustrates AEMO's engagement approach and timeline for developing the plan.

Table 1 ISF Release 1 Go-Live Plan development timeline

Milestone	Date
Publish draft for industry feedback	1 Oct 2025
Deadline for industry feedback	31 Oct 2025
Publish final plan	5 Nov 2025

2. Go-live Plan Framework

2.1 Scope

- In Scope
 - Deployment of wholesale system changes to support the implementation of ISF
 - EMMS Data Model v5.6 changes

¹ <https://aemo.com.au/en/energy-systems/market-portals-directory/tech-specs>

² <https://aemo.com.au/en/energy-systems/market-portals-directory/tech-specs>

- Communications during deployment
- Support arrangements during the Go-live period
- Out of Scope
 - Participant contingency plans.
 - ISF Release 1.1 will have a separate Go-live Plan.

2.2 Principles

The industry transition and go-live strategy principles apply to ISF changes. These are:

- The changes within this release are mandated via Procedure changes – commencement date of 2 December 2025 should be met.
- Operation of the NEM should be uninterrupted during periods of transition and go-live.
- Market system go-live risks should be minimised.
- Participants should be provided with implementation flexibility where possible.
- Participants and AEMO are responsible for their own go-live planning.

3. Industry Go-live Plan

3.1 Industry Testing

Industry testing provides participants the opportunity to prove their enablement capability, a dependency for Contract approval, by testing their market systems against AEMO's market systems in the pre-production environment.

For further details including testing scope inclusions please refer to the ISF Market Trial Test Plan³.

3.2 EMMS Data Model v5.6 release

EMMS Data Model v5.6 will be released to pre-production on 14th October 2025 to allow participants to install/upgrade prior to Market Trial start and go-live respectively.

Data model 5.6 release provides two scripts to participants, one to create the data model from scratch and the other to update from a previous version. This step is a pre-requisite for any participant to be able to perform their testing.

For further information – [AEMO | NEMweb Help](#)

³[ISF Market Trial Test Plan](#)



3.3 Go-live Plan

There is one deployment planned for ISF Release 1 scheduled for Tuesday 2nd December 2025 during the standard maintenance window. Participants are advised to install/upgrade to EMMS Data Model v5.6 prior to 1 December 2025 (available in Production from 19th November).

3.4 Go-live criteria and readiness decision

Solution Go Live Criteria	Description
Solution readiness	AEMO solution tested in-line with requirements. System changes required to meet initiative requirements and ongoing stability of existing systems.
AEMO business readiness	AEMO business ready to support release changes and Provider transition.

Service Commencement Criteria	Description
Market readiness	Whilst there are no formal Market Readiness requirements, Participants must ensure that they are able to generate and accept the relevant changes.

Checkpoint decisions will be made approximately three months and one month prior to go-live to determine overall initiative readiness for Production and communicated via the Implementation Forum.

3.4.1 Participant readiness

Participant readiness activities, including participation in industry testing, are not a pre-requisite for AEMO to confirm technical readiness to go-live. As such, the release will not require formalised reporting on participant readiness activities.

AEMO encourages Participants to engage in industry testing and is providing extended support from the end of the Market Trial period through to 28th February 2026 for system preparedness activities.

3.4.2 Transition period

AEMO will commence its transition to new enablement processes from rule commencement on 2 December 2025. Contracts for system security services must be approved by AEMO and Provider and preparedness demonstrated to AEMO in the Preproduction environment, to achieve full approval prior to enablement and provision of system security services.

Only those Participants who have commenced the contract approval process by submission of the required Contract Approval Form and have been assessed by AEMO for contract approval will be invited to demonstrate their preparedness in AEMO’s Preproduction environment.

Full approval is granted by AEMO when full capability has been demonstrated. AEMO will extend test support beyond the scheduled Market Trial period through to the end of February 2026 to assist Participants in their readiness activities.

In addition, TNSPs have been requested to provide limits advice to AEMO to enable the minimum system security requirements in the operational timeframe to be set. Key dates for provision of limits advice have been advised.

Further information to assist Participants is available in the ISF Transition Approach⁴ and the System Preparedness Fact Sheet.

3.5 Communications

Correspondence regarding the go-live will be released through AEMO Support Hub bulletins and the [NEM Reform mailbox](#). AEMO will provide the following forms of updates to participants during the AEMO cutover:

- **General updates** – provide participants with information about the status of implementation activities via the NEM Reform mailbox.
- **Support Hub Notices** – provides information to the market on Software releases including notifications of releases and outage completion.
- **Issues** – should any issues arise or deviations from the previously communicated processes, participants will be notified through the NEM Reform mailbox. If the issue or deviation is in relation to a notice previously sent through AEMO's Support Hub Notices, participants will receive a communication through this channel in addition to the NEM Reform mailbox. Participants experiencing issues as a result of the go-live should raise these incidents directly via the AEMO Support Hub.

⁴ [jsf-final-transition-approach.pdf](#)

3.6 Go-live deployment schedule

The wholesale system's Preproduction and Production deployment activities and associated communications are outlined in Table 2. No interruption to production is expected.

Table 2 ISF Go-live Schedule

Ref ID	Date	AEMO Action	Participant Impact/Action	Communication Channel
Pre-Production				
1	Tue 14 October 2025	EMMS Data Model 5.6 release to Preproduction including scripts to install/upgrade the Participant Data Model.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No outage required. Impacted Participants can upgrade their systems to EMMS Data Model v5.6. Existing Participants are auto-subscribed to any new files when they upgrade. Manually subscribe to other reports using the Data Model Manager. Check that all reports are set to 'active' in PDR Monitor. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Support Hub Notification Email to NEM Reform Implementation Forum members and ITWG
2	Tue 28 October 2025	ISF Release 1 deployed to Preproduction	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No outage required 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Email to Implementation Forum members and ITWG at completion of deployment
3	Wed 29 October 2025	Security Service contract information provided by TNSPs available in Preproduction.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Approved Pilot Participant can review ISF portal and availability screens. 	
4	Thu 30 October 2025	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Pilot Test commences 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Market Trial commences for approved Pilot Participant only. ITWG Q&A support sessions will be held daily for a period. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Email to Implementation Forum members Email notification to invited Pilot Participant.
5	Mon 3 November 2025	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Invitation-only Market Trial period commences for all approved Participants 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Communication only 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Email to Implementation Forum members and ITWG

Ref ID	Date	AEMO Action	Participant Impact/Action	Communication Channel
				at completion of deployment
6	Tue 18 November 2025	AEMO email notification that Invitation-only Market Trial activities have concluded.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Communication only 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Email to Implementation Forum members and ITWG at completion
7	Wed 19 November 2025	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Extended AEMO-supported period commences for all approved Participants to test system preparedness • AEMO email notification that extended AEMO-supported industry test period has commenced 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • AEMO communication • AEMO support as required 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Email to Implementation Forum members and ITWG at completion
8	Fri 27 February 2026	AEMO email notification that extended AEMO-supported period has concluded	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Communication only 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Email to Implementation Forum members at completion
Prior to Production Go-live 2 December 2025				
6	Wed 19 November 2025	EMMS Data Model 5.6 release to Production including scripts to install/upgrade the data model.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No outage required. • Impacted Participants can upgrade their systems to EMMS Data Model v5.6. • Existing Participants are auto-subscribed to any new files when they upgrade. • Manually subscribe to latest version of existing reports from the AEMO portal after upgrading to DM5.6. • Check that all reports are set to 'active' in PDR Monitor. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support Hub Notification • Email to NEM Reform Implementation Forum members
7	Tue 2 December 2025	ISF Release 1 deployed to Production	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No outage required 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Email to Implementation Forum members at completion of deployment
ISF Rule effective date 2 December 2025				
8	Tue 2 December 2025	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Production systems available to Participants with full contract approval. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Communication only 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support Hub Notification • Email to NEM Reform Implementation Forum members



3.7 Deployment Contingency

ISF Release 1 is comprised of updates to current AEMO systems only.

Where a task/deployment has a participant impact, AEMO will provide communication confirming the successful deployment.

Where an issue arises that impacts the Readiness and Go-live Criteria, participants will be notified and a path forward will be communicated. This may involve consultation and will be assessed if/when required.

4. Participant Support Arrangements

All production issues should be raised via the Support Hub and managed through the current wholesale system support processes.

AEMO will run Hypercare for the ISF changes until end of February 2026 in addition to extended support period. There will be heightened SME availability to support participants during this time along with:

- Issue Tracking:
 - Publication of identified Issues Log
 - Q&A Sessions as required
 - Participants are requested to follow BAU process and log issues via the AEMO Support Hub
- Communications:
 - Market communications will be used for the notification of any impacts to processing
 - The AEMO ISF project will organise post-go-live open Q&A sessions as required
 - Q&A session to discuss any issues or queries.

Glossary

Term	Definition
AEMC	Australian Energy Market Commission
AEMO	Australian Energy Market Operator
Cutover	System or process implementation event
IF	Implementation Forum
Industry testing	Informal, uncoordinated testing by participants in AEMO's IT environments. Self-testing of functionality such as connectivity, and/or coordinated multi-party testing of functional scenarios.
ITWG	Industry Testing Working Group
NEM	National Electricity Market
NER	National Electricity Rules
PDRMonitor	Participant Data Replication Monitor
Q&A	Question and Answer
SME	Subject Matter Expert