

PJM System Operator Certification Program

Purpose

The PJM System Operator Certification Program provides the public and governmental entities with a measure of confidence in the capabilities of operations personnel within the PJM Regional Transmission Organization (PJM RTO) to maintain the reliability of the bulk electric system. In addition, the Certification Program provides assurance to PJM and members that system operators who operate on the PJM RTO systems have a demonstrated knowledge of PJM real time operating requirements necessary to maintain the integrity of the Markets and the systems.

Scope of System Operator Certification

As defined, the scope of requirements of system operators who operate on the PJM RTO systems are the daily operations-related knowledge and skills needed to implement procedures for normal, emergency and restoration conditions. All system operators must understand and be able to implement these procedures as presented in the PJM Manuals to ensure reliable operation of the PJM RTO. In addition, system operators must understand basic operating concepts in order to perform the referenced tasks.

The results of a Job Analysis has determined that there are two discrete sets of tasks performed by system operators in the PJM RTO. A Transmission Content Outline details the common tasks performed by system operators who operate transmission facilities. A Generation Content Outline details the common tasks performed the system operators who operate generation facilities. Therefore, there are two PJM certification examinations: Generation and Transmission.

Validation of the tasks and development of the examinations were conducted with the assistance of a consultant skilled in certification examination development to assure legal defensibility. Periodically a Job Analysis is performed to ensure that the program remains current.

The PJM certification exams are validated objective multiple choice exams (one for Generation and one for Transmission) administered by a computer testing service at designated locations. The PJM Exam Working Group developed the exams and assist in maintaining the certification exams to ensure they are current.

The PJM Candidate Bulletin details the application and testing procedures and requirements. The Bulletin also contains information on the Content Outlines, other key documents and the fee schedule.

Who and When

Those system operators who must be PJM certified are those who:

- operate on the PJM system,
- are in direct communication with the PJM System Operator, and
- perform daily operations-related functions at the direction of the PJM System Operator during normal, emergency and/or system restoration states.

PJM system operators must also be PJM certified.

Effective 7/1/09, New MOC Generation and system operators with companies integrating into PJM will have a maximum of twelve months to become PJM certified after they begin operating on the PJM RTO systems.

Effective 7/1/10, new LCC transmission system operators and system operators with companies integrating into PJM must become PJM certified before operating on the PJM system.

Although system operators are the only group on the PJM system required to be PJM certified, other system participants including marketers and generation control room operators are encouraged to sit for the PJM System Operator Certification exam due to their impact on reliability. Opportunity to sit for the PJM System Operator Certification exam is open to others.

Certification Examinations

There are two PJM Certification Exams: one for Generation System Operators and the other for Transmission System Operators. Details are as follows:

System Operators who participate in the real time operations of the PJM system by dispatching generation resources and performing other generation-related real time duties of a Market Operation Center (MOC) and PJM system operators are required to complete and pass the PJM Generation Examination.

System Operators who participate in the real time operations of the PJM RTO transmission systems and perform other transmission-related real time duties of a Local Control Center (LCC) and PJM system operators are required to complete and pass the PJM Transmission Examination.

Dual Certification

System operators operating on the PJM system who perform both generation and transmission tasks must be PJM certified in both generation and transmission. Since there is no overlap of the Content Outlines, a combination examination is not available.

Term of Certification

Since 7/1/03, a PJM System Operator certificate was valid for five years. Effective 7/1/09, the term of a PJM certificate was changed to three years.

Recertification

There are two ways a PJM System Operator Certificate can be renewed;

1. Before the certificate for a PJM certified system operator expires; apply for, take and pass the same PJM certification exam for which they hold a valid certificate: Generation System Operator or Transmission System Operator.
2. For a five year PJM certificate, on a rolling five year basis complete at least two hundred (200) hours of NERC approved CEH training related to the PJM credential which has been recorded in the PJM Learning Management System (LMS). Those who fail to get

credit for 200 continuing training hours per five year period must apply for, take and pass the appropriate PJM exam before their current PJM certificate expires.

For a three year PJM certificate, on a rolling three year basis complete at least one hundred forty (140) of NERC approved CEH training related to the PJM credential which has been recorded in the PJM Learning Management System (LMS). In addition, of the 140 CEH to renew, thirty CEH must be approved for the category of Simulation. Those who fail to get credit for 140 CEH of which 30 CEH must be for Simulation must apply for, take and pass the appropriate PJM exam before their current certificate expires.

Prerequisites

There is no training or work experience requirements that candidates must satisfy before they can apply to sit for the PJM certification exam.

Completion of one or more of PJM training programs for system operators is highly recommended. For initial training the Generation 101, 201, 301, and Operations 101 course series or the Transmission 101 and Operations 101 courses are highly recommended, followed by the Initial Training Program (ITP). On a continuing basis, completion of the annual PJM System Operator Seminar is highly recommended together with participation in PJM emergency preparedness drills.

Validity, Reliability and Defensibility

The PJM System Operator Certification Program was developed and is operated in accordance with the “good practices” of the National Commission for Certifying Agencies (NCCA). Following these “good practices” ensures that the program conforms with EEOC guidelines, is legally defensible, and is fairly administered to all candidates.

Assistance of a consultant skilled in development of certification exams has been secured on a continuing basis to guide, advise and perform selected tasks to ensure that the PJM Certification Program is valid, reliable and legally defensible.

Certification Oversight Group

The Certification Oversight Group (COG) is charged with ensuring that the PJM Certification Program is kept fair to all and free from undue influence in order to protect against actual or perceived bias toward candidates or their employers, and that the Certification Program is valid and legally defensible. The COG also participates in the PJM System Operator Certification Dispute Resolution Process.

Dispute Resolution Procedure

A non-binding dispute resolution procedure is available to address complaints and challenges regarding the certification exams, and related application and test administration processes. As backup to PJM Certification Dispute Resolution, a complainant not satisfied with the results of Certification Dispute Resolution can submit their case to the PJM Alternate Dispute Resolution Committee.

Compliance

Compliance with the PJM System Operator Certification Program is detailed in PJM Manual 40 Certification and Training. It is the responsibility of the State and Member Training

department to monitor system operators regarding their compliance with the PJM System Operator Certification and Training requirements, and how cases of non-compliance are to be mitigated.

Financing the Certification Program

The PJM RTO funds the operation and maintenance of the Certification Program. All system operators and others who take the examination pay a modest fee to cover the cost of sitting for the exam. Non-members of the PJM RTO pay a higher application fee to sit for the certification exam.

Certification Described

Certification focuses on defining required competencies for a work group and recognizing individuals who possess these competencies. The PJM System Operator Certification Program provides a measure for the individual to demonstrate the needed set of task capabilities required to operate on the PJM RTO systems.

PJM System Operator Certification and PJM training are related but different; they complement each other and should operate in unison.

Definition

System Operator: An individual who performs daily generation and/or transmission operations-related tasks on the PJM RTO electrical systems. System operators performing these tasks may be at Local Control Centers (LCCs), Market Operations Centers (MOCs), and a PJM control center.

NERC System Operator Certification

The NERC System Operator Certification Program is targeted to system operators employed by Operating Authorities directly responsible for conforming with NERC policies. All PJM system operators must be NERC certified having earned one of the following NERC credentials: Transmission Operator, Balancing and Interchange/ Transmission Operator, or Reliability Coordinator.

PJM established a requirement that effective 12/31/2011, all LCC Transmission system operators must be both PJM and NERC certified having earned the one of the following NERC credentials: Transmission Operator, Balancing and Interchange/ Transmission Operator, or Reliability Coordinator.

Accessing PJM System Operator Certification Key Documents go to:

<http://www.pjm.com/services/training/train-sys-op.html>

[or call PJM Customer Service at \(610\) 666-8980](tel:6106668980)

Key documents include: Content Outlines, Candidate Bulletin, and Certification Dispute Resolution Procedure