

**ACER Decision on RCC Training and Certification of Staff Methodology:  
Annex I**

**Regional Coordination Centre Training and Certification of  
Staff Methodology**

**in accordance with Article 37(1)(g) of Regulation (EU)  
2019/943 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 5  
June 2019 on the internal market for electricity**

**18 May 2022**

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## Whereas

- (1) Regulation (EU) 2019/943 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 5 June 2019 on the internal market for electricity (hereafter referred to as “Regulation (EU) 2019/943”)<sup>1</sup>, sets the basis for an efficient achievement of the objectives of the Energy Union and in particular the climate and energy framework for 2030 through establishing a modern design for the European Union’s electricity market, adapted to the new realities of the market. Regulation (EU) 2019/943 was developed and adopted as part of the EU Clean Energy Package for All Europeans.
- (2) Article 35 of Regulation (EU) 2019/943 provides for the establishment of Regional Coordination Centres (hereafter referred to as “RCCs”) while Article 37(1) lists the RCCs’ tasks. According to Article 37(1)(g), RCCs shall carry out training and certification of staff working for RCCs, while point 12 of Annex I of Regulation (EU) 2019/943 provides further details.
- (3) This document sets out the methodology for training and certification of staff working for RCCs (hereafter referred to as the “methodology”), developed by the European Network of Transmission System Operators for Electricity (ENTSO-E) in accordance with Regulation (EU) 2019/943 and in particular Article 37(1)(g) and Article 37(5) on the obligation of the RCCs to carry out training and certification of staff working for the RCCs. This methodology provides definitions and sets out the RCC training and certification process. Training and certification of the staff of the transmission system operators (TSOs) is excluded from the scope of this proposal.
- (4) This proposal acknowledges Article 61 of Commission Regulation (EU) 2017/1485 of 2 August 2017 establishing a guideline on electricity transmission system operation<sup>2</sup>.
- (5) Synchronous areas do not stop at the Union's borders and can include the territory of third countries. The Union, Member States and TSOs should aim for secure system operation inside all synchronous areas across the Union. They should support third countries in applying similar rules to those contained in Regulation (EU) 2019/943. ENTSO-E should facilitate cooperation between Union TSOs and third country TSOs and their RCCs concerning secure system operation.
- (6) In this respect, recital 70 Regulation (EU) 2019/943 further stresses the need for close cooperation with Member States, the Energy Community Contracting Parties and other third countries which apply Regulation (EU) 2019/943 or are part of the synchronous area of Continental Europe. This cooperation should cover all matters concerning the development of an integrated electricity trading region and ensure that no measures are taken that endanger the further integration of electricity markets or security of supply of Member States and Contracting Parties.
- (7) This document provides that all TSOs of those SORs neighbouring third country TSOs should endeavour where necessary to enter into agreements setting the basis for their technical cooperation and compliance with the relevant EU legislation.

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<sup>1</sup> European Union (2019), Regulation (EU) 2019/943 on the internal market for electricity adopted by the European Union and of the Council of 5 June 2019 (hereinafter “Regulation (EU) 2019/943”), available at: <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=CELEX%3A32019R0943>

<sup>2</sup> OJ L 220, 25.8.2017, p. 1–120

## **Title 1**

### **General provisions**

#### **Article 1**

##### **Subject matter and scope**

1. This methodology establishes the process to prepare and carry out mandatory training and certification programmes for all RCC Operators.
2. The methodology applies to all aspects of the training and certification needed for the RCCs to perform the tasks that the RCCs carry out in accordance with Article 37(1) and Annex I of Regulation (EU) 2019/943, as well as any additional tasks which may be added according to Article 37(2) of Regulation (EU) 2019/943 or according to any new regulation, which would enter into force in the future, including those related to any regional desk established according to Article 44(2) of Regulation (EU) 2019/943.
3. The RCC Training programmes and modules are defined by RCCs.

#### **Article 2**

##### **Definitions and interpretation**

1. For the purposes of this methodology, the following terms will be used:
  - a. "RCC Training Programme" means a general framework of all aspect related to training (including Training Modules and RCC annual Training Plan) and certification. The RCC Training Programme is made per each RCC;
  - b. "RCC Annual Training Plan" means the annual schedule for RCC training activities and certification. The RCC annual Training plan is made per each RCC;
  - c. "Training Module" means the content of the training needed to operate part of or a complete task, or several tasks which are interrelated. The content includes at least training material, pedagogical objectives and participants;
  - d. "RCC Joint Training Module" means the training module for which at least the training material is common for all RCCs;
  - e. "RCCs and TSOs Common Training Module" means the training module for which at least the training material is common for at least one RCC and one TSO;
  - f. "RCC Operators" means all staff which operate one or more of the tasks carried out by RCCs according to Article 37 of Regulation (EU) 2019/943, with the exception of the task under Article 37(1)(g) of Regulation (EU) 2019/943. Each RCC may define one or more types of RCC Operators;
  - g. "RCC Training Coordinator" means a person in the RCC which oversees the coordination of the RCC training and certification of staff in accordance with Article 37(1)(g) of Regulation (EU) 2019/943.
2. In addition, the following abbreviations shall apply:
  - a. ACER: Agency for the Cooperation of Energy Regulators
  - b. ENTSO-E: European Network of Transmission System Operators for Electricity
  - c. RCC: Regional Coordination Center
  - d. RSC: Regional Security Coordinator
  - e. SOR: System Operation Region
  - f. TSO: Transmission System Operator

## **Title 2**

### **RCC Training of staff**

#### **Article 3**

#### **RCC Training Coordinator**

1. Each RCC shall nominate at least one RCC Training Coordinator.
2. Each RCC shall define the roles and responsibilities of the Training Coordinator, which shall include at least:
  - a. Evaluation of the need for RCC Joint Training Modules and where needed, definition of RCC Joint Training Modules according to Article 5;
  - b. Definition of RCC and TSOs Common Training Modules according to Article 8;
  - c. Definition of RCC Joint Training Module formal authorisation processes according to Article 11;
  - d. Definition of the RCC Training Programme according to Article 4;
  - e. Definition of the RCC Annual Training Plan according to Article 4(2)(d);
  - f. Coordination and cooperation with TSO and RCC Training Coordinators according to Article 5(1), Article 7(1), Article 8(1) and Article 11(1).

#### **Article 4**

#### **RCC Training Programme**

1. Each RCC shall establish an internal RCC Training Programme to ensure that the RCC Operators' knowledge is kept on a consistently high level to operate the tasks to be carried out, as described in the working arrangements elaborated in accordance with Article 39 of Regulation (EU) 2019/943.
2. The RCC Training Programme shall cover at least the following aspects:
  - a. All the tasks that the RCCs carry out in accordance with Article 37(1) and Annex I of Regulation (EU) 2019/943, as well as any additional tasks which may be added according to Article 37(2) of Regulation (EU) 2019/943 or according to any new regulation, which would enter into force in the future;
  - b. Roles and responsibilities in relation with the training activities and of the training coordinator;
  - c. Definition of types of RCC Operators, in accordance with Article 9 and 10;
  - d. Organization and execution procedure of training activities;
  - e. Establishment of an RCC Annual Training Plan (including RCC Joint Training Modules and RCC Joint Training Modules formal authorisation process as described in Article 5 and 10 and RCCs and TSOs Common Training Modules as described in Article 8.);
  - f. Procedure for the review and the update of the RCC Training Programme;
  - g. List of Training Modules (including RCC and TSO Common Training Modules and RCC Joint Training Modules).
3. Each RCC shall revise its Training Programmes at least annually; each RCC shall review its Training Programmes following significant changes to the RCC tasks which would affect the structure of the RCC Training Programme.
4. Each RCC shall update, as soon as possible, its training material to reflect any changes in operational circumstances, market rules, network configuration and system characteristics, with particular focus on new technologies, changing generation and demand patterns and market evolution.
5. Whenever a new task is planned on being implemented by the RCC, the RCC shall:
  - a. update of the RCC Training Programme of the relevant RCC, and
  - b. train and certify a sufficient number of RCCs Operators.

## **Article 5**

### **RCC Joint Training Modules**

1. RCC Joint Training Modules shall be organized by all RCCs at least for processes which are to be operated by RCCs on a pan-European Level.
2. When developing their Training Programmes, all RCCs' Training Coordinators shall evaluate together whether there is a need for RCC Joint Training Modules with other RCCs for any of the tasks that the RCCs carry out in accordance with Article 1.
3. When developing working arrangements in accordance with Article 39 of Regulation (EU) 2019/943, for each task that the RCCs carry out in accordance with Article 1, all RCCs' Training Coordinators shall evaluate whether there is a need to organize RCC Joint Training Modules.
4. The RCC Joint Training Module shall be part of the RCC Training Programme of each RCC.
5. All RCCs shall organize regular joint meetings and workshops to ensure a well-established relationship between RCC Operators for a seamless cross-regional cooperation.

## **Article 6**

### **RCC Joint Training Programme**

1. If RCC Joint Training Modules are defined according to Article 5, all RCCs shall establish RCC Joint Training Programmes.
2. The Joint Training Programme shall include at least a List of RCC Joint Training Modules.
3. In case of Pan-European processes as referred to in Article 5(2), the role and responsibilities of each RCC shall be specified in the Joint Training Programme.
4. Concerning the RCC Joint Training Modules, each RCC shall define the joint aspects of:
  - a. The Training material;
  - b. The training software environment, where relevant;
  - c. The teaching methods.
5. The Joint Training Programme shall take into account different types of RCC operators.
6. The Joint Training Programme shall not conflict with the RCC Training Programmes which are described in Article 4(2).
7. The Joint Training Programme's revision shall be done in accordance with the process outlined in Article 4(3).
8. Unless agreed otherwise by the RCCs, the RCC Joint Training Modules shall be carried out in English.

## **Article 7**

### **Cross-RCC Training coordination**

1. Where cross-RCC coordination between more than one and less than all RCCs is required in the processes of a task, the relevant Training Coordinators shall align the Training Module.
2. The alignment shall be done according to the level of coordination required:
  - a. Where the cross-RCC coordination requires some processes of the task to be the same, then the Training Coordinators shall ensure that the related aspects of the Training Modules and assessment in each RCC are the same;
  - b. Where the cross-RCC coordination requires alignment but does not require the processes to be the same, then the Training Coordinators shall ensure that the Training Modules can still be carried out efficiently.

**Article 8**  
**RCCs and TSOs Common Training Modules**

1. Training Coordinators of individual RCCs together with Training Coordinators of TSOs of the concerned SORs shall establish a working group, to define RCCs and TSOs Common Training Modules, according to at least:
  - a. The target group of the RCCs and TSOs Common Training Modules;
  - b. The Frequency and duration of the RCCs and TSOs Common Training Modules;
  - c. The Scope of the RCCs and TSOs Common Training Modules;
  - d. The execution of the RCCs and TSOs Common Training Modules;
  - e. The training type of the RCCs and TSOs Common Training Modules;
  - f. The concepts of the RCCs and TSOs Common Training Modules;
  - g. The content of the RCCs and TSOs Common Training Modules.
2. The working group, established pursuant previous paragraph, may develop the RCCs and TSOs Common Training Modules. The RCCs and TSOs Common Training Modules and the RCCs and TSOs common annual training plan shall be revised at least once a year by the working group.
3. Unless decided otherwise by the RCC, the RCCs and TSOs Common Training Modules shall be carried out in English.

**Title 3**  
**RCC Certification of staff**

**Article 9**  
**Organization and Structure of the Certification**

1. As part of their Training Programme, each RCC shall define a process of certification of RCC Operators. The scope of the certification is per each type of RCC Operator. The process of certification shall include at least:
  - a. Roles and responsibilities in relation with the certification activities;
  - b. Process and criteria for obtaining and maintaining the certified status including the required competence level and the required English language skills;
  - c. Documentation to be maintained to keep record of the status of the training and certification activities including keeping record of the certified staff.
2. The certification process is not required to refer to any official national or international certification standard.

**Article 10**  
**Requirements of the certification**

1. An RCC Operator shall not perform work in the scope of the tasks of his or her RCC without supervision of certified RCC Operators for the operation of the tasks for his or her RCC unless he or she is certified.
2. All RCC Operators shall be certified following a successful formal authorisation process which shall comprise an oral and/or written assessment(s) and/or practical assessment(s) with pre-defined success criteria in accordance with Article 9(1)(b).
3. Each RCC shall keep a copy of the formal authorisation results.
4. Each RCC shall record the period of validity of the certification issued to any RCC Operator.

5. The RCC shall determine the period of validity of the certification, which shall not exceed 5 years, but which may be extended based on criteria determined by each RCC and may take into account the participation of RCC Operators in a continuous Training Programme with sufficient practical experience.

### **Article 11** **RCC Joint Training Module formal authorisation process**

1. For each of the RCC Joint Training Modules implemented according to Article 5, the RCC training Coordinators shall define a RCC Joint Training Modules formal authorisation process.
2. The RCC Joint Training Module formal authorisation process can be organized jointly between RCCs or individually per RCC as long as the formal authorisation process requirements are the same
3. For each Training Module formal authorisation process, pre-defined success criteria shall be defined by the Training Coordinators.
4. The RCC Joint Training Module formal authorisation process shall assess that the knowledge of the RCC Operator is sufficient to carry out tasks as described in the Training Module, according to the pre-defined success criteria above.
5. The documentation for the RCC Joint Training Module formal authorisation process shall be managed according to Article 9(1)(c).
6. RCC Joint Training Module formal authorisation process shall be included as part of the requirements of the certification.

## **Title 4** **Final provisions**

### **Article 12** **Roles and responsibilities**

1. Each RCC is responsible for the implementation of the methodology in accordance with Article 13.
2. Each RCC is responsible for ensuring that its staff is trained and certified in due time, in accordance with the methodology, for being able to operate all the tasks covered by Article 37(1) of Regulation (EU) 2019/943, as well as any additional tasks which may be added according to Article 37(2) or according to any new regulation which would enter into force in the future.
3. Each RCC shall define the types of RCC Operators needed for carrying out the RCC tasks. According to the individual RCC operational organization, needs and regional specificities, the type of RCC operators may be different within an RCC.
4. The type of RCC Operators can be different between the RCCs.
5. In case of RCC Joint Training or Cross RCC training coordination or RCCs and TSOs Common Training Modules, the staff training and certification shall remain under the individual responsibility of each RCC.



### **Article 13**

#### **Timescale for implementation**

1. Each RCC with the support of all relevant TSOs and ENTSO-E where relevant shall implement this methodology for all the tasks which are operational, listed in Article 37(1)(a-f) of Regulation (EU) 2019/943 as soon as possible but no later than 24 months after the ACER approval of the methodology.
2. Within 48 months after the approval of the methodology by ACER, the RCCs shall train and certify a sufficient number of RCC Operators for all the tasks which are operational listed in Article 37(1)(a-f) of Regulation (EU) 2019/943. For all the remaining tasks, implementation shall take place in accordance with Article 4(5).
3. Until the implementation of the methodology, each RCC will train and certify its RCC Operators according to the current practices, which might be to not have a certification process in place.
4. The current certification of the RCC Operators will be valid until the end of its currently defined validity period or until they are certified according to the new scheme.
5. Once this methodology is implemented, each RCC Operator that needs to be recertified will be recertified according to the methodology.
6. RCCs shall plan their implementation timelines for future tasks according to Article 1(4) so that they are able to meet the training and certification needs before go-live.
7. No later later than 18 months after the approval by ACER of this document, all TSOs of those SORs neighbouring third country TSOs not bound by Regulation (EU) 2019/943 shall endeavour to conclude with these third country TSOs agreements aiming at third country TSOs' cooperation and implementation of this methodology as appropriate.

### **Article 14**

#### **Language**

1. The reference language for this methodology shall be English.
2. For the avoidance of doubt, where TSOs or RCCs need to translate this methodology into their national language(s), in the event of inconsistencies between the English version published by ACER and any version in another language, the relevant TSOs or RCCs shall, in accordance with national legislation, provide the relevant national regulatory authorities with an updated translation of the methodology.