Retail Market Testing Environment

User Guide

October 27, 2023

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|  |  | Summary of Changes |
| June 1, 2017  Version 1.0  January 8, 2020  Version 1.1  June 8, 2023  Version 1.2  October 27, 2023  Version 1.3 |  | Initial Release  Update ETOD references to FlighTrak  Update Links as needed  Update Links as needed  Update RMTE availability times |
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**Retail Market Testing Environment User Guide**

1. **Retail Market Testing Environment Background**

The Retail Market Test Environment (RMTE) allows Market Participants (MPs) to perform testing independent of ERCOT Flight testing within the ERCOT Certification environment (CERT) prior to go-live in Production (PROD). This environment can be used to test business functional processes, such as:

Texas SET EDI Transactions:

MPs can send individual, as well as batched, TXSET transactions. Includes point-to-point transactions (650s, 814\_PCs, etc.) and transactions that flow through ERCOT as the registration agent.

MarkeTrak GUI/API & MarkeTrak Browser Compatibility:

MPs can test MarkeTrak GUI and API performance and functionality as it would function in Production.

MPs can also test browser compatibility for MarkeTrak GUI with upgraded browser versions in specific configurations.

Non-EDI transactions:

MPs can test non-EDI transactions such as Customer Billing & Contact Information (CBCI) files, Demand Response files, Loads in SCED and .LSE files.

ERCOT will only perform File level validations, but will not perform Business level validations. (Example: CBCI file would only receive file validation for File 2A MTCRCustomerInformationERCOTResponse.csv and not the ESID validation File 2B MTCRDataValidationERCOTResponse.csv)   
[Reference: RMG section 9 Appendix F6: Customer Billing Contact Information]

NAESB EDM Support:

MPs can test NAESB Electronic Delivery Mechanism (EDM) modifications and future version upgrades. MPs must comply with the TDTMS NAESB EDM v 1.6 Implementation Guide found on ERCOT.com: (<https://www.ercot.com/files/docs/2016/07/27/TDTMS_EDM_Implementation_Guide_072416.doc>)

1. **Prerequisites for Testing within the Retail Market Testing Environment**

Market Participants must:

1. Be a registered market participant with ERCOT;
2. Have a Digital Certificate in order to access MarkeTrak in the RMTE;
3. Update their Testing Information in FlighTrak, <https://testsa.ercot.com/workcenter/>, under the General dashboard in the My Company Testing Information report where applicable, to allow ERCOT system to set up to process transactions;
4. Coordinate with their Market Interface Service Provider (MISP), if applicable, before testing in the Retail Market Testing Environment;
5. Aggregate their EDI transactions as they do in Production. (For example, 1 file of 3,000 transactions, not 3,000 files containing 1 transaction each.)
6. **Environmental Support**
7. ERCOT Testing Support
   1. RMTE does not have an official SLA, but the expectation and objectives for environment support will be Monday-Thursday 9AM-4:00PM and 9:00AM-1:00PM on Friday.
   2. Should be requested at least 5 Retail Business Days in advance. Support for any request received less than 5 Retail Business Days in advance will be provided at ERCOT’s discretion.
   3. To request or notify ERCOT of a plan to test, MPs should submit a MarkeTrak “Market Rule” subtype issue (D2D) using the Production digital certificate (MPs shall not submit via the testing digital certificate as testing environment MarkeTrak is not monitored by ERCOT).

**MPs must state “*RMTE Testing Support*” in the Market Rule field.**

1. ERCOT IT Support
   1. RMTE does not have an official SLA, but the expectation and objectives for environment support will be Monday-Thursday 9AM-4:00PM and 9:00AM-1:00PM on Friday.
   2. Issues with the testing environment should be reported through the ERCOT Helpdesk, [Servicedesk@ERCOT.com](mailto:ServiceDesk@ERCOT.com) or 512-248-6800 specifying “RMTE IT Support”.
2. **Environmental Availability & Coordinating Testing with ERCOT**
3. Environmental Availability
4. The RMTE will be available for testing except during code migrations. The Retail system release schedule can be found on the ERCOT Service Level Agreement page (<http://www.ercot.com/services/sla>) under “Retail Market IT Services SLA 20xx”.

Since the RMTE release schedule may differ from the Production environment release schedule, ERCOT will send a market notice with details and specific dates & times the RMTE will not be available.

1. Retail Market testing can run simultaneously with Flight/Ad Hoc Flight Testing but is a completely separate function. The RMTE should only be used for Flight Testing during the designated Flight Testing windows.  
     
   The Flight Testing schedule can be found here: <http://www.ercot.com/services/rq/lse/trt/index.html> in the Key Documents section under “Approved 20xx Test Flight Schedule.doc”  
   ESI IDs that are restricted to Flight Testing are designated under the “Reserved for Flight” tab within the file “Retail Market Testing Environment ESI IDs” under Key Documents at <http://www.ercot.com/mktinfo/retail>.
2. Coordinating Testing with ERCOT

A maximum of 3 MPs can perform volume testing in the environment simultaneously. In order to conduct volume testing, coordination must occur with ERCOT before initiating the test. Transaction timing protocols may not meet timing requirements within the ERCOT Protocols when high volumes of transactions are submitted.

* 1. Permission to run volume testing must be approved by ERCOT via submitting a MarkeTrak “Market Rule” subtype issue (D2D) to ERCOT (using the Production instance of MarkeTrak) as early as possible, but no later than 5 Retail Business Days prior to the requested first day of testing. MPs must state “*RMTE Testing Support*” in the Market Rule field. The issue must contain the timeframe of the planned testing in addition to the expected volume of transactions.
  2. If more than 3 MPs request volume testing during the same timeframe, the first 3 requests received by ERCOT will be accepted and the additional MPs must wait. The MarkeTrak issue will be updated to indicate the testing date granted and any additional details needed for coordinated volume testing.

1. Retail Market Test Environment Functionality
   1. MPs may coordinate with ERCOT and/or any other Market Participant as needed for the completion of the desired test scenario before the start of testing. MP should notify ERCOT of plans to test via Production MarkeTrak “Market Rule” subtype to make ERCOT aware of your testing efforts.
2. MPs should identify the ESIIDs desired to be tested
3. ERCOT will update the RMTE ESIID list with “Assigned” to ensure other MPs wishing to test know the ESIID is already being used for testing.
4. Unless ERCOT action is needed, ERCOT will not monitor testing activity in which they are not part of.
   1. RMTE ESI ID Loading & ESI ID Characteristic Changes

ERCOT loads the RMTE with 814\_20 Add transactions submitted by TDSPs in Production. Once loaded, the ESIID characteristics will not change in the RMTE unless the TDSP sends an 814\_20 Maintain to the RMTE or submits an ad-hoc request to ERCOT via MarkeTrak “Market Rules” subtype. If a MT issue is submitted, MP should include as much detail as possible about the characteristics to be changed.

The Retail Market Testing Environment ESIID list can be found here: <http://www.ercot.com/mktinfo/retail>.

* 1. Characteristics of ESIIDs on the list

Retail Market Testing Environment ESIID Spreadsheet will contain the following columns\*\*:

* + 1. Refresh Date (date of latest refresh)
    2. ESIID
    3. TDSP DUNS
    4. ESIID\_ Status (defaults to “De-energized”)
    5. Create\_Date (date loaded in the RMTE)
    6. ESIID\_Type
    7. Zip Code
    8. AMS\_Flag
    9. Switch Hold Indicator
    10. Service Address (Street, City, Zip) (will default to delimited; i.e. how it looks like in MIS)
    11. Meter Read Cycle Number
    12. Meter Cycle by Day of Month
    13. Station ID
    14. Metered/Unmetered (if available)
    15. Comments (if needed)

*\*\*Any characteristic listed can be changed via 814\_20 Maintain and/or Production MT “Market Rules” subtype by Testing MP, as needed.*

* 1. ESIID Spreadsheet Refresh Procedure

Global Refresh

ERCOT will perform a global refresh of the ESIID specifications (listed above) before each flight in accordance with the market-approved Flight schedule. With each ESIID Spreadsheet global refresh, characteristics above will reflect the point-in-time status in the RMTE.

Ad-Hoc Refresh

Testing MPs may request an ad-hoc ESIID refresh to assist with ad-hoc testing needs. Ad-hoc refresh requests must have 5 business days’ notice, and will overlay any existing information in the ESI ID spreadsheet as requested. Ad-hoc refresh requests shall be submitted via Production MT “Market Rules” subtype (D2D) by Testing MP. MPs must state “*RMTE Testing Support*” in the Market Rule field.

* 1. MIS Reporting functionality is not included in the RMTE.
  2. RMTE is not linked to the ERCOT Settlement system and any testing against the Settlement system must be coordinated through ERCOT separately.

RMTE utilizes the connectivity specifications as detailed on the MP’s My Company Testing Information report under the General dashboard in FlighTrak found on <https://testsa.ercot.com/workcenter/>