

Align Release Notes

Release 7.1.0

Date of Deployment: March 1, 2025

Background

Align and the Secure Evidence Locker (SEL) are tools used by NERC, Regional Entities, and registered entities in the conduct of the ERO Enterprise Compliance Monitoring and Enforcement Program (CMEP). Initial training and training materials have been offered throughout the initial deployment of functionality (Releases 1, 2, 3, 4.0, and 4.5). Ongoing maintenance and enhancements to Align and the SEL (CMEP tools) will occur as needed to assure effective implementation of the CMEP. Maintenance may include modifications to correct existing objects, notifications, records, workflows, etc. Enhancements may include new or improved functionality, workflows, reports, etc. These changes are expected as these CMEP tools are adjusted from their initial deployment to provide additional user functionality, efficiency, and enhancements to usability.

Purpose

As changes are implemented to the CMEP tools, training and training materials provided during initial deployment may no longer be accurate. As part of an effective communication plan and to assure the effectiveness of user training, NERC is providing detailed release notes in this report. These release notes include detailed information regarding what features are changing or being added, what users are impacted by the changes, and if current training materials are impacted and have been updated. Users are encouraged to familiarize themselves with any changes that impact features or workflows regularly used.

Terminology

Ongoing maintenance and enhancement of the CMEP Tools is conducted using an adaptive and iterative software development process. Terminology used within this document may refer to various processes most users may be unfamiliar with.

CEA: Compliance Enforcement Authority

COP: Compliance Oversight Plan

IRA: Inherent Risk Assessment

Module: Used to refer to a set of features used within Align. As shown in [Figure 1](#), each item that can be selected from the My Align drop-down menu is a Module. *Example: Risk and Planning*

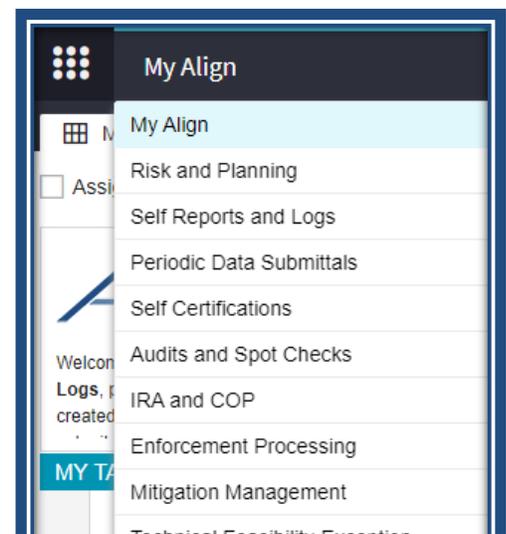


Figure 1: My Align Drop-Down Menu

User Story #: As shown in **Figure 2**, a unique number is used by the developers, NERC IT, and testers when referencing discrete changes. This number is used to aggregate all details, testing, and development information regarding a specific change. This number is not used by most CMEP tool users and users are not expected to become familiar or track these numbers. These numbers are provided for transparency purposes regarding changes and change controls. However, users may leverage these numbers to facilitate any follow up discussion, troubleshooting, testing, or IT support ticket details.

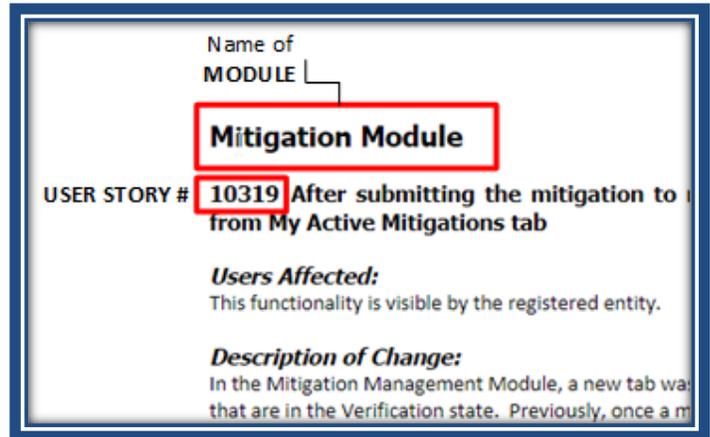


Figure 2: Elements of a User Story

Inherent Risk Assessment Module

User Story # 23739

Description of Issue: Error creating IRA for a CO Group

Users Affected: CEA

Description of Change: There was a trigger error preventing a Coordinated Oversight Inherent Risk Assessment from creating. The error was fixed.

Training Materials Modified: N/A

Compliance Oversight Plan Module

User Story # 14813

Description of Issue: Missing space between the words 'Risk' and 'Category' on COP Module

Users Affected: CEA

Description of Change: A space was added between the words 'Risk' and 'Category' on COP Module, *Applicable Standards and Requirements* tab of a completed Compliance Oversight Plan record.

Training Materials Modified: N/A

User Story # 22074, 23400

Description of Issue: Compliance Oversight Plan Report Appendix B is showing everything that is listed in the *Applicable Standards and Requirements* tab instead of only those with a Risk Category selected to "Include in COP"

Users Affected: CEA

Description of Change: Compliance Oversight Plan (COP) Appendix B information should only include the Standards and Requirements which are associated with a Risk Category from the *Applicable Standards and Requirements* tab of a COP record that also have the "Include in COP" box checked for that Risk Category will show in Appendix B of the Compliance Oversight Plan Report.

Training Materials Modified: The CEA IRA user guide will be updated to reflect this change in the next update.

Appendix A – Table of User Stories

ID	Chapter	Title
23739	Inherent Risk Assessment Module	Error creating IRA for Coordinated Oversight Group
14813	Compliance Oversight Plan Module	Missing space between the words 'Risk' and 'Category'
22074, 23400	Compliance Oversight Plan Module	Fixes to Appendix B of the Compliance Oversight Plan Report

Appendix B – Revision History

Revision History		
Version	Date	Revision Details
1.0	3/1/2025	Initial Draft