

Align Release Notes

Release 4.5.2

Date of Deployment: June 22, 2023 (18068); July 12, 2023 (17336, 17337, 17338), July 25, 2023 (17772)

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.

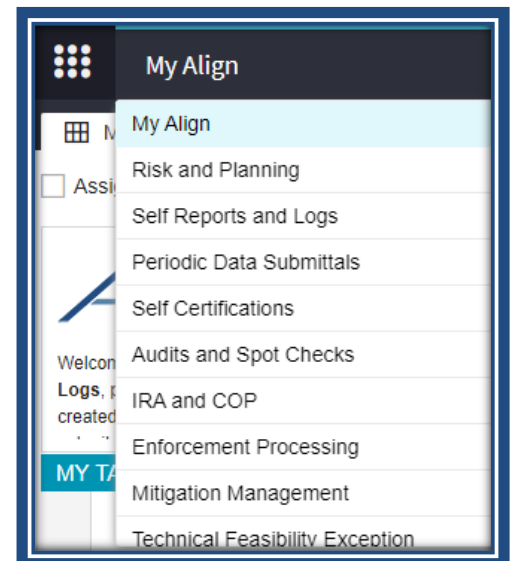
Terminology

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*

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.

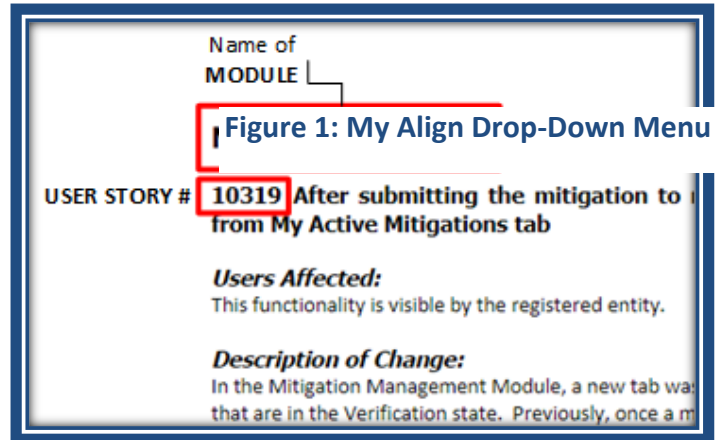


Figure 2: Elements of a User Story

My Align Module

User Story # 17336, 17337, 17338

Description of Issue: Update My Align Dashboard for Registered Entity, CEA, and NERC

Users Affected: NERC, CEA, and Registered Entity

Description of Change: *The My Align home page had a welcome message for each user upon login. This modification updates the language to make it more specific for each user.*

NERC View



Welcome to Align, the comprehensive tool designed to provide a single, common platform for the ERO Enterprise Compliance Monitoring and Enforcement Program (CMEP). This is your Dashboard screen, you'll be able to easily manage all tasks assigned to you for compliance and enforcement-related workflows, including noncompliance, mitigation, periodic data submittals, self-certifications, technical feasibility exceptions, and more. Align will continue to be improved to ensure it is simple to track and monitor compliance and enforcement activities, enabling you to stay on top of any potential issues and take corrective action quickly and efficiently.

Region View



Welcome to Align, the comprehensive tool designed to provide a single, common platform for the ERO Enterprise Compliance Monitoring and Enforcement Program (CMEP). This is your Dashboard screen, you'll be able to easily manage all tasks assigned to you for compliance and enforcement-related workflows, including noncompliance, mitigation, periodic data submittals, self-certifications, technical feasibility exceptions, and more. Align will continue to be improved to ensure it is simple to track and monitor compliance and enforcement activities, enabling you to stay on top of any potential issues and take corrective action quickly and efficiently.

Registered Entity View



Welcome to Align, the comprehensive tool designed as a shared platform for the ERO Enterprise Compliance Monitoring and Enforcement Program. This is your Dashboard screen. Navigate the system by selecting from the modules above. You can create Self Reports/Self Logs, track and manage Mitigation, submit and/or respond to Periodic Data Submittals, Self-Certifications, and Technical Feasibility Exceptions. You can also respond to Compliance Activities related to Audits, Spot Checks, and Investigations. Finally, you can respond to Inherent Risk Assessments and Compliance Oversight Plans. Training materials for each module are available at <https://training.nerc.net>

Training Materials Modified: *N/A - training materials do not need to be modified. This change only updated the welcome text for each user view.*

User Story # 18068

Description of Issue: Remove the charts from My Align screens

Users Affected: Registered Entities, CEA, and NERC

Description of Change: *When Align was first implemented, generic charts were created for each user view associated with enforcement and mitigation information. These charts were not found to be useful and so were removed until users request more specific meaningful charts.*

Training Materials Modified: *N/A - no training materials need to be modified, this is just addition of hyperlink to print on the forms.*

Mitigation Module

User Story # 17772

Description of Issue: Mitigation Plan Resubmission Date

Users Affected: CEA and Registered Entities

Description of Change: *A bug was identified where a registered entity was unable to submit a mitigation to CEA processing if the entity resubmission date was in the past. This modification fixes the bug to allow the registered entity to submit the mitigation record to the CEA for review even if the resubmission due date is in the past.*

Training Materials Modified: *N/A - no training materials need to be modified, this corrected where in the process the validation rule was checked*

Appendix B – Revision History

Revision History		
Version	Date	Revision Details
1.0	8/4/2023	Initial Draft