

VRF Tool Background

The Violation Risk Factor (VRF) tool assists drafting teams in objectively assigning VRFs to requirements in the NERC standards. The core questions in the tool are based on the definition of “Adequate Level of Reliability”. The tool generates both the current “3 Tier” VRFs and also example “5 Tier” VRFs, should NERC pursue more VRF granularity as suggested in Order No. 693.

Running the VRF Tool

- The VRF Tool has a set of nine questions. Each answer cell has a “pull down”. Select the most appropriate answer for the given requirement.
- After answering the questions, click the “get risk result” button.
- If the tool doesn’t generate results, it’s probably because your security settings are preventing you from running macros in the spreadsheet. To enable them, you should choose Tools>Options>Security>Macro Security and then set the security level to Medium. This will prompt you when opening Excel whether or not you want to run macros. Note: The steps for enabling macros may differ depending on your version of Excel.
- To make a permanent record of the drafting team’s assessment, fill out the lower section of the form. The drafting team may choose a different VRF, but should justify its reasoning in the “Drafting Team Notes” section. When complete, press the “Generate Record” button. This will create an Excel file recording the drafting team’s work.
- To evaluate the next requirement in the standard, click the “Clear Data” button and repeat the process above.

NO.	Question	Answer
1	Violating the requirement once could lead to cascading	Possibly
2	Violating the requirement once could burden others	
3	Violating this requirement would impede restoration	
4	Violating the requirement once could damage major equipment	
5	Violating the requirement once could result in loss of customer load	
6		
7	Time horizon of the requirement	
7	Is this a cyber-security requirement, which if not met, could expose multiple facilities to cyber threat?	
8	The requirement is performance-based (rather than procedural or explanatory)	
9	Violating this requirement would contribute to violating another requirement with a higher VRF	
	VRF (5-Tier)	
	VRF (3-Tier)	

Use this Section to Create a Record

Standard Number	
Standard Name	
Requirement	
Requirement Text	
File name	
Drafting Team Notes	

Clear Data Get Risk result Generate Record