

Interpreting the NERC Standards Numbering System

NERC has two main categories of enforceable reliability standards:

- Continent-wide standards
- Regional standards

BAL-002-0

Numbering convention for most continent-wide standards:

- A three-letter acronym to identify the general topical area of the standard
- A three-digit numeral within that topical area, beginning with 001 and increasing sequentially
- A one-digit numeral identifying the version of that standard
 - The standards in the initial set of reliability standards translated from Operating Policies and Planning Standards were assigned a “Version 0” extension. Any “new” standard developed following Version 0 is assigned a version number starting with “Version 1.”

Numbering convention for continent-wide standards that include requirements supported by regional standards:

PRC-300-CWS-1

NERC is developing some continent-wide standards (such as underfrequency load shedding and disturbance monitoring) that establish a set of continent-wide requirements supported by requirements in region-specific standards. These standards will have a unique numbering system that starts with the number “300.”

- A three-letter acronym to identify the general topical area of the standard
- A three-digit numeral within that topical area, beginning with 300 and increasing sequentially
- The three-letter acronym, “CWS” to identify that the standard is a “continent-wide standard”
- A one-digit numeral identifying the version of that standard, starting with the numeral, “1”

Numbering convention for regional standards that each Region is required to develop to support a continent-wide standard:

PRC-300-WECC-1

- A three-letter acronym to identify the general topical area of the standard
- A three-digit numeral within that topical area, beginning with 300 and increasing sequentially
- The three or four-letter acronym to identify that the region in which the standard applies
- A one-digit numeral identifying the version of that standard, starting with the numeral, “1”

Numbering convention for regional standards that a Region voluntary develops either to support a continent-wide standard or to address a topic not covered in an existing continent-wide standard:

IRO-006-WECC-1

- A three-letter acronym to identify the general topical area of the standard
- A three-digit numeral within that topical area, either the same number as the associated continent-wide standard, or a new number if there is no associated continent-wide standard
- The three or four-letter acronym to identify that the region in which the standard applies
- A one-digit numeral identifying the version of that standard, starting with the numeral, “1”

BAL-003-0a

Interpretations:

If a standard has an approved Interpretation, the standard identification will also have a lower case letter after the version number.

There are some regulatory-approved standards developed by WECC that are posted on the Regulatory-approved standards web page, and these were numbered before the above numbering convention was adopted.

Acronyms Used in Standard Numbering Scheme and Associated Topical Areas	
BAL	Resource and Demand Balancing
CIP	Critical Infrastructure Protection
COM	Communications
EOP	Emergency Preparedness and Operations
FAC	Facilities Design, Connections and Maintenance
INT	Interchange Scheduling and Coordination
IRO	Interconnection Reliability Operations and Coordination
MOD	Modeling, Data, and Analysis
NUC	Nuclear
ORG	Organization Certification
PER	Personnel Performance, Training, and Qualifications
PRC	Protection and Control
TOP	Transmission Operations
TPL	Transmission Planning
VAR	Voltage and Reactive