Align Release Notes

Release 5.0.0
Date of Deployment: November 15, 2023

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*
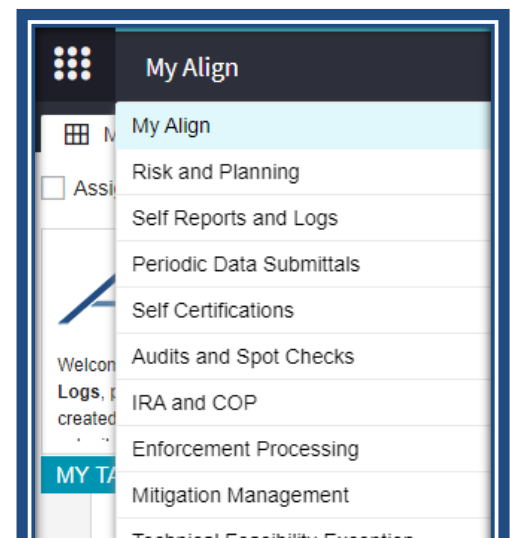

Figure 1: My Align Drop-Down Menu

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.
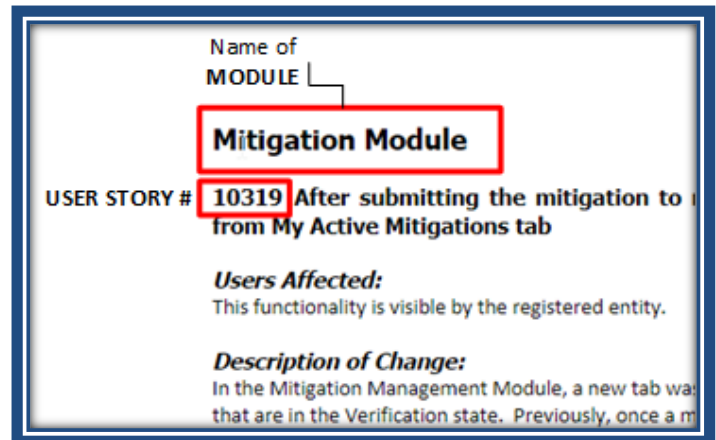

Figure 2: Elements of a User Story

Inherent Risk Assessment (IRA) Module

User Story # 18449

Description of Issue: IRA Error - Cannot move to CEA Review.

Users Affected: CEA and Registered Entities

Description of Change: This fix is to manually move three IRAs to "CEA Review" status. The issue which prevented these from going to "CEA Review" normally was fixed in a previous update, however; these three IRAs were started prior to that fix being implemented and needed to be moved to "CEA Review" by the Align developers.

Training Materials Modified: N/A – this is not a change to how Align works, it is fixing 3 IRAs which were not able to be moved to "CEA Review".

Compliance Oversight Plan (COP) Module

User Story # 18579
Description of Issue: COP Risk Categories Tab is blank.

Users Affected: CEA

Description of Change: Align Datastore was adjusted to ensure COP data no longer goes blank.

Training Materials Modified: N/A – Tab is functioning the way the training explains.

Enforcement Processing Module

User Story # 20204
Description of Issue: PNC Consolidations – ERO-36113

Users Affected: CEA

Description of Change: This fix is to manually correct two enforcement records that were showing to be in both the PNC Review state and the EA CEA Processing state. The fix was to delete the EA record so that the CEA could continue processing the PNC records.

Training Materials Modified: *N/A*

Other Module

User Story # 20156

Description of Issue: New field on Person record

Users Affected: N/A

Description of Change: There is a change to the setting on the global property to be able to use the new web based import for integrations.

Training Materials Modified: *N/A*

Appendix A – Table of User Stories

ID	Chapter	Title
18579	Compliance Oversight Plan (COP) Module	COP Risk Categories Tab is blank
18449	Inherent Risk Assessment (IRA) Module	IRA Error - Cannot move to CEA Review
20156	Other Module	New field on Person record
20204	Enforcement Processing Module	

Appendix B – Revision History

Revision History		
Version	**Date**	**Revision Details**
1.0	11/13/2023	Initial Draft