

## PracTest™ 2006 - Multiple Interactive Practice Tests Assist in Preparation for the Four NERC Operator Certification Examinations



Samantha J. Cooper  
Senior Administrative Assistant  
[samantha.cooper@siemens.com](mailto:samantha.cooper@siemens.com)

PracTest™ 2006 is the fourth generation of Siemens Power Transmission & Distribution, Inc., Power Technologies International's (Siemens PTI) computer-

based training tools designed specifically to assist individuals in preparing for the North American Electric Reliability Council (NERC) Certification Exams. The PracTest™ 2006 series offers web-based training that helps operators build confidence in test taking and gain experience answering questions like those found on the NERC Certification Exams. PracTest™ 2006 is especially useful for power system operators and related operations staff in the U.S., Canada, and Mexico who are required to certify or re-certify by passing a NERC Certification Exam in their specific area of credential.

The PracTest™ 2006 interactive facility draws upon a large pool of questions, and permits the construction of several different types of practice exams, depending upon the user's specific area of credential:

- Reliability Coordinator Operator Certification
- Balancing, Interchange and Transmission Operator Certification
- Balancing and Interchange Operator Certification
- Transmission Operator Certification

The practice exams selected by the user are designed to be taken multiple times, since the questions are chosen at random, and no two exams are alike. As an additional feature, a certain portion of the full bank of exam questions is held in reserve and appears only in the Graded Final Exam. This means that the user will be exposed to some new questions that were not seen in any of the previous practice or selected practice exams.

When answering questions in a Practice Exam or Selected Practice Exam, the user always receives immediate feedback identifying the correct choice and giving references to the NERC Operating Manual and Content Outlines. By contrast, the Graded Final Exam does not give any feedback at all, nor is the user told whether a particular answer is right or wrong, similar to the actual NERC Certification Exam.

### Features of PracTest™ 2006:

- Test bank of nearly 600 questions
- Based on NERC Operating Standards contained in the NERC Operating Manual, effective April 1, 2005
- Separate practice tests based on the four areas of system operator credential
- Hyper-link to the latest NERC Operating Manual, including Glossary of NERC terms and related Reference and Training Documents
- Link from each question to the associated excerpt from the Operating Manual
- Pop-up windows relating each question to actual operator job tasks
- Timed graded final exam similar to the actual NERC exam
- Completion certificate to document a passing grade

All questions in PracTest™ 2006 are multiple-choice with four possible answers and only one correct choice. Questions are of two basic types:

- **Standards-Related Question:** A Standards-Related question asks the user to remember specific rules and standards. In the feedback to each question, the user has the option of branching to the exact location in the Operating Manual from which the question was derived.
- **Operations-Related Question:** An Operations-Related question tests the user's ability to apply general concepts of interconnected system operation. Since the answer to this type of question is not found explicitly in the Operating Manual, the feedback identifies the standard to which the question relates and encourages the user to browse the Manual for additional information.

**SIEMENS** Siemens PTI PracTest 2006 Exit

**CPS1 takes into account not only the magnitude of a Balancing Authority's ACE, but also the impact of ACE on:**

- a. voltage
- b. frequency
- c. current
- d. apparent power

**Content Outline:**  
**I. Generation**  
 14. Monitor response of units to the AGC signals.  
**III. Balancing**  
 5. Monitor AGC to ensure compliance with NERC CPS1 & CPS2 standards.  
 6. Minimize inadvertent flows, losses, and CPS1 & CPS2 criteria violations.  
 18. Ensure that the control area is satisfying its Interconnection frequency regulation obligation.

**Sorry, not the correct choice. The correct answer is b.** This question is based on **Standard BAL-001-0, Real Power Balancing Control Performance, B. Requirements, R1.**

See also, **Performance Standards Reference Document, B. Performance Standards**

Click **Manual** to review, or **Next** to continue with the exam.

**Roll your cursor over the blue text to view the corresponding job tasks in the Content Outlines.**

MANUAL    Next    Check My Answer

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Figure 1 - Example of Standards-Related Question that has been Answered Incorrectly

As shown in figure 1, the feedback box gives the correct answer and identifies the specific standard and/or reference document upon which the question is based. The Manual button allows the user to branch directly to the appropriate excerpt from the Manual and a Reference Document. The blue pop-up box identifies the Content Outline job tasks to which the question relates.

PracTest™ 2006 is delivered via the Internet and launched from the Siemens PTI Learning Management System (LMS). The LMS is designed to register individual users, assign passwords, and track their performance on the Graded Final Exams generated by PracTest™2006.

For more information, please contact Siemens PTI's Education Programs by phone (+1 518-395-5005) or email (pti-edpro.ptd@siemens.com).