



**THE FOUNDATION
FOR SECURE
MARKETS®**

#54035

Date: January 30, 2024
Subject: OCC OvationSM External Testing

Overview

OCC's new clearing, risk and data platform, Ovation, will provide state-of-the-art technology with microservices in the cloud. With an anticipated launch in mid-2025, Ovation will help OCC accelerate time to market for new products, quickly deploy technical upgrades, and more rapidly respond to clearing member, exchanges and market participant needs. A new, redesigned user interface will provide an enhanced user experience overall – including more flexible options for accessing and updating data and greater transparency into transaction information and history.

Ovation is designed to support increased business agility, more efficient and effective operations, enhanced security capabilities and scalable, more resilient technology for exchanges, clearing members and market participants. Ovation will utilize modernized technology to offer enhancements for options, futures, and stock loan.

Over the next several months, OCC will offer various training and testing activities to prepare market participants for the transition to Ovation. Industry wide testing activities are scheduled to begin in June 2024. This memo outlines the test plan, connectivity and timelines.

Test Plan Summary

Since Ovation is a new OCC platform, all market participants who send or receive files from OCC will be required to test even if there are no layout changes. In addition, all market participants who access the user interface will be required to test all functions they utilize in their daily operations. There will be several phases of testing:

- **External test execution environment** is scheduled to occur June 2024 through Jan 2025. All market participants who currently send inbound files or messages will be required to test. In addition, OCC will produce test files for all outbound files and real-time messages. A user interface will be available for viewing and entering transactions. Test scripts are expected to be available in March.
- **Daily test environment** is scheduled to be available in October 2024. This can be accessed after external test execution has been completed. We will provide an opportunity for market participants to execute non-scripted scenarios in an environment that runs a day in a day. Production data will be included in the environment and DDS will be produced. Additional information will be available at a later date.

Prior to Ovation's launch, all market participants will be required to sign an attestation that they have tested and are prepared to interact with Ovation.

External Test Execution and Timeline

As mentioned above, external test execution is scheduled to occur June 2024 through Jan 2025, and all market participants who currently send inbound files or messages will be required to test. Beginning in June 2024, certain functions of the user interface and select transmissions will become available for testing. Please see the proposed timeline at the end of this document for clearing members, exchanges, and non-clearing members.

Testing is designed to be progressive in nature, with functionality added incrementally while supporting previously released functionality. The environments will include production-like accounts and products, and inventory (positions) will be staged across limited products. In March 2024, OCC will provide market participants with customized test scripts to ensure each entity executes the necessary tests for the products they trade.

External Test Connectivity

All Ovation testing will occur in an external test environment which functions as a separate test environment for inbound and outbound connectivity. **All market participants will be required to establish connectivity to the external test environment.** OCC will not allow production connectivity to the external test environment. All SFTP, MQ and select API access will be supported. Below is information regarding connectivity.

- **External Test SFTP**
Market participants with existing SFTP connectivity to the ENCORE external test environment will not be required to establish new connectivity. The existing connectivity may be used and there will be a new Ovation data directory created for input and output data. Market participants that currently do not have ENCORE external test connectivity must complete the [External Test Technical Specification Form](#) and email it to Technical Certification Services at ext_test@theocc.com.
- **External Test MQ**
Market participants with existing MQ connectivity to the ENCORE external test environment may either use their existing Test MQ Channel on which new inbound and outbound queues can be established, or they can set up new Test MQ Channels and queues for inbound and outbound transmissions. Market participants that do not currently have external test connectivity will need to complete the [External Test Technical Specification Form](#) and email it to Technical Certification Services at ext_test@theocc.com.
- **External API**
Ovation will support API for What If Margins (WIM) and Exercise by Exception Inquiry. Market participants interested in using the Ovation APIs will need to complete [External Test Technical Specification Form](#) and email it to Technical Certification Services at ext_test@theocc.com.

Market participants should begin to establish connectivity in March in preparation for testing.

User Interface Access

To access the user interface, a new user ID will be required and there will be new multifactor authentication. Additional details will be provided prior to testing.

Resources

Review documentation regarding the [Ovation changes](#) on theocc.com and MyOCC.com. Available documents are listed below:

DDS Changes:

[Data Layouts and Schemas](#)

[Summary of DDS Changes](#)

Overview of Changes and Enhancements

[Ovation Platform Changes and Enhancements for Clearing Members](#)

[Ovation Platform Changes and Enhancements for Trade Sources](#)

Testing Information:

[Ovation External Test Specification Form](#)

[Ovation External Party Test Connectivity Approach](#)

Exchange Information

Additional exchange information is available on MyOCC under the Exchange Resource section.

Next Steps

We will continue to provide information regarding testing, training and timelines. Ovation is scheduled to launch in mid-2025 and the exact date will be communicated when confirmed. OCC will host a call for clearing members and exchanges to provide additional information and answer questions on Ovation and the testing requirements. OCC will contact clearing members and exchanges with additional meeting details.

If you have any questions, please contact Ovation@theocc.com.

Clearing Member - External Test Execution Timeline

External Test Execution Timeline – Clearing Member

Certain user interface transmissions will be available in June. Member Scripted Transactional Testing will be conducted Aug 2024 through Jan 2025*. Testing Scope will progress as follows:

Jun '24	July '24	Aug '24	Sept '24	Oct '24	Nov '24	Dec '24	Jan '25
				Ad-Hoc Testing in Daily Environment			
UI Navigation Testing & Scripted Transactional Testing							
Scripted Outbound Data							
Series File, Open Interest, Corporate Actions, Adjusted Positions, Test Position							
		Scripted Transactional Testing					
		Post Trades, Exercise/Assignment, EED/DNED (Contraries), Final Positions, Reports					
			Collateral Deposit/Withdraw, Spreads, Customer Gross Margins, On-Demand Positions, LOPR, Reports				
				What if Margins API, Exercise by Exception API, Prices, RBH, Account Summary, Reports			
					Futures (Trade Update, Average Price Groups, PCS, Give-up), Stock Loan, Reports		
						Large Trader	

*Timeline reflects testing activities through January 2025. External testing will continue through Ovation launch.

Exchange – External Test Execution Timeline

External Test Execution Timeline – Exchange

Exchange Scripted Transactional testing will be conducted June 2024 through Jan 2025*. Testing Scope will progress as follows:

Jun '24	July '24	Aug '24	Sept '24	Oct '24	Nov '24	Dec '24	Jan '25
				Ad-Hoc Testing in Daily Environment			
UI Navigation Testing & Scripted Transactional Testing							
Scripted Outbound Data							
Series File, Open Interest, Corporate Actions, Adjusted Positions, Test Position							
Scripted Transactional Testing							
Options/Futures Trades, Product Listing, Series, SOSA, ORSA							
		ISRA	Billing				
			Exchange Prices, Stock Loan				
				Contrary Intentions			
						Delta Position Limits	

*Timeline reflects testing activities through January 2025. External testing will continue through Ovation launch.

Non-Clearing Member – External Test Execution Timeline

External Test Execution Timeline – Non-Clearing Organization*

NCO testing will be conducted June 2024 through Jan 2025*. Testing Scope will progress as follows:

Jun '24	July '24	Aug '24	Sept '24	Oct '24	Nov '24	Dec '24	Jan '25
				Ad-Hoc Testing in Daily Environment			
Scripted Outbound Data							
Series File (June) Prices, RBH (October)							
			Scripted Transactional Testing				
			LOPR			Large Trader, Delta Position Limits	

*Timeline reflects testing activities through January 2025. External testing will continue through Ovation launch.