



Date: August 10, 2026

Subject: Ovation External Testing Requirements

As referenced in [Information Memo # 59256](#), OCC opened External Scenario Testing for the Ovation platform on June 29, 2026, for a ten-week period ending on September 4, 2026. Timely and thorough testing by Clearing Members and Market Participants is essential to the success of the Ovation launch. OCC has therefore required each Clearing Member and Market Participant to complete the testing activities described in the applicable Test Strategies and Test Scripts published for this phase of testing, and to record its testing progress through the OCC Test Portal, as described below:

Required Testing Activities

Each Clearing Member or Market Participant is required to complete certain testing activities, including:

- Review and confirm its firm-specific Test Strategy to OCC, confirming receipt of and agreement with its Ovation certification requirements, before proceeding with any testing.
- Establish and confirm all required connectivity to the Ovation External Test Environment (MQ and/or SFTP, as applicable), including any new inbound/outbound MQ queues dedicated to the Ovation environment, using the External Test Environment Technical Specification Form submitted to ext_test@theocc.com.
- Complete any required Ovation training offerings prior to accessing the Ovation External Testing environment.
- Execute the test scenarios assigned in its Test Strategy and standardized Test Scripts (available on the MyOCC Ovation Resources pages) within the External Scenario Testing window (through September 4, 2026, 8:00 a.m.–4:00 p.m. CT, Monday–Friday).
- Record progress in the test tracking tool (OCC Test Portal) for every assigned task, marking each as “Completed” or, where a scenario does not apply to the participant's business, “N/A” — by the end of the testing period no assigned task should remain in “Pending” status.

- Ensure that, where a service provider is used, both the Clearing Member or Market Participant and its service provider test the functionality each currently uses in production, as responsibility for testing is not delegated to a service provider.
- Report any issues, defects, or discrepancies identified during testing to Ovation@theocc.com (connectivity issues to ext_test@theocc.com) in a timely manner.
- Be prepared to participate in External Parallel Testing (Side-by-Side Testing) beginning in Q3 2026, during which ENCORE production data will be processed daily in the Ovation test environment for comparison of outputs.

Basis for Requirement

OCC's By-Laws and Rules establish, as a continuing condition of clearing membership, that each Clearing Member maintain the operational capability necessary to support OCC's clearance and settlement systems and to participate in operational testing and connectivity testing designated by OCC. Completion of the Ovation External Scenario Testing activities described in this memo, and accurate reporting of progress through the Test Portal, is required under this framework. Clearing Members that do not complete the required activities, or that fail to accurately report testing progress, may be determined to be in violation of OCC Rules or By-Laws and may be subject to disciplinary action pursuant to Chapter XII of OCC's Rules.

Resources and Support

The OCC Transformation website is the central hub for Ovation documentation, including the Test Strategies, Test Scripts, the External Test Environment Technical Specification Form, connectivity guidance, functionality listings, and the full testing schedule. Participants are encouraged to bookmark the following pages:

OCC Transformation (main hub): <https://www.theocc.com/company-information/occ-transformation>

Testing and Certification Information: <https://www.theocc.com/company-information/occ-transformation/testing-and-certification-information>

Recent Updates: <https://www.theocc.com/company-information/occ-transformation/recent-updates>

Clearing, Risk and Data Changes: <https://www.theocc.com/company-information/occ-transformation/clearing-risk-and-data-changes>

Data Layouts & Schemas: <https://www.theocc.com/company-information/occ-transformation/data-layouts>

Learning Resources: <https://www.theocc.com/company-information/occ-transformation/ovation-learning-resources>

Manuals & User Guides: <https://www.theocc.com/company-information/occ-transformation/manuals-and-user-guides>

The Ovation Platform – External Party Testing FAQ (Edition 1.1, April 2026) answers many common questions regarding connectivity, training, and certification sign-off, and firms are encouraged to review it throughout the testing process:

Ovation Platform – External Party Testing FAQ:

<https://www.theocc.com/getcontentasset/39081af3-f104-4efe-bf07-f6013f444932/dfc3d011-8f63-43f6-9ed8-4b444333a1d0/ovation-external-party-testing-faq.pdf>

OCC will continue to host weekly office hours, which began on July 2, 2026, to share updates, highlight key accomplishments, and address known issues.

Questions regarding this memo or the general testing requirements described above may be directed to your Clearing Member representative, to Ovation@theocc.com, or to the Member Services Help Desk at 800-621-6072 or 800-544-6091 (within Canada, 800-424-7320), or by e-mail to memberservices@theocc.com.