DSGS Option 3 Test Event Specifications

Updated May 2025

1   Introduction

This document defines the general requirements for DSGS Option 3 test events and the required method of notifying CEC of test events in advance. Further rules about test events are in Chapter 5, Section D of the [Fourth Edition of the DSGS Guidelines](#).

Starting in 2025, providers must communicate the details of their test events to the program administrator *prior* to the day of the test event.

2   Test event rules

2.1   Test event requirements and applicability

- At least one test event is required per month for an aggregation[1] if there has been no full-duration[2] day-ahead event called in that month.
- Multiple test events can be called for an aggregation in each month, but only the latest test event in that month will be included in the demonstrated capacity calculation.
- If a full-duration day-ahead capacity event is called, then no test events are required for that aggregation for that month. In that case, test events will *not* count towards the demonstrated capacity calculation, even if they've already been called.
- Test events included in the demonstrated capacity calculation count toward the maximum number of events.
- Day-of Energy events do **not** count as full-duration events for an aggregation.

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[1] "Aggregation" refers to the enrolled sites sharing the unique combination of provider, partner (if applicable), UDC territory, and resource duration (2-hr, 3-hr, or 4-hr).

[2] "Full-duration" means that the event lasts exactly as long as the resource duration. For example, for a 2-hour resource, a 1-hour day-ahead price-triggered event does not count as full-duration, but a 2-hour event does. For a 4-hour resource, only an event lasting 4 hours counts as full-duration.

2.2 Test event start and end time selection

- It is the responsibility of the provider to select test event start and end times for each aggregation such that they meet the requirements specified in this document and in the DSGS guidelines.
- Test event hours must be called **for the hours with the highest consecutive energy prices**[3] within the program hours for the aggregation. This could vary by UDC territory in some cases.
- Test events must start and end on the hour (:00) and must occur within Option 3 program hours (4 PM – 9 PM).
- Each test event must last for the full resource duration and consist of consecutive hours.
- To meet the full-duration requirement, providers may choose to "extend" a shorter day-ahead event that was triggered via the $200/MWh price trigger. For example, if there is a day-ahead event called from 7pm – 8pm, a provider could call a 2-hour test event that *includes* the 7pm – 8pm hour. The selected hours must be consecutive and must have the highest average energy price for the program hours for that day.
- If a provider is selecting a test event that includes a shorter day-ahead event, they must still define the full-duration event hours in the data submitted to CEC. In the previous example, they would submit a test event for either 6pm – 8pm, or 7pm – 9pm (depending on which had the higher energy prices on average).
- Energy prices are defined as the day-ahead CAISO Locational Marginal price (LMP) at the DLAP level. Because prices can vary by region, it is possible that the valid test event hours for a given date could be different for aggregations in different UDC territories.

3 Test event notification requirements

As stated in the guidelines, Option 3 providers must submit test event details prior to the test event day. This section documents the notification requirements.

3.1 Submission deadline

Test event information must be submitted via email **prior to 3:00 PM Pacific time on the day preceding the event date.** For example, if a provider is triggering test events for June 25th, the test event information must be submitted by 3:00 PM on June 24th.

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[3] Energy prices for Option 3 are defined as the day-ahead CAISO Locational Marginal price (LMP) at the DLAP level (eg. at the PG&E, SCE, or SDG&E average level). DLAP LMP data can be accessed via the CAISO OASIS API and can also be viewed on this third-party website: https://www.gridstatus.io/live/caiso#pricing. Day-ahead prices are typically posted at approximately 1:00 PM on the day preceding the trade date in question.

3.2   File delivery instructions

Providers must send the test event information as an attachment in an email to dsgs-support@olivineinc.com.

3.3   Email requirements

- The email must have a subject line of **"<Provider Name> Option 3 Test Events for <YYYY-MM-DD>",** where <YYYY-MM-DD> is the event date.
- No body of the email is required unless there are additional notes, concerns, or questions.
- The email must contain a .csv data file attached that meets the specifications in the "File Format Requirements" section of this document.
- All test events for the provider for the day in question must be contained in a single file. This can include events for multiple aggregations across multiple UDCs.
- If a provider is managing aggregations/resources across multiple partners, then the file must contain all test events being called for all the managed partner aggregations.

4   File Format Requirements

4.1   Basic file structure

This file must contain a single row per test event per aggregation[4]. As such, the event start and end times can vary by aggregation. The test event information for each row is defined by an event start datetime and the event end datetime. The required data fields are specified in the "Data Dictionary" section.

4.2   Separator and extension

The format is comma-separated (.csv extension).

4.3   File naming requirements

Required test event file naming pattern (this matches the format of the email subject line):

"<Provider Name> Option 3 Test Events for <YYYY-MM-DD>.csv"

<Provider Name> is the name used in the original DSGS Option 3 enrollment application. <YYYY-MM-DD> is the event date.

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[4] "Aggregation" refers to the enrolled sites sharing the unique combination of provider, partner (if applicable), UDC territory, and resource duration (2-hr, 3-hr, or 4-hr).

Examples of valid test event file names, if "ProviderA" and "ProviderB" were the provider names:

- "ProviderA Option 3 Test Events for 2025-08-26.csv"
- "ProviderB Option 3 Test Events for 2025-10-09.csv"

4.4   Data sorting

The data contained in the file must be sorted in the following order:

1. UDC (alphabetical) – this is the primary sort field.
2. Provider ID (alphabetical) – this is the secondary sort field.
3. Duration (ascending) – this is the tertiary sort field.

4.5   Sample files

Sample test event data files meeting the required format have been provided alongside this document.

4.6   Miscellaneous

No double or single quote characters are permitted in the file contents. No tab characters are permitted. No extra blank columns are permitted.

5   Data Dictionary

The following table lists the required fields of test event files. Each table row is a column in the data file. The header row in each file must contain the exact names listed in the "Column Name" values. All values provided must follow the corresponding specified description. The columns must appear from left to right in the order in which they appear in the table and be separated by **a comma** character.

Column Name	Type	Description
Provider ID	Text string	This is the three-letter ID assigned to the provider/partner for Option 3 participation (eg. LEC, LEG, TSL, SRN).
UDC	Text string	UDC region for which the test event is being called. Must be one of "PGE", "SCE", "SDGE", "LADWP". Do not include the "&" symbol.
Duration	Integer	A value of 2, 3, or 4 that represents the aggregation's nominated hourly duration for which the test event is being called.
Event Start	Datetime text	Test event *start* date/time in local time (PDT). Must be in "MM/DD/YYYY hh:mm" format, with the hh values being 0-23, and a single space character separating the date information from the time information. Month and day values should not include the

		leading zero. Times must be hour-aligned. Excel-style "serial number" dates (eg. 45817.75) are not acceptable. Examples of acceptable datetimes:
		• `5/30/2025 18:00` (Indicating an event that *starts* at 6:00 PM Pacific Time on May 30, 2025) • `10/4/2025 19:00` (Indicating an event that *starts* at 7:00 PM Pacific Time on October 4, 2025)
Event End	Datetime text	Test event *end* date/time in local time (PDT). Must be in "MM/DD/YYYY hh:mm" format, with the hh values being 0-23, and a single space character separating the date information from the time information. Month and day values should not include the leading zero. Times must be hour-aligned. Excel-style "serial number" dates (eg. 45817.75) are not acceptable. Examples of acceptable datetimes:
		• `5/30/2025 20:00` (Indicating an event that *ends* at 8:00 PM Pacific Time on May 30, 2025) • `10/4/2025 21:00` (Indicating an event that *ends* at 9:00 PM Pacific Time on October 4, 2025) **Note**: the "Event End" minus the "Event Start" must result in a duration equal to the "Duration" field in hours. If the test event overlaps with an existing day-ahead Option 3 event, the test event information submitted here must still cover the entire full-duration event period.

6   Test Event Validation

Olivine staff will process and validate the test event information and notify providers if the data doesn't meet the formatting requirements or the test events themselves do not meet the requirements in this document and/or in the guidelines. However, it is the responsibility of the providers to call test events that meet the DSGS guideline rules to be eligible for demonstrated capacity for a given aggregation and month. Providers can direct any questions about test event rules and notification requirements to dsgs-support@olivineinc.com.