

Test Environment

1.0 The Defense Manpower Data Center (DMDC) test environment is a shared test environment among many DMDC customers, as well as all contractors. Not only is the environment shared, so is the data within that environment. This region is used for both contractor testing and training.

1.1 Releases

Typically, as fixes are applied and tested, the modified software will be installed in the contractor region for testing. DMDC will coordinate with TRICARE Management Activity (TMA) and the contractors when the test region will be upgraded with software for the next major release (as opposed to continuing software modifications for the current release). The following information provides the general schedule for moving applications into and through the contractor test environment and finally into Production.

- DMDC will notify TMA one (1) week prior to moving an application, that requires contractor testing, to the contractor test environment and provide a copy of the release notes for TMA review and coordination of the date the application will be moved to contractor test. TMA will notify contractors of the application release date and provide a copy of the release notes during regularly scheduled Integration meetings hosted by TMA.
- Applications that require contractor testing, including those that only require regression testing, will remain in contractor test for a minimum of two (2) weeks prior to moving into Production. A longer testing period may be required based on the complexity of the changes and/or testing requirements.
- A major release, which requires only regression testing, would remain in contractor test for one (1) month.
- A major release which requires testing for functional changes would remain in contractor test for a minimum of six (6) weeks or longer, as coordinated with the contractors, based upon the complexity of the changes and/or testing requirements.
- Generally, new versions of applications will not be moved into contractor test during the two (2) weeks prior to an application or release moving into Production.
- TMA will coordinate the movement of a new version of an application from contractor test to Production with contractors during regularly scheduled Integration meetings hosted by TMA. The determination to move an application from contractor test will be made based on contractor readiness, test results and controlling Program requirements.

There will be a baseline set of test data supplied by DMDC to the contractors to establish a synchronized set of test data. DMDC will coordinate changes with contractors to the baseline set of Social Security Numbers (SSNs) or Department of Defense (DoD) Benefits Number (DBN). The test environment is populated with new test data periodically. Refreshes will be performed approximately every three weeks; the specific schedule will be established by TMA and DMDC and coordinated with the contractors, Any deviation from the published schedule requires agreement from TMA, DMDC, and the contractors.

Data refreshes may also be required on an 'as needed' basis to return the data to the baseline. To ensure the contractor's data remains in sync with Defense Enrollment Eligibility Reporting System (DEERS), the contractors are required to return to the baseline concurrent with DEERS. The data refresh schedule will be determined by TMA and DMDC, and coordinated with contractors as appropriate. Requests for modification of the refresh schedule must be submitted through the Contracting Officer to the TMA Purchased Care Systems Integration Branch (PCSIB) or equivalent office for review and consideration. TMA PCSIB will coordinate the request with DMDC and contractors as appropriate. The contractor will be notified by a TMA representative of the outcome of the review at the Integration meeting.

Notifications for new releases of software or applications will be sent to the contractors as required. Emergency fixes are evaluated and, depending on the scope and severity may be released by DEERS to Production prior to the contractor test region. Notification of such an emergency release will be sent via e-mail. Upon notification of software changes made available for testing, the contractor is required to test and validate the specific software modification and verify via regression testing that all other functionality has not been negatively affected.

1.2 Test Plans

The contractors shall develop test plans in coordination with TMA and DMDC. The contractors shall further refine their testing efforts by documentation of the test scenarios upon request. The contractors shall submit to TMA updated test scenario matrices which document the test results and any open issues or defects discovered. Contractors shall provide sufficient resources to complete testing in accordance with TMA guidelines and standards.

1.3 Maintenance Window

The weekly maintenance window for the test environment occurs on Saturday at 9:00 p.m. to Sunday at 6:00 a.m. EST/EDT. The DEERS contractor testing environment is available to contractors for testing and training Monday through Friday 8:00 a.m. to 9:30 p.m. and Saturday from 8:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m. EST/EDT. Deviations to the schedule will be coordinated in advance.

- END -