

## Testing Rule Synopsis

**Title:** Automated Data Processing and Information Retrieval System Requirements: System Testing Final Rule (7 CFR Part 277.18)

**Main Purpose:** This rule implements the 2008 Farm Bill provision which requires adequate system testing before and after implementation of a new State automatic data processing (ADP) and information retrieval system, including the evaluation of data from pilot projects in limited areas for major systems changes, before approval of the system to be implemented more broadly. It also provides that systems be operated in accordance with an adequate plan for continuous updating to reflect changed policy and circumstances, and for testing the effects of the system on access by eligible households and on payment accuracy.

Specific Provisions of the Testing Rule:	Additional Clarifications and Updates (since regulations last updated in 1996): <u>FNS Changes for Consistency with DHHS:</u>	Additional Clarifications and Updates (since regulations last updated in 1996): <u>Other Miscellaneous Changes:</u>
Requires that a complete test plan be provided prior to start of the testing phase, which describes how all system testing will be conducted in order to verify that the system complies with program requirements, design specifications, performance standards, usability, capacity, and security.	Changes due date for an Update to an Advance Planning Document from “90 days <i>after</i> the anniversary of the Federal approval” to “60 days <i>prior</i> to the anniversary of the Federal approval”.	Provides four new definitions – acquisition, project, COTS--Commercial Off-The-Shelf, and enhancement.
Requires the test plan to include the types of testing to be performed; the organization of the test team and associated responsibilities; test database generation; test case development; test schedule; user acceptance testing; go/no go criteria; and contingency plans.	Increases dollar thresholds for prior approval of information system procurements from \$5 million to \$6 million. Also establishes threshold for prior approval of contract amendments to a cumulative 20 percent of base contract costs.	Increases dollar thresholds for the disposition of personal property -- from \$100 to \$500, and from \$1,000 to \$5,000, where applicable.

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<p>Requires documentation of the results of user acceptance testing (UAT) be submitted to FNS for approval before advancing from UAT to pilot and to also continue to receive Federal funding.</p>	<p>Revises language for service agreements in consolidated IT operations from costs for equipment and services used to primarily support SNAP, to costs used to support all applicable Federally-aided public assistance programs.</p>	<p>Changes terminology from “Food Stamp Program” to “Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program” and also changes “Automated Data Processing” to “Information System” or “Information Technology” as appropriate given the context of their use.</p>
<p>Requires documentation of the pilot test results be submitted to FNS for approval before the system can be implemented more broadly and to continue to receive Federal funding.</p>		<p>Moves and renumbers paragraphs to improve the flow and clarity of the overall information and improve its usefulness as a reference.</p>