

California ISO Default QC List FAQ
Prepared on October 20, 2026

What is the CAISO Default QC list?

The CAISO Default QC list is how the CAISO provides LRAs and other stakeholders with the calculated default PRM and default QC values pursuant to Section 40 of the CAISO tariff. These values are published on the recurring process page as a static set of values for informational purposes.

The final published default PRM values would only become effective if:

1. An LRA chooses to adopt the monthly default PRM values and submits the default PRM values to the CAISO, pursuant to Section 40.2.1(a) or 40.2.2.2, as applicable, and no other LRA submits a higher QC value for that same resource.
2. The responsible LRA does not submit a PRM value for the LSEs within their jurisdiction. Consistent with Sections 40.2.1(c) and 40.2.2.1(b), the CAISO monthly default PRMs would then apply only to those LSEs without an LRA submitted PRM.

The final published default QC values would only become effective if:

1. An LRA chooses to adopt the default QC values and submits those default QC values to the CAISO, pursuant to Section 40.2.1(a) or 40.2.2.2, as applicable.
2. No LRA submits QC values for a specific facility that is to be included on the final NQC list. Consistent with Sections 40.2.1(c) and 40.2.2.2, Section 40.8 would then apply to those resources, and the default QC values would be used as the starting point for the NQC list development for those resources.

If the default QC values become effective for any resource, the default QC values for that resource will be used in the calculation of the net qualifying capacity as described in Section 6 of the BPM for Reliability Requirements. Where an LRA submits a QC value for a resource the CAISO will not modify the posted default value for that resource. The CAISO's Default QC list is a static set of values based on the tariff and BPM requirements.

Do the QC values on the CAISO Default QC list apply to me?

The CAISO only uses the default QC value in setting a resource's NQC if an LRA adopts the default value or no LRA provides a QC value for that resource.

At this time no LRA has submitted the default QC values to the CAISO for inclusion in the final 2027 NQC list and all resources that are included in the final 2027 NQC list were given QC values by one or more LRA based on the LRA QC methodologies. No default QC values from the CAISO Default QC list have been included in the final 2027 NQC list.

Do the monthly default PRM values on the CAISO Default QC list apply to me?

Please consult with your LRA to determine if the monthly default PRM values apply to you as an LSE. This could happen if your LRA:

1. Choose to adopt CAISO's monthly default PRMs.
2. Did not submit a PRM value to the CAISO.

In all cases, CIRA will reflect the PRM applicable to an LSE. The default PRMs in the CAISO Default QC list are available for informational purposes and are only effective if one of the above conditions is applicable to you.

Do the final default QC or PRM values impact my resource adequacy obligations?

The default QC and default PRM values only impact an entity's RA obligations if the applicable LRA elects to use them or an LRA does not submit a QC for a resource or a PRM for its jurisdictional LSEs. Outside of those scenarios, the published default values are for informational purposes only.

Why are the NQC values on the CAISO Default QC list identified as estimates?

The NQC values provided in the CAISO Default QC list are estimates only. Once a resource has a QC value, regardless of how it is set, the CAISO then conducts a separate process (described in the BPM for Reliability Requirements) to translate the QC value to an NQC value. The NQC values listed on the default QC list are thus estimates of what values will come out of that separate process. LRAs and LSEs wishing to use the default QC values for resources should be aware that the estimated NQC values may be different than what is calculated and included in the final NQC list, even if the default QC values are used at the start of the process.

How were the default QC values calculated?

The default QC values were calculated as described in [Section 40.8](#) of the CAISO tariff, and section 13 of the [Business Practice Manual for Reliability Requirements](#). Specific equations used in the calculations were provided in the September 9, 2026, web meeting [presentation](#).

How were the monthly default PRMs calculated.

The monthly default PRM values were calculated as described in [Section 40.2.2.1\(b\)](#) of the CAISO tariff, and section 13 of the [Business Practice Manual for Reliability Requirements](#). Specific equations used in the calculations were provided in the September 9, 2026, web meeting [presentation](#).

Where can I find information on the reliability model used to develop the default QC and default PRM values?

The model used to develop the default values is based on the [2026 Summer Loads and Resource Assessment](#). Several modifications were made to the model and were described in the September 9, 2026, web meeting [presentation](#). Some additional modifications were made to the dataset to introduce the components necessary to complete the assessment, such as including perfect capacity resources and adding scenarios to adequately define the simulation models used in the study.

Can a scheduling coordinator request additional details of the calculation of the default QC for resources?

Yes, scheduling coordinators may submit a CIDI ticket requesting additional details on what went into calculating an individual resource's default QC. This can include specific information on the data queries that were performed. However, the specific data may only be made available if the data is publicly available or the requesting entity already has access to the confidential data.

The default QC value for my plant is significantly different than the QC value submitted by my LRA, or the NQC value on the final list. Can I request revisions to the default QC value?

No, the default values included in the CAISO default QC list are static values calculated as described in Section 40 of the CAISO tariff and Section 13 of the BPM for Reliability Requirements. The information in the CAISO default QC list is for informational purposes, and only becomes effective under specific conditions, see the FAQ on "What is the CAISO Default QC list."

If the CAISO default QC values are used for a resource, then any request for modification should be submitted as part of the process to calculate the Net Qualifying Capacity, see section 6 of the BPM for Reliability Requirements.

Can default QC values be increased during the year?

No, the default QC values are calculated annually and remain static once finalized. If the default QC value is used in the final NQC list, an entity may still request a modification to the final QC value through their LRA, which, if approved, will be processed accordingly. However, the default QC value would not be modified, only the NQC value on the active CAISO NQC list.

Is there a formal dispute process for the published Default QC list?

No. The default QC values are calculated as described in the CAISO tariff and BPMs, and are provided as static values for informational purposes. There are no provisions for disputing the default QC values. However, the CAISO provides stakeholders with an opportunity to provide feedback on the proposed results and key inputs to the analysis before finalizing the results. This is focused on improving the analysis and final results, which may impact the default QC for specific resources.

If the default QC values are used for a specific resource through LRA action, or failure to submit their own QC values, an entity may request modifications to the QC value for that plant through the LRA or the existing NQC list development process. However, any changes made to the NQC values through that process would not impact the CAISO's default QC list values.

What modeling improvements are you considering for the future?

The CAISO will consider expanding the types of outages included in the Resource Adequacy Model when calculating ELCCs and PRMs. Specifically, planned outages that do not require outage substitution.

What are the next steps for the CAISO 2027 Default QC list?

Upon receiving stakeholder comments, the CAISO has determined that no changes need to be made to the analysis, calculation process, and implementation of the tariff and BPM that produced the draft 2027 Default QC list. The CAISO has posted the final 2027 Default QC list on the recurring process page for the [2027 Default Resource Adequacy Values](#).

The next activity related to the CAISO default RA values will be the development of the draft 2028 Default QC list in 2027.