



SNIA Emerald™

SNIA EMERALD – RECOGNIZED TESTER PROGRAM (RTP) Frequently Asked Questions

What is the Recognized Tester Program?

The **Recognized Tester Program (RTP)** is a SNIA Emerald program component to recognize professional testing services who demonstrate competence in performing SNIA Emerald™ Testing Methods, Procedures, and Results.

The program activity consists of a SNIA auditor and review team who audits the testing services' test facility, test equipment, test personnel, testing procedures and methods, and test results. Upon meeting program criteria, the testing services RTP applicant will be awarded a Recognized Tester certificate and a directory listing on the SNIA Emerald RTP website.

What is the RTP relationship to other SNIA Emerald program components?

The SNIA Emerald™ program includes the SNIA Emerald Test and Measurement Specification, SNIA Emerald test and measurement education programs, and the SNIA Emerald RTP. The SNIA Emerald Test and Measurement Specification is the common building block for national agencies around the globe to cross-reference for their data center storage system energy efficiency program, such as the USA EPA ENERGYSTAR for Data Center Storage program. Having a universally accepted test method enables the industry storage manufacturers to report relevant storage energy metrics in a consistent manner, and for consumers of the metrics to have a consistent manner to evaluate vendors and storage configurations.

Why is the RTP important and how does it benefit industry?

The program recognizes testing services to provide consistent and repeatable test data results for the SNIA Emerald Test and Measurement Specification. Independent testing services are of value and interest to independent testing labs and storage manufacturers to carry out their testing plans in a timely fashion, meet peak workloads when staff and facilities are fully scheduled, and to augment in-house staff.

Typically, small and mid-size manufacturers are not resourced to self-test and usually engage independent test service providers to perform a range of safety, regulatory, and capability tests.

How does the RTP benefit storage end user customers?

The availability of RTP increases the quality and quantity of the ecosystem services so that manufacturers' product time to market testing is not delayed, improving the manufacturers' ability to respond to RFPs with their latest products.

How do I apply for the SNIA Emerald RTP?

Send an email to emerald@snia.org. Applicants will be provided an Application Agreement to be signed and be required to pay a program fee.

How is confidential information handled in the program between SNIA and the applicant?

All information reviewed, collected, and audited is confidential to the SNIA RTP Audit Review team. All correspondence is treated as confidential. The only public information for a test services applicant is the company name, taxonomy test classification, and type of IO listing in the RTP directory, once all program criteria has been passed and the test services applicant grants permission to SNIA to be listed.

What happens if a testing services organization does not meet all the program criteria to pass an audit?

When the RTP Audit Team finds areas of non-conformities, the test services organization will have an opportunity to address requested remedial actions within a fixed time-period. If reasonable attempts to remediate the non-conformities still exist, a testing organization will need to reapply to the program. The RTP objective is to improve the industry ecosystem and demonstrate flexibility and support within reason to assist an organization to meet and exceed program criteria.