

Definitions of Terms Used in Standards

This section includes all newly defined or revised terms used in the proposed standards. Terms already defined in the Reliability Standards Glossary of Terms are not repeated here. New or revised definitions listed below become approved when the proposed standards are approved. When the standards become effective, these defined terms will be added to the Glossary.

BES Cyber Asset (BCA): A Cyber Asset that if rendered unavailable, degraded, or misused would, within 15 minutes of its required operation, misoperation, or non-operation, adversely impact one or more Facilities, systems, or equipment, which, if destroyed, degraded, or otherwise rendered unavailable when needed, would affect the reliable operation of the Bulk Electric System. Redundancy of affected Facilities, systems, and equipment shall not be considered when determining adverse impact. Each BES Cyber Asset is included in one or more BES Cyber Systems.

Protected Cyber Assets (PCA): One or more Cyber Assets connected using a routable protocol within or on an Electronic Security Perimeter that is not part of the highest impact BES Cyber System within the same Electronic Security Perimeter. The impact rating of Protected Cyber Assets is equal to the highest rated BES Cyber System in the same ESP.

Removable Media: Media, directly connected for 30 consecutive calendar days or less, capable of transmitting executable code to: (1) a BES Cyber Asset, (2) a network within an ESP, or (3) a Protected Cyber Asset that can be used to store, copy, move, or access data. Removable Media are not Cyber Assets. Examples include, but are not limited to, floppy disks, compact disks, USB flash drives, external hard drives, and other flash memory cards/drives that contain nonvolatile memory.

Transient Cyber Asset: A Cyber Asset, (e.g., using Ethernet, serial, Universal Serial Bus, and wireless including near field and Bluetooth communication) directly connected for 30 consecutive calendar days or less, capable of transmitting executable code to: (1) a BES Cyber Asset, (2) a network within an ESP, or (3) a Protected Cyber Asset. Examples include, but are not limited to, Cyber Assets used for data transfer, vulnerability assessment, maintenance, or troubleshooting purposes.