

FAQ for GPO Testing

Q. What is the purpose of the GPO test?

The purpose of the GPO Test is to measure a person's knowledge and ability to apply concepts, terms, and principles related to the electrical, operations, and mechanical tasks performed by a GPO. The test contains questions that emphasize the understanding of the subjects, along with the ability to apply the knowledge.

Q. What test components are included in the GPO test?

There are 3 test components on the GPO test: Electrical, Operations, and Mechanical. For details on each component, see the GPO Study Guide found on the Southern Company website.

Q. Is there a study guide? If so, where is it located?

Yes. The GPO Study Guide is located on our Southern Company website at www.southerncompany.com and click on Read More under Hiring Process. Click on Read More under Employment Testing. The GPO Study Guide is located on the far right under Company/Organization Specific Tests.

Q. I took the GPO test years ago and my testing record shows a testing code of 00074. What job does this qualify me for?

The 00074 test code was used prior to 2007 when the only positions requiring the GPO test were CC and CT's. In 2007, the GPO test was validated for use in Fossil and Hydro plants in GPC and the new GPO- Fossil (00089) and GPO- Hydro (00090) testing codes were created. All employee records that had only 00074 have been updated to include the correct new testing codes.

Q. Why are there 3 different test codes for the GPO test?

Because of differences among the 3 different types of plants, scoring and results are generated for each type of plant.

Q. Do I have to re-take the GPO test if I have already passed it?

If you have qualified on all plant levels 00088 (CC/CT), 00089 (Fossil), 00090 (Hydro) then you would not need to re-take the GPO. Test results remain an active part of your record unless the job requirements/conditions changed or if the actual test itself changed. If you did not qualify for Fossil, Hydro or CC/CT (or any combination of the 3), you would need to re-take the entire GPO test in an effort to qualify at a different plant level. The GPO is only offered as a complete test; therefore, you would need to take the entire test battery to try to qualify at that plant level.

Q. Why does Southern Power require both the TECH and GPO?

Southern Power wanted a more comprehensive assessment of candidates for their Operations Technician position as well as technical skills that covered by the GPO test. The TECH test was linked to the Operations Technician job and is a required test for that position.

Q. If I qualified for fossil and hydro but not combined cycle, do I have to take the entire test again or just the part for combined cycle?

If you are applying for a position that requires GPO- CC then you would need to take the test again to attempt to qualify at the GPO-CC level. The GPO is only offered as a complete test; therefore, you would need to take the entire test battery to try to qualify at that plant level.

Q. I have qualified on the GPO- CC. Am I qualified for Southern Power Operations Technician position?

No. You would need to qualify on the TECH test as well as the GPO- CC test to be qualified for the Southern Power Operations Technician position.

Q. When can I re-take the GPO test if I did not qualify?

Southern Company re-test policy is 45 days for written testing.