

GENERAL NOTICE

MICRO RENEWABLE IN-FEED AND EMBEDDED GENERATORS

The Electricity Control Board received several queries regarding treatment of Micro Renewable In-feed and Embedded Generators mainly **rooftop solar photovoltaic systems**. The queries are related to the points below and the ECB would like to clarify as follows;

1. Definitions

Micro renewable in-feed is a non-commercial renewable energy-based generator embedded within an installation of the customer which is operated and maintained by the customer.

Embedded Generators is a generating unit that is connected to the distribution system.

Customer Generator is any customer of a distribution licensee that generates electricity on the side of the billing meter of the customer with renewable energy generation that is primarily intended to offset part or all of the electricity requirements of the customer.

2. Micro Renewable In-feed and Embedded Generators

Micro Renewable In-feed and Embedded Generators installations are allowed in accordance with Chapter 2, Part 4 of the Distribution Grid Code (Government Gazette 6730 of 09 October 2018) which Code deals with Micro Renewable In-feed and Embedded Generators connection conditions.

3. Licensing of Micro Renewable and Embedded Generators

In terms of Section 18 of the Electricity Act (Act 4 of 2007), a license is not required for a generation plant with an installed capacity of less than 500 kVA; and (ii) generates electricity exclusively for own consumption by the person in control of such plant and on premises owned or occupied by that person.

4. Metering equipment

With respect to metering, all connections must comply with Code 29 (c) for Embedded Generators and or Code 66 (6) for Micro Renewable In-feed that refer to the fact that the metering equipment must not be a prepaid meter and the meter must be able to measure active and reactive energy in both directions

which a pre-paid meter is not capable of doing, and therefore a conventional four quadrant meter is required.

5. Uninterrupted Power Supply (UPS) Systems

A system comprising any UPS installation that is connected to a customer generation source that is connected to the grid for parallel operation (except in off-grid standby mode as defined in Rule 22(3) of the Technical Rules) is classified as embedded / In-feed.

If the customer generation source (e.g. set of solar photo voltaic panels) is taken away (removed) from the case in question, then the UPS becomes a classical one, having only an energy storage facility (battery bank in this case) and is not regarded as embedded / In-feed. It is only in that case (of not being connected to a customer generation source), that it will not be regarded as embedded / In-feed.

6. Net Metering

Net metering is a billing mechanism that allows any customer of a distribution licensee that generates electricity on the side of the billing meter of the customer with renewable energy generation that is primarily intended to offset part or all the electricity requirements of the customer.

Customer generators (Micro Renewable In-feed and Embedded Generators) that wish to benefit from Net Metering should abide by the Net Metering Rules (Government Gazette 6173 of 15 November 2016).

7. Registration of Micro Renewable In-feed and Embedded Generators

In accordance with the Distribution Grid Code and Net Metering Rules, all Micro Renewable In-feed and Embedded Generators and

Net Metering Customers must apply to the distribution entity for approval, registration, and also conclude a connection agreement with the licensee.

The licensee must provide the customer with an application form to register as Micro Renewable In-feed and Embedded Generators and be provided with necessary Connection Agreement.

In accordance with Rule 8 (1) of the Net Metering Rules, licensees must report annually to the Board on the progress on the implementation of net metering systems in its distribution license area.

8. Inspection by the licensee

The licensee has the right to inspect all installations to ensure a safe network. Those Micro In-feed and Embedded Generators meeting the inspection requirements must be approved and registered by the licensee.

9. Non- Compliance by a Micro Renewable In-feed and Embedded Generators

It is the responsibility of a licensee to operate a safe distribution network and provide reliable service to all customers. All connections must comply with the provisions of the Electricity Act No.4 of 2007, and all applicable Regulations and Rules that govern the industry including Micro Renewable In-feed and Embedded Generators.

The licensee may disconnect supply to a customer in accordance with Code 57 of the Distribution Grid Code for failure to adhere to the Rules or Safety Code upon due notice of non-compliance to the customer by the licensee.

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