

Connection and Operation of generation rated at less than 10kW capacity



Electra Ltd
Corner Bristol & Exeter Sts
PO Box 244
Levin 5540

Phone (0800) 353-2872
Fax (06) 367-6120
Email markb@electra.co.nz
Web www.electra.co.nz

Contents

Contents.....	2
1. Introduction.....	3
1.1 Introduction.....	3
1.2 Definitions.....	3
2. What is distributed generation.....	5
2.1 Distributed generation.....	5
2.2 Safety requirements.....	5
2.3 Technical requirements.....	5
2.4 Operational requirements.....	5
2.5 Commercial requirements.....	6
2.6 Regulatory requirements.....	6
3. Our policy.....	8
3.1 Open access network.....	8
3.2 Funding & ownership of connection assets.....	8
3.3 Funding technical modifications.....	8
3.4 Limiting the density of generation.....	8
3.5 Change of occupancy or ownership.....	9
3.6 Confidentiality of your application.....	9
4. Connection process.....	10
4.1 Step #1 (your inquiry).....	10
4.2 Step #2 (our response to your inquiry).....	11
4.3 Step #3 (your application).....	11
4.4 Step #4 (our response to your application).....	11
4.5 Step #5 (we connect your generation).....	12
Form 1 - Application.....	13

1. Introduction

1.1 Introduction

This document describes...

- What distributed generation is all about, and what safety, technical, operational, commercial and regulatory issues may be encountered.
- Our policy on connection and operation of distributed generation rated at less than 10kW capacity.
- The processes that you must complete to connect distributed generation rated at less than 10kW capacity to our network.
- The form that you must complete as part of your application to connect distributed generation rated at less than 10kW capacity. It is preferable that you discuss your intended generation with us by phone or in person as soon as possible so that issues can be resolved before you submit a formal application.

The connection of distributed generation is regulated by the Electricity Governance (Connection Of Distributed Generation) Regulations 2007. These regulations specify a number of matters such as the time period within which we must process your application, the maximum fees that we can charge for processing your application and inspecting your generation, and a series of default terms & conditions. This document is based on the Regulations, and where this document is inconsistent or unclear, the Regulations shall prevail.

1.2 Definitions

Connection assets means assets such as (but not limited to) lines, poles, transformers, cables, fuses, reclosers or circuit breakers necessary to connect generation to our network.

Regulations means the Electricity Governance (Connection Of Distributed Generation) Regulations 2007 or any regulation passed in substitution thereof.

Requirements means the requirements referred to in Sections 2.2

to 2.6 of this document.

We, us, our, ours and similar words means Electra Ltd.

You, your, yours and similar words means the party wishing to connect distributed generation to Electra Ltd's network.

2. What is distributed generation

2.1 Distributed generation

Although a precise definition of distributed generation is difficult to formulate it is usually recognised as generation that is embedded within a distribution network. In the context of distributed generation rated at less than 10kW capacity, this would most typically take the form of small hydro, small wind turbines or solar panels (which would require an inverter).

2.2 Safety requirements

Your generation must comply with the following safety requirements...

- The specific requirements contained in the [Electricity Regulations 1997](#).
- The general requirements contained in the Health & Safety in Employment Act 1992.

2.3 Technical requirements

Your generation must comply with the following technical requirements...

- [AS 4777.1 2002](#)
- [AS 4777.3 2002](#)
- [AS/NZS 3000](#)

If your generator will be connected through an inverter you will also need to comply with the following additional requirements...

- [AS 4777.2 2002](#)
- Use an inverter [approved](#) for our network.

2.4 Operational requirements

Your generation must comply with the following operational requirements...

- Your generation must include a switch or circuit breaker that disconnects and locks out if mains voltage is lost on our network or if the mains frequency dips below 49.5Hz for more than 2 seconds. This is to ensure that our network is not back-livened from your generation which would create a safety hazard for our faults staff.
- Clear and durable notices must be prominently posted near the point of connection to our network, and at your switchboard and meter box stating that there is connected generation. This is to warn people of the possibility that your installation could still be live even if the mains have been disconnected.

2.5 Commercial requirements

Your generation must comply with the following commercial requirements...

- Because we are a lines business and not an energy business (as defined in the Electricity Industry Reform Act 1998) we cannot purchase the energy from your generation. You must have a contract in place with a retailer for the purchase of the energy you generate, or provide evidence that you will be consuming all this energy yourself. You may not simply “lose” the energy in our network.
- You must have a meter in place capable of recording all energy flowing from our network into your generator. If you wish to share in any network or transmission benefits arising from your generator you will need to install a time-of-use meter capable of recording the energy flowing from your generator into our network.
- The energy retailer that you contract with for purchase of exported energy, metering services and data management may charge you for doing so. Ensure that you request a copy of their tariffs.

2.6 Regulatory requirements

Your generation may require one or more of the following classes of consents...

- Resource consent issued by the Regional Council.
- Resource consent issued by the District Council.
- Building consent issued by the District Council.

You may also need to liaise with other agencies such as (but not limited to) Land Transport, the Civil Aviation Authority or the Department of Conservation if your generation extends into areas like road reserve, flight paths or ecologically sensitive areas. We do not provide advice on these matters nor do we issue such consents.

3. Our policy

3.1 Open access network

Our policy for network access is that anyone who meets the applicable safety, technical, operational and commercial requirements and who agrees to pay the applicable charges can connect to our network.

The details of our distributed generation policy are set out in Section 4.6 of our Asset Management Plan.

3.2 Funding & ownership of connection assets

Connection of your generation to our network may require construction of specific assets, such as a few spans of line, a length of cable or a disconnecter. These assets are referred to as connection assets and can be funded and owned in the following ways...

- You can install and own these assets at your expense subject to them meeting our usual technical requirements for connection to our Network. This option will require you to take all usual ownership responsibilities and obligations such as planning and building consents, safety, maintenance, fault restoration, land issues and tree trimming.
- You can make a capital contribution (possibly up to 100%) and we will install and own the assets. In this case we will assume all usual ownership responsibilities and obligations.

3.3 Funding technical modifications

You may also need to pay for any technical modifications such as re-calibration of protection or control equipment.

3.4 Limiting the density of generation

Our network was originally designed to distribute electricity in one direction from large grid substations. Although a single generator less than 10kW probably won't upset the way our network operates, too many separate generators in any one part of our network might. We therefore reserve the right to decline an application to connect any

generation to our network if we believe that installing generation in that area could interfere with the operation of our network or with our customers' quality of supply. In the event that we receive more than one application to connect generation to part of our network the Regulations allow us to treat those applications as competing bids for limited capacity as long as we consider the overall purpose of the Regulations.

3.5 Change of occupancy or ownership

It is important that any new owner or occupant of a premise involving distributed generation is aware of the safety, technical, operational and commercial aspects. Accordingly you must advise us of any new occupant or owner so we can discuss their obligations with them.

3.6 Confidentiality of your application

The Regulations allow us to divulge the broad details (but not necessarily the ownership details) of generation applications to other applicants whose generation might be affected by your generation.

4. Connection process

4.1 Step #1 (your application)

To begin the connection process you must apply in writing although we would prefer you phoned us to discuss your intentions first. Please use Form 1 at the back of this document and include additional pages as required to specify the following...

- What type of generation you intend to connect (hydro, photo-voltaic etc).
- The manufacturers' rating of your generator, or if this is not possible, a certification that its maximum rating is less than 10kW.
- The configuration of your proposed generation, in particular whether your generator is a new generator or an addition to an existing generator. If your proposed generator is an addition, the rating of your entire installation at a single point of connection to our network must be less than 10kW.
- The technical specifications of your generator and associated equipment.
- The technical specifications of the equipment that will disconnect your generation from our network if mains voltage is lost.
- Exactly where you expect to install your generation.
- Whether your generator is 1-phase or 3-phase.
- The exact point and voltage at which you propose to connect to our network.
- Evidence that your generation will meet the requirements set out in Sections 2.2 to 2.5 of this document.

Your completed Form 1 will need to be accompanied by a payment of \$200.00 plus GST payable to Electra Ltd. If your completed Form 1 does not provide sufficient information for us to determine if your proposed generator meets the standards set out in Sections 2.2 to 2.5 of this document, we may ask you for further information.

4.2 Step #2 (our response to your application)

Upon receiving your application, we are required to advise you within 5 working days whether your application is complete. If your application is incomplete we will advise you of the information you will need to include when you reapply.

If your application is correctly completed we must advise you within 30 working days whether your application is approved or declined. The Regulations allow us to ask you for an extension of 20 working days, which you cannot reasonably refuse. Broadly speaking we are required to approve your application if it meets the following requirements...

- It is made in accordance with the Regulations.
- It will comply with the Health & Safety in Employment Act 1992.
- It will meet the requirements set out in Sections 2.3 to 2.5 of this document.

If we decline your application we are required to do the following...

- Provide detailed reasons why your application has been declined.
- Advise what you would need to do to make a compliant application.
- Advise you of the dispute resolution procedure set out in Schedule 3 to the Regulations.

4.3 Step #3 (you give notice of intention)

If we approve your application to connect generation, you must advise us in writing within 10 working days whether you intend to connect your generation, although we can extend this period at our discretion.

If you do not provide such written notice, our obligations under the Regulations cease. You can however make a new application.

4.4 Step #4 (negotiate connection contract)

Once you have notified us in writing of your intention to connect your generation, we have 30 working days (starting from the date at which we receive your written notice of intention to connect) to mutually

negotiate a connection contract. This period can be extended by mutual agreement.

If we cannot agree with you on mutually acceptable connection terms and conditions, the regulated terms and conditions set out in Schedule 2 of the Regulations will apply.

4.5 Step #5 (we connect your generation)

Before you connect your generation to our network, you must test your generation. You must also give us sufficient notice of these tests so that we can witness the tests for which we will charge you \$60.00 + GST.

You must also provide us with a comprehensive test and inspection report that includes confirmation that any metering will fulfill its intended purposes.

Form 1 - Application

Application for connection of distributed generation rated at less than 10kW (3 pages including this page).

- Your contact details

Full name _____

Postal address _____

Street address _____

Daytime phone _____

Mobile phone _____

Fax _____

Email _____

- At what location do you wish to connect your generation (please specify map reference if possible).

- Do you wish to connect your generation to

[] An existing Electra point of connection for which you are the account holder (please specify the ICP number from the power bill for that connection)

[] An existing Electra point of connection for which you are not the account holder (please specify the ICP number from the power bill for that connection)

[] At a location that will require new connection assets.

- How many phases is your generation

1-phase 3-phase

- What sort of entity wishes to connect the generation

Single individual Limited company Incorporated society

Trust Other (please specify below)

- What type of generation do you intend to connect to our network.

Hydro Photo-voltaic Wind

Thermal Other (please describe below)

- What is the manufacturers' rating of your generator (must be less than 10kW).
-

- Will your generation be

An entirely new installation.

An addition to an existing generator. If it is an addition to an existing generator, the entire installation must be rated at less than 10kW.

- Please attach the following technical information. Where possible please use sketches, photo's and photocopies of brochures etc.

The configuration of your proposed generation.

The technical specifications of your generator and associated equipment.

The technical specifications of the equipment that will disconnect your generation from our network if mains voltage is lost.

- Confirmation that our requirements will be met (attach supporting documentation as necessary).

Safety requirements

Technical requirements

Operational requirements

Commercial requirements

- Confirmation that external regulatory requirements such as resource, planning or building consents will be met (attach supporting documentation as necessary).

External regulatory requirements.

- A certificate of compliance certifying that your generation is electrically safe. This certificate must be signed off by both the electrical worker who installed your generation and a person who is a registered electrical inspector under Part 9 of the Electricity Act 1992 and who is competent with distributed generation.

Attached completed certificate.

- Details of energy retailer who will buy your energy

Company _____

Attached copy of energy purchase agreement.

- Details of electrical worker who will connect your generation

Person _____

Registration _____

- Declaration

In submitting this inquiry I certify that all of the above information and any attached information is true and correct. I also certify that the

generation we intend to connect to Electra's network is rated at less than 10kW and acknowledge Electra's full and unlimited right to disconnect our generation should it generate at a rate greater than 10kW or if any part of this inquiry proves false or fraudulent.

Signature of applicant _____

Post your completed inquiry form and payment for \$200.00 plus GST (payable to Electra Ltd) to PO Box 244, Levin or deliver to the Corner of Bristol and Exeter Sts, Levin.

For office use only

Date received _____

Date response required by _____

Inquiry processed by _____

Inquiry number _____

Inquiry handed to _____

Confirm payment attached _____

Date payment banked _____

Confirm form completed _____