



# PV Industry Alert

November 2016 – Issue 31

## Opportunity for feedback

### Consultation on draft Standards for >30 kW – 5 MW systems

For designers and installers of large embedded generating systems, Ergon Energy and Energex are developing two joint Standards (low and high voltage) for the connection of these systems above 30 kW and up to 5 MW. The joint drafts are due in December with the final Standards due for release in early 2017.

We would appreciate feedback from industry and stakeholders on our Consultation Paper. You can make your submissions at [ies.tech.enquires@ergon.com.au](mailto:ies.tech.enquires@ergon.com.au) until Monday 28 November. Your feedback on our proposed Standards framework will help us with our revision of the Standards. Please see our website for [more information on the connection](#) of large embedded generating systems.

## Information for installers

### Update on installation of non-certified inverters

We are happy to say that the instances of non-certified inverters being installed have reduced dramatically in the past week and the industry is now close to 100% compliance – thank you.

In line with legislation and standards, any non-certified inverter, or any other inverter not applied for and approved by us, that has been installed and connected will be quickly identified and disconnected.

### Reminder: AC isolators to be left off

We are pleased to report there is a very high compliance rate by installers ensuring the AC isolator is switched off before they leave each installation site, so thank you to all those complying. However, we must keep pushing towards 100% compliance with this important requirement to maintain safety standards and compliance with legislative metering obligations. We recently identified eight installers who had multiple installations where the AC isolators were found to be switched on before our inspection had been carried out.

Six of those installers were emailed a letter reminding them of our requirements. As the two other installers had been warned before, their cases may be referred to the [Clean Energy Council](#) (CEC) for them to consider penalising the installer under the CEC demerit points system.

If an inverter is being replaced or inverter capacity being upgraded and the relevant metering is already installed, the AC isolator can be left switched on.

### RPC required on all inverters in system

When existing inverter capacity is supplemented with one or more extra inverters, all inverters in the system must have reactive power control (RPC) capability. This applies to connections >2 kVA on our main network but not on our Single Wire Earth Return or Isolated Networks. If an existing inverter

doesn't have RPC functionality, it must be replaced, or the functionality provided with an external device.

## Application information

### Naming installer on Form A

Our interpretation of the [Electrical Safety Regulation 2013](#) is that a person cannot use another person's Electrical Contractor (EC) Licence Number to lodge a Form A and not identify the EC in our [Electrical Contractors Portal](#) (Portal). It is also a breach of the Regulation to lodge a Form A using the EC Licence Number of someone who wasn't the installer, or the supervising installer who was onsite during installation and checked all electrical work.

To assist the PV industry, we allow any party to use a CEC Accreditation Number or EC Licence Number to access our Portal. **However, it is essential** that the name of the accredited installer is entered in the 'Contractor' field, not the name of the administration person entering details in the form or the installer's company name that may be automatically populated.

### Applications and Form As - export settings and panel increases

While a qualified person is allowed to reprogram an installed inverter from minimal export (non-export) to partial export, an application must still be lodged and offer received before any change in export setting is made.

If the inverter is certified under AS/NZS 4777.2:2015, the application can be lodged through our Portal. To do this, select 'Replace Current Inverter (no increase of capacity)' and make clear notes in the 'Equipment Additional Info' field to describe the change in export setting. If the inverter is not certified, it will not appear in the Portal inverter list as an option. You will then need to use the [PDF application form](#) and make clear notes in the 'Other aspects...' field.

The customer's electricity retailer will advise the customer if their PV system becomes eligible for the regional Feed-in Tariff. When only inverter settings are being changed, a Form A is not required as we don't need to re-inspect the unit.

An application is also required when the panel capacity is being upgraded (with no change of inverter). All applications for panel capacity increases can be made through the Portal, as the inverter doesn't need to be defined. After the panels are installed, a Form A is not required.

### Inverter replacements under warranty

Inverters not recertified under the new standard will only be able to be installed as replacements under warranty, not as new installations or replacements out of warranty. You must lodge an application prior to replacing all inverters under warranty. These applications won't undergo assessment. As non-certified inverters won't be listed in our Portal, you can only lodge these applications via our [PDF application form](#), which can be emailed or faxed. Once the inverter is replaced, a Form A must be lodged to trigger a compliance inspection.

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