

PV INDUSTRY ALERT

This alert is the sixth in a series to keep the solar PV industry up to date with issues that may impact on the connection of inverter energy systems (IESs) to the Ergon Energy network.

Making applications easier

Ergon Energy launched Version 10 of its *Application for Network Connection of an Inverter Energy System* in PV Industry Alert No. 4.

A number of industry participants asked for an electronic version of the form so they could directly enter their details. We have responded by providing a new PDF Application form (Version 11) that allows for information to be entered electronically. It accompanies this alert in the same email.

To get started just click your mouse in the first field (Name) and then tab through to the corresponding fields. You can select a check box by hitting 'Enter'.

Of course, completing some or all of the form by hand is still acceptable. Please ensure handwriting is legible.

Whichever way the form is completed, it must still be printed out and signed by the customer before lodgement with Ergon Energy via one of the usual channels – fax, scan and email, or post. This form will also be available shortly on our relevant web page – [click here](#).

We have also taken this opportunity to delete fields that our IES database can now auto-populate from our existing data. The customer will no longer need to provide their ABN or electricity retailer or advise if the premises is owned or rented by them.

Also, in Part 5 – the authorisation – we have removed the commitment to provide copies of written advice to the authorised person (in addition to the customer), as our system cannot facilitate that consistently at this time. We will continue to work towards this functionality.

Applying for extra panels

The Application form includes a field to confirm the nature of any upgrade. Even if only extra panels are being added, Ergon Energy must receive those details on an Application form.

A new Agreement is not required if the inverter size remains unchanged.

Tariffs and IES connections

Section 44A (1) (b)(iii) of the *Electricity Act 1994* clarifies that an IES cannot be connected to a controlled tariff. It must be connected to the primary tariff, which is generally T11 in domestic premises. This is important in terms of qualification for the Queensland Government's Solar Bonus Scheme (SBS).

There are a small number of premises with a mix of residential and commercial tariffs, with each potentially viewed as being 'primary'. In this case, the inverter should be connected to the tariff associated with the largest volume of consumption over the last annual billing period. This period may cover four quarterly bills or 12 monthly bills.

This information is reflected in the wiring diagrams in the Queensland Electricity Connection and Metering Manual. If the IES is not connected to the appropriate tariff, an Ergon Energy Electricity Officer will raise a Form B seeking rectification.

REMINDER: Notify changes

If the inverter installed is of a different capacity to that notified in the Application, we may not install the required meter.

If you need to install a smaller or larger inverter, you must inform the Solar Support Team immediately so we can amend the Agreement. Be aware that a larger inverter may trigger our technical assessment process, delay the meter installation, and see the maximum allowable size reduced. Also be aware that if Ergon Energy is unable to install

the meter because of a discrepancy, we may charge a 'Wasted truck fee' to the customer, who is likely to look to the consultant or installer for payment.

Clarifying inverter ratings

We recognise the different technical viewpoints regarding inverter rated capacities. Accordingly, we have promoted use of the Clean Energy Council's online list of accredited inverters as a single reference point.

That list has recently been updated (4 November). As an example, the SMA Sunny Boy 5000TL-20 now has an 'AC Power' value of '4600'. Ergon Energy confirms that we use the 'AC Power' value to define if the application should be technically assessed and the system's eligibility for the SBS. Please ensure the correct value is entered on the Application.

REMINDER: Incomplete forms may be rejected

Ergon Energy continues to receive IES application forms with some fields not completed. And we continue to send them back to the customer, or the nominated industry person if authorised by the customer, for completion. We repeat the importance of completing all relevant fields in Parts 1, 2 and 3.

Solar Support Team on track

We recognise delays have occurred in processing applications and responding to enquiries over the past month. We have taken action and are now back on track. We thank you for your patience.

Our Solar Support Team is there to assist customers and industry representatives with any questions about connections of solar PV systems.

If you have any questions, please contact Ergon Energy's Solar Support Team on 1300 553 924, 8.00am to 5.00pm, Monday to Friday, or email energysystems@ergon.com.au