

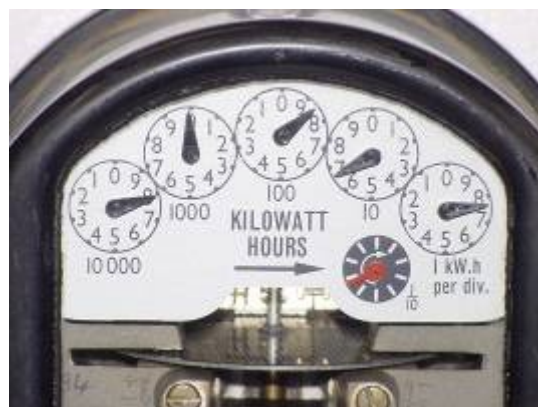
ELECTRICAL CONTRACTOR UPDATE



AC Isolator Policy change

We've received approval from the Australian Energy Regulator (AER) to update the [Model Standing Offer](#) for connecting micro embedded generating units. This means there are changes to the connection process for customers.

If a customer has an older style electromechanical meter (pictured below) you'll need to leave the AC isolator off and submit an Electrical Work Request (EWR).



If a customer has a new electronic type meter (pictured below) that's suitable for connection of Embedded Generating (EG) units you can now turn the AC isolator on. In these circumstances you'll still need to lodge an EWR as there may be additional work required to be done on site by the metering provider in order for the customer to receive the full connection benefits.



If you're unsure of the metering at the customer premises, this can be confirmed by the customer's retailer or metering provider. All installations of EG systems will still require an EWR to be lodged in order for us to confirm that work has been completed as per AS/NZS 3000 and AS/NZS 4777.

There's a new Micro Embedded Generation Standard

We've released Version 5 of the Connection Standard for Micro Embedded Generating Units up to 30kW. In this latest version there are minor changes to terminology, links and references to bring the standard up to date. The standard is also now applicable to High Voltage connections.

The major changes within the standard are:

- **Section 5.15 AC Isolators** - This section has been updated to align with the AC isolator policy change and the new Model Standing Offer. If a customer has a new digital type 6 meter installed, you no longer need to leave the AC isolator in the off position.
- **Introduction of compliance to IEC 62116 for safety** - Section 5.1 stipulates that, in addition to being AS/NZS 4777.2 compliant, all inverters must be compliant with IEC 62116 "utility-interconnected photovoltaic inverters - Test procedure of islanding prevention measures".
- **Removal of interlocking clause** - The previous clause in Version 4 that required interlocking of protection for inverters across multiple phases has been removed to align with AS/NZS 4777.1 Central Protection.
- **Phase balance protection clause added** - There is an additional clause in Section 5 to clarify requirements for phase balance protection in alignment with AS/NZS 4777.1 for each type of connection.

Please download and familiarise yourself with [Version 5 of the Connection Standard for Micro Embedded Generating Units up to 30kW](#).

Note: Version 5 will be superseded by Version 6 on 1 December 2019. However, these changes are consistent with the proposed Version 6. We're introducing these changes slightly earlier to improve connection outcomes for customers and industry.

Phase Balance Protection Requirements

A new section 5.9.2 dealing with phase balance protection has been added to Version 5 of STNW1170 to clarify the requirements of AS/NZS 4777.1 as applicable to Energex and Ergon Energy's standard where we allow for up to 10 kVA of total inverter capacity per phase.

It's important to note that the requirements for phase balance and phase balance protection have not changed. Phase balance protection shall respond to imbalance at the connection point caused by the aggregate Micro EG units on each phase. We have developed a table to outline when phase balance protection functions are required. The central protection requirements are set out under AS/NZS 4777.1. As the design of the protection is not covered by a prescriptive standard it has been identified as an engineering service in Queensland.

The design and commission plan for phase balance protection must be carried out under the supervision of a Registered Professional Engineer of Queensland (RPEQ). Under supervision means the RPEQ must have the ability to influence the design and commission activity and you must be able to show consultation at all stages of design and commissioning.

For more information please see <https://www.bpeg.qld.gov.au/resources/sharable-pdf/>

You won't be required to provide design and commission plan records at the time of application or EWR however a copy of these record must be made available to the DNSP on request.

Reminder: DER Register will go live 1st December 2019 and will also see the release of two updated standards. Please stay tuned for another update closer to the time.

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About Electrical Contractor Update

This newsletter will keep you informed about what's happening in the industry and any changes to compliance, rulings and legislation.