



PV Industry Alert

September 2016 – Issue 29

New Standard delivers big industry and customer benefits

The benefit-packed third version of the [Joint Energex and Ergon Energy Connection Standard for Micro Embedded Generating Units \(0–≤ 30kVA\)](#) has been released. It aligns with AS 4777 (parts 1 and 2) and leverages advanced inverter functionality.

The primary change is that you can now apply for inverters with partial export limitation!

For example, an application for a 5 kVA inverter could nominate that export capacity will be limited to 3.5 kVA or less, compliant with Section 5.9.1 of the Standard. That application will not require a technical assessment.

To apply for a partial-export inverter, when you reach this screen in the [Electrical Partners Portal](#), select 'Yes', then select how export control will be achieved, then the export limit proposed (in kVA).

The screenshot shows a form titled "Site information" with the following fields:

- "Inverter to be Export Limited?" with radio buttons for "Yes" (selected) and "No", and a question mark icon.
- "How is Export Control to be achieved?" with a dropdown menu showing "Please Select..." and a downward arrow.
- "Export Limit (kVA)" with a text input field.

Balanced 3 phase systems assessment threshold raised

Another key benefit of the new Standard relates to balanced 3 phase systems rated up to 30 kVA. The assessment threshold has been raised from 3.5 to 10 kVA for applications for inverter capacity balanced over three phases and partially or fully exporting to our main network (not our Single Wire Earth Return or Isolated networks).

Minimal-export capacity raised

Non-exporting inverters rated up to 30 kVA are now referred to as minimal-export inverters. As a further benefit to the industry, the Standard allows for a maximum 5% of inverter capacity to be exported during the (up to) 15-second ramp-down process, up from the previous 2%.

This means the minimal-export functionality can be achieved by a wider range of inverters and allows for more effective inverter performance in some cases.

Make the most of the new Standard

We encourage all industry members, especially installers, to read the new Connection Standard to enhance the services and knowledge you can provide your customers and to maintain compliance with Ergon Energy's requirements and legislation.

If there's anything in the new Standard that's not clear to you or you have other questions, please email us at ies.tech.enquiries@ergon.com.au. We will respond, and if relevant, publish answers to frequently asked questions in the next PV Industry Alert.

Application delays

The full introduction of AS/NZS 4777.2:2015 from 9 October 2016 has created a rate of applications well above normal volumes. We have allocated more resources in response.

As we expect volumes to remain high until mid-September, we ask for your understanding and encourage you to lodge applications promptly for inverters that may no longer be accredited from 9 October. While that will add to our Solar Team's workload, we can then better plan our resourcing and deliver the best turn-around times to applicants.

However we will not be held responsible if applications for soon-to-be non-accredited inverters cannot be processed in time to allow installation before 9 October 2016. From that date, we will not process Form As for inverters not accredited under AS/NZS 4777.2:2015.

Email confirmations to premises owner

Since May 2016, we have been emailing updates on application status to both the applicant and the owner of the relevant premises for a growing proportion of applications, being those lodged through the Electrical Partners Portal.

The emails are typically sent when the connection offer has been confirmed, an application has been sent for assessment, or when an options letter is necessary. This helps keep customers informed and takes some pressure off PV retailers to do so.

It is therefore important that the email address of the owner of the premises is accurately recorded in the application form.

Have you subscribed?

We email each PV Industry Alert to:

- those who subscribed through our website; and
- applicants whose email address appeared on recent application forms.

If you don't recall subscribing to receive these Alerts, we encourage you, and others in your business if relevant, to [subscribe to our Alert Service](#).

Doing so will ensure you receive every issue.