

# PV Industry Alert

No. **13**  
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*Welcome to the new-look  
PV Industry Alert No.13.*

## New single-phase limits

Due for finalisation in early 2014, the draft AS4777 *Grid connection of energy systems via inverters* standard imposes a 5kVA inverter rating limit for imbalance across phases. Ergon Energy expects this will reduce the occurrence of imbalance issues at customers' premises and will deliver benefits to the network and our customers.

Similarly, the standard also requires that no more than 5kVA (5kW) be installed at a single-phase premises.

From Monday 11 November 2013, all assessments of applications to Ergon Energy to install more than 5kW on a single phase will be downsized to a maximum of 5kW per phase, or may be declined if the local network cannot support it. If your customers are wanting a system larger than 5kW, please ensure the inverter capacity is spread over multiple phases, and where relevant, encourage them to upgrade to three-phase supply (where available) or reduce the size of the system they apply for.

## More information helps everyone

We remind all installers to conduct Fault Loop Impedance Tests (FLITs) before lodging an application with Ergon Energy, especially on larger properties. Installers who do these tests and use the results to explain the limitations to their customers have experienced fewer issues after the system has been installed.

Conducting FLITs prior to making an application may help you and your customer apply for the most appropriate system size and avoid the need for the application to be downsized or declined.

Another way you can improve your application is to include the attributes of the consumer mains, and sub-mains where relevant, and detail which building the system will be installed on.

This is especially important on applications for systems installed on larger properties. If our aerial imagery reveals several buildings on a property and we have no advice, we must assume that the system will be installed on the building furthest from the end of Ergon Energy's network.

## Form A for inverter upgrades

When upgrading an inverter capacity, installers must lodge a Form A with Ergon Energy. While a new meter is not required, a new system compliance check is required, which is triggered by the Form A.

Lodgement of the Form A in these circumstances allows Ergon Energy to ensure system compliance, and provides the customer with confidence that their upgraded system remains compliant. Ergon Energy must receive confirmation of, not just an application for, all inverter capacity connected to its network.

If you have performed inverter upgrades at any time in the past without lodging a Form A, it is critical that you lodge a Form A for each installation as soon as possible.

## Rules for replacing inverters

When an inverter fails or has to be replaced, it may be difficult to match inverter-rated sizes, especially for discontinued models or exclusive inverter purchase arrangements exist.

If the exact rating size is not available, please use a slightly smaller inverter as a replacement. Under the rules of the SBS, increasing the inverter size by just 0.1 kW will see the loss of the 44c FiT for the customer.

## Application for array upgrades

Ergon Energy reports PV data to government, and uses this internally, based on array sizes, not inverter sizes. All array upgrades must be applied for before installation, even if there is no change to the inverter size.

Currently, all applications for array upgrades without an inverter upgrade are processed and approved, however this may change in the future.

Ergon Energy doesn't require a Form A for array upgrades only. We assume that the approved application will result in an installation. However, if you apply for an array upgrade and the installation doesn't proceed, it is important that you email or phone our Solar Support Team to advise that the application is being withdrawn. If industry members do this when relevant, it will avoid us having to require a Form A for every array upgrade.

## Importance of array sizing

Please make sure that the array sizes listed on application forms are accurate. If you increase array size after lodging the application, you'll need to lodge another application. This is especially important for connections on Ergon Energy's 33 isolated networks in western Queensland, the Torres Strait and other islands. These networks have limits to the capacity of PV allowed, based on the array size of the system.

## IES Agreement on website

As a service to the PV industry, we have provided a sample of an Ergon Energy IES Network Agreement on our website. If you haven't done so already, please familiarise yourself with it so that you're aware of the terms and conditions that apply to customers and installers.

**Note:** While every effort is made by Ergon Energy, we make no representation or warranty about the suitability, accuracy or completeness of content of this information for any purpose. Recipients need to make their own assessment of the matters presented herein and are advised to verify all relevant representations, statements and information. Ergon Energy will not be liable for any false, inaccurate, inappropriate or incomplete information contained herein.