



# PV Industry Alert

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## **RPC requirements delayed to 1 March 2015**

Ergon Energy and Energex have previously communicated that a Reactive Power Control (RPC) setting would become mandatory on certain inverter capacities from 1 January 2015.

This has been delayed until 1 March 2015. From that date, all applications on Ergon Energy's main network for inverters rated above 2kVA must also include an RPC setting of 0.9 (or lower) lagging. (Note, the threshold may be different for the Energex network.) Any application above 2kVA that doesn't have RPC selected will be rejected. This does not apply to premises on a Single Wire Earth Return network or an isolated network, as RPC generally has minimal benefit on those networks.

## **Lodge online for faster approvals**

More than 80% of IES applications are lodged via Ergon Energy's online application form. Applying online means less chance of a form being rejected due to a blank field or illegible entry, the sender receives a confirmation the application's been received, and generally the application is processed more quickly.

If there are particular reasons why you're still lodging applications by email or fax, please advise our Solar Support Team so we can address those issues. We want to work with you in working towards online-only applications.

## **Reminder to spread capacity over phases**

In line with the draft Australian Standard 4777 and Ergon Energy's and Energex's *Connection Standard for Small Scale Parallel Inverter Energy Systems up to 30kVA*, Ergon Energy requires that inverter capacity greater than 5kVA be spread over multiple phases. That is, 5kVA is the highest rating of inverter allowed on a single-phase premises.

Additionally, the phase imbalance must not exceed 5kVA between two phases. These requirements apply to both exporting and non-exporting systems.

## **Leave DC isolators on**

When choosing to leave an Inverter Energy System (IES) switched off until metered, please do not switch off the ground-level or roof-top DC isolator.

Ergon Energy will not switch DC isolators on to energise the system for compliance testing, as we believe there are safety and legal risks associated with doing so.

If the DC isolator is switched off and our meter installer is unable to conduct compliance testing, the meter will be installed but a Form B will be issued, and a Wasted Truck Fee could be charged. Importantly, the solar tariff will not commence until another Form A is lodged and another site visit conducted to complete the compliance check.

## **Applying for IES upgrades**

When you are applying for an upgrade to inverter and/or array capacity, please include the existing inverter and array capacities on your application so it can be appropriately processed and our records updated.