Victoria Government Gazette

No. S 553 Thursday 9 October 2025
By Authority of Victorian Government Printer

Electricity Industry Act 2000

MINISTERIAL ORDER SPECIFYING LICENCE CONDITION 2025

I, Lily D'Ambrosio, Minister for Energy and Resources and as Minister responsible for administering the **Electricity Industry Act 2000** (the Act), having –

a) had regard to –

i. any significant costs and benefits for an affected licensee or any other person that are likely to arise out of the making of this Order, in accordance with section 33AB(2)(a)(i) of the Act; and

ii. the written representations of the affected licensee, in accordance with section 33AB(2)(a)(ii) of the Act; and

b) consulted with the Premier, the Treasurer, and the Minister for Finance, being the Minister administering the **Essential Services Commission Act 2001**, in accordance with section 33AD of the Act –

make the following Order under section 33AB(1)(a) of the Act.

1. Purpose:

The objective of this Order is to specify ministerial licence conditions, relating to the connection of relevant solar microgeneration units to the licensee's distribution system, for which a licence to distribute or supply electricity granted under section 19 of the Act is subject.

2. Commencement

This Order commences on the day the Order is published in the Government Gazette and remains in force unless revoked.

3. Revocation

The following Orders made under section 33AB of the Act are revoked –

(a) Ministerial Order Specifying Licence Condition 2024 made by the Minister for Energy and Resources on 30 January and published in the Government Gazette No. S 31 on 31 January 2024; and

(b) Amendment of Ministerial Order Specifying Licence Condition 2024 made by the Minister for Energy and Resources on 21 June 2024 and published in the Government Gazette No. S 336 on 21 June 2024.

4. Definitions and interpretation

In this Order **–**

AEMO has the same meaning as in the Act;

applicable customer in respect of a relevant solar microgeneration unit, means a person whose relevant solar microgeneration unit is connected to, or who may want to have their relevant solar microgeneration unit connected to, the licensee's distribution system;

AusNet means AusNet Electricity Services Pty Ltd, ACN 064 651 118;

CitiPower means CitiPower Pty Ltd, ACN 064 651 056;

commencement date means the day on which this Order commences;

Commission has the same meaning as in the Act;

connection application has the same meaning as in the National Electricity Rules;

connection agreement has the same meaning as in the National Electricity Rules;

connection contract has the same meaning as in the National Electricity Rules;

connection offer has the same meaning as in the National Electricity Rules;

CSIP-AUS means the Common Smart Inverter Profile Australia Technical Standard, SA TS 5573:2025, published by Standards Australia June 2025 and as amended from time to time or if superseded, the document(s) listed by Standards Australia as superseding the Standards Australia Technical Standard 5573:2025. SA TS 5573:2025 supersedes SA HB 218:2023, however SA HB218:2023 will remain current for 12 months from 27 June 2025;

curtail means limiting the generation or export of electricity from a relevant solar microgeneration unit into the distribution system;

department means the Department of Energy, Environment and Climate Action;

distribution system has the same meaning as in the National Electricity Rules;

Electricity Distribution Code of Practice means the Electricity Distribution Code of Practice made by the Commission under Part 6 of the **Essential Services Commission Act 2001**, as in force at the commencement of this order and as amended from time to time;

embedded generating unit has the same meaning as in the National Electricity Rules; **embedded network** has the same meaning as in the National Electricity Rules;

emergency backstop enabled means in relation to a relevant solar microgeneration unit, that the unit is –

(a) able to communicate with the licensee's utility server via a communication channel that is compliant to IEEE 2030.5 and CSIP-AUS and is hosted:

  (i) on the relevant solar microgeneration unit, or

  (ii) on a gateway device; or

  (iii) via a cloud connection; and

(b) connected to the licensee's utility server via the internet – to enable the remote interruption or curtailment by the licensee of electricity generated by the relevant solar microgeneration unit;

establish a connection means the establishment of a new connection to the distribution system for a relevant solar microgeneration unit;

IEEE 2030.5 means the Standard IEEE 2030.5-2018, Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers Standard for Smart Energy Profile Application Protocol, as in force at the commencement of this order and as amended from time to time;

interruption means the temporary unavailability of electricity supply from a relevant solar microgeneration unit into the distribution system;

Jemena means Jemena Electricity Networks (Vic) Ltd, ACN 064 651 083;

legacy solar microgeneration unit means a solar photovoltaic embedded generating unit with a total capacity less than or equal to 200 kilovolt-amperes (kVA) installed before 1 October 2024, or with an approved connection application before 1 October 2024;

licence means a licence to distribute or supply electricity granted by the Commission to a licensee, pursuant to section 19 of the Act, as amended from time to time;

licensee means each of AusNet, CitiPower, Jemena, Powercor and United Energy;

low static export limit means a capped specified capacity to supply into the distribution system at all times of day and in all network operating conditions that is lower than the maximum export capability as set out in the licensee's model standing offer;

model standing offer has the same meaning as in the National Electricity Rules as modified under the **National Electricity (Victoria) Act 2005**;

negotiated connection contract has the same meaning as in Chapter 5A of the National Electricity Rules;

Powercor means Powercor Australia Ltd, ACN 064 651 109;

relevant solar microgeneration unit means –

(a) on and after 1 October 2024, a solar photovoltaic embedded generating unit with a total capacity less than or equal to 200 kilovolt-amperes (kVA);

(b) on and after 1 January 2025, a solar photovoltaic embedded generating unit in an embedded network, that has individual or separate solar photovoltaic embedded generating units each with an individual capacity less than or equal to 200 kVA, regardless of whether, when taken together, the total capacity may be more than 200 kVA;

replaced means the replacement of a legacy solar microgeneration unit's inverters and/or multiple mode inverters (MMI) as defined within AS/NZS 4777.2, as amended from time to time, where this new inverter is or is intended to be grid connected to a solar microgeneration unit, but does not include a replacement if –

(a) the legacy solar microgeneration unit's inverter is or is intended to be connected to a legacy solar microgeneration unit for repairs or maintenance, or

(b) the replacement –

(i) is a like-for-like replacement; or

(ii) is a replacement under warranty; or

(iii) requires the unit to be relocated to another position on the same building e.g. due to renovations or building works;

the Act means the **Electricity Industry Act 2000**;

United Energy means United Energy Distribution Pty Ltd, ACN 064 651 029;

utility server has the same meaning as in CSIP-AUS.

MINISTERIAL LICENCE CONDITION

5. Specification of ministerial licence conditions

AusNet, CitiPower, Jemena, Powercor and United Energy are subject to the ministerial licence conditions set out in this Order on and from the commencement date.

Note: A ministerial licence condition made under section 33AB of the Act is a civil penalty requirement under the **Essential Services Commission Act 2001**.

6. Establishing a connection application for a relevant solar microgeneration unit

The licensee must not establish a connection for a relevant solar microgeneration unit to the licensee's distribution system unless the licensee is satisfied that the relevant solar microgeneration unit is emergency backstop enabled.

7. Replacement of a legacy solar microgeneration unit's inverter

If after 1 October 2024 a new connection application is made to the licensee, for the legacy solar microgeneration unit's inverter to be replaced, the licensee must ensure that it is satisfied that the legacy solar microgeneration unit is emergency backstop enabled.

Note: The types of actions the licensee may undertake to be satisfied that a legacy solar microgeneration unit or relevant solar microgeneration unit is backstop enabled under clause 6 or 7 include, but are not limited to, one or more of the following: 1) specification of an inverter or other device capability in a connection offer or connection agreement; and 2) receiving a certificate from the installer of the unit or device that specified such capability; and 3) conducting testing during the connection process to confirm the relevant solar microgeneration unit is emergency backstop enabled.

Note: Battery systems are not required to be backstop enabled. If the legacy solar microgeneration inverter is replaced as part of a battery system installation or upgrade, the new solar microgeneration inverter should be backstop enabled.

8. Backstop enabled relevant solar microgeneration unit is not required

Despite anything to the contrary in this Order, the licensee may establish a connection if the relevant solar microgeneration unit is not backstop enabled if –

(a) there is no onsite internet connectivity, or the applicable customer, or the applicable customer's agent, has advised the licensee that the relevant solar microgeneration unit is no greater than 30 kVA capacity and cannot practicably be connected to the licensee's utility server via the internet; or

(b) the relevant solar microgeneration unit is between 30 kVA to 200 kVA (inclusive) capacity and the licensee is satisfied that the licensee is capable of remotely interrupting or curtailing electricity generation by the unit despite not being emergency backstop enabled; or

(c) the relevant solar microgeneration unit is in an embedded network and the licensee is satisfied that the licensee is capable of remotely interrupting or curtailing electricity generation by the unit despite not being emergency backstop enabled.

9. Backstop capability for legacy solar microgeneration unit is not required

Despite anything to the contrary in this Order, the licensee may alter a connection for a legacy solar microgeneration unit without the unit being upgraded to be backstop enabled if –

(a) there is no onsite internet connectivity, or the applicable customer, or the applicable customer's agent, has advised the licensee that the legacy solar microgeneration unit is no greater than 30 kVA capacity and cannot practicably be connected to the licensee's utility server via the internet; or

(b) the legacy solar microgeneration unit is between 30kVA to 200 kVA (inclusive) capacity and the licensee is satisfied that the licensee is capable of remotely interrupting or curtailing electricity generation by the unit despite not being emergency backstop enabled; or

(c) the legacy solar microgeneration unit is in an embedded network and the licensee is satisfied that the licensee is capable of remotely interrupting or curtailing electricity generation by the unit despite not being emergency backstop enabled.

10. Operation and maintenance of utility server

The licensee must operate and maintain a functioning utility server or servers capable of remotely interrupting and curtailing electricity generation and export, including testing of the capability of interruption and curtailment of electricity export, by an emergency backstop enabled relevant solar microgeneration unit or a backstop enabled legacy solar microgeneration unit connected to the licensee's distribution system.

11. Process requirements for monitoring emergency backstop enabled relevant solar microgeneration units and backstop enabled legacy solar microgeneration units

(1) The licensee must implement a process to monitor and test whether solar microgeneration units remain emergency backstop enabled and whether the licensee is capable of remotely interrupting or curtailing electricity generation by solar microgeneration units.

(2) The licensee must not remotely interrupt or curtail electricity generation by an emergency backstop enabled solar microgeneration unit unless –

(a) directed to do so by the AEMO, or another person lawfully authorised by AEMO to issue that direction, under the National Electricity (Victoria) Law or the National Electricity Rules; or

(b) the licensee is carrying out a test to satisfy itself that it is capable of remotely interrupting or curtailing electricity generation as required under clauses 6, 7 or 10 of this Order, or

(c) the licensee is carrying out a network-wide test as required under clause 14 of this Order; or

(d) for any other matter agreed in writing with the applicable customer of the relevant solar microgeneration unit or backstop enabled legacy solar microgeneration unit.

12. Terms to be included

(1) The licensee must include terms in its model standing offer, negotiated connection contract, connection offer, connection contract or connection agreement (as the case may be) for the connection of a relevant solar microgeneration unit or backstop enabled legacy solar microgeneration unit to the licensee's distribution system –

(a) to give effect to the requirements of this Order; and

(b) that permit the licensee to remotely interrupt or curtail electricity generation from the solar microgeneration unit in the circumstances set out in clause 11(2) of this Order; and

(c) that describe the process –

(i) by which the licensee will advise the applicable customer that the relevant solar microgeneration unit or backstop enabled legacy solar microgeneration unit will be or the unit has been remotely interrupted or curtailed; and

(ii) which the customer may follow to make emergency backstop enquiries.

(2) The licensee must include terms in its model standing offer, negotiated connection contract, connection offer, connection contract or connection agreement (as the case may be) for the connection of a relevant solar microgeneration unit to the licensee's distribution system or backstop enabled legacy solar microgeneration unit, that where subclause 8(a) and 9(a) applies –

(a) the relevant solar microgeneration unit connected to the licensee's distribution system or legacy solar microgeneration unit must be able to communicate via a communication channel that is compliant to IEEE 2030.5 and CSIP-AUS, either hosted locally on the inverter, or a gateway device, or via a certified cloud connection; and

(b) a low static export limit applies.

13. Notification requirements when interrupting or curtailing generation

(1) The licensee when remotely interrupting or curtailing electricity generation in accordance with clause 11(2)(a) and (b) of this Order must, as soon as practicable, publish a notice on a prominent part of its website with information on the nature of the interruption or curtailment.

(2) If the licensee proposes to undertake interruption or curtailment of electricity generation in accordance with clause 11(2)(b) and the licensee anticipates that the interruption or curtailment will result in an applicable customer's export or generation being interrupted or curtailed for a cumulative total of more than 30 minutes within a 48-hour period, the licensee must–

(a) give each affected customer and the commission at least 48 hours' written notice of the test –

(i) by the customer's nominated preferred method of communication identified under clause 11.4.1 of the Electricity Distribution Code of Practice; or

(ii) if the customer has not nominated a preferred method of communication, by electronic communication (where the customer has provided contact details for electronic communication); or

(b) act in accordance with the explicit informed consent specified in the relevant model standing offer, negotiated connection contract, customer contract or agreement if that contract or agreement contains the customer's explicit informed consent to the interruption or curtailment of export or generation, and

(c) if any customer remains disconnected from exporting for longer than the intended testing period, within 24 hours following testing, notify that customer that they remain disconnected from exporting to the distribution network following testing.

(3) Customer notification under clause 13(2) does not extend to the initial connection process, involving installation and commissioning, during which testing is assumed to require interrupting or curtailing electricity generation for a cumulative total of more than 30 minutes within a 48-hour period.

(4) A notice under subclause (2) must be in the form set out under clause 11.5.2 of the Electricity Distribution Code of Practice.

14. Establishing network wide testing procedures

(1) The licensee must undertake at minimum two, but not more than four tests annually, to ensure that systems and platforms which remotely interrupt or curtail electricity generation function as expected during minimum system load emergency conditions and seek to understand capacity in megawatts of all relevant solar microgeneration units and backstop enabled legacy solar microgeneration units on its entire network.

(2) If a licensee considers it needs to conduct more than four network wide tests annually, it must make a request to the Commission for approval to conduct an additional network wide test, provide an approximate window of when the proposed test will occur, and include the rationale for why an additional test is required.

(3) The Commission may approve or decline the request from a licensee for additional network wide testing for any reasons it considers relevant, including but not limited to, the potential impacts on customers.

(4) The licensee must inform the Commission of the licensee's intention to undertake a network wide test at least one business day before undertaking that test. That notice must include when the test is to occur and what is anticipated by an interruption.

(5) A test undertaken under subclause (1) must be undertaken across the whole of the licensee's distribution system.

(6) The licensee must, for testing purposes, interrupt the solar microgeneration units for a cumulative total of less than 90 minutes within a 48-hour period.

(7) The licensee must provide test results to the department, AEMO and the Commission. The test results should include the total numbers of devices that have passed or failed the testing as part of the results of a distribution-business network wide test, and the aggregate capacity in megawatts of licensee's distribution system that is emergency backstop enabled, within 10 business days of when the test was conducted.

(8) The licensee when remotely interrupting or curtailing electricity generation under subclause (1) must, as soon as practicable, publish a notice on a prominent part of its website with information on the nature of the interruption or curtailment.

(9) If any customer remains disconnected from exporting for longer than the intended testing period, the licensee must within 24 hours following testing, notify that customer that they remain disconnected from exporting to the distribution network following testing.

15. Establishing customer related procedures

(1) The licensee must prepare procedures that set out –

(a) the process the licensee expects an applicable customer's agent to follow (if any) to satisfy the licensee that a relevant solar microgeneration unit is emergency backstop enabled or legacy solar microgeneration unit is backstop enabled (if required); and

(b) the process the licensee will follow where an applicable customer or their agent has not satisfied the licensee that a relevant solar microgeneration unit is emergency backstop enabled or backstop enabled legacy solar microgeneration unit; and

(c) the process a licensee will follow to regularly test that solar microgeneration units that were emergency backstop enabled at the time of connection remain emergency backstop enabled; and

(d) the process a licensee will follow to contact applicable customers if their emergency backstop enabled solar microgeneration unit ceases to be emergency backstop enabled.

(2) The licensee must ensure any communication to customers about matters related to emergency backstop including testing and curtailing generation are written in plain English and designed to be easily understandable by affected customers.

(3) The licensee may amend a procedure under subclause (1) from time to time.

(4) The licensee must publish the procedures prepared under subclause (1) or any amended procedure under subclause (3) on its website as soon as practicable after the preparation of the procedure or amending the procedure.

(5) The licensee must notify the Commission as soon as practicable after the licensee has published a procedure or an amended procedure under subclause (1) or an amended procedure under subclause (3).

16. Support services for solar microgeneration unit installers

(1) The licensee must make available, by way of a business hours telephone service and by way of frequently updated information on a part of its website and solar installer portal, information about any utility server outages, including:

(a) an estimate of when an outage-affected utility server will be restored; or,

(b) if reliable information is not available to inform that estimate, an estimate of when reliable information on restoration of the utility server will be available.

(2) The licensee must –

(a) provide options for solar installers who call the business hour telephone service to be directly connected to a telephone operator;

(b) use best endeavours to restore capability and functions of the utility server as soon as possible making allowance for reasonable priorities;

(c) when a licensee becomes aware that capability testing of a solar microgeneration unit's inverter to the utility server has failed, communicate in near real-time error messages to the solar installer and outline possible steps to remedy the failed capability test and advise when the capability failure is remedied;

(d) continue to notify the solar installer as relevant information becomes available in order that the solar installer can take action to remedy the failed capability test;

(e) report to the Commission via email in relation to subclause 16(2)(c) within 20 business days following the conclusion of each quarter during 2025 and 2026. A report to the Commission must outline the licensee's performance regarding the average latency between the capability testing error being received and the licensee sending out a response to communicate informative error messages to solar installers.

17. Reporting obligations

The licensee must include in its distribution system planning report submitted to the Commission in accordance with the Electricity Distribution Code of Practice –

(a) details of any interruption or curtailment of electricity generation carried out under subclause 11(2)(b) and (d) and 14 of this Order; and

(b) the number of connections of relevant solar microgeneration units and backstop enabled legacy solar microgeneration units to the licensee's distribution system that are, to the extent of the licensee's knowledge, emergency backstop enabled; and

(c) the aggregate capacity in megawatts of all relevant solar microgeneration units and backstop enabled legacy solar microgeneration units in the licensee's distribution system that are, to the extent of the licensee's knowledge, emergency backstop enabled; and

(d) the number of minutes the utility server was offline for unplanned reasons annually.

18. Requirement to give information

(1) The licensee must, if requested to do so by AEMO, the Commission, or the Department, provide to AEMO, the Commission or the Department (as the case may be) information relating to –

(a) any interruption or curtailment of electricity generation carried out in accordance with this Order;

(b) the number of connections in the licensee's distribution system that are emergency backstop enabled to the extent of the licensee's knowledge;

(c) the aggregate capacity in megawatts of all relevant solar microgeneration units in the licensee's distribution system that is emergency backstop enabled to the extent of the licensee's knowledge.

(2) The licensee must provide any information requested under subclause (1) within 10 business days of the receipt of the request, unless another time is agreed by AEMO, Commission, or the Department.

Dated 7 October 2025

HON. LILY D'AMBROSIO MP
Minister for Energy and Resources

This page was left blank intentionally

This page was left blank intentionally

This page was left blank intentionally

ive

The *Victoria Government Gazette* is published by IVE Group Limited with the authority of the Government Printer for the State of Victoria

Address all enquiries to the Government Printer for the State of Victoria
Level 2, 1 Macarthur Street
Melbourne 3002
Victoria, Australia

How To Order

	Retail & Mail Sales	**Victoria Government Gazette** Ground Floor, Building 8, 658 Church Street, Richmond 3121
✆	**Telephone**	03 8523 4601
	email	gazette@ivegroup.com.au

Price Code A