



MAHARASHTRA ELECTRICITY REGULATORY COMMISSION

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Advt No. 35/2024-25

PUBLIC NOTICE

INVITING COMMENTS, SUGGESTIONS AND /OR OBJECTIONS ON DRAFT REGULATIONS

1. Maharashtra Electricity Regulatory Commission (MERC or Commission) has prepared the following Draft Regulations:
 - i) Draft MERC (Electricity Supply Code and Standards of Performance of Distribution Licensees including Power Quality) (First Amendment) Regulations, 2024
 - ii) Draft MERC (Grid Interactive Rooftop Renewable Energy Generating Systems) (Second Amendment) Regulations, 2024
2. These Draft Regulations along with their respective Explanatory Memorandum have been uploaded on the Commission's web site **www.merc.gov.in** in downloadable format.
3. Any comments, suggestions or objections on the draft amendment Regulations may be uploaded within 21 days through 'E-Public Consultation' Tab on MERC Website (**[www.merc.gov.in/ e-public-consultation](http://www.merc.gov.in/e-public-consultation)**). In case of any difficulty in accessing this feature, concerned stakeholders can contact the MERC Office Mobile No.: 8928071522 or on email id: **suggestions@merc.gov.in** between 9.30 AM to 6.00 PM on all the working days. A Person who has uploaded suggestion and objection on 'E-Public Consultation' Tab need not file any hard copy of its submission. Persons who do not have access to electronic media, can file their suggestions and objections in a hard copy addressed to 'The Secretary', Maharashtra Electricity Regulatory Commission (MERC), 13th Floor, Centre No.1, World Trade Centre, Cuffe Parade, Mumbai - 400 005, **before 5 PM on 14 June 2024**. Suggestions/Objections filed through any other mode shall not be considered.
4. All Comments, Suggestions and objections uploaded or received **on or before 14 June 2024** shall be considered by the Commission before finalizing the above Draft Regulations. All future communication on this issue will be through MERC website only (**www.merc.gov.in**)

Sd/-

(Dr. Rajendra G. Ambekar)
Secretary, MERC

Date : 23/05/2024
Place : Mumbai

MAHARASHTRA ELECTRICITY REGULATORY COMMISSION

DRAFT NOTIFICATION

ELECTRICITY ACT, 2003.

No. MERC/Tech/Regulation/____.- In exercise of the powers conferred under Section 61 and Section 86(3) read with Section 181 of the Electricity Act, 2003 (36 of 2003) and in pursuance to Clause 5.3 of the Tariff Policy, 2016 and all other powers enabling it in this behalf, and after previous publication, the Maharashtra Electricity Regulatory Commission makes the following Regulations to amend the Maharashtra Electricity Regulatory Commission (Grid Interactive Rooftop Renewable Energy Generating Systems) Regulations, 2019 read with and Maharashtra Electricity Regulatory Commission (Grid Interactive Rooftop Renewable Energy Generating Systems) (First Amendment) Regulations, 2023 (**‘the Principal Regulations’**), namely:

1 Short title and commencement

- 1.1 These Regulations may be called the Maharashtra Electricity Regulatory Commission (Grid Interactive Rooftop Renewable Energy Generating Systems) (Second Amendment) Regulations, 2024.
- 1.2 These Regulations shall come into force from the date of their publication in the Official Gazette.

2 Amendment to Regulation 2 of the Principal Regulations

Introduction of 4th and 5th proviso to Regulation 2.1 (j) of the Principal Regulations: -

“Provided also that Residential consumer can setup Renewable Energy Generating System at any place located within same Distribution Licensee’s area of supply and source renewable energy generated from such plant under Virtual Net-Metering Arrangement:

Provided also that multiple Residential consumers including common connection of housing society can come together and set-up Renewable Energy Generating System at a common place under Virtual Net Metering arrangement subject to condition that total capacity of such Renewable Energy Generating system shall not exceed summation of capacity eligible to each participating consumer.”

Introduction of Regulation 2.1 (z)(a) after Regulation 2.1 (z) of the Principal Regulations:

“2.1(z)(a) **“Virtual Net Metering”** means a modality whereby entire energy generated from a Renewable Energy Generating System is exported to the grid from Renewable energy meter or gross meter and the energy exported is adjusted in

either one or more than one participating Residential consumer(s) including common connection of housing society located within the same Distribution Licensee's area of supply.

3 Amendment to Regulation 4 of the Principal Regulations in PART A – GENERAL

Introduction of Regulation 4.4 after Regulation 4.3 of the Principal Regulations:

“ 4.4. Grid connectivity and scheduling of the Renewable Energy Generating System installed under virtual net-metering arrangement shall be governed by relevant Regulations of the Commission.”

4 Amendment to Regulation 8 and 9 of the Principal Regulations in PART B – TECHNICAL ARRANGEMENTS

Substitution of Regulation 8.11 of the Amendment Regulations: -

“8.11 In case of Renewable Energy Generating System set up under **Gross Metering Arrangement and Virtual Net Metering Arrangement**, an additional Check Meter for the Renewable Energy Generation Meter of appropriate class shall be installed by the Distribution Licensee.”

Substitution of Regulation 9.7 of the Principal Regulations:

“9.7 Before rejecting any application for setting up a Renewable Energy Generating System at a particular Distribution Transformer, the Distribution Licensee shall serve the applicant with a notice to rectify the defects in the ambit of the consumer, within 15 days or such longer period as may be necessary for removing the deficiencies:

Provided that application may be considered in chronological order of seniority.”

Introduction of Regulation 9.7 (a) after Regulation 9.7 of the Principal Regulations:

“ 9.7 (a) During the time period from the feasibility study or deemed acceptance of the application till the completion of installation, in case, there is any requirement of upgradation of distribution infrastructure like augmentation of service line, distribution transformer capacity, and the like for installation of the required capacity of roof top solar photo voltaic system, the same shall be carried out by the Distribution Licensee in adherence to the timeline specified in Maharashtra Electricity Regulatory Commission (Electricity Supply Code and Standards Of Performance for Distribution Licensees, including Power Quality) Regulations, 2021 as amended from time to time:

Provided that the cost of strengthening the distribution infrastructure, including distribution transformer, as necessary, to facilitate the installation of roof top solar

photovoltaic systems, shall be included in the annual revenue requirement of the Distribution Licensee.”

5 Amendment to Regulation 11 of the Principal Regulations in PART C – COMMERCIAL ARRANGEMENTS

Introduction of Regulation 11.10 after Regulation 11.9 of the Principal Regulations:

“11.10 Virtual Net Metering– Energy Accounting and Settlement

- (a) The energy generated from Renewable Energy Generating System shall be credited in the monthly electricity bill of each participating Residential consumer(s) including common connection of housing society as per the ratio of procurement from Renewable Energy Generating System indicated under the agreement entered by the consumer(s):

Provided that capacity of Renewable Energy Generating System becomes available to participating consumer based on such ratio shall not exceed capacity eligible for such consumer under net-metering arrangement;

Provided further that participating consumers shall have option to change the ratio of procurement once in financial year by giving advance notice of two months to Distribution Licensee.

- (b) The electricity consumption in any time block (e.g., peak hours, off-peak hours, etc.) shall be first compensated with the electricity generation in the similar time blocks in the same billing cycle of the participating consumer(s). Any surplus generation over consumption in any time block in a billing cycle shall be accounted as if the surplus generation/ Energy Credits occurred during the off-peak time block for Time of Day (TOD) Consumers and normal time block for Non-TOD Consumer.
- (c) Where the units credited during any billing period of any participating consumer exceeds the import of units by that consumer, such surplus credited units shall be carried forward in the next billing period as energy credits for such participating consumer(s).
- (d) For unadjusted net credited Units of electricity at the end of each financial year, the provisions of Clause 11.4 (c) will be applicable for each participating consumer.
- (e) Applicability of Open Access Charges and losses for sourcing electricity from Renewable Energy Generating System is exempted till installed capacity of rooftop solar reaches 5000 MW in Maharashtra ”

6 Amendment to Annexure-1 of the Principal Regulations

Substitution of Clause C of Annexure-1 of the Principal Regulations: -

- “ c For installation of Renewable Energy Generating Systems, the technical feasibility study shall be completed within a period of (15) days and the outcome of the study shall be intimated to the applicant, failing which it shall be presumed that the proposal is technically feasible:

Provided that the applications for Renewable Energy Generating Systems upto 10 kW capacity, complete in all respects shall be deemed to have been accepted without requiring technical feasibility study and any commensurate enhancement of the sanctioned load of the consumer, as may be required, shall be carried out by the Distribution Licensee.”

Introduction of Clause i after Clause h of the Principal Regulations: —

- “ i. The Formats of Model Net Metering/Net Billing /Gross Metering connection agreement shall be placed on web-portal of the distribution licensee.”

7 Amendment to Annexure-3 of the Principal Regulations

Introduction of Clause 8.7 after clause 8.6 of Annexure-3 of the Principal Regulations: -

- “ 8.7 (a) In case of Virtual Net Metering, the energy generated by the Renewable Energy Generating System shall be credited in the monthly electricity bill of each participating Residential consumer(s) including common connection of housing society as per the ratio of procurement as indicated below:

Sr. No.	Name of consumer (Starting with primary connection)	Consumer No.	Sharing Ratio (%)

- (b) Participating consumers shall have option to change the ratio of procurement once in financial year with as advance notice of two months.
- (c) The electricity consumption in any time block (e.g., peak hours, off-peak hours, etc.) shall be first compensated with the electricity generation in the similar time blocks in the same billing cycle of the participating consumer(s). Any surplus generation over consumption in any time block in a billing cycle shall be accounted as if the surplus generation/ Energy Credits occurred during

the off-peak time block for Time of Day (TOD) Consumers and normal time block for Non-TOD Consumer.

- (d) Where the units credited during any billing period of any participating consumer exceeds the import of units by that consumer, such surplus credited units shall be carried forward in the next billing period as energy credits for such participating consumer(s).
- (e) For unadjusted net credited Units of electricity at the end of each financial year, the provisions of Clause 11.4 (c) will be applicable for each participating consumer.
- (f) Applicability of Open Access Charges and losses for sourcing electricity from Renewable Energy Generating System is exempted till installed capacity of rooftop solar reaches 5000 MW in Maharashtra.

Mumbai

Dated: __May 2024

(Dr. Rajendra G. Ambekar)

Secretary,

Maharashtra Electricity Regulatory Commission

MAHARASHTRA ELECTRICITY REGULATORY COMMISSION

NOTIFICATION (DRAFT)

ELECTRICITY ACT, 2003.

No. MERC/Tech/Regulation/____.- In exercise of the powers conferred by the proviso to sub-section (1) of Section 43 read with clause (t) of sub-section (2) of Section 181 and clause (a) of sub-section (2) of Section 45 read with clause (u) of sub-section (2) of Section 181, sub-section (5) of Section 45, Section 46, sub-section (1) and sub-section (4) of Section 47 read with clause (v) and clause (w) of sub-section (2) of Section 181 and Section 50 read with clause (x) of sub-section (2) of Section 181 and sub-section (1) and sub-section (2) of Section 57 read with clause (za) of sub-section (2) of Section 181, Section 59 and clause (zp) of sub-section (2) of Section 181 of the Electricity Act, 2003, the Maharashtra Electricity Regulatory Commission hereby makes the following Regulations, to amend the Maharashtra Electricity Regulatory Commission (Electricity Supply Code and Standards of Performance of Distribution Licensees including Power Quality) Regulations, 2021 (**‘the Principal Regulations’**), namely:

Short title and commencement

- 2.1. These Regulations may be called the Maharashtra Electricity Regulatory Commission (Electricity Supply Code and Standards of Performance of Distribution Licensees including Power Quality) (First Amendment) Regulations, 2024.
- 2.2. These Regulations shall come into force from the date of their publication in the Official Gazette.

Amendment to Regulation 2 of the Principal Regulations:-

Introduction of Regulation 2.2(j)(a) after Regulation 2.2(j) of the Principal Regulations:—

“2.2(j)(a) **“Customer Average Interruption Frequency Index (CAIFI)”** means the average interruption frequency of the sustained interruptions for those who experienced interruptions during the reporting period, as specified by the Commission.”

Introduction of Regulation 2.2(ii)(a) after Regulation 2.2(ii) of the Principal Regulations:—

“2.2(ii)(a) **“Momentary Average Interruption Frequency Index (MAIFI)”** means the average number of momentary interruptions per Consumer occurring during the reporting period, as specified by the Commission.”

Substitution of 2nd Proviso of Regulation 5.8 of the Principal Regulations:

Provided further that subject to the statutory provisions and permissions, the Distribution Licensee shall release new connections or modify an existing connection, after submission of application complete in all respects within the following timelines:

- a. Connection from existing network without any augmentation:
 1. Metropolitan Area – Three (3) Days
 2. Other Municipal Areas – Seven (7) Days
 3. Rural Area – Fifteen (15) Days
- b. Connection requiring augmentation or extension of Distribution Mains or commissioning of new sub-stations forming a part of the distribution system – Ninety (90) Days.

Introduction of Regulation 5.9 after Regulation 5.8 of the Principal Regulations:

“5.9 On the request from a consumer, the Distribution Licensee shall provide a separate connection for supply of electricity for Electric Vehicle charging system:
Provided that the time line for providing this connection shall be in accordance with the **2nd Proviso of Regulation 5.8** of this Regulation.”

Amendment to Regulation 15 of the Principal Regulations:

Substitution of Regulation 15.3.3 and 1st and 2nd Proviso of the Principal Regulations:

“15.3.3 The estimated electricity charges for the period for which meter was not available due to loss of meter may be billed to the Consumer in the ensuing bill after supply is restored. Where, upon a complaint by the Consumer or inspection by the Authorised Representative, the meter is found to be burnt **or defective**, it shall be replaced and supply restored to the Consumer.

Provided that the Distribution Licensee may recover the price of the new meter from the Consumer wherever the cause of burnt **or defective** meter is attributable to Consumer:

Provided further that the estimated electricity charges for the period for which meter was not available due to burning **or defective** of meter may be billed to the Consumer in the ensuing bill after supply is restored.”

Substitution of Regulation 15.3.4 of the Principal Regulations:

“15.3.4 Except in the case of a burnt meter or **defective meter** or a lost meter, the Distribution Licensee shall not be authorized to recover the price of the meter from the Consumer.”

Introduction of Regulation 15.4.4 after Regulation 15.4.3 of the Principal Regulations:

“15.4.4 The pre-payment meters shall be read by an authorised representative of the Distribution Licensee at least once in every three months and the data regarding energy consumption shall be made available to the Consumer, through website or mobile application or Short Message Service and the like:

Provided that the Consumers having smart pre-payment meters shall also be given the data access for checking their consumption and balance amount at least on daily basis.”

Introduction of Regulation 15.6.1 (A) after Regulation 15.6.1 of the Principal Regulations:

“15.6.1 (A) The testing of meters shall be done by the Distribution Licensee within thirty days of receipt of the complaint from the consumer about the meter readings not being commensurate with his consumption of electricity, stoppage of meter, damage to the seal, burning or damage of the meter, and the like:

Provided that in case of complaint by a consumer regarding meter reading not being commensurate with his consumption of electricity, Distribution Licensee shall install an additional meter within five days from the date of receipt of the complaint, to verify the consumption, for a minimum period of three months.”

Substitution of additional Proviso in Regulation 15.6.2 of the Principal Regulations:

Provided also that the list of NABL accredited laboratories for testing of meters shall be made available in their various offices as well as on the website of the Distribution Licensee.

Amendment to Regulation 22 of the Principal Regulations:-

Introduction of Regulation 22.1 (A) after Regulation 22.1 of the Principal Regulations:

“22.1 (A) The Distribution Licensee shall supply 24x7 power to all Consumers:

Provided that the Commission may specify lower hours of supply for some categories of consumers like agriculture.”

Substitution of d. and e. in Regulation 22.12.1 of the Principal Regulations:

- d. Customer Average Interruption Frequency Index (CAIFI); and
- e. Momentary Average Interruption Frequency Index (MAIFI):

Amendment to Regulation 28 of the Principal Regulations:-

Introduction of Regulation 28.9 after Regulation 28.8 of the Principal Regulations:

“28.9 The Distribution Licensee shall put in place a mechanism, preferably with automated tools to the extent possible, for monitoring and restoring outages.”

Amendment to Annexure-II of the Principal Regulations: -

Substitution of Sr. No. 1 (ii) in Annexure-II of the Principal Regulations.

Supply Activity/Event	Standard	Compensation Payable	Automatic/Manual
1. Provision of Supply (Including Temporary connection)			
(ii) Time period for provision of supply from the date of receipt of completed application and payment of charges:			
-in case connection is to be from existing network without any augmentation	1. Metropolitan Area – Three (3) Days 2. Other Municipal Areas – Seven (7) Days 3. Rural Area – Fifteen (15) Days	Rs 50 per week or part thereof of delay subject to maximum of twice the service connection charges applicable for the Consumer category	Automatic
-where extension or augmentation of distributing main is required	Ninety (90) Days		Automatic
- where commissioning of new sub-station forming a part of the distribution system is required	Ninety (90) Days		Automatic

Mumbai

Dated: ____, 2024

(Dr. Rajendra G. Ambekar)

Secretary,

Maharashtra Electricity Regulatory Commission