



METERING EXEMPTION

(SMALL CUSTOMER METERING INSTALLATION)

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Current version release details

Version	Effective date	Summary of changes
1.4	1 November 2023	Updated to reflect changes for new automation of exemptions

Note: There is a full version history at the end of this document.

1. Introduction

1.1. Purpose and scope

This Exemption Guideline (**Guideline**) sets out the process by which a Current MC may apply for an exemption from the requirement in clause 7.8.3(a) of the NER to ensure that any new or replacement *metering installation* at the *connection point* of a *small customer* is a type 4 *metering installation* that meets the *minimum services specification*, permitting the Current MC to install a type 4A *metering installation*.¹

1.2. Definitions and interpretation

The Retail Electricity Market Procedures – Glossary and Framework:

- (a) is incorporated into and forms part of this Guideline; and
- (b) should be read with this Guideline.

1.3. Related documents

Title	Location
Retail Electricity Market Procedures – Glossary and Framework	http://www.aemo.com.au/Electricity/National-Electricity-Market-NEM/Retail-and-metering/Glossary-and-Framework
Metrology Procedure: Part A	http://www.aemo.com.au/Electricity/National-Electricity-Market-NEM/Retail-and-metering
Exemption Procedure Metering Installation Malfunction	https://aemo.com.au/energy-systems/electricity/national-electricity-market-nem/market-operations/retail-and-metering/metering-procedures-guidelines-and-processes
Metering Installation Exemption Guideline	

1.4. Metering Installation Exemption Guideline

The process in this document needs to be read in conjunction with the Metering Installation Exemption Guideline as this guideline provides applicants with relevant information required to enable Metering Coordinators to process the application.

¹ The *minimum services specification* is detailed in section 5 of the Metrology Procedure: Part A.

2. THE EXEMPTION

2.1. Basis of Exemption

Clause 7.8.4(a) of the NER permits AEMO to exempt a Current MC from complying with clause 7.8.3(a) if the MC demonstrates to AEMO's reasonable satisfaction that there is no existing *telecommunications network* enabling the *remote acquisition of metering data* from a *metering installation*.

To demonstrate that there is no existing *telecommunications network* enabling the *remote acquisition of metering data* from a *metering installation* the Current MC must provide evidence that:

- (a) there is, in the vicinity of that *metering installation*:
 - (i) no *telecommunications network* that provides access for public use (**public telecommunications network**)²; and
 - (ii) no alternative *telecommunications network* that AEMO has previously approved for use by the MDP for that *metering installation* (**alternative telecommunications network**); or
- (b) the physical or environmental conditions in the vicinity of that *metering installation* prevent remote access to the relevant *metering installation* through the use of a public telecommunications network or an alternative telecommunications network.

2.2. Period of Exemption

2.2.1. Maximum Period of Exemption

Each application for exemption must specify the date on which the exemption is proposed to expire, which must not be more than five years from the date of the application.

If the period of the exemption is to continue beyond the original period of exemption, the Current MC must submit a new exemption application, with the appropriate supporting documentation, at least 30 *business days* before the expiry date of the original exemption. Extensions to exemptions will not be provided.

2.2.2. Expiry

Any exemption will expire on the earlier of:

- (a) the date specified by AEMO;
- (b) the date the Current MC first establishes *remote acquisition* from the relevant *metering installation*; or
- (c) the date the *metering installation* ceases to be a *small customer metering installation*.

² AEMO considers that a public telecommunications network includes fixed and wireless networks such as landlines, mobile and other forms of telecommunications available to the general public, but does not include satellite communications systems, as these are not generally available for public use.

3. APPLICATION PROCESS

3.1. Applicant

The only person who can apply for, and benefit from, an exemption from the requirement in clause 7.8.3(a) of the NER is the Current MC.

3.2. Form of Application

A Current MC may apply for an exemption by using the meter exemption application process in MSATS accompanied by supporting information.

If there is no public telecommunications network or alternative telecommunications network in the vicinity of the relevant *metering installation* the MC must provide Current public telecommunications networks coverage maps of fixed and wireless networks, or formal communications from providers of telecommunications services confirming no telecommunications network coverage exists in the vicinity of the relevant *metering installation*.

- (a) The Current MC must provide the following when requested by AEMO:
- (i) public telecommunications network development or expansion plans, if any, or other confirmation that there are no plans during the proposed period of exemption to provide telecommunications coverage in the vicinity of the relevant *metering installation*, provided either as public announcements from providers of telecommunications services or formal communications to the Current MC; and
 - (ii) the timeframe, if any, in which a telecommunications network is expected to become available, provided either as public announcements from providers of telecommunications services or formal communications to the Current MC; or
- (b) if the physical or environmental conditions in the vicinity of the relevant *metering installation* prevent remote access to the relevant *metering installation* through the use of a public telecommunications network or an alternative telecommunications network the Current MC must provide:
- (i) a written description of the physical or environmental conditions that prevent remote access to the *metering installation* by the network; and
 - (ii) results of tests conducted to access the relevant public telecommunications network(s) or an alternative telecommunications network(s), such as signal strength recordings, and the dates and times at which the tests were conducted.

All formal communications from a telecommunications services provider must be addressed to the Current MC and permit AEMO to contact the telecommunications services provider to discuss the contents of the communication.

3.3. Supporting Information in advance of Application

Information about the coverage of a public telecommunications network or alternative telecommunications network provided to AEMO must remain current at all times and the

Current MC must notify AEMO as soon as it becomes aware that this information is no longer correct.

A Current MC may use information about the coverage of a public telecommunications network or alternative telecommunications network previously provided to AEMO for future applications if:

- (a) the factual basis on which an application is made is identical with the factual basis on which the Current MC relied upon for a previous application; and
- (b) the Current MC has cited the previous application's ID in the subsequent application.

3.4. Timing of Application

Where reasonably practicable, the Current MC should apply for an exemption at least five *business days* prior to the installation of the relevant *metering installation*.

Where it is not reasonably practicable for a Current MC to apply for an exemption at least five *business days* prior to installation, AEMO may grant an exemption that is effective from the date on which the relevant *metering installation* was installed if the Current MC applies for the exemption no later than 30 *business days* after, the installation of the relevant *metering installation*.

3.5. AEMO's Determination

On receipt of an application, AEMO will:

- (a) assign a unique ID number to the application for exemption; a Unique ID will be assigned by MSATS
- (b) provide the applicant with confirmation of receipt, this will be provided upon application to Metering Coordinators.
- (c) review the application and, where necessary, request additional information or contact the telecommunications services providers from whom the Current MC has received formal communications about the availability of telecommunications network coverage in the vicinity of the *metering installation* for which the exemption is being sought. The application process will be a two step process with the application itself being performed within MSATS but additional documentation will need to be sent to AEMO via email. The email address is meter@aemo.com.au. If additional documentation has not been received when AEMO is reviewing the application then AEMO will request that documentation and the application will be in the status of More Info. and
- (d) determine whether to approve the application and communicate that determination to the applicant within 10 *business days* of receipt of an application, or additional information requested (whichever is the later).

3.6. Grant of Exemption

An exemption granted by AEMO will commence:

- (a) where the application has been made in accordance with section 3.4, on the date the relevant *metering installation* was installed; and
- (b) otherwise, on the date that AEMO received the application via MSATS and completed supporting documentation (if required) via the email process (whichever the greater)..

3.7. Current MC's Obligations during the Exemption Period

The Current MC must notify AEMO:

- (a) if a *telecommunications network* will enable remote access to the relevant *metering installation* by the end of the exemption period at least three months prior to the exemption's expiry date; or
- (b) as soon as practicable after becoming aware that a *telecommunications network* will not enable remote access to the relevant *metering installation* by the exemption's expiry date and apply for a new exemption a minimum of 30 *business days* prior to the exemption expiry date.

4. CHANGE OF METERING COORDINATOR

4.1. Exemption Personal to Metering Coordinator

An exemption issued in accordance with this Guideline is personal to the Current MC. If the Current MC will be replaced, the exemption will not transfer to the New MC.

4.2. Application for Exemption if No Change in Circumstances

- (a) A Current MC for a *metering installation* to whom AEMO has issued an exemption must notify AEMO if a Change Request is submitted in MSATS nominating a New MC.
- (b) If the New MC for that *metering installation* requires the exemption to continue, a new exemption application must be submitted within five *business days* of becoming the New MC. Applications are to be submitted using the MSATS application process and the New MC must provide a statutory declaration that there are no circumstances warranting the expiry of the exemption.
- (c) If, in AEMO's reasonable opinion, there has been no change in circumstances to warrant the refusal of the new exemption, AEMO will approve the new exemption application to commence with the New MC becoming the Current MC and to expire on the date specified in the exemption.

4.3. Change in Circumstances

If there has been a change in circumstances affecting the availability of a *telecommunications network* enabling the *remote acquisition* of *metering data* from that *metering installation*, the New MC will need to submit an application using the MSATS application process and comply with the requirements of sections 3.2 and 3.3.

Version release history

Version	Effective Date	Summary of Changes
1.4	1 November 2023	Updated to reflect changes for new automation of exemptions
1.3	17 January 2020	Updated Appendix A with new application form.
1.2	12 July 2019	Extension of timeframe for retrospective commencement date post installation to 30 business days.
1.1	1 December 2017	Final Version.
1.0		First Issue. Document incorporates: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• National Electricity Amendment (Expanding competition in metering and related services) Rule 2015. No.12;• National Electricity Amendment (Embedded Networks) Rule 2015 No. 15; and National Electricity Amendment (Meter Replacement Processes) Rule 2016 No. 2.