

EXEMPTION GUIDELINE

(SMALL CUSTOMER METERING INSTALLATION)

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VERSION RELEASE HISTORY

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1.1	1 December 2017	Final Version.

Important Notice

Purpose

This document has been prepared by AEMO to describe the process by which a Metering Coordinator may apply for an exemption for the purposes of clause 7.8.4(a) of the National Electricity Rules (Rules), and has effect only for the purposes set out in the Rules. The Rules and the National Electricity Law (Law) prevail over this document to the extent of any inconsistency.

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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 AEMO 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

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 5 years from the date of the application.

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

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.

If the period for which an exemption is sought is less than 5 years, AEMO may extend the period of an exemption up to the date that is 5 years from the date of the original grant of the exemption.

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*.

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 completing an application in the form contained in **Appendix A**, accompanied by supporting information, including, without limitation:

- (a) if there is no public telecommunications network or alternative telecommunications network in the vicinity of the relevant *metering installation*:
 - (i) 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*;
 - (ii) 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
 - (iii) 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:
 - (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 5 *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 5 *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 as soon as possible before, and no longer than 5 *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;
- (b) provide the applicant with confirmation of receipt;
- (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; and
- (d) determine whether to approve the application and communicate that determination to the applicant within 5 *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 the application was received by AEMO.

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 further 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 Reissue of Exemption if No Change in Circumstances

- (a) A Current MC for a *metering installation* to whom AEMO has issued an exemption must notify AEMO forthwith if a Change Request is submitted in MSATS nominating a New MC.
- (b) If the New MC for that *metering installation* requires AEMO to reissue the exemption, the New MC must submit an application to AEMO within 5 *business days* of becoming the New MC to reissue the exemption using the form contained in **Appendix A**, and 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 expiry of the exemption, AEMO will reissue the exemption to commence with the New MC's 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 form contained in Appendix A and comply with the requirements of sections 3.2 and 3.3.

APPENDIX A. APPLICATION FOR EXEMPTION

Application for Exemption from the Requirement to Install a Type 4 Metering Installation that meets the Minimum Services Specification under clause 7.8.3(a) of the National Electricity Rules

To enable a timely response to your Application please complete all sections of this form. Please use additional pages and attach supporting documentation where required.

1. Applicant: Name: Participant ID:	
2. Contact Details: Name: Phone: Fax: Email:	
3. Postal Address:	
4. Date of Application:	
5. NMI(s): (An application may relate to multiple connection points, but, if granted, each connection point will be subject to a separate exemption).	
6. Period of exemption sought (insert date of Application or date of installation (as applicable) as the start date – the end date must be 5 years, or less, after the start date):	From / / to / /
7. Date type 4A metering installation(s) will be, or has been, installed:	
8. Attachments:	(List all attachments - If relying on information previously supplied to AEMO, cite the unique ID given by AEMO to the previous application)

Please send this application to:
meter@aemo.com.au