

ELECTRICAL CONTRACTOR UPDATE



Metering and Control Equipment Reminder

This is a reminder about the electrical compliance and obligations within the Queensland Electricity Connection Manual (QECM) in relation to unsuitable locations for metering and control equipment. We have seen an increase in metering enclosures installed in driveways and hazardous areas in breach of the requirements under Clause 6.6.4 (Unsuitable Locations) of the QECM.

Please ensure you are meeting your obligations by not installing metering equipment in a hazardous area, driveway, stairway or in close proximity to machinery. For more information about unsuitable areas please refer to [Clause 6.6.4 of the QECM](#).

Non-Standard Connection Arrangements

Minimum standards for equipment and approved connection arrangements are outlined in the [Queensland Electricity Connection Manual \(QECM\)](#) for eyebolts and risers. These minimum standards include the required kilonewton (kN) rating, heights and positioning.

Any variation to the QECM requirements needs to be submitted for pre-approval to our [Standards team](#) prior to submission of your Electrical Work Request (EWR).

New Embedded Generation Standards Go-Live

In October last year we reached out to you seeking feedback on the draft standards for [Micro Embedded Generation \(EG\) Connections \(STNW1170\)](#) and [Low Voltage \(LV\) EG Connections \(STNW1174\)](#). We are pleased to inform you that these standards have now been finalised and will take effect from 10 February 2020. This change will create greater consistency for the settings across the two standards and align with industry best practice. These changes will also improve inverter interaction on the network and allow for increased uptake of Distributed Energy Resources.

As part of the new standards there is now a requirement that any system application lodged on and after 10 February 2020 will need to have reactive power control set to volt-var and volt-watt as set out in the latest version of the standards.

Interim Portal Arrangements for Inverter Energy Systems

We are currently working on updating the Electrical Partners portal to be able to select only the volt-var and volt-watt settings as per [STNW1170](#) / [STNW1174](#). Until these portal changes are made please ensure you follow the below process:

Select **“Yes”** for *Power Factor fixed at 0.9 lag* as your reactive power controls option in the Portal.

Please note: You are still required to implement volt-var and volt-watt settings for the inverter as per the latest standard.

Grid Protection Relay Certification Requirements

STNW1174 Standard for LV EG Connections requires Grid Protection Relays (GPRs) to have the addition of certified compliance to IEC 60255-181: ‘Functional requirements for frequency protection’. We will be enforcing compliance to IEC 60255-181 from 1 June 2020. The compliance date of 1 June 2020 is to enable a smooth transition towards demonstrating compliance with the new compliance requirement. Only listed approved GPRs will be able to be used in EG systems applying under STNW1174 from this date.

Compliance to IEC 60255-181 will be introduced into the STNW1175 Standard for High Voltage (HV) EG Connections when it is next released. Please refer to the current [GPR list](#) and the process for being included in the list for more information.

Contact Details

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About Electrical Contractor Update

This newsletter will keep you informed about

Electrical Contractors Hotline [1300 366 846](tel:1300366846)
Network General Enquiries [13 12 53](tel:131253)
7:00am to 5.30pm Monday to Friday

what's happening in the industry and any changes
to compliance, rulings and legislation.



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