

FAQs for Version 4 QECM Effective from 21 February 2024

1. Why do we need to change to a new version of the QECM?

As the energy transition gathers pace and more renewables are connected to the network, Ergon Energy Network and Energex want to ensure the Queensland Electricity Connection Manual (QECM) reflects changing customer needs, while we continue to provide a safe and reliable network. Our proposed amendments to the QECM also directly supports the delivery of the Queensland Energy and Jobs Plan (QEJP).

A key focus is to continue to place customers at the core of what we do. Updating the QECM allows our technical requirements to evolve to support network access for our customers, a key objective of the QEJP, as they embrace new energy technologies. In addition to meeting future connection requirements, we've also made it a more user-friendly document.

2. How do I know what has changed between versions?

Version 4 of the QECM introduces a whole new structure to the document so the clause numbers and the way in which the document is used has changed.

Many of the requirements have not fundamentally changed. In some cases where Ergon Energy Network or Energex have had regular requests for clarity from industry, requirements have been expanded and explained.

Where there have been changes to areas of the manual briefing material will be provided in the lead up to, and during the transition. We encourage industry partners to review version 4 and participate in the available sessions. Online sessions will be recorded and made available for those who are unable to attend.

3. When does the QECM version 4 apply to my connection activity?

The new version (4) of the QECM will be effective from 21 February 2024 and a transition period will apply between version 3 and version 4 until 19 April 2024.

Connection offers signed from 21 February 2024 to 19 April 2024 may comply with either version 3 or version 4 of the QECM. The designer of the electrical installation shall nominate the version of the QECM (3 or 4) they are following as only one version of the QECM may be followed.

All connections signed from 20 April 2024 shall meet QECM version 4.

4. When will version 3 of the QECM be withdrawn?

Version 3 of the QECM will be superseded by version 4 on 21 February 2024. Both version 3 and version 4 will be available for use for contracts being signed between 21 February 2024 and 19 April 2024.

Version 3 of the QECM will be officially withdrawn from use on 20 April 2024.

5. Why has QECM version 4 been released in December 2023 but is not in effect until 21 February 2024?

Version 4 of the QECM has been released early as part of the staged transition plan for industry. Industry partners will have time to review the document for familiarisation prior to the document coming into effect. There is an additional two of months following the effective date of new version where an applicant can establish a connection contract under either version 3 or version 4 of the QECM. This will allow industry partners to take advantage of any benefits in the new versions, where they are able to fully meet the new standard documents. From early 2024, Ergon Energy Network and Energex will supply industry information to support the rollout of the new look document.

6. Why is Queensland changing from the QECM to the National Metering Installation Requirements (MIR)?

Since 1 December 2017, Ergon Energy Network and Energex have had only limited responsibility for metering services in Queensland. Predominantly, Metering Providers are responsible for the installation and replacement of meters at a customer's premises and Metering Coordinators are responsible for coordinating all aspects of metering services at a customer's premises.

As Ergon Energy Network and Energex only have limited responsibility for metering services, having the metering industry develop and support these technical standards will ensure:

- **Compliance** - Metering Providers have the statutory responsibility for the installation and replacement of metering installations and are best placed to ensure metering standards continue to deliver compliant solutions.
- **Safety** - Allowing improvements in metering installation standards arising from improved work practices and technology changes.
- **Competition** - Metering standards negotiated by the metering industry will deliver standards which better support competition whilst still allowing for compliance and safety outcomes.
- **Innovation** - The metering industry are best placed to adopt and cater for innovation in metering standards.

The Competitive Metering Industry Group (CMIG) represents the accredited metering service providers in the National Electricity Market (NEM). The CMIG are responsible for a range of activities including the development and publication of technical standards for metering installations.



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7. Was the National MIRs revised with feedback provided in June 2023?

Feedback provided by industry in June 2023 was reviewed by the CMIG and where appropriate, the National MIR was revised and updated. CMIG are arranging for the updated version of the National MIRs to be made available to support version 4 of the QECM, effective 21 February 2024.

8. How will the transition between the QEMM and MIR be managed?

The QEMM will be replaced by the National MIR. The National MIR will be in effect from 21 February 2024. Both the QEMM and the National MIR will be available and may be followed between 21 February and 21 August 2024.

Where the connection activity requires the application of metering requirements, the QEMM or National MIR will need to be followed based on the version of QECM selected and the date.

Where the designer of an electrical installation is following version 3 of the QECM, only the QEMM shall apply for the design.

Where the designer of an electrical installation is following version 4 of the QECM either the QEMM or the National MIR may apply for the installation. The designer of the electrical installation shall nominate the version of the metering requirements they are following, as only one version may be followed.

9. Can the National MIR be used in conjunction with version 3 of the QECM?

No. The National MIR can only be used in conjunction with version 4 of the QECM. Where the designer of an electrical installation is following version 3 of the QECM, only the QEMM shall apply for the design.

10. When will the QEMM be withdrawn?

The QEMM will be superseded by the National MIR on 21 February 2024. Both the QEMM and the National MIR will be available and may be followed between 21 February and 21 August 2024.

The QEMM will be officially withdrawn from use on 21 August 2024.

How do I get more information?

We are running industry briefing sessions which began at the end of January 2024. There are both in person and online sessions. For details and how to register for a session:

- [Ergon Energy Network](#)
- [Energex](#)

Keep an eye on our electrical contractor updates for upcoming events. You can contact us at the below email address if you have any further questions: QECM2024@energyq.com.au.



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