



**The Treatment of Autoproducers in the
Distribution and Transmission
Charging Regime**

**A Draft Direction by the Commission for Electricity
Regulation**

**19 December 2001
CER/01/179**

1. Introduction

In exercise of the powers conferred on the Commission for Electricity Regulation under Section 34(1) and 35(2) of the Electricity Regulation Act 1999, I, on behalf of the Commission, hereby issue the following direction to the Electricity Supply Board (“the Board”) in its capacity as licensed Distribution System Operator (“DSO”) and to ESB National Grid in its capacity as *de facto* Transmission System Operator (“TSO”) pending the vesting agreement between ESB and EirGrid pursuant to Regulation 18 of S.I. 445 of 2000.

The background to this direction is set out in CER public consultation paper CER 00/70). The rationale for this direction is set out in the CER Explanatory Memorandum CER01/178 of today’s date. Appendix 1, attached sets out definitions of some concepts used in the direction.

Definition of an Autoproducer¹

- 1 An Autoproducer for the purpose of this direction shall be a natural or legal person who consumes and generates electricity in a Single Premises, where such generation is essentially for its own use in that Single Premises and where the contracted Maximum Import Capacity (MIC) is greater than or equal to the contracted Maximum Export Capacity (MEC).

An Autoproducer’s MIC and MEC shall be determined by the terms of its contract with either the Transmission System Operator (TSO) or the Distribution System Operator (DSO) depending on which system they are connected to.

- 2 For the avoidance of doubt a natural or legal person who consumes and generates electricity in a Single Premises and whose MEC is greater than their MIC shall be considered a generator only and not an Autoproducer for the purpose of this direction.

Charges for Connections

- 3 For the purpose of determining connection charges to either the transmission or distribution system, an Autoproducer shall be treated by the TSO or, where applicable, the DSO as if it were a Final Customer. The Autoproducer’s connection charge shall be based on its MIC with the exception of any additional costs required in relation to the provision of export meters, which shall be charged in full to the Autoproducer.

¹ This definition of an Autoproducer is administrative rather than statutory. In other words, it is intended to be used for the purpose of this direction only. It does not purport to be an authoritative definition of the concept of “Autoproducer” as used in Directive 96/92/EC, for example, or to suggest that a person other than an Autoproducer as defined in this direction could not constitute an “Autoproducer” as defined in the Directive. The Commission is satisfied that nothing in this direction is in conflict with the provisions in the Directive relating to “Autoproducers” as defined therein.

De Minimis Levels

4. Where a generator is located in a Single Premises such that the total MEC for the Single Premises is less than 30MVA the generator shall not be charged Transmission Use of System Charges (as set down in Tariff Schedule GTS-T or Tariff Schedule GTS-D as appropriate).

Autoproducers Connected to the Transmission System

- 5 An Autoproducer connected to the transmission system will pay Network Capacity Charges in each Charging Period as set out in DTS-T of the ESB National Grid Statement of Charges and Payments.
- 6 When an Autoproducer connected to the transmission system is importing electricity during a Charging Period, the following Transmission Use of System charges, as set out in DTS-T (in addition to the Network Capacity Charges in 5 above) will apply:
 - Network Unauthorised Usage Charge;
 - Network Transfer Charge for Net Energy imported in the Charging Period;
 - System Service Charge for Net Energy imported in the Charging Period;
 - Capacity Margin Charge for Net Energy imported in respect of the day units in the Charging Period
- 7 When an Autoproducer connected to the transmission system is exporting electricity during a Charging Period the following Transmission Use of System charges, as set down in GTS-T (in addition to the Network Capacity Charges in 5 above) will apply:
 - System Services Generator Direct Trip Charge;
 - System Services Generator Fast Wind-down Trip Charge;

Autoproducers Connected to the Distribution System

- 8 Autoproducers connected to the distribution system will pay Network Capacity Charges in each Charging Period as set out in DTS-D1 of the ESB National Grid Statement of Charges and Payments (i.e. TUoS charges).
- 9 Autoproducers connected to the distribution system will also pay a Standing Charge and Capacity Charge in each Charging Period as set out in the ESB schedule of Distribution Use of System Charges (i.e. DUoS charges) under DG6, DG7, DG8 or DG9 as appropriate to the voltage and type of connection used to connect the Autoproducer.
- 10 When an Autoproducer connected to the distribution system is importing electricity during a Charging Period, the following Transmission Use of System charges as set out in DTS-D1 of the ESB National Grid Statement of Charges and Payments (in addition to the charges in 8 above) will apply:
 - Network Unauthorised Usage Charge;
 - Network Transfer Charge for Net Energy imported in the Charging Period;
 - System Service Charge for Net Energy imported in the Charging Period;
 - Capacity Margin Charge for Net Energy imported in respect of the day units in the Charging Period.
- 11 When an Autoproducer connected to the distribution system is importing electricity during a Charging Period the following Distribution Use of System Charges as published in ESB schedule of Distribution Use of System Charges under DG6, DG7, DG8, or DG9, as appropriate, (in addition to the charges in 9 above) will apply.
 - Unit Rates, based on Net Energy imported during the Charging Period;
 - Low power factor surcharge based on Net Reactive Power imported during the Charging Period;
- 12 When an Autoproducer connected to the distribution system is exporting electricity during a Charging Period the following Transmission Use of System charges as set down in GTS-D of the ESB National Grid Statement of Charges and Payments (in addition to the Network Capacity Charges set out in 8 above) will apply:
 - System Services Generator Direct Trip Charge;
 - System Services Generator Fast Wind-down Trip Charge.

Generators Connected to the Transmission System

13 For the avoidance of doubt, generators connected to the transmission system and who are not Autoproducers as defined in this direction will continue to pay Network Location-Based Capacity Charges in each Charging Period as set out in GTS-T of the ESB National Grid Statement of Charges and Payments.

14²When a generator connected to the transmission system is exporting electricity during a Charging Period the following Transmission Use of System charges as set out in GTS-T of the ESB National Grid Statement of Charges and Payments (in addition to the Network Location-Based Capacity Charges in 13 above) will apply:

- System Services Generator Direct Trip Charge;
- System Services Generator Fast Wind-down Trip Charge.

15 When a generator connected to the transmission system is importing electricity during a Charging Period, the following Transmission Use of System charges as set down in DTS-T of the ESB National Grid Statement of Charges and Payments (in addition to the Network Capacity Charges in 13 above) will apply;

- Network Unauthorised Usage Charge based on Net Energy imported in the Charging Period;
- Network Transfer Charge based on Net Energy imported in the Charging Period;
- System Services Charge based on Net Energy imported in the Charging Period;
- Capacity Margin Charge for Net Energy imported in respect of the day units in the Charging Period.

² Charges 13 and 14, when combined, are the charges paid by generators under normal operating conditions where the generator is producing electricity.

Generators Connected to the Distribution System

16. For the avoidance of doubt, generators connected to the distribution system shall pay an annual operation and maintenance charge with respect to their connection.
17. Generators connected to the distribution system shall pay Network Location-Based Capacity Charges in each Charging Period as set out in GTS-D of the ESB National Grid Statement of Charges and Payments.
18. When a generator connected to the distribution system is exporting electricity during a Trading Period, the following Transmission Use of System Charges as set out in GTS-D of the ESB National Grid Statement of Charges and Payments (in addition to the Network Location-Based Capacity Charges in 17 above) will apply:
 - System Services Generator Direct Trip Charge;
 - System Services Generator Fast Wind-down Trip Charge.
19. When a generator connected to the distribution system is importing electricity during a Charging Period, the following charges as published in ESB Schedule of Distribution Use of System Charges under DG6, DG7, DG8, or DG9 as appropriate to the voltage and type of connection (in addition to the changes in 16 above) will apply:
 - Unit Rates, based on Net Energy imported during the Charging Period;
 - Low Power Factor Surcharge based on Net Reactive Power imported during the Charging Period;

Loss Adjustment Factors

- 20 Autoproducers and generators connected prior to 19 February 2000 shall not be subject to transmission loss adjustment factors (“TLAFs”) as laid down in the Commission’s direction entitled ‘Treatment of Transmission and Distribution Losses’ published on 5 April 2000.
- 21 Autoproducers connected to the distribution system, who wish to trade their exported electricity, shall be assigned site specific Distribution Loss Adjustment Factors (“DLAFs”) as embedded generators.
- 22 TLAFs and DLAFs shall be applied to Net Energy exported by the Autoproducer in the following manner:
 - a. where an Autoproducer only trades its excess energy, TLAFs and DLAFs will be applied to the energy exported from the Single Premises.
 - b. where the Autoproducer trades all its output, TLAFs and DLAFs will be applied to the unit’s output in accordance with the Trading and Settlement Rules.
- 23 Distribution Loss Adjustment Factors for demand customers shall be applied to Net Energy imported by the Autoproducer.

Appendix 1: Definitions.

“Charging Period”: Defined in the ESB National Grid Statement of Charges and Payment “ means a period of time starting at the beginning of hour ending 1, on the first day of each month and ending at hour ending 24 on the last day of the same calendar month during which a User is supplied with service by ESB National Grid.

“Final Customers”: As defined in the Electricity Regulation Act, 1999 means a person being supplied with electricity at single premises for consumption on those premises.

“Maximum Export Capacity”: As defined in the connection agreement with ESB or ESB National Grid in MW or kW and where the value of such (in the connection agreement for a given Entry Point) is expressed in MVA or kVA then such value will be converted to MW or kW by a factor of 0.95 kW/kVA.

“Maximum Import Capacity”: As defined in the connection agreement with ESB or ESB National Grid in MW or kW and where the value of such (in the connection agreement for a given Exit Point) is expressed in MVA or kVA then such value will be converted to MW or kW by a factor of 0.95 kW/kVA

“Net Energy”: is the net position between the imported and exported energy flows for the Charging Period, as determined by the Meter Registration System Operator (MRSO) on a Trading Period basis for parties with Quarter Hour (QH) metering and on a day and night basis for customers whose MIC is under 100kVA. The net value of imports will be included in a supplier’s customer demand and net value of exports will be included in the generator’s production data as appropriate.

“Net Reactive Power”: is the net position between the imported and exported reactive energy flows determined by the MRSO on a Trading Period basis where the net value of imports will be included in a supplier’s customer demand and net value of exports will be included in the generator’s

“Single Premises”: As defined in the Electricity Regulation Act, 1999 means one or more buildings or structures, occupied and used by a person, where each building or structure is adjacent to, or contiguous with, the other building or structure.

“Transmission Loss Factors”: As set out in ESB National Grid’s document ‘Statement of Charges & Payments’, for the purpose of energy market settlement as set forth in the Trading and Settlement Code. All metered Energy transferred during Day Hours and Night Hours will be adjusted by TLAfs applicable for the Season for the Entry point as set forth

in the relevant schedule of the document to account for the self-provision of transmission losses by generators.