

ATTENTION TO SOLAR PV OWNERS



All EEC customers who own embedded generators (e.g. Solar PV) must register their systems for approval with the EEC on or before 31 December 2024. This is to ensure compliance with legal, regulatory operating requirements. Failure to obtain approval for your system will result in disconnection from the EEC network as permitted by section 52(1) of the Electricity Act, 2007.

An embedded generator is a facility that generates electricity, installed by a customer for self-consumption and is connected to and embedded within the distribution network. Popular technologies are Solar PV and hydro.



FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

1. WHY SHOULD I REGISTER MY EMBEDDED GENERATOR (SOLAR PV)?

All Embedded generator (EGs) systems must be registered and authorised by the EEC before installation to ensure they are safe and legal. An embedded generator system such as solar PV is not an appliance that you just plug into a wall socket; it is an electrical generator that interacts and impacts your property's electrical system and the entire electrical grid. Therefore, it is essential that the people operating the network know about all the generators.

The primary reasons for requiring authorisation are:

SAFETY: Non-compliant EG systems could electrocute EEC personnel if electricity feeds into a grid that is believed to be off. Poorly installed systems can also cause household fires and endanger the public. If any incident occurs, whether it involves loss of life, physical harm or damage to the equipment, the owner of the unauthorised EG will be financially and legally liable for all damages incurred or for the loss of life.

GRID MANAGEMENT: Electrical infrastructure becomes constrained as more embedded generation systems are connected, even if the systems do not feedback. For example, when the sun sets and properties using solar PV suddenly start using grid electricity. This directly impacts the network due to the rapid change of load and scale of solar PV users. Furthermore, the quality of electricity is compromised if embedded generator equipment does not meet strict power quality requirements.

LEGISLATION: As the network operator the EEC is legally required in terms of the Electricity Act of 2007 to ensure the safety of anyone who comes into contact with the grid. Therefore, without visibility of generating units such as solar connected to our network we are limited to perform such functions hence the registration requirements.

2. WHICH SYSTEMS NEED TO BE REGISTERED?

All sizes and generating technologies, including battery backup systems need to be registered and authorised. This includes solar PV systems, small wind turbines, biogas, and small hydro.

3. WHICH SYSTEMS DO NOT REQUIRE AUTHORISATION AND WHAT ARE THE EXCEPTIONS?

The following systems are not considered embedded generation and do not require EEC authorisation;

- Solar water geysers that use sun's thermal energy to heat water directly and do not generate electricity.
- Alternative supplies such as back up diesel/petrol generators and UPS.
- Off-grid solutions, stand-alone systems do not require authorisation as they are not grid-tied or grid-connected.

4. WHAT HAPPENS IF I HAVE ALREADY INSTALLED MY SYSTEM BEFORE GETTING APPROVAL?

Standard practice is to first apply and obtain written approval from the EEC before a customer can begin with their installation. However, at this stage we allow customers to still register their EGs with the EEC even after installation.

5. HOW DO I REGISTER?

Step 1: Download an application form from the EEC website: https://www.eec.co.sz/electricity/production/eg/docs/Embedded_Generation_System_Application_Form.pdf

Step 2: Complete the application form and attach the necessary documentation

Step 3: Send completed form and documents to apply-eg@eec.co.sz



Or Scan Here

6. WHAT DOCUMENTATION IS REQUIRED WHEN REGISTERING?

A preliminary schematic diagram and the inverter's datasheet and model number.

7. WHAT HAPPENS AFTER REGISTRATION?

For existing systems, the EEC reviews the application, and if all is in order, gives formal approval for the connection of the system to the grid. For proposed systems, the EEC issues an approval to proceed with the installation. If there is a requirement for further details, the applicant will be informed.

8. WHAT HAPPENS IF I DO NOT REGISTER MY SYSTEM?

After the lapse of the registration period, non-compliance fee will be issued to customers who have not registered their existing systems for approval and those that install new systems before obtaining approval from the EEC. Additionally, service disconnection may apply – in the event of a fault or when found to be not registered in terms of section 52(1) of the Electricity Act, 2007.

9. WHAT DOES IT COST TO REGISTER?

There is no cost associated with registration of embedded generators. However, the authorisation for connection may incur some additional costs related to metering, connection and grid impact studies.

10. CAN I SELL MY EXCESS ENERGY TO EEC?

The EEC is currently in the process of establishing appropriate tariffs and testing back-end systems. In the meantime, customers will not be allowed to export to the grid and are advised to size their systems appropriately.

11. WHAT ARE THE BENEFITS OF REGISTERING MY SYSTEM?

- a. Registered customers will have peace of mind as they will be following the law.
- b. Future opportunity to feedback excess energy to the grid (*for compliant systems)
- c. Avoidance of service disconnection

#PhehlaSikwati