

Amendments to the connection conditions

Elering has amended its connection conditions, which will come into force on 1 July in connection with the entry into force of European Commission Regulation No. 2016/631 (hereinafter referred to as RfG) and the Grid Code on the functioning of the electrical system (EsT VE) on 27 April 2019, in order to set forth more precisely the activities of and requirements for Elering and new clients during connection proceedings in accordance with RfG and EsT VE.

In addition, Elering's aim was to make it easier and faster for the client to connect to the network, articulate more clearly the requirements for connection conditions and change the document structure so that it is clearer and more comprehensible.

The main document of the connection conditions contains the procedural conditions of the connection procedure, and the application forms and the text of the connection conditions remain as annexes to the connection conditions. The technical requirements applicable to the electrical installations of customers and Elering have been separated from the document of the connection conditions, the establishment of which is within Elering's competence. The requirements are grouped by topic in the following guidelines:

- Technical requirements for the electrical installations of clients
- Requirements for data exchange related to the electrical installations of clients
- Requirements for the preparation and modelling of electrical designs of clients
- Requirements for the testing of and preparation of a testing plan for the power-generating modules of clients
- Technical principles and solutions of the electrical installations of the transmission system operator

As a major novelty, to save time, the clients now have the opportunity to order a service from Elering to carry out the preliminary investigation of the network and prepare the procurement documents before completing the activities required to submit a connection application, which could be used in the performance of the connection contract if the volume of work provided for in the connection contract has not changed and the principles of technical solutions applicable to the TSO in the performance of the connection contract have not changed. With this novelty, clients can perform the activities following the submission of a connection application earlier and gain up to 6 months in the connection process. The described service will be regulated by the document 'Conditions for additional services for connecting to the electricity transmission network of Elering AS' and the preliminary connection investigation together with the preparation of procurement documents will cost 7040 euros. In addition, when building the connection, clients can gain time with the help of procurements organised by Elering to purchase and install standard equipment for 110 kV substation cells. In order to be able to use these in the connection process, we made changes in the standard text of the connection process.

Another major change is the introduction of the concept of a mixed installation and the provision of the precise regulation of its connection. A mixed installation is an electrical installation intended for the consumption and generation of electricity, where the connection point between the customer and TSO serves as the boundary for the purpose of verification of the conformity and compliance with the conditions set forth in the connection conditions. The connection conditions set forth the requirements for establishing the mixed installation's control system such that the Elering control

centre would be able to control the power-generating module that is part of the mixed installation separately from the related consumption. We also specified in the connection conditions that the power-generating module of a mixed installation must comply with the requirements of the Grid Code in force at the time of connection and that power plants connected before 2003 do not need to demonstrate compliance with the Grid Code, carry out tests during the connection process or submit the electrical part of the project in its entirety, but only the part to be modified or rebuilt, and instead of submitting the gross output of the connection point (without considering the impact of consumption) to the control centre, metering the added power consumers is needed.

As a completely new addition, clients can enter into a connection agreement so that it does not specify the make and model of the power-generating module, but rather the maximum apparent power in the generation direction and the active and reactive capacity guaranteed at the connection point by the power-generating module to be installed. Therefore, it is not necessary to transmit to Elering the datasheets, brands and models for all types of unit in the power-generating module when submitting the connection application, but the obligation to submit them was added to the volume of the technical project prior to synchronisation of the power-generating module.

Under the new contract conditions, we have also changed connection products. If, until now, we differentiated the connection processes and therefore the procedural and transaction fees according to the desired consumption or production-oriented capacity at the connection point, in the new circumstances, we differentiate the processes according to the operations carried out during the connection procedure – whether or not connecting is accompanied by an assessment of the conformity of the power-generating module. The new connection products and the procedural and operating fees applicable to them shall be as follows:

- Connecting a power-generating module or mixed installations to the transmission network or changing their production and/or consumption conditions with a handling fee of EUR 2000 and a procedural fee of EUR 10,200.
- Connection of a consumer or distribution system operator at a new connection point or amendment of the consumption and/or production conditions at an existing connection point of a distribution system operator or amendment of consumption conditions at an existing connection point of a consumer with a handling fee of EUR 1600 and a procedural fee of EUR 3300.

The coordination procedure for power-generating modules to be connected with distribution networks will also change significantly. Under the current connection conditions, the coordination process and all technical documentation relating to the power-generating module shall be provided by the distribution system operator but, under the new connection conditions, such obligation shall lie with the owners of power-generating modules of types B, C and D. The only activity of the DSO shall be to verify with the TSO that the producer has complied with its obligations to the TSO before issuing the final operational notification.

The following is an overview of minor changes to the connection conditions:

- For the purpose of applying the requirements for power-generating modules, we shall use the RfG classification which divides the power-generating modules into power-generating modules of type A, type B, type C and type D.
- When connecting power-generating modules, the process requirements have been brought into line with the RfG regulation and the connection conditions are specified by the TSO for

issuing the energisation notification, the temporary operational notification and the final operational notification.

- Due to the conditions of the RFG, the time period for verifying the conformity of the power-generating module with the Grid Code has been extended from one year to two years. However, it is important to note that in the new connection conditions, the verification process of the conformity with the Grid Code will be completed and that the system operator will issued a permanent operational notification after verification of the PSS/E and, where appropriate, PSCAD models and after approval by Elering and the conclusion of a permanent connection contract.
- We reduced and specified the volume of data requested from the client in the electrical part project. The client does not have an obligation to submit the electrical part project six months before the desired network connection energisation or power-generating module synchronisation. According to the new connection conditions, the electrical part project must be submitted for approval 50 days before the desired energising or synchronisation, but if it is supplemented, the risk of delaying the desired energising or synchronisation time remains with the client.
- It is no longer necessary to submit a timetable, a single line diagram of the electrical installation and a list of power-generating modules previously synchronised by the distribution system operators with the connection application. Consumers and distribution system operators also no longer need to submit the annexes required by the previous Grid Code with the connection application, such as:
 - a. planning decision or design conditions
 - b. environmental impact assessment decision
- Unlike before, producers have to submit documents with the connection application showing that the market participant that wishes to be connected to the network has a legal basis for using the registered immovable, water body or building for which they wish a network connection to be established.
- In the new connection conditions, there is a simplification in submitting the annexes to the connection application and the materials of the electrical part project. Customers may omit all of the annexes to the connection application and the materials of the electrical part project that the client has submitted during the previous connection process if there are no changes to the previously submitted data and the client refers to a request or letter containing the data previously sent to Elering.