

Draft

ANDHRA PRADESH ELECTRICITY REGULATORY COMMISSION

Amendments to the General Terms and Conditions of Supply (GTCS)

Introduction:

The Central Electricity Authority (CEA) has issued amendments to the Central Electricity Authority (Installation and Operation of Meters) Regulations, 2006 through the CEA (Installation and Operation of Meters) (Amendment) Regulations, 2019, and the CEA (Installation and Operation of Meters) (Amendment) Regulations, 2022. The 2019 amendment mandates that all new consumer meters must be Smart Meters with a prepayment feature and that the existing meters (excluding Smart Meters) must be replaced with Smart Meters with a prepayment feature within a timeline specified by the Central Government(Clause 4(1)(b)).

The 2022 amendment substitutes the the above Cluase 4(1)(b) with the following:

- In areas with a communication network, all consumers must be supplied electricity through Smart Meters operating in prepayment mode, conforming to relevant Indian Standards (IS), within timelines specified by the Central Government.
- For consumer connections exceeding the current carrying capacity specified in the relevant IS, meters must have an automatic remote meter reading facility or be Smart Meters as per the relevant IS.
- In areas without a communication network, the installation of prepayment meters conforming to relevant IS will be permitted, as approved by the respective State Electricity Regulatory Commission.

Whereas the Ministry of Power(MOP) issued notifications dated 17.08.2021 specifying the timelines for replacing existing meters with smart meters.

Whereas, APDISCOMs, vide their letters requested the Commission to make appropriate amendments to the General Terms and Conditions of Supply (GTSC) and the relevant Regulations notified by the Commission in the backdrop of the installation of Smart Meters.

After thoroughly examining the amendments to the CEA (Installation and

Operation of Meters) Regulations, MOP notification, APDISCOMs' requests, and other relevant aspects, the Commission hereby amends the extant General Terms and Conditions of Supply as follows:

1. The following definitions shall be added after definition 2.2.55

2.2.56 'Smart Meter' means a meter as specified in IS 16444 and as amended from time to time.

2.2.57 "Prepaid/Prepayment Meter" means a smart prepayment meter or a pre-payment meter as specified in relevant Indian Standards and as amended from time to time, which facilitates the use of electricity only after advance payment.

2.2.58 "Advanced Metering Infrastructure (AMI)" means an integrated system of smart meters, communication networks, and data management systems that enables two-way communication between the utilities and energy meters, and the functional blocks of Advanced Metering Infrastructure typically include Head end system, Wide area network, Neighborhood area network, Data concentrator unit and Home area network.

2.2.59 'Advanced Metering Infrastructure Service Provider'(AMISP) is a person appointed by the Distribution Licensee, for owning, operating, and maintaining Advanced Metering Infrastructure or a part of the Advanced Metering Infrastructure, till its transfer to the Distribution Licensee.

2. Clause 7.1.1 shall be substituted with the following.

No service shall be released without a proper meter. The Distribution Licensee shall install smart meters, including the display unit, conforming to the technical requirement as prescribed in the CEA (Installation and Operation of Meters) Regulations, 2006 and its subsequent amendments. The smart meter shall have both ways of communication and shall be compatible with AMI and AMR applications. The smart meter shall have a built-in security mechanism to guard against any attempt to steal the codes. Unless the consumer elects to have his own meter, the Company shall provide the meters required for measuring the consumption of electricity and shall charge monthly rentals as may be prescribed by the Commission in the Tariff Order. The consumer shall pay the monthly rental charges and the CC bill. This shall be mentioned in the Agreement entered into by the consumer for electricity supply.

3. The following shall be added at the end of clause 7.4.1

For smart meters, meter readings shall be read at least once daily. Energy consumption data shall be accessible to consumers through various online platforms, such as websites, mobile apps, or SMS links. The Distribution Licensee shall ensure consumer data protection following the relevant CEA guidelines, the Information Technology Act, 2000, and any other applicable regulations in force from time to time.

(By Order of the Commission)

Place : Kurnool
Date : 01.01.2025.

Sd/- 01/01/2025
P.Krishna
Commission Secretary (i/c)