

**Unmetered Connections
Standards of Service for
Electricity Distribution Companies in
England, Wales and Scotland**

Updated January 2012

Introduction

This guide sets out the standards for unmetered services to street lighting or street furniture provided by the electricity distribution company that owns the electricity wires and cables by which electricity is supplied to your equipment. In this document the electricity distribution company is referred to as “we” and “us”. This guide summarises the Electricity (Connection Standards of Performance) Regulations 2010, insofar as those regulations relate to unmetered connections.

Ofgem, the industry regulator, sets the standards. If the distributor fails to meet these standards then you are entitled to receive a payment.

These standards apply to authorities responsible for street lighting and street furniture, referred to in this document as “you”.

These standards do not apply to schemes involving more than 100 units of street lighting or other street furniture, or street lighting or street furniture schemes requiring HV works.

These standards do not apply where the Local Authority has entered into a separate bi-lateral agreement with the electricity distributor in respect of performance standards.

Sometimes the standards may not apply, including under exceptional circumstances, or due to events beyond our control, industrial action, actions of third parties, not being able to gain access to our equipment, or NRSWA restrictions. If any of these exemptions are invoked, we will need to demonstrate that we had taken all reasonable steps to prevent the circumstances occurring and to prevent failure.

UNMETERED CONNECTION STANDARDS

Fault Repairs

If you notify us of a fault repair affecting your unmetered equipment that needs to be carried out by us we will respond in the following timescales. If we fail to meet the standard, we will make the appropriate payment.

| Service | Fault Repairs – street lighting or street furniture | |
|---|--|--------------------------|
| | Timescale | Failure Payment |
| Works to remove immediate danger to the public or property | Attend on site within 2 hours | £50 |
| High-priority fault repair to traffic lights | Restore supplies within 2 calendar days | £10 per working day late |
| High-priority fault repair not involving traffic lights | Restore supplies within 10 working days | £10 per working day late |
| Multiple-unit fault repair to street lights | Restore supplies within 20 working days | £10 per working day late |
| Single-unit fault repair to street lights or street furniture | Restore supplies within 25 working days | £10 per working day late |

Provision of Quotations for New Works

If you ask us for an individual quotation for a connection scheme outside of our published standard charges, we will provide this within 25 working days from when you have given us all the information that we need and paid us any applicable fees.

If we fail we will pay you £10 for each working day we are late.

This standard does not apply if you request a quotation for a scheme that causes the total number of units of street lighting or other street furniture that you have requested quotations for in the current month to exceed 115% of the monthly average for the last calendar year.

Completing New Works

(a) Works on a New Site

Once we have received written acceptance of our quotation and you have paid the full amount quoted, and you have confirmed that any prerequisite works for which you are responsible have been completed (e.g erection of street lighting columns), we will agree a date to complete the requested scheme. Once a date is agreed to complete the works, this may be varied by your request or agreement or as notified by us (for

example due to delays in obtaining TMA permits, NRSWA restrictions or other access problems, or if severe weather causes us to postpone planned works). We will complete the works on the agreed date.

If we fail we will pay you £10 for each working day we are late completing the scheme.

This standard does not apply if you request works that cause the total number of units of street lighting or other street furniture that you have requested a connection for in the current month to exceed 115% of the monthly average for the last calendar year.

(b) Works In An Existing Adopted Highway

Once you have confirmed that any prerequisite works for which you are responsible have been completed (e.g erecting street lighting columns), we will complete the requested scheme within 35 working days. This may be varied by your request or agreement or as notified by us (for example due to delays in obtaining permits, Local Authority restrictions or other access problems, or if severe weather causes us to postpone planned works).

If we fail we will pay you £10 for each working day we are late completing the scheme.

This guarantee does not apply if you request works that cause the total number of units of street lighting or other street furniture that you have requested a connection for in the current month to exceed 115% of the monthly average for the last calendar year.

Notification Of Payment Under Guaranteed Standards

If we fail to meet any of the standards we will make your payment by cheque, by electronic transmission or as a credit to your connection invoice, within 10 working days of the day of failure (for emergency-response fault repairs) or within 10 working days of completing the service (for all other standards covered by this document).

If we fail to make the payment within the above timescales we will send you an additional £50.

Please note that for administrative convenience you can agree a different timescale within which to receive payments in bulk. For example you may wish to receive payments quarterly. Please contact the distributor to agree this.

Disputes

If you have a dispute that you cannot resolve with us about whether you should receive a payment, you may refer the case to the Office of Gas and Electricity Markets (Ofgem), the independent regulator for the electricity industry, to request a formal decision.

In line with Section 39A (5) of the Electricity Act 1989 (as amended by the Utilities Act 2000), any guaranteed standard payments you receive will not prejudice your entitlement to any other remedy or action that may be open to you because of the distributor's failure.

Contacting Your Electricity Distributor

To request a service from your electricity distributor please telephone them on the numbers below. Further contact details will be available on their website.

Please note if you ring or email your electricity distributor outside normal working hours, they will treat your request as having been received at the start of business on the next working day.

Where your distributor is willing to accept requests by telephone, such requests are covered by the 'provision of quotations' standard referred to above.

Electricity Distribution Company Contact details

| Company | Area | Emergency/ Faults (24 hour) | Unmetered Connections Enquiries (Mon-Fri unless otherwise stated) | Website address |
|---|--|--|--|--|
| Western Power Distribution East Midlands | East Midlands | 0800 056 8090 | 0845 7240240 08:30 to 17:00 | www.westernpower.co.uk |
| Western Power Distribution West Midlands | West Midlands | 0800 3281111 | 0845 7240240 08:30 to 17:00 | www.westernpower.co.uk |
| Western Power Distribution South Wales | South & West Wales | 0800 0520400 | 0845 601 3341 08:00 to 18:00 | www.westernpower.co.uk |
| Western Power Distribution South West | South West England | 0800 365900 | 0845 601 2989 08:00 to 18:00 | www.westernpower.co.uk |
| UK Power Networks – Eastern Power Networks plc | East Anglia | 0800 7838838 | 08456 014516 09:00 to 17:00 | www.ukpowernetworks.co.uk |
| UK Power Networks – London Power Networks plc | London | 0800 0280247 | 08456 014516 09:00 to 17:00 | www.ukpowernetworks.co.uk |
| UK Power Networks – South Eastern Power Networks plc | South East England | 0800 7838866 | 08456 014516 09:00 to 17:00 | www.ukpowernetworks.co.uk |
| UK Power Networks (IDNO) Ltd | Olympic Park and Stratford City site | 0800 1712012 | 08456 014516 09:00 to 17:00 | www.ukpowernetworks.co.uk |
| Northern Powergrid (Northeast) Ltd | The Northeast & most of North Yorkshire | 0800 66 88 77 | 08450 70 71 72 08:30 to 16:40 | www.northernpowergrid.com |

| Company | Area | Emergency/ Supply Loss (24 hour) | Unmetered Connections Enquiries (Mon-Fri unless otherwise stated) | Website address |
|---|--|---|--|---|
| SSE Power Distribution | North Scotland | 0800 300 999 | 08000 483 515 08:00 to 17:00 Sat: 08:00-14:00 | www.ssepd.co.uk |
| Northern Powergrid (Yorkshire) plc | West, South & East Yorkshire & northern Lincolnshire | 0800 37 56 75 | 0845 60 24 454 08:30 to 16:40 | www.northernpowergrid.com |
| SSE Power Distribution | South England | 08000 72 72 82 | 08000 483 516 08.00 to 17.00 Sat: 08:00-14:00 | www.ssepd.co.uk |
| SP Energy Networks | Central & Southern Scotland | 0845 272 7999 | 0845 273 4444 08:30 to 18:00 | www.spenergynetworks.co.uk |
| SP Energy Networks | Merseyside, Cheshire & North Wales | 0845 272 2424 | 0845 273 4444 08:30 to 18:00 | www.spenergynetworks.co.uk |
| Electricity North West | North West England | 0800 195 4141 | 0800 048 1820 08:30 to 16:30 | http://www.enwl.co.uk/ |
| Electricity Network Co Ltd | Great Britain | 0800 0326990 | 01359 243311 08:30 to 17:00 | www.gtc-uk.co.uk |
| ESP Electricity Ltd | Great Britain | 0800 731 6945 | 01372 227560 08.00 - 18.00 | www.espelectricity.com |
| Independent Power Networks | Great Britain | 0800 013 0849 | 0845 055 6199 Mon - Thurs: 08:30 to 17:00 Fri 08:30 to 16:30 | http://www.independentpowernetworks.co.uk/ |
| Energetics Electricity | Great Britain | 0800 8048688 | 01698 404640 08:30-16:45 | www.energetics-uk.com |