

European Network Codes Requirements - Requirement for Generators (RfG)

Information for customers wishing to connect Distributed Energy Resources to Western Power Distribution's Distribution System

Background

If you will be connecting new generating equipment to the GB Distribution system, you will most likely be affected by the new requirements from the European Connection Code: Requirements for Generators (RfG). This information document aims to highlight the timescales and scope of the European Connection Code, how existing connections could be affected and explains what you need to do.

Applicability

The RfG specifies the technical connection requirements that new generators must abide by. They are intended to deliver a harmonised set of rules for the operation of the electricity sector in Europe, thus ensuring security of supply. You will be affected by this Code if you have not completed the commissioning of your installation on or after the date of compliance; **27th April 2019**.

If you do intend to complete the commissioning of your installation on or after the date of compliance, you may still be excluded from the need to comply with the European Connection Code provided you have concluded a signed final and binding contract with the manufacturer by the date of national implementation (**17th May 2018**) for the main plant items and submitted evidence of this to WPD before the date of national implementation plus six months; i.e. **17th November 2018**.

For example, in the case of a generator, the main plant would be defined as one or more of the principle items of equipment required to convert the primary source of energy into electricity such as the alternator or the generator transformer, and which once ordered will determine the ability of plant to meet technical requirements.

Please also note that if the criteria above does not apply to you but you significantly modify equipment, you may also be required to comply with the European Connection Code. In accordance with existing rules, any proposed modifications must be discussed with WPD in advance.

For instructions on how to provide appropriate evidence of your contract to WPD please refer to the section below.

What you need to do if you are connecting to the distribution system on or after the 27th April 2019 and you signed a contract with the manufacturer prior to 17th May 2018

You must notify WPD of your signed contract no later than **17 November 2018** (for generator connections).

You need to include the following as a minimum:

- (i) The contract title for the main plant.
- (ii) Evidence of the date of signature of the contract for the main plant.
- (iii) The technical specification applicable to the contract for the main plant.

We will acknowledge receipt and contact you if we require more information.

If you have provided the correct information within the deadlines described above you will not need to comply with the European Connection Code unless you significantly modify your equipment in the future.

Which Codes you will need to follow

The European Connection Codes are part of the wider European network codes being implemented throughout Europe and take precedence over GB legislation. Work is in progress to align the European obligations with their GB counterparts so the new requirements are described in revised versions of the current GB Codes (e.g. Distribution Code, Grid Code etc.) and where there were conflicts, the European requirements have replaced the existing GB requirements.

This means that you will still only need to consult the GB Codes in future as the EU requirements will have been included into these.

ENA Engineering Recommendations G98 and G99

Two new Engineering Recommendations (ERECs) have been developed to take account of the latest requirements under RfG:

- EREC G98 – Requirements for the connection of Fully Type tested Micro-generators (up to and including 16A per phase) in parallel with public Low Voltage Distribution Networks on or after 27 April 2019
- EREC G99 – Requirements for the connection of generation equipment in parallel with public distribution networks on or after 27 April 2019

EREC G98 is based upon existing EREC G83 but with the inclusion of RfG requirements. EREC G99 is based upon existing EREC G59. It also includes RfG requirements and extends the ability to type test equipment beyond the current EREC G59 limit of 50kW. It is important that developers familiarise themselves with these EREC as they carry additional technical and significantly more documented compliance requirements required by the RfG surrounding compliance testing, commissioning and operational notification. Both documents can be viewed via the DCode website.

IMPORTANT – Please note that, unless you have agreed an exemption with us by providing evidence of a signed contract, from midnight 26th April 2019 we will only allow generation to be connected that is EREC G98 or EREC G99 compliant. If you are planning to connect just prior to 27th April 2019 you may wish to consider whether it is worth installing equipment in accordance with EREC G98/EREC G99 as a precaution in case your project is delayed and the deadline missed.

The flow chart below indicates which Engineering Recommendations you should refer to according to your required generating capacity and anticipated date of connection.



Potential exemptions from the RfG

It is important to note that most generation is affected by the RfG however there are some exemptions, for example generating modules < 800 W, emerging technologies and infrequent short term parallel operation. You should refer to EREC G98 and EREC G99 for further information on the extent of these exemptions.

Further information

Further information is available from the Distribution Code website: <https://www.dcode.org.uk>