

## MAHARASHTRA ELECTRICITY REGULATORY COMMISSION

### NOTIFICATION (DRAFT)

#### ELECTRICITY ACT, 2003.

No. MERC/Tech/Regulation/\_\_\_\_.- In exercise of the powers conferred by the proviso to sub-section (1) of Section 43 read with clause (t) of sub-section (2) of Section 181 and clause (a) of sub-section (2) of Section 45 read with clause (u) of sub-section (2) of Section 181, sub-section (5) of Section 45, Section 46, sub-section (1) and sub-section (4) of Section 47 read with clause (v) and clause (w) of sub-section (2) of Section 181 and Section 50 read with clause (x) of sub-section (2) of Section 181 and sub-section (1) and sub-section (2) of Section 57 read with clause (za) of sub-section (2) of Section 181, Section 59 and clause (zp) of sub-section (2) of Section 181 of the Electricity Act, 2003,. the Maharashtra Electricity Regulatory Commission hereby makes the following Regulations, to amend the Maharashtra Electricity Regulatory Commission (Electricity Supply Code and Standards of Performance of Distribution Licensees including Power Quality) Regulations, 2021 (**‘the Principal Regulations’**), namely:

#### Short title and commencement

- 2.1. These Regulations may be called the Maharashtra Electricity Regulatory Commission (Electricity Supply Code and Standards of Performance of Distribution Licensees including Power Quality) (First Amendment) Regulations, 2024.
- 2.2. These Regulations shall come into force from the date of their publication in the Official Gazette.

#### Amendment to Regulation 2 of the Principal Regulations:-

#### Introduction of Regulation 2.2(j)(a) after Regulation 2.2(j) of the Principal Regulations:—

“2.2(j)(a) **“Customer Average Interruption Frequency Index (CAIFI)”** means the average interruption frequency of the sustained interruptions for those who experienced interruptions during the reporting period, as specified by the Commission.”

#### Introduction of Regulation 2.2(ii)(a) after Regulation 2.2(ii) of the Principal Regulations:—

“2.2(ii)(a) **“Momentary Average Interruption Frequency Index (MAIFI)”** means the average number of momentary interruptions per Consumer occurring during the reporting period, as specified by the Commission.”

**Substitution of 2<sup>nd</sup> Proviso of Regulation 5.8 of the Principal Regulations:**

Provided further that subject to the statutory provisions and permissions, the Distribution Licensee shall release new connections or modify an existing connection, after submission of application complete in all respects within the following timelines:

- a. Connection from existing network without any augmentation:
  1. Metropolitan Area – Three (3) Days
  2. Other Municipal Areas – Seven (7) Days
  3. Rural Area – Fifteen (15) Days
- b. Connection requiring augmentation or extension of Distribution Mains or commissioning of new sub-stations forming a part of the distribution system – Ninety (90) Days.

**Introduction of Regulation 5.9 after Regulation 5.8 of the Principal Regulations:**

“5.9 On the request from a consumer, the Distribution Licensee shall provide a separate connection for supply of electricity for Electric Vehicle charging system:  
Provided that the time line for providing this connection shall be in accordance with the **2<sup>nd</sup> Proviso of Regulation 5.8** of this Regulation.”

**Amendment to Regulation 15 of the Principal Regulations:**

**Substitution of Regulation 15.3.3 and 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> Proviso of the Principal Regulations:**

“15.3.3 The estimated electricity charges for the period for which meter was not available due to loss of meter may be billed to the Consumer in the ensuing bill after supply is restored. Where, upon a complaint by the Consumer or inspection by the Authorised Representative, the meter is found to be burnt **or defective**, it shall be replaced and supply restored to the Consumer.

Provided that the Distribution Licensee may recover the price of the new meter from the Consumer wherever the cause of burnt **or defective** meter is attributable to Consumer:

Provided further that the estimated electricity charges for the period for which meter was not available due to burning **or defective** of meter may be billed to the Consumer in the ensuing bill after supply is restored.”

**Substitution of Regulation 15.3.4 of the Principal Regulations:**

“15.3.4 Except in the case of a burnt meter or **defective meter** or a lost meter, the Distribution Licensee shall not be authorized to recover the price of the meter from the Consumer.”

**Introduction of Regulation 15.4.4 after Regulation 15.4.3 of the Principal Regulations:**

“15.4.4 The pre-payment meters shall be read by an authorised representative of the Distribution Licensee at least once in every three months and the data regarding energy consumption shall be made available to the Consumer, through website or mobile application or Short Message Service and the like:

Provided that the Consumers having smart pre-payment meters shall also be given the data access for checking their consumption and balance amount at least on daily basis.”

**Introduction of Regulation 15.6.1 (A) after Regulation 15.6.1 of the Principal Regulations:**

“15.6.1 (A) The testing of meters shall be done by the Distribution Licensee within thirty days of receipt of the complaint from the consumer about the meter readings not being commensurate with his consumption of electricity, stoppage of meter, damage to the seal, burning or damage of the meter, and the like:

Provided that in case of complaint by a consumer regarding meter reading not being commensurate with his consumption of electricity, Distribution Licensee shall install an additional meter within five days from the date of receipt of the complaint, to verify the consumption, for a minimum period of three months.”

**Substitution of additional Proviso in Regulation 15.6.2 of the Principal Regulations:**

Provided also that the list of NABL accredited laboratories for testing of meters shall be made available in their various offices as well as on the website of the Distribution Licensee.

**Amendment to Regulation 22 of the Principal Regulations:-**

**Introduction of Regulation 22.1 (A) after Regulation 22.1 of the Principal Regulations:**

“22.1 (A) The Distribution Licensee shall supply 24x7 power to all Consumers:

Provided that the Commission may specify lower hours of supply for some categories of consumers like agriculture.”

**Substitution of d. and e. in Regulation 22.12.1 of the Principal Regulations:**

- d. Customer Average Interruption Frequency Index (CAIFI); and
- e. Momentary Average Interruption Frequency Index (MAIFI):

**Amendment to Regulation 28 of the Principal Regulations:-**

**Introduction of Regulation 28.9 after Regulation 28.8 of the Principal Regulations:**

“28.9 The Distribution Licensee shall put in place a mechanism, preferably with automated tools to the extent possible, for monitoring and restoring outages.”

**Amendment to Annexure-II of the Principal Regulations: -**

Substitution of Sr. No. 1 (ii) in Annexure-II of the Principal Regulations.

| Supply Activity/Event  | Standard  | Compensation Payable  | Automatic/Manual |
|--|---|---|------------------|
| <b>1. Provision of Supply (Including Temporary connection)</b>   |   |   |                  |
| (ii) Time period for provision of supply from the date of receipt of completed application and payment of charges: |   |   |                  |
| -in case connection is to be from existing network without any augmentation  | 1. Metropolitan Area – Three (3) Days<br>2. Other Municipal Areas – Seven (7) Days<br>3. Rural Area – Fifteen (15) Days | Rs 50 per week or part thereof of delay subject to maximum of twice the service connection charges applicable for the Consumer category | Automatic        |
| -where extension or augmentation of distributing main is required  | Ninety (90) Days  |   | Automatic        |
| - where commissioning of new sub-station forming a part of the distribution system is required                     | Ninety (90) Days  |   | Automatic        |

Mumbai

Dated: \_\_\_\_, 2024

**(Dr. Rajendra G. Ambekar)**

Secretary,

Maharashtra Electricity Regulatory Commission