

Improvements to switching processes webinar

10.30 – 11.30am, Tuesday 1 September 2026

Welcome and introductions

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Agenda

1. Background to switching changes
2. Trader changes (Q&A)
3. MEP changes (Q&A)
4. Distributor changes (Q&A)
5. Implementation plan
6. Questions

Background

Why are we updating the switching processes?

1. Switching processes play a central role in the electricity market's operation.
2. The current processes are ~20 years old and are in need of a refresh.
3. The proposed changes have come from participant feedback and successive consultations, along with our analysis of switching-related issues.
4. The switching proposals were consulted on alongside proposals for Multiple Trading Relationships (MTRs);
 1. MTRs are not progressing to a Code amendment at this stage.
 2. We have made a provisional decision to progress the switching changes.
5. We are now seeking technical feedback on draft Code amendments for the switching changes by **14 September 2026**.
6. The focus of this consultation is the Code drafting and implementation timeframe, rather than underlying policy intent or scope.

What's changing?

1. Trader, MEP and Distributor switching processes.
2. Registry functionality to support the new switching processes.

Trader changes

Focus	Key changes
Registry management	• Enable ICP updates during switches and notify affected participants • Introduce status change event timestamps to improve sequencing and visibility (i.e. for ICP disconnection, reconnection and decommission events) • Reinstate earlier switch events if later same-day events are withdrawn
Switch timing and coordination	• Use the gaining trader proposed switch date by default • Allow traders to agree alternative switch dates through a structured process • Permit metering changes before switch completion
Metering and data quality	• Require MEPs to provide switch-event reads to both traders • Prioritise actual reads • Limit estimates • Standardise readings and average daily consumption calculations
Corrections and replacement reads	• Allow both traders to use RR process • Extend timeframes • Introduce response timeframes and materiality thresholds
Withdrawals	• Extend withdrawal periods • Require acceptance in specified circumstances • Standardise codes and automate notifications
Notifications and consistency	• Standardise notifications to two business days; Make AN files optional for HH switches; Introduce prioritised response codes

MEP changes

Focus	Key changes
Metering event accuracy	• Allow gaining and losing MEPs to record same-day metering events using timestamps • Ensure correct sequencing of meter removal and installation events • Require prompt updates of metering events and component removals
Meter data	• Provide switch event readings to both traders • Provide ongoing meter data to gaining traders • Supply revised and backfilled meter readings • Introduce service levels for meter data access
Registry visibility	• Provide MEPs with switch notifications (NT, AN and AW files) • Include both gaining and losing trader identifiers in notifications • Improve visibility of switching activity and upcoming events
Metering information	• Introduce new Registry fields for meter type, communication capability and status • Allow multiple meter types per installation • Standardise interpretation of metering information through business rules
MEP management and responsibilities	• Allow MEPs to update participant identifiers within the same organisation (without trader involvement) • Clarify responsibility for meter interrogation and services access responsibilities
MEP nomination	• Require traders to notify MEP nominations through the Registry • Require MEPs to accept or decline nominations by installation date • Automatically decline unresolved nominations after specified timeframes • Include nomination obligations in participant audits
Automation and process efficiency	• Improve coordination between traders and MEPs during switching & metering changes • Reduce paper-based/manual processes • Improve data quality and reduce rework caused by delayed or inaccurate information
Registry enhancements	• Automate registry updates when ICP status changes (incl. decommissioning & reinstatement) • Improve metering certifications and component record management • Introduce timestamps for all metering events

Distributor changes

Focus	Key changes
Registry-led process	• Use the Registry as the central coordination platform for distributor ICP switches • Introduce a structured, auditable end-to-end switching process • Improve visibility for traders, MEPs and distributors
Distributor switching	• Require gaining distributors to obtain losing distributor consent before initiating a switch • Require notification of proposed distributor switches through a Registry process (DS-010 file) • Introduce a minimum 60-day notification period before a switch event before a switch event
Trader consent	• Allow traders to accept or reject distributor switching requests through the Registry • Deem trader consent where no response is received before the specified deadline • Deem consent for newly switched traders during the distributor switch process
Automation	• Notify traders and MEPs of proposed distributor switches • Introduce Registry statuses such as "distributor switch in progress" and "awaiting trader consent" • Automatically notify participants of changes to switch details and dates
Switch changes and amendments	• Allow switch dates to be amended within defined timeframes • Retain existing trader consents where only the switch date changes • Reset trader consent where material switch information is amended
Automation and process execution	• Automate trader consent tracking and notifications • Automatically complete approved distributor switches on the switch date • Automatically withdraw switches where required consent is not obtained
Registry and data improvements	• Allocate reconciliation types for network extension ICPs • Introduce timestamps for distributor events • Standardise decommissioning records
Oversight and safeguards	• Allow the Authority to intervene where there are disputes or consent issues • Maintain protections for participants where distributor switching is challenged or incorrectly completed
Auditability and transparency	• Create a clear audit trail of approvals, notifications, status changes, and switch outcomes • Improve traceability of distributor switching decisions and participant responses

Implementation plan

Subject to consultation feedback and decisions:

Activity	Timing
Publish Decision Paper	October 2026
Final Code amendments	October/ November 2026
Registry solution design	January 2027
Test Registry available	March 2027
Participant workshops & testing	April 2027
Participant training	October 2027
Go-live	1 November 2027

Further information:

Questions and submissions can be sent to: policyconsult@ea.govt.nz.



THANK YOU