Guidance for distributors: connection application processes and publishing requirements

New medium and large distributed generation application processes and reporting requirements apply from 1 December 2026

The Electricity Authority published a decision on changes to Part 6 of the Electricity Industry Participation Code (Code) in September 2025. These require distributors to implement:

- revised application processes for distributed generation (DG) applications from 1 December 2026
- new application processes for load applications above 69kVA from 1 June 2027.

Revised medium and large distributed generation application processes apply from 1 December 2026

From 1 December 2026:

- All *new*[1] DG applications with maximum export power more than 10kW but less than 300kW must use 'Process 2' in Part 6 of the Code.
- All *new* DG applications with maximum export power 300kW and above must use 'Process 3' in Part 6 of the Code.

If both the applicant and distributor agree, Part 2 applications started before 1 December 2026 can switch to the revised processes. This requires the applicant to resubmit the application (unchanged) under the new process and the distributor 'fast-tracking' it to a similar point along the process using the assessment work that has already been completed.

[1] Throughout this document, "*new* applications" refers to applications made from the date the new Part 6 application processes take effect:

- 1 December 2026 for Distributed Generation
- 1 June 2027 for load.

"*Existing* applications" refers to applications made prior to these dates under the processes current at the time the application was submitted, that are still open (ie, not cancelled, declined or completed).

New load application processes apply from 1 June 2027

From 1 June 2027:

- All *new* load applications greater than 69kVA and less than 500kVA must use 'Process 4' in Part 6 of the Code.
- All *new* load applications 500kVA and greater must use 'Process 5' in Part 6 of the Code.

Applications for load over 69kVA that began before 1 June 2027 should continue to use the distributor's current process. However, if both the applicant and distributor agree, the application can switch to the new processes. This requires the applicant to resubmit the application (unchanged) under the new process and the distributor 'fast-tracking' it to a similar point along the process using the assessment work that has already been completed.

The new application processes coming into force on 1 June 2027 do not include load applications for 69kVA or less.

Distributed generation application thresholds are determined by maximum export power from 1 December 2026

Currently, DG application thresholds are determined by 'nameplate capacity'. From 1 December 2026, distributors must consider Part 6 applications based on 'maximum export power'.

Part 1 of the Code defines 'maximum export power'. The definition essentially provides for a 'calculation method' and a 'hard limit' approach.

> ***maximum export power*** *means the maximum* ***active power*** *exported into the* ***local network*** *or* ***embedded network*** *at an* ***ICP*** *of a* ***distributed generator****, and is equal to—*
>
> - *(a) the* ***nameplate capacity*** *of the* ***distributed generation*** *minus the minimum load at the* ***point of connection****; or*
> - *(b) the power export limit imposed by an active export control device*

An applicant's assessment of maximum export power will generally be conservative, based on the rating of the source (panels) or inverter, and is unlikely to subtract minimum load, as minimum load will generally be close to zero, at least at some point.

If a distributor has concerns about the accuracy of an applicant's assessment (calculation) of maximum export power, they may want to request additional information from applicants about how they have assessed the minimum load, as part of its assessment of the application.

Where distributors have less certainty, they may choose to require a hard export limit via inverter settings. This could be done via 'connection and operation standards' (COPS) or as a condition of approval. These limits may match export limit assessment methodology calculations, or connection 'conditions' for bespoke applications. However, the distributor must be careful to ensure it isn't using this to limit maximum export power below default limits without the necessary engineering justification for each ICP (clause 6.3A(3)(c) of the Code).

Using inverter settings in this way is different to setting a 'nameplate capacity' limit on the inverter itself (or any other part of the distributed generation), which is not allowed under recent changes to the Code (clause 6.3A(1) of the Code). The Authority has been advised hard export limits can be set, via firmware, in almost all new residential inverters. A few inverters may also require an inexpensive gateway device to be installed. For added assurance, where a hard export limit has been required, distributors may choose to add an extra field to compliance documentation to confirm the hard export limit has been set.

Where a hard export limit could change the application process used to assess the application, the distributor should discuss this with the applicant, so the correct application process is used. Distributors should ensure their approach to determining application thresholds is clearly set out on their website.

Please note 'maximum deliverable generation capacity' cannot be used for determining thresholds. This term is not in the Code (so is undefined) and has recently been removed from the registry functional specification. It will be removed from the registry guide shortly.

New Part 6 publishing requirements apply from 1 December 2026

Distributed generation applications

New publishing requirements apply for DG applications from 1 December 2026:

- Distributors must publish all Process 3 DG applications in their network connections pipeline.
    - Distributors should publish the network connections pipeline information in the format set out in Electricity Network Aotearoa's 'Queueing and management policy for distributors'.[2]
    - At a minimum, distributors must publish the information required by clause 6.3 of Part 6 of the Code.
- Distributors may choose to publish some Process 2 DG applications in their network connections pipeline, especially where resource requirements or

[2] https://www.ena.org.nz/our-work/resources/queueing-and-management-policy

network capacity is limited and may impact other potential applications, but this is not required.

- Distributors are strongly encouraged to publish information on *existing* DG applications with maximum export power of 300kW or more, to give access seekers transparency of applications already being processed. Otherwise, the pipeline could give a misleading impression of the priority position and timing for approval of new applications.[3] Distributors will already have much of this information as they are required to provide it to the Authority under the 2.16 notice (see the section below on information provision to the Authority).
    - Where possible, distributors should publish the network connections pipeline information in the format set out in the 'Queueing and management policy for distributors.'
    - At a minimum, we recommend distributors publish the following information for *individual* DG applications, in the format set out in Part 6:

1	priority position
2	maximum export power
3	fuel type
4	location (zone substation or feeder)
5	project stage
6	date the application started in that stage

- Pre-final approval, *existing* DG applications should be recorded in the initial or final application stage, whichever applies.
- Distributors should also include *existing* DG applications (with maximum export power of 300kW or more) in their aggregate network connections pipeline.[4]

Load applications

New publishing requirements apply for load applications from 1 June 2027:

- Distributors must publish all Process 5 load applications in their network connections pipeline.
    - Distributors should publish the network connections pipeline information in the format set out in the 'Queueing and management policy for distributors.'
    - At a minimum, distributors must publish the information cited in clause 6.3 of Part 6 of the Code.
- Distributors may choose to publish some Process 4 load applications in their network connections pipeline, especially where resource requirements or

[3] Distributors may base this on nameplate capacity where maximum export power is unavailable for existing projects.
[4] *Ditto.*

network capacity is limited and may impact other potential applications, but this is not required.

- Distributors are strongly encouraged to publish information on *existing* load applications with capacity of 500kVA or more to give access seekers transparency of applications already being processed. Otherwise, the pipeline could give a misleading impression of the priority position and timing for approval of new applications. Distributors will already have much of this information as they are required to provide it to the Authority under the 2.16 notice (see the section below on information provision to the Authority).
  - Where possible, distributors should publish the network connections pipeline information in the format set out in the 'Queueing and management policy for distributors.'
  - At a minimum, we recommend distributors publish the following information for *individual* load applications, in the format set out in Part 6, except where confidential:

1	priority position
2	capacity
3	load type
4	location (zone substation or feeder)
5	project stage
6	date the application started in that stage

- Pre-final approval, existing load applications should be published as in the 'final application' stage. As existing applications, these will have higher priority than new load applications.
- Distributors should also include existing load applications (with capacity of 500kVA or more) in their aggregate network connections pipeline.

Distributors should publish pipeline information as soon as possible

The Authority encourages distributors to proactively publish and populate their network connection pipelines with *all* large DG and load applications, where possible, ahead of Code implementation timeframes. This will make the network connections pipeline more valuable for access seekers.

Distributors must publish information on network capacity from 1 December 2026

From 1 December 2026, distributors must publish and update information on network capacity as set out in clause 6.3(2)(de).

Distributors must supply pipeline information to the Authority monthly from 1 December 2026

The information requirements are set out in a clause 2.16 notice Investment pipeline notice – Distributors.

Information is required for both *existing* and *new* applications as follows:

- DG applications with maximum net export greater than or equal to 300kW
- Load applications greater than or equal to 500kVA

except where applications were declined, cancelled or completed prior to 1 December 2026.

However, following distributor feedback, the Authority amended the notice to provide transitional arrangements for DG applications made before 1 December 2026 and load applications made before 1 June 2027.

A reduced set of information will be required for *existing* DG applications from 1 December 2026

At a minimum, distributors must provide the following information for *existing* DG applications. 'If available' indicates information is highly desirable but not essential.

		Comment
1	Application ID	
2	Proponent	
3	Application Date	
4	Expected commissioning date	if available
5	Cancelled	if cancelled after first data submission
6	Project Name	if available
7	Connection Location (GXP)	
8	Zone Substation	if available
9	Location Name	
10	Share with SO	
11	Generation Actual Capacity Megawatts	called "nameplate capacity" in Part 6
12	Generation Technology	similar to "Fuel type" in Part 6

We expect distributors to populate remaining fields as they are able to gather information from applicants, but by 1 June 2027 at the latest.

A reduced set of information will be required for load applications made before 1 June 2027

At a minimum, distributors must provide the following information for load applications made before 1 June 2027. ‘If available’ indicates Information is highly desirable but not essential.

		Comment
1	Application ID	
2	Proponent	
3	Application Date	
4	Expected commissioning date	if available
5	Cancelled	if cancelled after first data submission
6	Project Name	if available
7	Connection Location (GXP)	
8	Zone Substation	if available
9	Location Name	
10	Share with SO	
11	Expected Peak Demand Megawatts	may use MVA (called “Capacity” in Part 6) if MW not available
12	Load Type	if available

We expect distributors to populate remaining fields as they are able to gather the information from applicants, but at the latest by 1 June 2027 or six months after the initial application date, whichever is later.

The full set of information will be required for *new* DG applications received from 1 December 2026

Refer to Investment pipeline notice – Distributors for details.

The full set of information will be required for *new* load applications received from 1 June 2027

Refer to Investment pipeline notice – Distributors for details.