



This legislation is administered by the Electricity Authority. For more information please see:  
Website: <https://www.ea.govt.nz/>  
Contact phone: +64 4 460 8860  
Contact address: PO Box 10041, Wellington 6143

## **Electricity Industry Participation Code (Frequency and voltage related amendments) Amendment 2026**

This amendment to the Electricity Industry Participation Code 2010 (Code) is made under section 38 of the Electricity Industry Act 2010 (Act) by the Electricity Authority having complied with section 39 of the Act.

### **Contents**

1	Title	1
2	Commencement	2
3	Code amended	2

### **Part 1**

#### **Amendments to Part 1 of the Electricity Industry Participation Code**

4	Clause 1.1 amended (Interpretation)	2
---	-------------------------------------	---

### **Part 2**

#### **Amendments to Part 8 of the Electricity Industry Participation Code**

5	Clause 8.21 amended (Excluded generating stations)	3
6	Clause 8.23 heading replaced (Voltage support AOPOs)	4
7	New clause 8.23A inserted (Voltage support AOPOs for embedded generating stations)	5
8	Schedule 8.3, Technical Code A, clause 4 amended	5
9	Schedule 8.3, Technical Code A, clause 5 amended	5
10	Schedule 8.3, Technical Code A, clause 6 amended	7

## **Amendment**

### **1 Title**

This is the Electricity Industry Participation Code (Frequency and voltage related amendments) Amendment 2026.

## 2 Commencement

This amendment comes into force on 1 July 2026.

## 3 Code amended

This amendment amends the Electricity Industry Participation Code 2010.

### Part 1

## Amendments to Part 1 of the Electricity Industry Participation Code

### 4 Clause 1.1 amended (Interpretation)

(1) In clause 1.1(1), insert in their appropriate alphabetical order:

**inherent dead band** means the range of system frequency values around 50 hertz within which a **generating unit** does not provide an immediate frequency control response, due to the physical characteristics of the **generating unit**

**maximum continuous MW output power** means:

- (a) for each **generating station, embedded generating station or generating unit** for which a **generator** or an **embedded generator** must submit an **offer** under this Code, the maximum dispatch quantity (in **MW** alternating current (a.c.)) of the **generating station, embedded generating station or generating unit** as specified in the **asset capability statement** for the **generating station, embedded generating station or generating unit**; or
- (b) for each **generating station, embedded generating station or generating unit** for which a **generator** or an **embedded generator** is not required to submit an **offer** under this Code, the maximum **active power** output (in **MW** alternating current (a.c.)) of the **generating station, embedded generating station or generating unit** at its **point of connection** that can be maintained continuously over a 5-minute period of time under ideal operating conditions—
  - (i) as specified in the **asset capability statement** for the **generating station, embedded generating station or generating unit**; and
  - (ii) with the **generating station, embedded generating station or generating unit** maintaining compliance with this Code in the absence of any exemption, **dispensation, equivalence arrangement** or similar

(2) In clause 1.1(1), definition of **good electricity industry practice**,—

- (a) insert “means: (a)” after “**good electricity industry practice**”; and
- (b) replace “transmission, means” with “a **grid owner**,” after “in relation to”; and
- (c) replace “. The determination is” with “, with the determination” after “environmental protection”; and
- (d) insert “; and” after “the applicable law”; and
- (e) insert, as paragraph (b):
  - (b) in relation to a **distributor**, the exercise of that degree of skill, diligence, prudence, foresight and economic management that would reasonably be expected from a skilled and experienced **electricity network** owner engaged in New Zealand in the **distribution** of **electricity** under conditions comparable to those applicable to the **distributor’s network** consistent with applicable law,

safety and environmental protection, with the determination of comparable conditions to take into account factors such as the relative size, duty, age and technological status of the relevant **distribution network** and the applicable law

- (3) In clause 1.1(1), definition of **point of connection**, revoke subclause (b).

## Part 2

### Amendments to Part 8 of the Electricity Industry Participation Code

#### 5 Clause 8.21 amended (Excluded generating stations)

- (1) In clause 8.21(1)—
- (a) insert “or **embedded generating station**” after “means a **generating station**”; and
  - (b) replace “exports less than 30 MW to a **local network** or the **grid**” with “has a **maximum continuous MW output power** of less than 10 MW”; and
  - (c) insert “or **embedded generating station**” after “under clause 8.38 that the **generating station**”.
- (2) In clause 8.21(2), replace “an **excluded generation station**” with “an **excluded generating station**”.
- (3) After clause 8.21(2), insert:
- (3) A **generating station** or **embedded generating station** that was an **excluded generating station** immediately before 1 July 2026 that would no longer be an **excluded generating station** due to the commencement of the Electricity Industry Participation Code (Frequency and voltage related amendments) Amendment 2026 continues to be an **excluded generating station** if—
- (a) it is not able to comply, without modification, with one or more of the requirements it would be subject to if it was no longer an **excluded generating station**; and
  - (b) the **asset owner** of the **generating station** or **embedded generating station** updates the **asset capability statement** for the **generating station** or **embedded generating station** to record that this subclause applies to the **generating station** or **embedded generating station**.
- (4) Subject to subclause (5), a **generating station** or **embedded generating station** that first **electrically connects** to the **grid** or directly or indirectly to a **local network** on or after 1 July 2026 and before 1 July 2027 and which would have been an **excluded generating station** if the definition of that term in the Code immediately before the commencement of the Electricity Industry Participation Code (Frequency and voltage related amendments) Amendment 2026 applied to it, is an **excluded generating station** if—
- (a) it is not able to comply, without modification, with one or more of the requirements it would be subject to if it was no longer an **excluded generating station**; and
  - (b) the **asset owner** of the **generating station** or **embedded generating station** updates the **asset capability statement** for the **generating station** or **embedded generating station** to record that this subclause applies to the **generating station** or **embedded generating station**.

- (5) In order for subclause (4) to apply to a **generating station** or **embedded generating station**, the **asset owner** of the **generating station** or **embedded generating station** must confirm in writing to the **system operator** before 1 August 2026 that the following have occurred in respect of the **generating station** or **embedded generating station**:
- (a) the **asset owner** has secured financing that enables the **asset owner** to develop and **commission** the **generating station** or **embedded generating station**;
  - (b) the **asset owner** has obtained all consents necessary to enable the **asset owner** to develop and **commission** the **generating station** or **embedded generating station**;
  - (c) the **asset owner** has obtained rights to use the land on which the **generating station** or **embedded generating station** is to be located.
- (6) Subclauses (3) and (4) cease to apply in respect of a **generating station** or **embedded generating station** from the date—
- (a) a modification is made to the **generating station** or **embedded generating station** that means it is able to comply with all the requirements it would be subject to if it was not an **excluded generating station**; or
  - (b) the **generating station's** or **embedded generating station's maximum continuous MW output power** increases by 5 MW or more above its **maximum continuous MW output power** immediately before 1 July 2027.
- (7) An **asset owner** must, as soon as practicable, update the **asset capability statement** for a **generating station** or **embedded generating station** to record when subclause (3) or (4) ceases to apply to the **generating station** or **embedded generating station**.
- (8) The **system operator** must **publish** and maintain a list of **generating stations** and **embedded generating stations** to which subclause (3) or (4) applies.

**6 Clause 8.23 heading replaced (Voltage support AOPOs)**

Replace the heading to clause 8.23 with:

**8.23 Voltage support AOPOs for grid-connected generating stations**

**7 New clause 8.23A inserted (Voltage support AOPOs for embedded generating stations)**

After clause 8.23, insert:

**8.23A Voltage support AOPOs for embedded generating stations**

- (1) Unless agreed otherwise with the **distributor** who operates the **local network**, each **embedded generator** must ensure that each **embedded generating station** it owns or operates to which clause 5(2A) of Technical Code A applies is, when **synchronised** with the **local network**, at all times capable of—
- (a) when the voltage at the **embedded generating station's point of connection** to the **local network** is within the applicable range of nominal voltage in the table below, exporting a minimum **reactive power** of 33% of the **maximum continuous MW output power** of the **embedded generating station**, as measured at the **embedded generating station's point of connection** to the **local network**;

Nominal <b>local network</b> voltage (kV)	Voltage range for which <b>reactive power</b> is required			
	Minimum (kV)		Maximum (kV)	
110	99	-10.0%	121	10.0%
66	62.7	-5.0%	69.3	5.0%
50	47.5	-5.0%	52.5	5.0%
33	31.35	-5.0%	34.65	5.0%
22	21.45	-2.5%	22.55	2.5%
11	10.725	-2.5%	11.275	2.5%

- (b) when the voltage at the **embedded generating station’s point of connection** to the **local network** is within the applicable range of nominal voltage in the table below, importing a minimum **reactive power** of 33% of the **maximum continuous MW output power** of the **embedded generating station**, as measured at the **embedded generating station’s point of connection** to the **local network**:

Nominal <b>local network</b> voltage (kV)	Voltage range for which <b>reactive power</b> is required			
	Minimum (kV)		Maximum (kV)	
110	104.5	-5.0%	121	10.0%
66	62.7	-5.0%	69.3	5.0%
50	47.5	-5.0%	52.5	5.0%
33	31.35	-5.0%	34.65	5.0%
22	21.45	-2.5%	22.55	2.5%
11	10.725	-2.5%	11.275	2.5%

**8 Schedule 8.3, Technical Code A, clause 4 amended**

In Schedule 8.3, Technical Code A, in the chapeau to clause 4(5), insert “on the grid” after “a **point of connection**”.

**9 Schedule 8.3, Technical Code A, clause 5 amended**

- (1) In Schedule 8.3, Technical Code A, after clause 5(1)(c)(iii), insert:

- (iv) operates with a dead band not exceeding the greater of;
- (A)  $\pm 0.1$  Hertz; or
  - (B) the **inherent dead band** of the **generating unit**, as agreed with the **system operator** acting reasonably; and

- (2) In Schedule 8.3, Technical Code A, after clause 5(1), insert:

- (1A) For a **generator** with a **generating unit** that has **electrically connected** to a **network** prior to the commencement of the Electricity Industry Participation Code (Frequency and voltage related amendments) Amendment 2026, the requirement in subclause

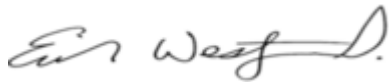
- (1)(c)(iv) only applies from the time of the next periodic test of the **generating unit** carried out in accordance with Appendix B of **Technical Code A** following the commencement of the Electricity Industry Participation Code (Frequency and voltage related amendments) Amendment 2026.
- (1AB) The requirement in subclause 1(c)(iv) does not apply to **generating units** for which geothermal heat is the primary power source.
- (3) In Schedule 8.3, Technical Code A, after clause 5(2), insert:
- (2A) Each **embedded generator** must at all times ensure that each of its **embedded generating stations** connected to a **local network** is equipped with, and operates when the conditions specified in subclause (2B) apply, a voltage **control system** that enables the **embedded generating station** to export or import **reactive power** through the **embedded generating station's point of connection** to the **local network** so as to regulate voltage at the **embedded generating station's point of connection** to the **local network**.
- (2B) The conditions that apply under subclause (2A) are that the **embedded generating station**—
- (a) **electrically connects** to the **local network** at the nominal voltage of the electrical busbar—
    - (i) at which a **grid owner** has agreed to provide services to the **local network owner**; and
    - (ii) that is electrically closest to the **embedded generating station**; and
  - (b) has a **maximum continuous MW output power** of 10 MW or more.
- (2C) Subclause (2A) only applies in respect of an **embedded generating station**—
- (a) if the **distributor** who operates the **local network** has not directed the **embedded generator** to operate the **embedded generating station** in an alternative voltage control mode (such as constant **reactive power** or constant power factor) for the purpose of enabling the **distributor** to operate the **local network** in accordance with **good electricity industry practice**; and
  - (b) that, if first **electrically connected** to a **local network** before 1 July 2027, is able to comply, without modification, with all the requirements in subclause (2A) and in clause 8.23A.
- (2D) Subclause (2C)(b) ceases to apply in respect of an **embedded generating station** from the date—
- (a) a modification is made to the **embedded generating station** that means it is able to comply with all the requirements in subclause (2A) and clause 8.23A; or
  - (b) the **embedded generating station's maximum continuous MW output power** increases by 5 MW or more above its **maximum continuous MW output power** immediately before 1 July 2027.
- (2E) Each **embedded generator** must update the **asset capability statement** for an **embedded generating station** to—
- (a) explain the extent to which the **embedded generating station** complies with the requirements of subclause (2A), where that subclause applies; and
  - (b) record any direction given in respect of the **embedded generating station** under subclause (2C)(a).

(2F) When preparing the information required under subclause (2E), an **embedded generator** is not required to undertake and provide power system studies that are additional to the power system studies the **embedded generator** must undertake for, and provide to, the **distributor** who operates the **local network** to which the **embedded generating station** is connected.

**10 Schedule 8.3, Technical Code A, clause 6 amended**

In Schedule 8.3, Technical Code A, clause 6, insert “on the grid” after “1 **point of connection**”.

Made at Wellington on 10 March 2026



Erik Westergaard  
Acting Chair  
Electricity Authority

Certified in order for signature:



Tiffany Matsis  
Senior Legal Counsel  
Electricity Authority  
6 March 2026



Nick Crang  
Partner  
Duncan Cotterill  
6 March 2026

---

**Explanatory Note**

*This note is not part of the amendment but is intended to indicate its general effect.*

This amendment to the Electricity Industry Participation Code 2010 comes into force on 1 July 2026.

The amendment amends Parts 1 and 8 of the Code to address frequency and voltage related issues by:

- a. lowering the threshold for the exclusion of generating stations from the frequency-related asset owner performance obligations and the technical codes in Part 8 of the Code from 30 MW to 10 MW;
  - b. setting a permitted maximum dead band beyond which a generating station must contribute to frequency management and frequency support;
  - c. amending the voltage support obligations for embedded generating stations; and
  - d. amending the threshold for compliance with fault ride through asset owner performance obligations.
- 

This is secondary legislation issued under the authority of the <a href="#">Legislation Act 2019</a> .	
Title	Electricity Industry Participation Code (Frequency and voltage related amendments) Amendment 2026
Principal or amendment	Amendment
Consolidated version	No
Empowering Act and provisions	Electricity Industry Act 2010, section 38
Replacement empowering Act and provisions	Not applicable
Maker name	Electricity Authority
Administering agency	Electricity Authority
Date made	10 March 2026
Publication date	16 March 2026
Notification date	12 March 2026
Commencement date	1 July 2026
End date (when applicable)	Not applicable
Consolidation as at date	Not applicable
Related instruments	<a href="#">Electricity Industry Participation Code 2010</a>