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Electricity Industry Participation Code (Export Limits) 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 that Act.

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Amendment

1 Title

This is the Electricity Industry Participation Code (Export Limits) Amendment 2026.

2 Commencement

This amendment comes into force on 11 May 2026.

3 Code amended

- (1) Parts 1 and 2 of this amendment amend the Electricity Industry Participation Code 2010 (the **Code**).
- (2) Part 3 of this amendment amends the Electricity Industry Participation Code Amendment (Application for Distributed Generation) 2021.
- (3) Part 4 of this amendment amends the Electricity Industry Participation Code (Network Connections) Amendment 2026.

Part 1

Amendments to Part 1 of Electricity Industry Participation Code

4 Clause 1.1 amended (Interpretation)

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

bespoke export limits assessment methodology for distributors means a methodology that all **distributors** have jointly adopted for the purposes of Part 6 that, if made, **distributors** must use to perform **network** studies that determine **maximum export power**, inverter settings, or other conditions that will apply to an **ICP** that is the subject of an application to connect **distributed generation**

dynamic export limit means an export limit for **distributed generation** under Part 6 that allows at least the **maximum export power** threshold when there is no **export congestion** and remotely adjusts the export limit of the smart inverter in real-time to continuously respond to **network export congestion**

export limits assessment methodology for distributors means a methodology that all **distributors** have jointly adopted for the purposes of Part 6 that, if made, **distributors**

must use to perform **network** studies that determine the **maximum export power** threshold, or inverter settings, that apply to an **ICP** or group of **ICPs** connected to a section of **network**, whether or not an application to connect **distributed generation** has been received for that **ICP** or one of those **ICPs**

flexible export limit means an export limit for **distributed generation** under Part 6 that allows at least the **maximum export power** threshold when there is no **export congestion** and adjusts the export limit based on predefined schedules, forecasts, or operating scenarios that are programmed into the inverter or remotely communicated to the smart inverter

Part 2

Amendments to Part 6 of Electricity Industry Participation Code

5 Clause 6.3 amended (Distributors must make information publicly available)

Replace clause 6.3(2)(dc) with:

(dc) the **maximum export power** threshold and the **export limits assessment methodology for distributors** and the **bespoke export limits assessment methodology for distributors** used to determine that threshold, for locations at which the **distributor** has set a **maximum export power threshold**; and

6 New clause 6.3A inserted (Limits on maximum export power and installed generation)

After clause 6.3 insert:

6.3A Limits on maximum export power and installed generation

- (1) A **distributor** must not set a limit on the **nameplate capacity** of **distributed generation** that may be installed at an **ICP** for applications made under Part 1 or Part 1A.
- (2) A **distributor** may set a limit on the **maximum export power** that may be injected into the **network** from an **ICP** (the '**maximum export power** threshold') for applications made under Part 1A, provided the **maximum export power** threshold is not set lower than 10kW except in accordance with subclause (3).
- (3) A **distributor** may set a limit on the **maximum export power** threshold that applies to an **ICP** or group of **ICPs** of lower than 10kW provided the **distributor** has undertaken a **network** study that—
 - (a) shows a lower **maximum export power** threshold is necessary to maintain voltage within the allowable tolerances or **network** safety, including, but not limited to, any issues reasonably likely to affect power quality or reliability, such as thermal constraints, in the section of the **network** that carries **electricity** from the **ICP** or group of **ICPs** to the **network**; and
 - (b) only takes into account **distributed generation** that is connected to, and applications that are being assessed to connect **distributed generation** to, the section of **network** that carries **electricity** from the **ICP** or group of **ICPs** to the **network**; and

- (c) if the lower **maximum export power** threshold is part of a **dynamic export limit** or a **flexible export limit**—
 - (i) the lower **maximum export power** threshold is only active during the time periods when the **network** study has identified that the lower **maximum export power** threshold is necessary; and
 - (ii) the **dynamic export limit** or a **flexible export limit** does not operate when the **network** is not constrained.
- (4) From 11 November 2026 any **network** study undertaken under subclause (3) must use the **export limits assessment methodology for distributors**.
- (5) The **distributor** must—
 - (a) **publish** any **network** study undertaken under subclause (3); and
 - (b) **publish** easily accessible lists or maps of areas on the **network** where the lower **maximum export power** threshold or different settings applies; and
 - (c) repeat the **network** study where there has been a change on the **network** likely to alter the outcome of **network** study.

7 New clause 6.3B inserted (Requirements for inverters)

Before clause 6.4, insert:

6.3B Requirements for inverters

- (1) From 11 September 2026 subject to subclause (2), a **distributor** must require a **distributed generator** that injects **electricity** at low voltage to use an inverter that is compliant with, and applies, the “Australia A” inverter settings specified in, AS/NZS477.2:2020 incorporating Amendments No. 1 and 2.
- (2) A **distributor** may specify different inverter settings to those required by subclause (1) in its **connection and operating standards** if—
 - (a) the **distributor** has undertaken a **network** study that shows different settings are necessary to maintain voltage within the allowable tolerances and/or **network** safety, including any issues reasonably likely to affect power quality or reliability, such as thermal constraints, in the section of **network** for or an **ICP** or group of **ICPs**; and
 - (b) any alternative inverter settings are consistent with the “allowed range” in Tables 3.6, 3.7, 3.8, and 4.3 of AS/NZS 4777.2:2020 incorporating Amendments No. 1 and 2.
- (3) From 11 November 2026 any **network** study undertaken under subclause (2) must use the **export limits assessment methodology for distributors**.
- (4) The **distributor** must—
 - (a) **publish** any **network** study undertaken under subclause (2); and
 - (b) repeat the **network** study where there has been a change on the **network** likely to alter the outcome of **network** study.

8 Clause 6.4 amended (Process for obtaining approval)

In clause 6.4(1)(d), insert “, **maximum export power**,” after “**nameplate capacity**,”.

Schedule 6.1

9 Clause 1D of Schedule 6.1 amended

- (1) In clause 1D(1) of Schedule 6.1—
 - (a) in paragraph (a), replace “2016” with “2024”; and
 - (b) in paragraph(b)(i), insert “incorporating Amendments No. 1 and 2” after “AS/NZS 4777.2:2020”; and
 - (c) after paragraph (b), insert:
 - (c) will inject **electricity** less than or equal to the **maximum export power** threshold set by the **distributor** in clause 6.3A(2).
- (2) In clause 1D(2) of Schedule 6.1—
 - (a) in the chapeau, replace “Until 1 September 2026, a” with “A”; and
 - (b) in paragraph (c), replace “meet the **distributor’s connection and operation standards**” with “comply with clause 6.3B(1) or meet the **distributor’s** inverter settings specified in accordance with clause 6.3B(2)”; and
 - (c) in paragraph (d), delete “in its **connection and operation standards**”.

10 New clause 1E of Schedule 6.1 inserted

After clause 1D of Schedule 6.1, insert:

1E Applications that do not comply with distributor thresholds or inverter settings

- (1) Despite clause 6.3A or 6.3B, a **distributed generator** may submit an application to connect **distributed generation** that has greater capacity than the **distributor’s maximum export power** threshold or has different inverter settings than those specified in accordance with clause 6.3B(2), and the **distributor** must assess that application in good faith, under—
 - (a) Part 1 or Part 2 of Schedule 6.1 for **distributed generation** greater than the **maximum export power** threshold; or
 - (b) Part 1 or Part 2 of Schedule 6.1 for **distributed generation** using different inverter settings.
- (2) From 11 November 2026, any **network** study undertaken for a Part 2 application as part of the assessment under subclause (1)—
 - (a) must use the **bespoke export limits assessment methodology for distributors**; and
 - (b) must, if it contains an analysis which deviates from the **bespoke export limits assessment methodology for distributors**, include the reasons for the deviation; and
 - (c) must be provided to the **distributed generator** before determining the application; and
 - (d) must be **published** by the **distributor** unless the **distributed generator** does not give consent to **publish**.
- (3) Unless the **distributed generator** agrees otherwise, where practicable, the **distributor** must provide the **distributed generator** with the following:
 - (a) alternative export limits:

- (b) the conditions the **distributed generator** must meet in order for the **distributor** to approve those alternative export limits:
 - (c) the associated costs if the **distributed generator** chooses an alternative export limit.
- (4) If an application is approved, the **distributor** will adjust the **maximum export power** threshold for that **ICP** to the new **maximum export power** threshold determined during the application process.

11 New clause 1F of Schedule 6.1 inserted

Before clause 2 of Schedule 6.1, insert:

1F Distributed generator may dispute results of network study in certain circumstances

- (1) A **distributed generator** may dispute any limit set by a **distributor** on **maximum export power** or inverter settings that operate to limit **maximum export power**, or associated conditions set by the **distributor**, arising from a **network** study using the **bespoke export limits assessment methodology for distributors** by providing written notice of the dispute to the **distributor**.
- (2) A **distributed generator** may not dispute the **bespoke export limits assessment methodology for distributors** itself.
- (3) A dispute may only be raised up to 30 days after the **distributor** has notified the **distributed generator** of the results or the limit on **maximum export power** or inverter settings that operate to limit **maximum export power** set by a **distributor** or associated conditions set by the **distributor**.
- (4) If a **distributed generator** notifies the **distributor** of a dispute under subclause (1), the **distributor** and the **distributed generator** (“the parties”)—
 - (a) must attempt to resolve the dispute in good faith and without unreasonable delay; and
 - (b) may escalate the dispute to their chief executive officer, or a person holding the equivalent position, if the dispute cannot be resolved in good faith and without unreasonable delay; and
 - (c) the chief executive officer, or person holding the equivalent position, may—
 - (i) refer the dispute to mediation with costs to lie where they fall; and
 - (ii) if the parties cannot agree to a mediator within 5 **business days** of referring the dispute to mediation, the parties must submit a request to AMINZ (or its replacement organisation) to select a mediator and determine the mediator’s fee; and
 - (d) if the dispute cannot be resolved the **distributor** and the **distributed generator** must—
 - (i) refer the dispute to arbitration under the Arbitration Act 1996; and
 - (ii) if the parties cannot agree to an arbitrator within 5 **business days** of referring the dispute to arbitration, the parties must submit a request to AMINZ (or its replacement organisation) to select an arbitrator and determine the arbitrator’s fee.
- (5) If the parties refer the dispute to arbitration, either party may commission an independent engineering review of the issues being disputed, in which case—

- (a) the review must be conducted by a suitable engineering consultant nominated by the Electricity Engineers Association (or its replacement organisation); and
- (b) the party commissioning the review must initially pay the cost of the review, with the final allocation of the costs between the parties determined by the arbitrator.

12 Clause 2 of Schedule 6.1 amended

- (1) In clause 2(3)(aa)(iv) of Schedule 6.1, insert “, **maximum export power,**” after “**nameplate capacity**”.
- (2) In clause 2(3)(b) of Schedule 6.1, insert “or **maximum export power,**” after “**nameplate capacity**”.
- (3) In clause 2(3)(ba) of Schedule 6.1, in the chapeau, insert “, **maximum export power,**” after “**nameplate capacity**”.
- (4) In clause 2(3)(ba)(i) of Schedule 6.1, insert “and **maximum export power**” after “**nameplate capacity**”.

13 Clause 9B of Schedule 6.1 amended

- (1) In clause 9B(1)(d) of Schedule 6.1, insert “, **maximum export power,**” after “**nameplate capacity**”.
- (2) In clause 9B(2)(f) of Schedule 6.1, insert “incorporating Amendments No.1 and 2” after “AS/NZS 4777.2:2020”.
- (3) In clause 9B(2A) of Schedule 6.1—
 - (a) in the chapeau, replace “Until 1 September 2026, an” with “An”; and
 - (b) replace paragraph (a) with:
 - (a) confirmation the inverter conforms with the inverter settings specified in clause 6.3B(1) or 6.3B(2); and
 - (c) in paragraph (b), delete “in its **connection and operation standards**”.

Part 3

**Amendment to the Electricity Industry Participation Code
Amendment (Application for Distributed Generation) 2021**

14 Clause 8 revoked

Revoke clause 8.

Part 4

**Amendments to the Electricity Industry Participation Code (Network
Connections) Amendment 2026**

15 Clause 13 amended

Replace the amendments to clause 6.3(2)(dc) of the Code in clause 13 by replacing that subparagraph with:

- (dc) the **maximum export power** threshold and the **export limits assessment methodology for distributors** and the **bespoke export limits assessment**

methodology for distributors used to determine that threshold, for locations at which the **distributor** has set a **maximum export power threshold**; and

16 Clause 26 amended

- (1) Replace the amendments to clause 4 of Schedule 6.1 of the Code in clause 26 by replacing clause 4 with:

4 When application may be made under Process 1A

- (1) A **distributed generator** may elect to apply to a **distributor** under **Process 1A** instead of **Process 1** if the **distributed generation** to which the application relates—
- (a) is designed and installed in accordance with AS/NZS 4777.1:2024; and
 - (b) incorporates an inverter that—
 - (i) has been tested and issued a Declaration of Conformity with AS/NZS 4777.2:2020 incorporating Amendments No. 1 and 2 by a laboratory with accreditation issued or recognised by International Accreditation New Zealand; and
 - (ii) has settings that meet the **distributor’s connection and operation standards**; and
 - (c) will inject **electricity** less than or equal to the **maximum export power** threshold set by the **distributor** in clause 6.3A(2).
- (2) A **distributed generator** may only elect to apply to a **distributor** under **Process 1A** instead of **Process 1**, if the **distributed generation** to which the application relates has, in addition to the requirements in subclause (1)—
- (a) a volt-watt response mode; and
 - (b) a volt-var response mode; and
 - (c) control settings and volt response mode settings that comply with clause 6.3B(1) or meet the **distributor’s** inverter settings specified in accordance with clause 6.3B(2); and
 - (d) a **maximum export power** limit at the **ICP** of the **distributed generator** that does not exceed the **maximum export power** threshold, if any, specified by the **distributor**.

- (2) Amend clause 26 by inserting a new clause 4A to be inserted in the Code after clause 4 of Schedule 6.1 as follows:

4A Applications that do not comply with distributor thresholds or inverter settings

- (1) Despite clause 6.3A or 6.3B, a **distributed generator** may submit an application to connect **distributed generation** that has greater capacity than the **distributor’s maximum export power** threshold or has different inverter settings than those specified in accordance with clause 6.3B(2), and the **distributor** must assess that application in good faith, under—
- (a) Process 1 of Schedule 6.1 for **distributed generation** greater than the **maximum export power** threshold; or
 - (b) Process 1 or Process 2 of Schedule 6.1 for **distributed generation** using different inverter settings.
- (2) From 11 November 2026, any **network** study undertaken for a Process 2 application as part of the assessment under subclause (1)—

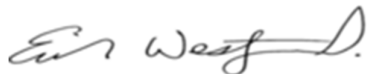
- (a) must use the **bespoke export limits assessment methodology for distributors**; and
 - (b) must, if it contains any analysis which deviates from the **bespoke export limits assessment methodology for distributors**, include the reasons for the deviation; and
 - (c) must be provided to the **distributed generator** before determining the application; and
 - (d) must be **published** by the **distributor** unless the **distributed generator** does not give consent to **publish**.
- (3) Unless the **distributed generator** agrees otherwise, where practicable, the **distributor** must provide the **distributed generator** with the following:
- (a) alternative export limits;
 - (b) the conditions the **distributed generator** must meet in order for the **distributor** to approve those alternative export limits;
 - (c) the associated costs if the **distributed generator** chooses an alternative export limit.
- (4) If an application is approved, the **distributor** will adjust the **maximum export power** threshold for that **ICP** to the new **maximum export power** threshold determined during the application process.
- (3) Amend clause 26 by inserting a new clause 4B in the Code before the cross heading “*Confidentiality*” in Schedule 6.1 as follows:

4B Distributed generator may dispute results of network study in certain circumstances

- (1) A **distributed generator** may dispute any limit set by a **distributor** on **maximum export power** or inverter settings that operate to limit **maximum export power**, or associated conditions set by the **distributor**, arising from a **network** study using the **bespoke export limits assessment methodology for distributors** by providing written notice of the dispute to the **distributor**.
- (2) A **distributed generator** may not dispute the **bespoke export limits assessment methodology for distributors** itself.
- (3) A dispute may only be raised up to 30 days after the **distributor** has notified the **distributed generator** of the results or the limit on **maximum export power** or inverter settings that operate to limit **maximum export power** set by a **distributor** or associated conditions set by the **distributor**.
- (4) If a **distributed generator** notifies the **distributor** of a dispute under subclause (1), the **distributor** and the **distributed generator** (“the parties”)—
 - (a) must attempt to resolve the dispute in good faith and without unreasonable delay; and
 - (b) may escalate the dispute to their chief executive officer, or a person holding the equivalent position, if the dispute cannot be resolved in good faith and without unreasonable delay; and
 - (c) the chief executive officer, or person holding the equivalent position, may—
 - (i) refer the dispute to mediation with costs to lie where they fall; and
 - (ii) if the parties cannot agree to a mediator within 5 **business days** of referring the dispute to mediation, the parties must submit a request to AMINZ (or its

- replacement organisation) to select a mediator and determine the mediator’s fee; and
- (d) if the dispute cannot be resolved the **distributor** and the **distributed generator** must—
 - (i) refer the dispute to arbitration under the Arbitration Act 1996; and
 - (ii) if the parties cannot agree to an arbitrator within 5 **business days** of referring the dispute to arbitration, the parties must submit a request to AMINZ (or its replacement organisation) to select an arbitrator and determine the arbitrator’s fee.
 - (5) If the parties refer the dispute to arbitration, either party may commission an independent engineering review of the issues being disputed, in which case—
 - (a) the review must be conducted by a suitable engineering consultant nominated by the Electricity Engineers Association (or its replacement organisation); and
 - (b) the party commissioning the review must initially pay the cost of the review, with the final allocation of the costs between the parties determined by the arbitrator.
 - (4) Amend clause 26 by making the following amendments to new clause 2(2) of Schedule 6.1, Appendix 1, Process 1 of the Code:
 - (a) in paragraph (b)(iv), insert “**nameplate capacity,**” before “**maximum export power**”; and
 - (b) in paragraph (c), insert “**nameplate capacity or**” before “**maximum export power**”; and
 - (c) in the chapeau of paragraph (d), insert “**nameplate capacity,**” before “**maximum export power**”; and
 - (d) in paragraph (d)(i), insert “**nameplate capacity or**” before “**maximum export power**”; and
 - (e) in paragraph (d)(ii), insert “**nameplate capacity or**” before “**maximum export power**”.
 - (5) Amend clause 26 by making the following amendments to new clause 2 of Schedule 6.1, Appendix 1A, Process 1A of the Code:
 - (a) in clause 2(1)(d), insert “**nameplate capacity,**” before “**maximum export power**”; and
 - (b) in clause 2(2)(f), insert “incorporating Amendments No.1 and 2” after “AS/NZS 4777.2:2020”; and
 - (c) in clause 2, replace subclause (3) with:
 - (3) An application must also include—
 - (a) confirmation the inverter conforms with the inverter settings specified in clause 6.3B(1) or 6.3B(2); and
 - (b) confirmation that the **distributed generation** has a **maximum export power** limit that does not exceed the **maximum export power** threshold, if any, specified by the **distributor**; and
 - (c) the **maximum export power** of the **distributed generation**.

Made at Wellington on 9 April 2026



Erik Westergaard
Acting Chair
Electricity Authority

Certified in order for signature:



Amy Williams
Senior Legal Counsel
Electricity Authority
9 April 2026



Nick Crang
Consultant
Duncan Cotterill
8 April 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 11 May 2026, except for clauses 15 to 20, which come into force on 1 December 2026, immediately after the Electricity Industry Participation Code (Network Connections) Amendment 2026 comes into force.

The amendment amends Parts 1 and 6 of the Electricity Industry Participation Code 2010 (“Code”) to maximise the benefits from distributed generation by:

- (a) introducing a default static export limit of 10kW for applications under the Part 1A process in the Code for straightforward, small-scale DG connections up to 10kW, or offer a dynamic or flexible export limit (with a minimum 10kW limit when the export is not being controlled during congested periods), or apply lower static limits where justified, after a standardised network assessment;
- (b) introducing:
 - (i) a standardised Export Limits Assessment Methodology for small scale DG where distributors propose limits below 10kW for individual installation control points (ICPs) or small groups of ICPs connected to the same section of

- low voltage line, or to assess alternative dynamic or flexible limits as noted above; and
- (ii) a Bespoke Export Limits Assessment Methodology for larger scale DG greater than 10kW, under the Part 2 DG Code application process;
- (c) updating inverter standards and settings to require:
- (i) default adoption of ‘Australia A’ voltage response, frequency and protection settings in the inverter performance standard AS/NZS 4777.2:2020;
 - (ii) adherence to the inverter installation standard AS/NZS 4777.1:2024 for Part 1A DG applications; and
 - (iii) adherence to the inverter performance standard AS/NZS 4777.2:2020 (including amendments 1 and 2) for all low voltage DG applications;
- (d) making further consequential amendments to reflect these changes.

The amendment also amends the Electricity Industry Participation Code Amendment (Application for Distributed Generation) 2021 to revoke clause 8 of that instrument, removing the automatic revocation of the amendments made in clauses 4, 5, 6(2) and 7(3) of that instrument.

This is secondary legislation issued under the authority of the Legislation Act 2019 .	
Title	Electricity Industry Participation (Export Limits) Amendment 2026
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Administering agency	Electricity Authority
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