New requirements for setting export limits - information sheet for distributors

The Electricity Authority is updating the Code to make export limits more efficient, so residential solar, wind, solar farms and other distributed generation can supply more electricity to networks. The new rules also create a standardised and transparent approach to setting export limits for larger-scale distributed generation.

This information sheet summarises some key implementation points for distributors to support implementing our decisions.

For the full description of the new requirements, please see the decision paper '*Maximising benefits from local electricity generation (Export limits)*', released 7 April 2026.

Key implementation dates

- **11 May 2026**
  - Part 1A default static export limit increases to 10kW
  - Distributors may offer flexible or dynamic export limits where networks are constrained, following a network study
  - Part 1A distributed generation (DG) applications must comply with inverter performance standard AS/NZS477.2:2020 (incorporating Amendments No. 1 and 2) and inverter installation standard AS/NZS 4777.1:2024
- **11 September 2026**
  - All low voltage DG applications must use inverters complying with AS/NZS477.2:2020 (incorporating Amendments No. 1 and 2) and apply the 'Australia A' settings in the standard
- **11 November 2026**
  - Export limits assessment methodology (ELAM) or Bespoke Export Limits Assessment Methodology (BELAM) required for export limit assessments

Default export limit

- From 11 May 2026, the default maximum permitted export limit for Part 1A applications is 10kW, unless a network assessment determines a lower limit.
- Distributors must publish a list or maps of installation control points (ICPs) (or groups of ICPs) where a network assessment has determined a lower export limit must apply. If an ICP is not listed the 10kW limit applies.
- If a lower limit applies it must have an engineering justification (network study) for the limit at that ICP. The requirements for the network study are in clause 6.3A(3) and (5).
- Until 11 November 2026, you can use any appropriate methodology for network studies. From 11 November onwards, you must use one of the methodologies specified in the ELAM.

Registry requirements

- There is no requirement to upload export limit data in the Electricity Registry until distributed generation (DG) is connected at an ICP. This is because the distributor must publish on its website, easily accessible lists or maps of any export limits other than 10kW (clause 6.3A(5)(b) and clause 1.1(1) definition of "publish").
- The *Maximum Permitted Generation Capacity* field may be **left blank** where:
    - no ELAM has been completed; or
    - a BELAM assessment did not constrain the application.
- The *Maximum Permitted Generation Capacity* field must be **completed** to record:
    - an ELAM-determined export limit (where this applies); or
    - a BELAM-determined limit where it materially reduced the approved capacity - ie, the customer amended the size of their distributed generation application downwards in response to a BELAM assessment.
- BELAM values should not be recorded where there has been a network upgrade to remove the constraint.

Static vs flexible or dynamic export limits

- As noted above, distributors must offer a default 10kW export limit unless a network study shows the network is constrained and a lower limit is required.
- Where constraints exist, distributors may:
    - require a lower static export limit applying at all times; or
    - offer a flexible or dynamic limit, equivalent to the lower static limit only during constrained periods.
- Flexible or dynamic limits must allow at least 10kW when the network is not constrained and **only** require the lower limit that is determined by the network study during periods that the network study shows the network for the ICP is constrained.
- Clause 6.3A(3)(b) states network studies may only consider current hosting capacity and submitted applications. Flexible or dynamic limits cannot currently be based on anticipated future constraints.

The Authority will consider the benefit of using forecast distributed generation uptake to set export limits in a future policy consultation.

ELAM and BELAM methodologies

- The Authority is engaging with the Electricity Engineers' Association (and Electricity Networks Aotearoa) as they develop the ELAM and BELAM processes.
- All distributors must use these processes from 11 November 2026.
- The processes will consider the suitability of current methodologies (eg, Gridsight) to determine export limits.

- The ELAM and BELAM are likely to contain three or four options to allow distributors with materially differing circumstances or contracts with alternative technology providers, to use an appropriate methodology.

If you have any questions about these requirements, please contact us at connection.feedback@ea.govt.nz with ‘export limits’ in the subject line.