

**ORISSA ELECTRICITY REGULATORY COMMISSION
BIDYUT NIYAMAK BHAWAN
UNIT-VIII, BHUBANESWAR-751012**

NOTIFICATION

Dated, the 9th January, 2007

No.OERC-Engg.-16/2006 – The Commission had framed the Orissa Electricity Regulatory Commission Distribution (Conditions of Supply) Code, 2004 which were published in the Orissa Gazette, Extra-ordinary No.710 dt.28th May, 2004. The said Regulations were amended twice vide amendments which were published in the Orissa Gazette, Extra-ordinary No.1261 and 1266 dt.22nd September, 2004. In the meanwhile, the Central Electricity Authority (CEA) has framed the CEA (Installation and Operation of Meters) Regulations, 2006, in exercise of the power conferred upon it under Sections - 55(1) & 73(e) read with Sec.177 (2) of the Electricity Act, 2003.

Accordingly, to enable the Orissa Electricity Regulatory Commission Distribution (Conditions of Supply) Code, 2004 compatible with the CEA's Regulations, the Commission hereby notifies the following further amendments of the Orissa Electricity Regulatory Commission Distribution (Conditions of Supply) Code, 2004 for information of the general public.

1. In Regulation-2, following sub-regulations may be added as definitions:
“Regulation-2(b)(1) ‘Accredited Test Laboratory’ means a test laboratory accredited by National Accreditation Board for Testing and Calibration Laboratories (NABL);”

“Regulation -2(f)(1) ‘Check Meter’ means a meter, which shall be connected to the same core of the Current Transformer (CT) and Voltage Transformer (VT) to which main meter is connected and shall be used for accounting and billing of electricity in case of failure of main meter;”

“Regulation-2(j)(1) ‘Correct Meter’ means a meter, which shall at least have, features, Accuracy Class and specifications as per the Standards on Installation and Operation of Meters given in Schedule of CEA (Installation and Operation of Meters) Regulation, 2006;”

“Regulation -2(gg)(1)‘Prepaid Meter’ means a meter which facilitates use of electricity only after advance payment;”
2. Regulation-54(1) may be replaced as below:

‘54 (1) Initial power supply shall not be given without a correct meter. All meters shall be of static type. The meters not complying with Central Electricity Authority (Installation and Operation of Meters) Regulation, 2006 (with the amendment from time to time) shall be replaced by the licensee or on request of the consumer. The meters may also be replaced as per the regulations or directions of the Commission.’

3. Regulation-55 may be replaced as below:

‘55 (1) Standards of meter-

It shall comply with the standards as specified by the Central Electricity Authority (Installation and Operation of Meters) Regulation, 2006 (with the amendment from time to time). All meters shall bear BIS mark and have additional features as approved by the Commission. To facilitate this, the licensee shall provide a list of makes and models of the meters.

(2) Accuracy Class-

It shall meet the requirements of Central Electricity Authority (Installation and Operation of Meters) Regulation, 2006 (with the amendment from time to time). Meters up to 650 V should be of 1.0 or better class accuracy, above 650 V and up to 33 KV, it should be 0.5S or better and above 33 KV, it should be 0.2S.

The accuracy class of Current transformers (CTs) and Voltage transformers (VTs) shall not be inferior to that of associated meters. The existing CTs and VTs not complying with these regulations shall be replaced by new CTs and VTs, if found defective, non-functional or as per the directions of the Appropriate Commission. In case the CTs and VTs of the same Accuracy Class as that of meters can not be accommodated in the metering cubicle or panel due to space constraints, the CTs and VTs of the next lower Accuracy Class can be installed.

(3) Reviewing Status of Meter

The licensee shall make out a plan for introduction and adoption of new technologies (such as Pre- paid Meters, time of the day meters, automatic remote meter reading system through appropriate communication system) becoming available with the approval of the Commission or as per the directions of the Commission

(4) Immunity to External Factors

The meter shall be immune to external influences like magnetic induction, vibration, electrostatic discharge, switching transients surge voltages, oblique suspension and harmonics and necessary tests shall be carried out in accordance with the relevant standard.’

4. Regulation-56 (1) to 56(4) may be replaced as below.

‘56(1) The licensee shall supply the meter (unless the consumer elects to supply the same), cut-out/ MCB / CB / load limiter to consumers at the time of providing new service connection or at any other time as required.

(2)(a) In case of new connection/replacement of meter, the consumer, in accordance with Sections 55 and regulations framed under Section 73 of the Act, may himself procure the meter either from the vendors certified by the licensee conforming to licensee’s technical specifications or may request the licensee to supply the meter and charge meter rent as per the tariff order. The licensee shall calibrate the consumer’s meter at consumer’s cost and seal the meter. The consumer shall have the option to get the meter calibrated in any accredited Test laboratory.

(b) Alternatively, consumer may choose to pay the full cost of the meter provided by the licensee. No meter rent shall be chargeable in such case.

(c) The consumer shall claim the meter purchased by him as his asset only after it is permanently removed from the system of the licensee.

(d) The distribution licensee shall put in place a system of quality assurance and testing of meters with the approval of Appropriate Commission.

The licensee shall set up appropriate number of accredited testing laboratories or utilize the services of other accredited testing laboratories. The licensee shall take immediate action to get the accreditations of their existing meter testing laboratories from NABL, if not already done.

- (3) Meters will be installed at the point of supply or at a suitable place as the engineer may decide. The owner of the premises where, the meter is installed shall provide access to the authorised representative(s) of the licensee for installation, testing, commissioning, reading, recording and maintenance. The place of installation of meter shall be such that minimum inconvenience and disruptions are caused to the site owners and the concerned organisations.

It may be installed by the licensee either at consumer premises or outside the consumer premises. If it is installed out side the premises of the consumer, then the licensee shall provide real time display unit at the consumer premises for his information to indicate the electricity consumed by the consumer. For billing purpose, reading of the meter but not the display unit shall be taken into account.

The meter shall be fixed preferably in the basement or ground floor in multi-storied buildings where it will be easily accessible for reading and inspection at any time. The consumer shall run his wiring from such point of supply.

- (4) In case of a feeder directly taken to the consumer's premises for his exclusive use from the licensee's sub-station or from the transmission licensee, the metering arrangement shall be done at the consumer's premises or, at the licensee's sub-station itself. In the event the Commission allows supply of electricity directly from a generating company to consumer on a dedicated transmission system, the location of the meter will be as per their mutual agreement. When the metering arrangements are installed in the consumer's premises, subject to regulation 56(3) above, the position of the service cut-outs or circuit breakers and meters shall be so fixed as to permit easy access to the employees of the licensee at any time.

All EHT & HT consumers shall provide independent entry to the meter or metering cubicle. All efforts should be made to ensure unobstructed access to the meter by a representative of the licensee.'

5. Regulation-56(7) may be replaced as below:

‘56(7) (i) Sealing of Meters -

- (a) All meters shall be sealed by the manufacturer at its works. Whenever new meter / metering equipment is installed (as a replacement or for a new connection), the meters and associated equipment shall be properly sealed by the engineer as per the standards given in the CEA(Installation and Operation of Meters) Regulation,2006, in addition to the seal provided by the manufacturer at its works and consumer’s acknowledgement obtained.
- (b) A tracking and recording software for all new seals shall be provided by the manufacturer of the meter so as to track total movement of seals starting from manufacturing, procurement, storage, record keeping, installation, series of inspections, removal and disposal. Seal shall be unique for each utility and name or logo of the utility shall be clearly visible on the seals. Only the patented seals (seal from the manufacturer who has official right to manufacture the seal) shall be used. Polycarbonate or acrylic seals or plastic seals or holographic seals or any other superior seal shall be used. Lead seals shall not be used in the new meters.
- (c) Old lead seals shall be replaced by new seals in a phased manner and the time frame of the same shall be submitted by the licensee to the Appropriate Commission for approval.

(ii) Removal of Seals from Meters-

The seals, nameplates, distinguishing numbers or marks affixed on the said equipment or apparatus shall not be interfered with, broken, tampered with removed or erased by the consumer under any circumstances. Any tampering, breaking or removing the seal from the meter shall be dealt with as per relevant provisions of the Act. The meter, metering equipment, etc. shall on no account be handled or removed by any one except under the authority of the engineer or his authorised representative. The engineer or his authorised representative can do so in the presence of the consumer or his representative. An acknowledgement shall be taken from the consumer or his representative when seal is broken.

(iii) Safety of Meters-

The consumer shall, as far as circumstances permit, take precautions for the safety of the meter installed in his premises. Licensee shall be responsible for the safety of the meter located outside the premises of the consumer and the consumer shall be responsible for the real time display unit installed by the licensee in consumer premises.’

6. New sub-regulations 56 (8) to 56(12) may be added as below:

- ‘56(8)** In case of single phase meters, the consumer shall ensure that there is no common neutral or phase or looping of neutral or phase of two or more consumers on consumers’ side wiring. If such common neutral or phase or looping of neutral or phase comes to the notice of the licensee, it shall suitably inform the consumer through installation report or regular electricity bills or meter test report as applicable.

- (9) Consumer shall install the Earth Leakage Protective Device (ELPD) in accordance with the provisions of the rules or regulations in this regard.
 - (10) If the earth leakage indication is displayed in the meter the licensee shall suitably inform the consumer through installation report or regular electricity bills or meter test report as applicable.
 - (11) In case CTs and VTs form part of the meters, the meter shall be installed as near the instrument transformers as possible to reduce the potential drop in the secondary leads. The Voltage Transformers shall be electromagnetic VT or Capacitive Voltage Transformer (CVT).
 - (12) The meters shall be provided with such anti tampering features as per the Standards stipulated in the Schedule annexed to the Central Electricity Authority (Installation and Operation of Meters) regulation, 2006 (with the amendment from time to time).'
7. In Regulation 59(6), the word 'of' in the first sentence needs to be replaced with the word 'or'.
8. Regulation 60 may be replaced as below:
'60. Reading of the Meters -
 Reading of meters shall be taken by qualified persons authorised by the licensee at intervals of one month or a period not exceeding two months in respect of LT Domestic and General Purpose consumers or as may be notified by the licensee. The meter readers shall have access to the consumer's premises at all reasonable times for the purpose of meter readings. In respect of Domestic and General Purpose consumers, meters should be read only during daylight hours. The Licensee may use hand held instruments, Meter Reading Instrument (MRI) or Automatic Meter Reading (AMR) machine or any advanced mechanism for recording meter readings and detection of actual consumption of energy for generation of bills on the spot. The readings of each meter shall be entered by such reader in the meter reading book and the signature of the consumer or his representative will be obtained therein except where meters have been installed on the ground floor for a group of apartments or a group of houses in a common area. The meter reading may be entered and signed by the meter reader in the consumer's pass book provided by the licensee. The licensee may adopt alternative technically advanced practices for consumer's information of meter readings. The meter reader should be supplied by the licensee with a laminated photo identity card, which he shall show to the consumer on demand. It shall be responsibility of the licensee to record the metered data, maintain database of all the information associated with the meters and verify the correctness of metered data, Arrangements shall be made by the licensee to display the meter reading and payment status of high value consumers on the Internet.'
9. Regulation-62 may be replaced as below:
 '62 (1) It shall be the responsibility of the licensee to satisfy himself regarding the accuracy of the meter before it is installed and may test them for this purpose.'

- (2) The licensee shall also conduct periodical inspection/testing of the meters at site as per the following schedule or earlier: The licensee may instead of testing the meter at site can remove the meter and replace the same by a tested meter duly tested in an accredited test laboratory.
 - (a) Single phase meters : at least once every five years,
 - (b) LT three phase meters : at least once every three years,
 - (c) HT/EHT meters including MDI : at least once a year.
- (3) Records of these test results shall be maintained in accordance with Rule 57 of Indian Electricity Rules, 1956 or in accordance with regulations framed under Section 73 of the Act.
- (4) If required, the licensee may remove the existing meter for the purpose of testing as provided under Regulation 58 of the Code. The representatives of the licensee must, however, produce an authenticated notice to this effect and sign the document, mentioning his full name and designation, as a receipt, before removing the meter. The consumer shall not object to such removal.
- (5) In addition, meters installed in the circuit shall be tested if study of consumption pattern changes drastically from the similar months or season of the previous years or if there is consumer's complaint pertaining to a meter. The standard reference meter of better accuracy class than the meter under test shall be used for site testing of consumer meters up to 650 volts. The testing for consumers meters above 650 volts should cover the entire metering system including CTs, VTs. Testing may be carried out through NABL accredited mobile laboratory using secondary injection kit, measuring unit and phantom loading or at any accredited test laboratory and recalibrated if required at manufacturer's works.'

10. Regulation-63 may be replaced as below:

'63. Additional meters –

In addition to any meter which may be placed for recording the electricity consumed by the consumer, the licensee may connect additional meters, maximum demand indicator or other apparatus as he may think fit for the purposes of ascertaining or regulating either the quantity of electricity supplied to the consumer, or the number of hours during which the supply is given, or the rate per unit of time at which energy is supplied to the consumer, or any other quantity or time connected with the supply to consumer: Provided that the meter, indicator or apparatus shall not, in the absence of an agreement to the contrary, be placed otherwise than between the distributing mains of the licensee and any meter: Provided further that, where the charges for the supply of energy depend wholly or partly upon the reading or indication of any such meter, indicator or apparatus as aforesaid, the licensee shall, in the absence of an agreement to the contrary, keep the meter, indicator or apparatus correct.'

11. In Regulation 92(ii), the word 'two' in the second sentence needs to be replaced with the word 'one'.
12. The following Omni clause matter may be inserted as Regulation 115 in Chapter-XIV of the OERC Distribution (Conditions of Supply) Code, 2004.

'115. Application of CEA Regulations –

The provisions of the Regulations framed by Central Electricity Authority (CEA) under Section 55(1), 73(e) and 177(2)(c) of the Electricity Act, 2003 as amended from time to time, shall be applicable with regard to installation and operation of meters. In case there is any inconsistency between CEA Regulations and this Code, the former shall prevail.'

By order of the Commission

(M.P. Misra)
Secretary