

## Changes to Inverter Standards

New AS/NZS 4777.2:2020 effective from 18 December 2021

### Why do we need to change to a new version of AS/NZS 4777.2?

In December 2020, Standards Australia released a new version of AS/NZS 4777.2 Grid connection of energy systems via inverters Part 2: Inverter requirements (AS/NZS 4777.2:2020). The update saw a range of changes to improve the performance of inverters on the electricity supply network. These changes will support the continued increase of solar Photovoltaic (PV), batteries and electric vehicles. Inverter manufacturers have been working to update their products so they can undergo certification testing and listing with the Clean Energy Council (CEC) as 2020 compliant.

Amendments to the National Electricity Rules (NER), which commence on **18 December 2021** require all grid connected inverters to comply with AS/NZS 4777.2:2020.

### When do I need to start installing AS/NZS 4777.2 compliant inverters?

You can apply for a connection with a AS/NZS 4777.2:2020 inverter already. However, from **18 December 2021** it will be **mandatory** to install a AS/NZS 4777.2:2020 inverter.

### What region setting do I need to meet?

The power quality settings in the new version are defined by region of installation: Australia A, B and C. The table below provides a list of the regions and the corresponding Distribution Network Service Provider (DNSP):

Region	Distribution Network Service Providers (DNSP)
Australia A	Ausgrid, AusNet Services, Endeavour Energy, Essential Energy, Ergon Energy and Energex, EvoEnergy, Jemena, CitiPower, Powercor, United Energy, SA Power Networks and Power & Water
Australia B	Western Power
Australia C	Horizon Power and TasNetworks

### What DNSP connection standards do I need to meet?

In addition to AS/NZS 4777.2:2020 you will also need to meet any relevant DNSP network standards. Please liaise with your relevant DNSP to confirm their additional requirements before you undertake your installation.

Energy Networks Australia [www.energynetworks.com.au](http://www.energynetworks.com.au)

Unit 5, Level 12, 385 Bourke Street Melbourne VIC 3000

P: +61 3 9103 0400 E: [info@energynetworks.com.au](mailto:info@energynetworks.com.au)

Energy Networks Association T/A Energy Networks Australia

ABN: 75 106 735 406

### **How does this impact eligibility for Small-scale Technology Certificates (STCs)?**

AS/NZS 4777.2:2015 compliant inverters installed from 18 December 2021 will not be eligible to receive STCs under the Small-scale Renewable Energy Scheme (SRES). For more information see the Clean Energy Regulator's Website

(<http://www.cleanenergyregulator.gov.au/RET/Pages/News%20and%20updates/NewsItem.aspx?ListId=19b4efbb-6f5d-4637-94c4-121c1f96fcfe&ItemId=979>)

### **How does this impact eligibility for Large-scale Generation Certificates (LGCs)?**

AS/NZS 4777.2:2015 compliant inverters installed from 18 December 2021 will not be eligible to receive LGCs. For more information see the Clean Energy Regulator's Website

(<http://www.cleanenergyregulator.gov.au/RET/Pages/News%20and%20updates/NewsItem.aspx?ListId=19b4efbb-6f5d-4637-94c4-121c1f96fcfe&ItemId=979>)

### **If I have a valid contract in place for a 2015 compliant inverter before the 18 December, can I install after the 18 December?**

This will be different for each DNSP. Please liaise with your relevant DNSP to confirm their additional requirements before you undertake your installation.

### **When is the last date I can apply for a 2015 compliant inverter?**

Please liaise with your relevant DNSP as this date may be different for each. Be aware that DNSP require adequate time to process and assess application. The process may take up to 65 days depending on the complexity of the application.

### **What if I haven't accepted an offer for contract for a 2015 compliant inverter before the 18 December 2021?**

If a connection offer is made by the DNSP to an applicant but not accepted prior to 18 December 2021, then it will no longer be considered valid. If the applicant still wishes to connect an inverter energy system to the grid, the applicant will need to submit a new application with a 2020 compliant inverter. A new application will be subject to associated fees and timeframes for processing and technical assessment.

### **Can I still install a warranty replacement?**

An inverter compliant with an earlier version of AS/NSZ 4777.2 can be replaced under warranty where:

- » The replacement inverter is the same make and model (like-for-like)
- » The replacement is for warranty purposes
- » The inverter is set up to comply with the existing connection agreement.

Warranty replacements must be approved by DNSPs before they are installed.

Where the above requirements are not met an AS/NZS 4777.2:2020 inverter, compliant with the latest standards will be required.

### **How do I know if an inverter is compliant with AS/NZS 4777.2:2020?**

Some DNSPs use the 'Approved Inverter' listing from the Clean Energy Council (CEC) website to verify Inverter Compliance and where relevant to populate the inverters listed in the DNSP's Customer Portals. The CEC has added the suffix "(AS4777-2 2020)" to the model numbers for inverters to distinguish

between 2015 and 2020 compliant inverters. Select an AS/NZS 4777.2:2020 compliant inverter from the list when you are submitting your application. For new inverters listed by the CEC there may be a short delay before those DNSP's who have this built in have updated their Customer Portals.

### Why are there differences across Australia?

This could be due to a range of differences such as local regulatory requirements or decisions by local regulatory authorities.

For more information, please contact your relevant DNSP on the following emails:

State/Territory	DNSP	Email
NSW	Ausgrid	eg@ausgrid.com.au
	Essential Energy	te_technical.enquiries@essentialenergy.com.au
QLD	Ergon Energy	ergongeneration@energyq.com.au
	Energex	energexgeneration@energyq.com.au
VIC	Jemena	network.connections@jemena.com.au
	CitiPower/Powercor	Embeddedgeneration@powercor.com.au
	United Energy	For negotiated connections: embeddedgeneration@ue.com.au For basic connections uesolarconnections@ue.com.au
	AusNet Services	preapprovals@ausnetservices.com.au
SA	SA Power Networks	newenergyservices@sapowernetworks.com.au
TAS	TasNetworks	newsupply.applications@tasnetworks.com.au
WA	Western Power	<a href="https://www.westernpower.com.au/contact-us/">https://www.westernpower.com.au/contact-us/</a>
	Horizon Power	renewables@horizonpower.com.au
NT	Power and Water	connect.me@powerwater.com.au

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