

# Smart Meters Update for ASP's

November 2016

In December 2017, the Australian Energy Market Commission (AEMC) National Electricity Amendment (Expanding competition in metering and related services) Rule No 12 2015, implements changes that will see the end of installation of types 5 & 6 (basic) metering. From that point onwards, no more basic meters will be installed and any meter changes of those types will have replacement with an advanced meter (types 1 to 4 but usually type 4).

In accordance with national metrology processes that exist today, meters can only be installed by a Metering Provider. In NSW, the basic meters are generally only handled by the Distribution Networks with other meter providers operating in the advanced meter space. NSW also has an additional layer in basic metering in that it has contestability, whereby an appropriately accredited service provider can install basic (types 5 and 6) metering work using the Network Service Providers meter provider status for quality control and compliance with AEMO procedures.

The NSW Parliament passed the Electricity Supply Amendment (Advanced Meters) Bill 2016. This paves the way for the government to facilitate the voluntary market led roll-out of smart meters across NSW.

One of the key features of the Bill is that the meters will become part of the consumer's installation (but remain the property of the Metering Providers).

**During the interim period between introduction of the Bill and 1 December 2017, the installation of Basic Meters (i.e. types 5 and 6 metering) will continue to be restricted to L2 ASPs.** (In this interim period, a customer may still elect to have Basic Metering installed.)

[After December 2017, Basic Metering will no longer be an option for new or maintenance activities in accordance with the AEMC amending rule 12 \(2015\).](#)

When a customer chooses, or is required, to have advanced meters installed (types 1 to 4, but mainly referring to type 4), they will contact their electricity retailer, who will arrange for the installation. Retailers will engage metering providers, who in turn will sub-contract appropriately qualified electricians. The retailer will remain the primary contact for the customer.

This framework means that the metering provider and the retailer are responsible for the installation, maintenance and replacement of electricity meters. Suitably qualified electricians and ASPs can only do advanced metering work after being engaged by a Metering Provider to do that work, and must comply with the Metering Provider's safety management systems while carrying out that work.

The Bill mandates that any person engaged to install smart meters must have undertaken appropriate training, including with respect to de-energisation and re-energisation of electrical installations.

The exact nature of this training will be determined by each metering provider, but has to comply with minimum standards as set out in a code published by the Department of Industry.

## FAQ's

### When does this take effect?

The advanced meters bill commenced on the 1<sup>st</sup> July 2016.

*The type 5 and 6 metering will be phased out for new and replacement work after 1<sup>st</sup> December, 2017.*

### What happens to my cat 4 accreditation after 1<sup>st</sup> December 2017?

Load control equipment remains contestable and requires this level of accreditation post December 2017.

Basic Metering will no longer exist for new or replacement installations past this date.

The qualifications and skills remain valid and may help prepare you as potential subcontractors to Metering providers.

### Why should I apply to become or renew my L2 accreditation?

This will always be a decision for each individual ASP or potential ASP.

The Bill does not affect work for Level 2 Class A, B and C. If you want to do work in these categories you must be accredited accordingly.

If you want to continue with basic metering work between now and 1<sup>st</sup> Dec, 2017, you will need to maintain or receive L2 accreditation including Class D.

If you want to continue with work associated with Supply Authority equipment such as load control receivers, you will need to maintain or receive L2 accreditation including category 4.

### Can I work for a Metering provider now?

To install meters for a metering provider you must have a contractual relationship with that metering provider. In addition, you must be a licenced electrician and work under the Metering Provider's safety management system. The Government requires additional training in line with skills associated with Level 2 Class D requirements.

### Who can work live?

The NSW workplace safety legislation requires generally that you cannot work live unless you are an ASP carrying out contestable work.

### Who can remove a type 5 or 6 meter?

Meter installers engaged by a metering provider can remove a type 5 or type 6 meter when it is being replaced by an advanced meter.

Level 2 Class D ASPs can remove or install type 5 or type 6 meters and up until the 1<sup>st</sup> December 2017, can install type 5 or type 6 meters.

### Who can do disconnect/reconnect work for meter changes?

If the metering installation can be de-energised via a Service Protection Device or Meter Protection Device (as per NSW Service and Installation rules), an ASP or person engaged by a Metering provider can work on the metering installation.

If the installation needs to be disconnected at the service or connection point, a suitably qualified ASP (Class 2A, 2B or 2C) is required.

## More information

For more information please contact the ASP Scheme or visit the website: DRE NSW FT

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