Electricity distribution industry notice – 5 June 2026

Compliance with CSIP-AUS requirements in the Ministerial Order specifying licence condition 2025 (No S 553)

Purpose

The Essential Services Commission (**the commission**) has published this notice regarding clause 4's definition of the Ministerial Order specifying licence condition 2025 (No S 553) (**the Order**). This is to provide certainty to industry of our compliance expectations with clauses 6 and 7 of the Order from 28 June 2026 to 1 November 2026. These clauses relate to:

- establishing a connection application for a relevant solar microgeneration unit, and
- replacement of a legacy solar microgeneration unit's inverter.

Order requirements

Clause 4's definition section of the Order includes a Common Smart Inverter Profile Australia Technical Standard (**CSIP-AUS**) requirement:

> CSIP-AUS means the Common Smart Inverter Profile Australia Technical Standard, SA TS 5573:2025, published by Standards Australia June 2025 and as amended from time to time or if superseded, the document(s) listed by Standards Australia as superseding the Standards Australia Technical Standard 5573:2025. SA TS 5573:2025 supersedes SA HB 218:2023, however SA HB218:2023 will remain current for 12 months from 27 June 2025

Clauses 6 and 7 require that Victoria's licensed electricity distributors must only connect emergency backstop enabled relevant solar microgeneration units (**inverters**) for applicable customers under the Order that are compliant with the CSIP-AUS Standard SA TS 5573:2025 (**v1.2 of the Standard**) from 28 June 2026.

Technical consequences

We understand from industry and relevant stakeholders that compliance with the deadline specified in Clause 4 is no longer practicable to achieve by 28 June 2026, due to the recent

changes in the Standard requiring the Australian National University to test and certify solar inverters.

We understand non-compliance with v1.2 of the Standard should not:

- affect inverters installed under CSIP-AUS HB218:2023 (**v1.1(a) of the Standard**) requirements from functioning in connection with Victoria's emergency backstop mechanism under the Order
- present issues for Victoria's electricity distributors to activate the emergency backstop mechanism when required or permitted to in accordance with the Order.

The commission's position

We have exercised our discretion not to take regulatory action against Victoria's five electricity distributors in relation to non-compliance with the requirements under clauses 6 and 7 of the Order from 28 June 2026 to 1 November 2026, insofar as distributors continue to comply with v1.1(a) of the Standard.

This position applies to the following distributors:

- AusNet Electricity Services Pty Ltd (ACN 064 651 118)
- CitiPower Pty Ltd (ACN 064 651 056)
- Jemena Electricity Networks (Vic) Ltd (ACN 064 651 083)
- Powercor Australia Limited (ACN 064 651 109)
- United Energy Distribution Pty Ltd (ACN 064 651 029).

The commission expects electricity distributors to continue to enable applicable customers and their solar installers to connect inverters compliant with v1.1(a) of the Standard to their relevant electricity distribution network from 28 June 2026 to 1 November 2026.

The commission's current position provides the additional time needed to test and re-certify inverters so that they are compliant with v1.2 of the Standard. Additionally, this extension aims to lessen negative impacts on Victorian households and businesses who are planning to install solar systems during this transitional period. The commission reserves the right to change our position should further information become available that potentially impacts the effectiveness of Victoria's emergency backstop mechanism.

Contact

Please contact us for any queries.

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