

New regulations regarding the grid connection
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On June 17th and June 20th, respectively, a package of legal acts was published in the Romanian Official Journal, amending the current legal framework regarding the connection to the electricity grids that are in the public interest. These are Order No. 81/ 15.06.2022 for the amendment and supplementation of the Regulations on Grid Connection and two other orders (Order No. 82 and No. 83/ 2022 respectively) for the amendment and supplementation of the framework contents of the technical grid connection permit (*aviz tehnic de racordare*) and certificate (*certificat de racordare*). Among the most important amendments to the grid connection regulations, the following are worth mentioning:

1. Grid connection solution (*solutia de racordare*)

When determining the grid connection solution, the solution study now also takes into account grid connection solutions with operational limitation of the maximum dischargeable power in situations that lead to grid overloads. Such situations are specified by the grid operator in the technical grid connection permit and subsequently in the grid connection certificate. The operational limitation provided for above can be achieved by automation devices installed in the grid operator's facilities or in the user's facilities and only takes place in the situations resulting from the solution study.

The operational limitation shall cease to apply if the justifying circumstances for the limitation in question have come to an end due to the further development of the electricity grid. In this case, the grid operator shall update the grid connection permit or the grid connection certificate on its own initiative and at no cost to the user.

If the user opts for a grid connection solution with limitations of use, he is not entitled to demand and receive compensation from the grid operator for electricity that was not generated and fed in during the limitation.

2. Grid connection request

Users who own a place of production or a place of consumption and production must submit, together with the grid connection application, a copy of the land register extract for the property on which the installation corresponding to the place of production / place of consumption and production will be located. Exempt from this obligation are prosumers who own installations for the generation of electricity from renewable sources with an installed capacity of up to 400 kW per place of consumption.

The grid connection application, or the application for updating the grid connection permit will now be reviewed by the grid operator within 10 working days (previously it was 5 working days) from their submission.

3. Grid connection permit

In line with the regulations outlined above, the grid connection permit will now also include the requirements for grid connection with limited dischargeable power, namely:

- the description of all situations envisaged in the solution study that lead to a limitation of the dissipatable power, which shall be provided for in the annex to the grid connection permit;
- the conditions of operational limitation of the evacuated power (location of equipment, protective devices and automations, schemes, etc.).

4. Contract for the planning/ execution of the reinforcement work

The possibility to conclude the contract for the planning and/ or execution of general reinforcement works with a construction planner/ contractor selected by the user, provided that the user has expressly requested this in writing from the grid operator before concluding the grid connection contract has been introduced. In this case, the costs of the reinforcement work shall be borne in full by the user via the grid connection tariff. In this case, the construction execution contract will be concluded within a maximum of 5 working days from the granting of the construction permit for the reinforcement works, in compliance with the obligations of the parties provided for in the grid connection contract.

Conclusion

According to ANRE, the new regulations on grid connection procedures aim to facilitate the connection of new capacities for electricity generation, especially from renewable sources, to the electricity grids. How they will be implemented in practice remains to be seen. It should also be mentioned that the three orders on the amendment of the grid connection regulations, the framework content of the grid connection permit and the grid connection certificate came into force on June 17th and June 20th respectively.

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