

PUNJAB STATE ELECTRICITY REGULATORY COMMISSION

Notification

The 17th May,2018

No. PSERC/Secy/Regu. - 125 In exercise of the powers conferred under Section 181 read with Sections 43, 44, 45, 46, 47, 48, 50, 55, 56, 57, 58, 59, 126, 127, 135, 152, 154 & 163 of the Electricity Act, 2003 (Central Act 36 of 2003) read with Electricity (Amendment) Act, 2007 (No. 26 of 2007) and all other powers enabling it in this behalf and after previous publication, the Punjab State Electricity Regulatory Commission hereby makes following regulations to amend Punjab State Electricity Regulatory Commission (Electricity Supply Code and Related Matters) Regulations, 2014 including the first to third amendments thereof (hereinafter referred to as “the Principal Regulations”):-

1. SHORT TITLE, COMMENCEMENT AND INTERPRETATION

- 1.1 These Regulations may be called the Punjab State Electricity Regulatory Commission (Electricity Supply Code and Related Matters) (4th Amendment) Regulations, 2018.
- 1.2 These Regulations shall be applicable to all licensees (including entities exempted under Section 13 of the Act) in their respective licensed/supply areas and all consumers/persons in the State of Punjab.
- 1.3 These Regulations shall come into force from the date of their publication in the official gazette of the State.

2) Amendments in Regulation 2 of the Principal Regulations -Definitions

- (a) **The sub-regulation 2(u) of the Principal Regulations shall be substituted as under;**

“Distribution System” means the system of wires and associated facilities between the delivery points on the transmission lines or the generating station connection and the point of connection to the installation of the consumers. It shall also include electric line, substation and electrical plant that are primarily maintained for the purpose of distributing electricity in the area of supply of such distribution licensee notwithstanding that such line, sub-station or electrical plant are high pressure cables or overhead lines or associated with such high pressure cables or overhead lines; or used incidentally for the purposes of transmitting electricity for others;

(b) The sub-regulation 2(z) of the Principal Regulations shall be substituted as under;

"Energy charges" means the charges for quantity of electricity actually supplied to the consumer in terms of kWh/kVAh in any billing period as approved by the Commission in the Tariff Order for the relevant year ;

(c) The sub-regulation 2(zc) of the Principal Regulations shall be substituted as under;

"Feeder" means a LT, HT or EHT distributor, emanating from a sub-station, to which distribution sub-stations or LT or HT or EHT consumers are connected and may be categorised as under:-

Category 1 Feeder means urban/Industrial feeder feeding mixed load of domestic, commercial, industrial consumers;

Category 2 Feeder means all mixed industrial feeders having sanctioned industrial load of 90% or more and include separate/independent feeders of consumers not declared as continuous process/essential industries;

Category 3 Feeder means independent feeders catering to Arc/Industion Furnace consumers;

Category 4 Feeder means independent feeder feeding Continuous Process/Essential Industries;

Category 5 Feeder means three phase three wire feeder erected to give urban pattern supply to villages;

Rural Feeder means feeder catering to pure AP load or to rural mixed load on Urban Pattern Supply (category V);

(d) The following sub-regulation shall be added as 2(zcc) after sub-regulation 2(zc) of the Principal Regulations;

"Fixed Charges" for a billing period means the charges payable by the consumer on the basis of his sanctioned load/contract demand as approved by the Commission in the Tariff Order for the relevant year ;

(e) The sub-regulation 2(zf) of the Principal Regulations shall be substituted as under;

“**General Conditions of Tariff**” and “**Schedules of Tariff**” means the General Conditions of Tariff and Schedules of Tariff as approved by the Commission for the relevant year;

(f) The following sub-regulation shall be added as 2(zzdd) after sub-regulation 2(zzd) of the Principal Regulations;

“**Transmission lines**” means all high pressure cables and overhead lines (not being an essential part of the distribution system of a licensee) transmitting electricity from a generating station to another generating station or a sub-station, together with any step-up and step-down transformers, switch-gear and other works necessary to and used for the control of such cables or overhead lines, and such buildings or part thereof as may be required to accommodate such transformers, switch-gear and other works.

3) Amendment in Regulation 4.2 of the Principal Regulations -Supply Voltage

Against Sr.No.(vi) of the table under sub-regulation 4.2 of this Code, ‘400 kV’ shall be added after words “Three phase 132/220 kV” under the column ‘Supply Voltage’ and the sentence “The applicant can opt for supply at 400 kV subject to technical feasibility clearance by the licensee” shall be added after the first sentence against Sr. No. (vi) under column Category of load/consumer;

4) Amendment in Regulation 4.3 of the Principal Regulations -Cluster Sub-Station

The sub-regulation 4.3.2 and 4.3.3 of the Principal Regulations shall be substituted as under;

4.3.2 The Licensee shall sanction the contract demand of the cluster sub-station and individual consumers connected to the cluster sub-station provided the contract demand of the cluster shall not be less than sum total of sanctioned contract demands of constituent members of the group.

4.3.3 The Fixed Charges shall be levied on the basis of sanctioned contract demand of the cluster sub-station in accordance with the General Conditions of Tariff approved by the Commission for the relevant year. The Energy Charges shall

be levied on the consumption recorded by the HT/EHT meter installed at the cluster sub-station. The total bill amount including fixed, energy and other applicable charges shall be apportioned to the individual consumers as under:

The Fixed Charges shall be apportioned to individual consumers in proportion to the sanctioned contract demand. The energy & other applicable charges shall be apportioned in proportion to the consumption recorded by the meter installed on the 11 kV feeder of each consumer at the cluster sub-station. The licensee shall install, seal & maintain all the meters including 11 kV meters as per regulation 21 of Supply Code,2014, as amended from time to time.

5) Amendment in Regulation 6.8.8 of the Principal Regulations - Taking work in hand in anticipation of submission of test report

(a) The sub-regulation 6.8.8(a) of the Principal Regulations shall be substituted as under:

In case load/demand exceeds 20 kW/kVA, the distribution licensee on receipt of a specific request from the applicant may start work for providing the connection in anticipation of the submission of Test Report and after the applicant deposit various charges such as Service Connection Charges/Security(works), balance Security (consumption) , if any, etc. as approved by the Commission. The applicant shall also intimate his proposed schedule for availing load/demand. The applicant shall have the option to submit the test report within validity period or get the period extended. The compliance of demand notice shall be reckoned from the date the consumer complies with all the conditions of the demand notice including submission of the test report.

(b) The sub-regulation 6.8.8(b) of the Principal Regulations shall be substituted as under:

In case of delay in completion of works of the applicant covered under sub-regulation (a) above by the licensee, the validity period of demand notice shall be deemed to have been extended without levy of any extension fee till the completion of works. Also in that case, distribution licensee shall give 30 days notice after completion of works to the applicant to submit test report, if not already submitted, without levy of any extension fee.

6) Amendment in Regulation 8 of the Principal Regulations

The period of 90 days under column ‘Desirable period for providing connection from the date of compliance of the demand notice by the distribution licensee’ in Table under sub-regulation 8.1(b) against ‘HT supply of 33000 volts’ may be read as 60 days.

7) Amendment in Regulation 8.4 of the Principal Regulations - Availing Sanctioned Load/ Demand in Phases

The sub-regulation 8.4.3 of the Principal Regulations may be substituted as under;

In case of residential colonies/ commercial complexes/ industrial estates covered under regulation 6.6.1 & 6.6.2, the phase wise development of the load /demand as per requirement may be permitted by the licensee. However, in case an HT/EHT consumer requests for release of partial load/demand at voltage lower than the specified voltage such request may be accepted by the licensee subject to deposit of cost of works for supply at the lower voltage and furnishing Bank Guarantee (BG) equivalent to 150% of the cost of HT/EHT sub-station, HT/EHT line along with associated equipment and the cost of incomplete LD system. The amount of Bank Guarantee shall keep on reducing with the completion of remaining works of the sub-station & L.D system. After the consumer shifts to the specified voltage at a later stage, no credit of the works carried out for supply at lower voltage shall be given to the consumer.

8) Amendment in Regulation 9 of the Principal Regulations - POWER TO RECOVER EXPENDITURE/ SERVICE CONNECTION CHARGES

(A) The sub-regulation 9.1.1(a) of the Principal Regulations shall be substituted as under:

9.1.1 For New Connection

(a) Domestic, Non-Residential, Industrial, Bulk Supply, AP High Tech/High Density Farming and Compost plants/ solid waste management plants for municipalities/urban local bodies categories

(i) Supply For Load/Demand Not Exceeding 50 kW/kVA

The applicant requesting the distribution licensee for a new connection for above mentioned categories with load/demand not exceeding 50 kW/kVA and

having specified LT Supply Voltage, shall be required to pay only the per kW/kVA charges, irrespective of the length of service line, as per Standard Cost Data approved by the Commission from time to time.

(ii) Supply For Load/Demand Exceeding 50 kW/kVA but not Exceeding 100 kVA

The applicant requesting the distribution licensee for a new connection for above mentioned categories with load/demand exceeding 50 kW/kVA but demand not exceeding 100 kVA and having specified LT Supply Voltage, shall be required to pay the per kW/kVA charges as per Standard Cost Data approved by the Commission from time to time. Such charges shall be payable by an applicant where the length of the service line is up to one hundred metres for Domestic & Non-Residential Supply categories and two hundred fifty metres for Industrial, Bulk Supply categories, AP High Tech/High Density Farming and compost plants/solid waste management plants for municipalities/urban local bodies,.

Where the length of the service line exceeds the above limits for the applied category, the applicant shall also pay the variable charges for the additional length of the service line along with kW/kVA charges at the rates approved by the Commission in the standard cost data.

(iii) Supply For Demand Exceeding 100 kVA

Where demand required for above mentioned categories exceeds 100 kVA, the recoverable expenditure from the applicant shall comprise of full cost of 'service line' and proportionate cost of common portion of the main line including bay/breaker, as the case may be, up to feeding substation.

The expenditure shall be calculated as under:

- (u) the applicant with specified Supply Voltage of 11 kV (except consumers catered through 11 kV independent feeder under regulation 9.5) shall be required to pay the expenditure incurred by the distribution licensee for providing the individual 11 kV service line to the premises of the consumer and proportionate cost of the common portion of the distribution main

including breaker from the nearest feeding grid substation having power transformer of 33-66/11 kV or 132/11 kV or 220/11 kV, as the case may be, which is feeding the 11 kV line connected to the consumer premises, as per the standard cost data approved by the Commission. In case the existing 11 kV distribution main is required to be augmented/extended or a new 11 kV line/plant is to be erected to release the demand of an applicant then such work shall be carried out by the distribution licensee at its own cost provided the applicant pay the full cost of service line and proportionate cost of the common portion of the augmented/extended/new distribution main including breaker as per the standard cost data approved by the Commission.

- (v) The applicant with specified voltage of 33/66 kV, shall be fed from nearest 132/220 kV grid substation. The applicant shall pay the expenditure of providing the 33/66 kV individual service line from the feeding 132/220 kV substation to the premises of the applicant along with cost of bay at feeding substation as per the standard cost data approved by the Commission. However, the distribution licensee, if technically feasible, may extend the 33/66 kV line from the nearest 33/66 kV radial/ring main substation (hereinafter referred as in between substation) to the premises of the applicant provided the applicant pay the expenditure of such individual 33/66 kV service line from in between substation to the premises of the applicant including bay at in between substation and proportionate cost of the common portion of 33/66 kV line from in between substation to the 132/220 kV feeding substation including proportionate cost of one bay at the feeding 132/220 kV substation as per the cost data approved by the Commission.

For recovery of expenditure from an applicant having Supply Voltage not exceeding 66 kV under this regulation, the distribution licensee shall prepare an estimate based on standard cost data approved by the Commission and applicant shall be required to deposit such amount, including proportionate cost, as Security (works) before start of work. A final bill shall be prepared by the distribution licensee after completion of work and necessary recovery or refund shall be made as per regulation 9.3 of this Code. No additional demand for Security (works) shall be raised by the distribution licensee before completion of the work.

Provided that, a revised demand for recovery of additional Security (works), necessitated due to major changes in route plan or nature of tower structure etc., can be raised once by the distribution licensee provided the difference in the revised estimate and the original estimate is more than 30% of the original estimate. The applicant shall be provided atleast 15 days to deposit the additional security (works). The time period for completion of work as per regulation 8 shall be deemed to have been extended accordingly.

- (w) The applicant with specified voltage of 132/220/400 kV, shall be fed from nearest 132/220/400 kV grid substation, as the case may be, and applicant shall be liable to pay cost of service line including cost of bay at the feeding 132/220/400 kV substation, as the case may be and proportionate cost of common portion of the transmission line on normative basis, as may be approved by the Commission in the standard cost data.

For EHT consumers, where 132/220/400 kV transmission system is involved, the distribution licensee in co-ordination with transmission licensee shall prepare the estimate for the works involved as per the standard cost data approved by the Commission. The distribution licensee shall be responsible to recover the amount from the consumer and transfer the cost that may be incurred by the transmission licensee including proportionate cost of transmission assets to transmission licensee for execution of work, within 15 days of the receipt of amount from applicant. After receipt of the amount by the transmission licensee, it shall be the responsibility of the transmission licensee to complete the related transmission works within the time period specified in regulation 8.1(b) of these regulations.

- (x) In case, the HT/EHT line (except 11 kV independent feeder under regulation 9.5) whose entire cost including cost of breaker/bay has been paid by a consumer, is tapped to feed another applicant/consumer, such subsequent applicant shall pay entire cost of service line up to his premises and proportionate cost of the common portion of the line up to feeding station, including breaker/bay, as per the cost data approved by the Commission. The proportionate cost of common portion of the line and the breaker/bay, recovered from the subsequent applicant(s) shall be refunded to 1st consumer

through adjustment in the energy bills starting from immediate subsequent bill but shall be limited to the total cost of the common portion of the line deposited by the 1st consumer less proportionate cost of the common portion corresponding to his load/demand as per the cost data approved by the Commission. However, the 1st consumer has the option not to claim proportionate cost of the common portion of line of subsequent applicant(s) from the distribution licensee and in such case, he shall be entitled to extend his load/demand in future up to the original capacity of the line without payment of charges. Before taking up the work for connecting the second consumer/applicant to such line, the distribution licensee shall intimate the 1st consumer in writing and get the option exercised regarding claiming of proportionate cost of the line.

- (y) The creation of new grid sub-station or augmentation of existing grid sub-station, if required, shall be carried out by the licensee at its own cost as per regulation 9.2.
- (B)** The sub-regulation 9.1.1(e) of the Principal Regulations shall be deleted.
- (C)** The sub-regulation 9.1.3 (a) of the Principal Regulations shall be substituted as under:

9.1.3 For Additional Load/Demand

- a) Domestic, Non-Residential, Industrial, Bulk Supply, AP High Tech/High Density Farming and Compost plants/ solid waste management plants for municipalities/ urban local bodies categories:

- (i) Supply For Load/Demand Not Exceeding 50 kW/kVA

The consumer of above mentioned categories requesting the distribution licensee for extension in load/demand with total load/demand, including extension, not exceeding 50 kW/kVA, shall be required to pay only the per kW/kVA charges for additional load/demand only. The slab rate for these charges shall be as applicable for the slab corresponding to total load as per Standard Cost Data approved by the Commission from time to time.

(ii) Supply for Total Load/Demand Exceeding 50 kW/kVA but not Exceeding 100 kVA:

The consumer of above mentioned categories having total load/demand exceeding 50 kW/kVA but demand not exceeding 100 kVA and having specified LT Supply Voltage, requesting the distribution licensee for additional load/demand shall pay per kW/kVA charges for additional load/demand at the applicable slab rate for total load/demand as per Standard Cost Data approved by the Commission from time to time. Such charges shall be payable by a consumer where the length of the service line is up to one hundred metres for Domestic and Non-Residential Supply categories and two hundred fifty metres in the case of Industrial, Bulk Supply, AP High Tech/High Density Farming and Compost Plants/Solid waste management plants for municipalities/Urban local body categories.

Where the length of the existing service line is more than the limit prescribed above and additional load/demand necessitates augmentation of the existing service line, the applicant shall, in addition to per kW/kVA charges for the additional load/demand be required to pay variable charges for the length of service line beyond the prescribed limits as indicated above, at the rates approved by the Commission. However, if no augmentation of existing service line is required then the consumer/applicant shall pay only kW/kVA charges for the additional load.

iii) Supply where Total Load/Demand Exceeds 100 kVA

Where the total demand including existing demand of above mentioned categories exceeds 100 kVA, the HT/EHT consumer shall pay the cost of augmentation of individual service line, if any, and proportionate cost of the common portion of main line upto the feeding substation including breaker for the additional demand only as per the standard cost data approved by the Commission.

Provided that in case the common portion of the line is to be augmented/extended or a new line/plant is to be erected to release the additional demand, such work shall be carried out by the distribution licensee

at its own cost provided the consumer requesting for additional demand pay the proportionate cost of the common portion of the line up to feeding substation for the additional demand only as per the Standard Cost data approved by the Commission.

Provided further that in case there is change in the specified Supply Voltage of the consumer due to additional demand, the proportionate cost of the common portion of the line up to feeding sub-station shall be payable for total demand including additional demand.

Provided also that where a HT/EHT consumer, having a sanctioned contract demand exceeding 100 kVA and who has paid the actual cost of HT/EHT service line and proportionate cost of common portion of line including breaker/bay at the time of release of connection, requests for additional demand and such demand can be fed from the same service line without any augmentation, then the HT/EHT consumer shall be liable to pay only the proportionate cost of common portion of HT/EHT line up to feeding sub-station including breaker/bay for the additional demand as per the Standard Cost data approved by the Commission.

Provided also that in case a HT/EHT consumer, fed directly from the feeding substation through a HT/EHT line whose entire cost including cost of breaker/bay has been paid by a consumer, requests for additional demand, which can be released without augmentation of the line then such consumer shall not be liable to pay any charges for the additional load/demand.

However, creation of new grid sub-station or augmentation of existing grid sub-station, if required, shall be carried out by the licensee at its own cost as per Regulation 9.2.

The distribution licensee shall prepare an estimate based on Standard cost data approved by the Commission, where ever required and applicant shall be required to deposit such amount as Security (works) before start of work. A final bill shall be prepared by the distribution licensee after completion of work and necessary recovery or refund shall be made as per regulation 9.3. No additional demand for Security (works) shall be raised by the distribution licensee before completion of the work. However, a revised demand for recovery of additional Security (works) can be raised once by the distribution

licensee necessitated due to change in route plan or nature of tower structure etc before completion of work provided the difference in the revised estimate and the original estimate is more than 30%.

Provided also that in case a HT/EHT consumer, who has paid the full capacity of the line including bay/breaker at the time of release of his connection but has accepted the full proportionate cost of the common portion of the line recovered by the distribution licensee from the subsequent consumer(s) as per regulation 9.1.1 above and requests for increase in load/demand at later stage which can be fed from the same line without augmentation then such consumer shall pay the proportionate cost of the common portion of the line as per the cost data approved by the Commission. In case of augmentation/bifurcation of line is required to release extension in load/demand, the consumer shall pay the actual expenses incurred by the distribution licensee to release the extension in load/demand. However, in case the 1st consumer has not claimed proportionate cost of the common portion of line of subsequent applicant(s) from the distribution licensee, he shall be entitled to extend his load/demand in future up to the original capacity of the service line without payment of charges.

(D) The sub-regulation 9.1.3 (e) of the Principal Regulations shall be deleted

9) Amendment in Regulation 9.5 of the Principal Regulations

The sub-regulation 9.5.4 and 9.5.5 of the Principal Regulations shall be substituted as under:

9.5.4 In the event of tapping / extending an independent feeder, the consumer getting the benefit of independent feeder by tapping/ extending shall be liable to pay proportionate cost for common portion of line/feeder including Circuit Breaker at the feeding sub-station as per the cost data approved by the Commission in addition to actual cost of independent portion/section of service line.

9.5.5 The proportionate cost of common portion of feeder/line recovered from 2nd and/or subsequent consumer(s) shall be refunded to 1st consumer through adjustment in the energy bills starting from immediate subsequent

bill but shall be limited to the total cost of the common portion of the line deposited by the 1st consumer less proportionate cost of the common portion corresponding to his load/demand as per the cost data approved by the Commission. However, the 1st consumer has the option not to claim proportionate cost of the common portion of line of subsequent applicant(s) from the distribution licensee and in such case, he shall be entitled to extend his load/demand in future up to the original capacity of the line without payment of charges.

Provided that in case a consumer, who has paid the full cost of the line including bay/breaker at the time of release of his connection but has accepted the full proportionate cost of the common portion of the line recovered by the distribution licensee from the subsequent consumer(s), as mentioned above, requests for increase in load/demand at later stage which can be fed from the same line without augmentation then such consumer shall pay the proportionate cost of the common portion of the line for additional demand as per the cost data approved by the Commission. In case augmentation/bifurcation of line is required to release the extension in load/demand then the consumer shall pay the actual expenses incurred by the distribution licensee to release the extension in load/demand.

10) Amendment in Regulation 12 of the Principal Regulations - Load Surcharge For Unauthorized Load

The last sentence “However, the connected load of DS category of consumers shall be checked only where energy consumption is not commensurate with the sanctioned load of the consumer” appearing in regulation 12 shall be substituted with “The checking of load of DS category consumers shall be governed by the guidelines as may be issued by the Commission from time to time.”

11) Amendment in Regulation 15 of the Principal Regulations -Security (Meter)

The regulation 15 of the Principal Regulations shall be substituted as under:

Security for meter including metering equipment viz Current Transformer, Voltage Transformer etc. hereinafter referred to as ‘Security (meter)’ shall be deposited by the applicant at the time of submission of A&A form in accordance with regulation 6 of

these Regulations. Rates of such Security (meter) shall be as specified in the Schedule of General Charges approved by the Commission.

12) Amendment in regulation 21.2 of the Principal Regulations -Supply and Installation of Meters

(i) The sub-regulations 21.2.3 of the Principal Regulations shall be substituted as under;

The consumer meter shall be installed by the distribution licensee either at the consumer's premises or outside the consumer premises. The meter at the consumer premises shall be installed preferably at the entrance of the premises according to mutual convenience of the distribution licensee and the consumer. As provided in regulation 13(2) & 13(3) of the CEA (Installation and Operation of Meters) Regulations, 2006, as amended from time to time, the consumer shall, as far as circumstances permit, take precautions for the safety of the consumer meter installed in his premises belonging to the licensee. The licensee shall be responsible for the safety of the consumer meter located outside the premises of the consumer and the consumer shall be responsible for the safety of the real time display unit installed by the licensee in consumer premises.

(ii) The sub-regulation 21.2.4 of the Principal Regulations shall be substituted as under:

In case a meter is installed outside the premises of a consumer, the service cable from the outgoing terminals of the meter to Miniature Circuit Breaker/main switch installed at the consumer premises shall be provided by the distribution licensee at its own cost. As provided in regulation 7 of CEA (Installation and Operation of Meters) Amendment Regulations, 2010 , where the licensee installs the consumer meter outside the premises of the consumer then the licensee on a request from consumer shall provide real time display unit at the premises of the consumer for his information to indicate the electricity consumed by the consumer;

Provided that for the purpose of billing, the reading of consumer meter shall be taken into account

Provided further that the entire cost of installing the meter outside the premises and providing a display unit within the premises shall be borne by the Distribution

Licensee. However, the cost of display unit shall be treated as part of the meter cost while determining meter rentals.

Provided also that the location of meter and height of meter display from floor shall be as per Indian Standard on Testing, Evaluation, Installation and Maintenance of ac Electricity Meters – Code of Practice.

Provided also that for outdoor installations, the meters shall be protected by appropriate enclosure of level of protection specified in the Indian Standard on Testing, Evaluation, Installation and Maintenance of ac Electricity Meters – Code of Practice.

(iii) The sub-regulation 21.2.7 of the Principal Regulations shall be substituted as under;

The distribution licensee shall make out a plan for introduction and adoption of new technologies such as smart meters, Advanced Metering Infrastructure (AMI), prepaid meters, Time of the Day meter (ToD), Automatic Remote Meter Reading System through appropriate communication system with the approval of Commission for which consumer shall extend required support to the licensee.

Provided that before introducing any new technology in metering or changing specifications which may affect the billing of the consumers, the prior approval of the Commission shall be mandatory.

Provided further that before replacing the existing meter with new meter with advanced technology with the approval of the Commission, as referred above, the consumer shall be informed in writing by serving atleast 15 days notice indicating salient features of the new meter and necessary guidelines for its usage.

Provided also that in case of pre-paid meter, a rebate of 1% shall be allowed on the energy charges.

13) Amendment in Regulation 21.3 of the Principal Regulations -Testing of Meters

The sub-regulation 21.3.1 of the Principal Regulations shall be substituted as under;

It shall be the responsibility of the distribution licensee to satisfy itself regarding the accuracy of a meter before it is installed for the consumer.

14) Amendment in regulation 21.4 of the Principal Regulations -Defective/Dead Stop/Burnt/Stolen Meters

The words “or detection by the distribution licensee” shall be added after words “on receipt of complaint” appearing in 2nd & 3rd line of sub-regulation 21.4.1 of the Principal Regulations.

15) Amendment in regulation 21.5 of the Principal Regulations - Overhauling of Consumer Accounts

- (i) The word “defective” appearing in first line of sub-regulation 21.5.1(b) of the Principal Regulations shall be substituted with word “inaccurate”
- (ii) The first sentence of the sub-regulation 21.5.2 of the Principal Regulations “The accounts of a consumer shall be overhauled/billed for the period meter remained defective/dead stop and in case of burnt/stolen meter for the period of direct supply subject to maximum period of six months as per procedure given below:” shall be substituted as under;-

“The accounts of a consumer shall be overhauled/billed for the period meter remained defective/dead stop subject to maximum period of six months. In case of burnt/stolen meter, where supply has been made direct, the account shall be overhauled for the period of direct supply subject to maximum period of six month. The procedure for overhauling the account of the consumer shall be as under:”

16) Amendment in 29 of the Principal Regulations - RECOVERY OF ELECTRICITY CHARGES FROM CONSUMERS

The sub-regulation 29.4 of the Principal Regulations shall be substituted as under:

The Fixed Charges shall be payable by a consumer even if no electricity is actually consumed. Fixed charges shall also be payable on reconnection for the period the connection remained disconnected due to default on the part of consumer. However for any delay in re-connection by distribution licensee, the consumer shall not be liable to pay Fixed Charges for such period of delay.

17) Amendment in Regulation 30.2 of the Principal Regulations -Meter Reading

The sub-regulation 30.2.3 (a) of the Principal Regulations shall be substituted as under:

In the event of anticipated long absence, a consumer may deposit in advance an amount equivalent to Fixed Charges along with meter rentals and other applicable charges for the period of absence.

18) Amendment in Regulation 30.4 of the Principal Regulations

The sub-regulation 30.4 of the Principal Regulations shall be substituted as under:

When supply to a new consumer is commenced in the middle of a billing cycle, all the fixed charges, shall be levied on pro rata basis for the number of days for which supply is given during the billing cycle.

19) Amendment in Regulation 31 of the Principal Regulations: payment of Electricity Bills

The sub-regulation 31.5 of the Principal Regulations shall be substituted as under:

The bill shall be paid by the consumer in cash, by cheque payable at par, banker's cheque, demand draft, bank transfer, e-banking/credit/debit card where feasible or in such other manner, as the distribution licensee may prescribe. The distribution licensee shall endeavor to promote payment of bills through digital mode viz e-banking/credit/debit card/RTGS/NEFT.

Provided that the distribution licensee may not accept cash payment, if the total amount payable exceeds ten thousand (10,000/-) rupees or the amount, as may be decided by the Commission from time to time.

Provided further that all payments exceeding ₹3 lac (₹ 3,00,000) in a billing cycle/month or the amount, as may be decided by the Commission from time to time, shall only be accepted through e-banking, credit/debit card, RTGS, NEFT or any other approved digital mode.

Provided also that for the consumers having period of 15 days or more for payment of bill, the due date for payment of bill through any approved means other than cash and on-line payment through e-banking shall be two working days prior to the due date as per Regulation 31.1 above. For consumers having period for payment less than 15 days, the due date through cash or any other approved means shall be same.

20) Amendment in Regulation 33 of the Principal Regulations: Termination of Agreement

The sub-regulation 33.1 of the Principal Regulations shall be substituted as under:

In case of continued default in payment of any amount due to the distribution licensee by any consumer for a period of more than six months, the distribution licensee shall terminate the agreement executed with the consumer and dismantle the electric line or works connected with the supply of electricity to the consumer. Provided that the distribution licensee may retain the electric line or plant in case it is likely to be used for other consumers or to retain right of way.

21) Amendment in Regulation 34 of the Principal Regulations: Restoration of Supply of Electricity:

(i) The sub-regulation 34.2 of the Principal Regulations shall be substituted as under:

Where a distribution licensee has disconnected supply of electricity to any premises in consequence of a default on the part of the consumer and if the consumer seeks reconnection within 6 months from the date of disconnection then the distribution licensee shall resume supply of electricity (other than theft cases) within twenty four (24) hours from the time the consumer:

- (a) Deposit the entire outstanding amount or makes payment of 1st instalment of outstanding amount (if allowed to deposit the charges in instalments). However, if the consumer defaults in making the 2nd instalment, the connection shall be disconnected again and then the supply shall only be restored after the recovery of total outstanding amount. In case of consumers found to be resorting to theft of electricity, the supply shall be restored only after recovery of entire amount as specified in Regulation 37.2.3 (c) ;
- (b) pays the prescribed amount as per Schedule of General Charges, if any, for disconnecting and reconnecting the supply of electricity; and
- (c) pays the fixed charges for the period of disconnection and the additional charges for the delayed payment.

(ii) The sub-regulation 34.3 of the Principal Regulations shall be substituted as under:

Where a consumer has been disconnected for more than 6 months but his service line/feeding line irrespective of voltage has not been dismantled, the connection may be reconnected after recovering the following charges:

- (a) Deposit the entire outstanding amount or makes payment of 1st instalment of outstanding amount (if allowed to deposit the charges in instalments). However, if the consumer defaults in making the 2nd instalment, the connection shall be disconnected again and then the supply shall only be restored after the recovery of total outstanding amount. In case of consumers found to be resorting to theft of electricity, the supply shall be restored only after recovery of entire amount as specified in Regulation 37.2.3 (c) ;
- (b) Fixed charges for the period of disconnection and additional charges for delayed payment; and
- (c) Security (consumption) and reconnection fee as applicable in accordance with Schedule of General Charges.

Provided the connection can be reconnected without any augmentation of system i.e. it is technically feasible to reconnect the connection from existing system.

22 Amendment in Regulation 36.1 of the Principal Regulations: Procedure in case of Unauthorized Use of Electricity (UUE)

(i) The sub-regulation 36.1.3 of the Principal Regulations shall be substituted as under:

If on inspection of the premises/place or after inspection of the equipments, gadgets, machines, devices found connected or used or after inspection of the records maintained by the person, the assessing officer comes to the conclusion that such person is indulging in unauthorized use of electricity as per section 126 of the Act, he shall prepare an inspection report inter alia indicating the connected load and the load being used unauthorizedly by such person. The inspection report shall also mention condition of seals / meter and give details of evidence substantiating the unauthorized use of electricity. The

assessing officer shall wherever possible photograph/videograph the means of such unauthorized use.

Provided that unauthorised increase in load/demand shall not be treated as Unauthorised Use of Electricity and shall be dealt with as per relevant Schedule of Tariff.

Provided further that in case the increase in load/demand results in change in tariff category, the consumer shall be served with a written notice to either remove the additional load/restrict the demand or to submit application complete in all respect within 15 days from the date of issue of notice to get the excess load/demand regularised from the distribution licensee. On any subsequent default within a period of six months, if the load/demand exceeds the sanctioned load/demand by 10% and also results in change in tariff category, then such consumer shall be liable to be booked under UUE.

Provided also that in case of change of tariff category due to any order of the Commission or amendment in Regulations or the Act, the distribution licensee shall issue a written notice to the consumer within a month of the issue of such order/change in law, to get his tariff category changed within two months of the issue of notice by the distribution licensee and during this period, it shall not be treated as Unauthorised Use of Electricity.

Provided also that any consumer paying electricity charges for higher tariff for permanent category but found using it for lower permanent tariff category (except for Agricultural use), such case shall not be considered as unauthorized use of electricity. However, the consumer shall be directed through written notice to get the supply regularized as permitted under law after following the laid down procedure within a period of 45 days.

Tariff category for this regulation means category having different schedule as specified in Schedule of Tariff annexed to the Tariff Order for the relevant year approved by the Commission. Further, the fixed plus energy charges shall be the criteria to determine which tariff category is having higher tariff.

- (ii) **The sub-regulation 36.1.7 of the Principal Regulations shall be substituted as under:**

The provisional assessment order shall be issued within three working days of inspection and served upon the consumer /person in occupation or possession or incharge of the place. The provisional assessment order shall contain a detailed calculation sheet for arriving at the assessment and shall also specify the provision of Act or the relevant regulation under which UUE has been booked by the assessing officer. In case, the assessing officer fails to issue provisional assessment order within stipulated time, he shall be required to record the reasons for such delay. The assessment order should clearly state the date, time and place at which the objections have to be submitted along with designation of the assessing officer to whom these should be submitted.

23) Amendment of Regulation 36.2 of the Principal Regulations: Final Assessment

- (i) **The sub-regulation 36.2.1 of the Principal Regulations shall be substituted as under:**

Any consumer/person not satisfied with the provisional assessment shall be entitled to file objections, if any, against the provisional assessment order before the assessing officer within seven (7) days of the order having been served upon him failing which, the assessing officer shall proceed to issue final assessment order as per the record available with him to the consumer.

- (ii) **The sub-regulation 36.2.3 of the Principal Regulations shall be substituted as under:**

Within 5 days from the date of submission of consumer's reply to the provisional assessment order, the assessing officer shall arrange hearing with the consumer. After due consideration of the facts/documents submitted by the consumer, if the assessing officer is still of the view that unauthorized use of electricity has taken place, he shall pass a final speaking order of assessment containing facts of the case, reply/objections submitted both orally and in writing by the consumer and reasons for its acceptance or rejection within thirty (30) days from the date of service of such order of provisional assessment. In such a case, the assessing officer shall assess the electricity

consumption and electricity charges as per the procedure given in Annexure-8 of these Regulations. In the final assessment order, it shall be clearly mentioned that the order is challengeable before Appellate Authority, if so desired by the person, under section 127 of the Act within 30 days of the said final orders. Non-compliance of procedure for booking a case of Unauthorised Use of Electricity including non-adherence to the time schedule specified above by assessing officer shall be treated as wilful contravention of the provisions of the Act & the Regulations and assessing officer may be proceeded against under section 142 of the Act.

24) Amendment in Annexure 7 of the Principal Regulations: Particulars To Be Included In The Bills

The sub-clause n) (1) & (2) of the Principal Regulations shall be substituted as under:

- n) Billing details: - The following details for the current month charges and arrears shall be furnished in the bill;
- 1) Energy Charges
 - 2) Fixed Charges
 - 2A) Maximum Demand recorded during the month
 - 2B) Demand surcharge, if any

25) Amendment in Annexure 8 of the Principal Regulations: ASSESSMENT OF ELECTRICITY CHARGES IN THE CASE OF UNAUTHORIZED USE OF ELECTRICITY UNDER/THEFT

(i) The clause (1) (a) & (b) of Annexure 8 of the Principal Regulations shall be substituted as under:

(a) Where it is concluded that unauthorized use of electricity has taken place, the assessment shall be made for the entire period during which such unauthorized use has taken place. If, however, the period during which unauthorized use of electricity has taken place cannot be ascertained, such period shall be limited to a period of twelve months immediately preceding the date of inspection.

While determining the period during which unauthorized use of electricity has taken place, the following factors, if occurred during the period of one year preceding the date of inspection, shall also be kept in view;

Note: The **Principal Regulations** were issued vide Notification No. PSERC/Secy./Regu.97 dated 05.11.2014 published in Punjab Govt. Gaz.(Extra) dated 5th Nov. 2014 and amended vide:

The 1st amendment to the Principal Regulations issued vide Notification No/. PSERC/Secy./Regu.114 dated 22.06.2016 published in Punjab Govt. Gaz.(Extra) dated 23.06.2016

The 2nd amendment to the Principal Regulations issued vide Notification No/. PSERC/Secy./Regu.116 dated 05.10.2016 published in Punjab Govt. Gaz.(Extra) dated 05.10.2016

The 3rd amendment to the Principal Regulations issued vide Notification No/. PSERC/Secy./Regu.119 dated 21.03.2017 published in Punjab Govt. Gaz.(Extra) dated 22.03.2017