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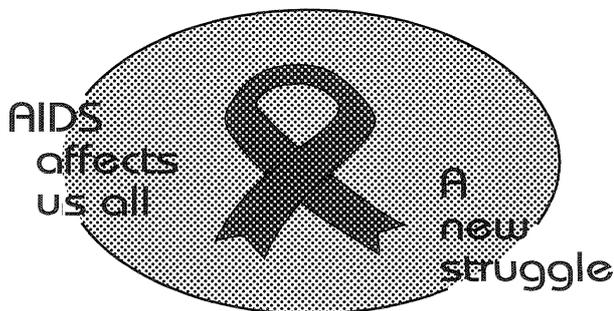
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## MUNICIPAL NOTICE

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No. 99

25 June 2015



# THE MSUNDUZI MUNICIPALITY

## ELECTRICITY SUPPLY BYLAWS

### MSUNDUZI MUNICIPALITY

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## CHAPTER 1 GENERAL

**1. Definitions.**—In these Bylaws, unless inconsistent with the context—

- “applicable standard specification”** means the standard specifications as listed in Schedule 1 attached to these Bylaws, including any amendments or additions thereto or substitution thereof;
- “certificate of compliance”** means a certificate issued in terms of the Regulations in respect of an electrical installation or part of an electrical installation by an registered person;
- “civil work permit”** means a permit issued to an applicant for a wayleave granting that applicant consent for the civil work to be undertaken;
- “Chief Financial Officer”** means the Chief Financial Officer of the Service Provider, or any other person lawfully acting in that capacity and any employee of the Service Provider duly authorized thereto by such Chief Finance Officer or person so acting;
- “consumer”** in relation to premises—
- (i) (a) for supply agreements existing prior to the promulgation of these Bylaws means—  
any occupier thereof or any other person with whom the Service Provider has entered into an agreement to supply or is actually supplying electricity thereat;
- (ii) if such premises are not occupied, any person who has a valid existing agreement with the Service Provider for the supply of electricity to such premises; or
- (iii) if there is no such person or occupier, the owner of the premises;
- (b) for supply agreements entered into after the promulgation of this Bylaw means the owner of the premises or his or her designated proxy;
- “credit meter”** means a meter where an account is issued subsequent to the consumption of electricity;
- “Electrical Engineer”** means the person appointed as the Head of Electricity of the Service Provider, any other person lawfully acting in that capacity and any employee of the Service Provider duly authorized thereto by such Head or person so acting;
- “electrical contractor”** means an electrical contractor as defined in the Regulations;
- “electrical installation”** means an electrical installation as defined in the Regulations;
- “high voltage”** means the set of nominal voltage levels that are used in power systems for bulk transmission of electricity in the range of 44 kV <math> < Un < 220 \text{ kV}</math>. (SANS 1019);
- “low voltage”** means the set of nominal voltage levels that are used for the distribution of electricity and whose upper limit is generally accepted to be an a.c. voltage of 1 000 V (or a d.c. voltage of 1 500 V). (SANS 1019);

- “medium voltage”** means the set of nominal voltage levels that lie above low voltage and below high voltage in the range of  $1 \text{ kV} < U_n \leq 44 \text{ kV}$ . (SANS 1019);
- “meter”** means a device which records the demand and/or the electrical energy consumed and includes conventional and prepayment meters;
- “motor load, total connected”** means the sum total of the kW input ratings of all the individual motors connected to an installation;
- “motor rating”** means the maximum continuous kW output of a motor as stated on the maker’s rating plate;
- “motor starting current”** in relation to alternating current motors means the root mean square value of the symmetrical current taken by a motor when energised at its rated voltage with its starter in the starting position and the rotor locked;
- “occupier”** in relation to any premises means—
- (a) any person in actual occupation of such premises;
  - (b) any person legally entitled to occupy such premises;
  - (c) in the case of such premises being subdivided and let to lodgers or various tenants, the person receiving the rent payable by such lodgers or tenants, whether on his own account or as agent for any person entitled thereto or interested therein; or
  - (d) any person in control of such premises or responsible for the management thereof, and includes the agent of any such person when he/she is absent from the Republic of South Africa or his/her whereabouts are unknown;
- “owner”** in relation to premises, means the person in whom is vested the legal title thereto; provided that if the owner as hereinbefore defined—
- is deceased or insolvent, has assigned his estate for the benefit of his creditors, has been placed under curatorship by order of court or is a company being wound up or under judicial management, the person in whom the administration of such property is vested as executor, administrator, trustee, assignee, curator, liquidator or judicial manager, as the case may be;
- is absent from the Republic of South Africa, or if his address is unknown to the Service Provider, any person who as agent or otherwise receives or is entitled to receive the rent in respect of such property; and
- if the Service Provider is unable to determine who such person is, the person who is entitled to the beneficial use of such property,
- shall be deemed to be the owner thereof to the exclusion of the person in whom is vested the legal title thereto;
- “point of consumption”** means a point of consumption as defined in the Regulations;
- “point of metering”** means the point at which the consumer’s consumption of electricity is metered and which may be at the point of supply or at any other point on the distribution system of the Service Provider or the electrical installation of the consumer, as specified by the Service Provider or any duly authorised official of the

	Service Provider; provided that it shall meter all of, and only, the consumer's consumption of electricity;
<b>"point of supply"</b>	means the point determined by the Service Provider or any duly authorised official of the Service Provider at which electricity is supplied to any premises by the Service Provider;
<b>"premises"</b>	means any land or any building or structure above or below ground level, or part thereof, and includes any vehicle, aircraft or vessel;
<b>"prepayment meter"</b>	means a meter that can be programmed to allow the flow of pre-purchased amounts of energy in an electrical circuit;
<b>"registered person"</b>	means a person registered in terms of the Regulations as an electrical tester for single phase, an installation electrician or a master installation electrician, as the case may be;
<b>"Regulations"</b>	means Regulations made in terms of the Occupational Health and Safety Act, 1993 (Act No. 85 of 1993);
<b>"retail wheeling"</b>	means the process of moving third party electricity from a point of generation across the distribution systems of the Service Provider and selling it to a customer;
<b>"safety standard"</b>	means the Code of Practice for the Wiring of Premises SANS 10142-1 incorporated in the Regulations, including any amendments thereto or substitution thereof;
<b>"Service Authority"</b>	means the Msunduzi Municipality established in terms of the Local Government: Municipal Structures Act, Act 117 of 1998;
<b>"service connection"</b>	means all cables and equipment, including all metering equipment, load management equipment, all high, medium or low voltage switchgear and cables required to connect the supply mains to the electrical installation of the consumer at the point of supply;
<b>"service protective device"</b>	means any fuse or circuit breaker installed for the purpose of protecting the Service Provider's equipment from overloads or faults occurring on the installation or on the internal service connection;
<b>"Service Provider"</b>	means the Service Authority and any entity duly authorized by the Service Authority to provide an electricity service within the jurisdiction of the Service Authority, in accordance with the provision of the Service Delivery Agreement concluded with the Service Authority;
<b>"standby supply"</b>	means an alternative electricity supply from the Service Provider not normally used by the consumer;
<b>"supply mains"</b>	means any part of the Service Provider's electricity distribution network;
<b>"tariff"</b>	means the Service Provider's tariff of charges for the supply of electricity and sundry fees, as approved by the Service Authority;
<b>"temporary supply"</b>	means an electricity supply required by a consumer for a period normally less than one year;

- "the law"** means any applicable law, proclamation, ordinance, act of parliament or enactment having force of law;
- "token"** means the essential element of a prepayment metering system used to transfer information from a point of sale for electricity credit to a prepayment meter and *vice versa*;
- "voltage"** means the root-mean-square value of electrical potential between two conductors;
- "wayleave"** means the set of documentation providing information on the location of the supply mains of the Service Provider within the physical area covered by an application to undertake civil work within the municipal area and stipulates the conditions applicable to the work to be done in the vicinity of the affected supply mains.
- 2. Other terms. —** All other terms used in these Bylaws shall, unless the context otherwise requires, have the meaning assigned thereto in the Electricity Regulation Act, 2006 (Act No. 4 of 2006), as amended, or the Occupational Health and Safety Act, 1993 (Act No. 85 of 1993), as amended.
- 3. Headings and titles. —** The headings and titles in these Bylaws shall not affect the construction thereof.

## **CHAPTER 2 GENERAL CONDITIONS OF SUPPLY**

### **4. Provision of electricity services.—**

- (1) Only the Service Provider shall supply or contract for the supply of electricity within the jurisdiction of the Service Authority. A third party may supply or contract for the supply of electricity within the jurisdiction of the Service Authority, subject to the consent of the Service Authority and the requirements of the Electricity Regulation Act.
- (2) The Service Provider may permit the retail wheeling of electricity through its network by another electricity supplier that is licensed for the trading of electricity in terms of the Electricity Regulation Act to the customers of this electricity supplier.
- (3) The Electrical Engineer and the Chief Finance Officer shall have the power to stipulate written terms or conditions in relation to and in respect of the supply of electricity by the Service Provider to any person who has applied for an electricity supply, including but not limited to the service connection, the point of supply or the point of metering, and any such terms or conditions shall be deemed to form part and be incorporated into the written supply agreement concluded with such person as contemplated in bylaw 5 below.
- (4) The Service Provider shall not be obliged to provide any electricity to a person who has failed to comply with the terms or conditions in terms of this bylaw.

### **5. Supply by agreement.—**

- (1) No person shall use or be entitled to use an electricity supply from the Service Provider unless or until a written agreement has been entered into with the Service Provider for such supply, and such agreement together with the provisions of this Bylaw shall in all respects govern such supply.

- (2) If electricity is consumed without the existence of a supply agreement, the owner of the premises on which the electricity is being used shall be liable for the cost of electricity used as stated in section 44 of these Bylaw, provided that this bylaw shall not be interpreted to detract from the right of the Service Provider to disconnect the supply of electricity in terms of bylaw 21.
- (3) Should the Service Authority appoint a different service provider at any date in the future, supply agreements with consumers of the Service Provider shall be deemed to be agreements with this new service provider.

#### **6. Service of notice.—**

- (1) Any notice or other document that is served on any person in terms of this Bylaw is regarded as having been served—
  - (a) when it has been delivered to that person personally;
  - (b) when it has been left at that person's place of residence or business in the Republic with a person apparently over the age of sixteen years;
  - (c) when it has been posted by registered or certified mail to that person's last known residential or business address in the Republic and an acknowledgement of the posting thereof from the postal service is obtained;
  - (d) if that person's address in the Republic is unknown, when it has been served on that person's agent or representative in the Republic in the manner provided by paragraphs (a), (b) or (c); or
  - (e) if that person's address and agent or representative in the Republic is unknown, when it has been posted in a conspicuous place on the property or premises, if any, to which it relates.
- (2) When any notice or other document must be authorized or served on the owner, occupier or holder of any property or right in any property, it is sufficient if that person is described in the notice or other document as the owner, occupier or holder of the property or right in question and is it not necessary to name that person.
- (3) Any legal process is effectively and sufficiently served on the Service Provider when it is delivered to the Electrical Engineer or an employee in attendance at the office of the Electrical Engineer.

#### **7. Compliance with notices.—**

Any person on whom a notice duly issued or given under this Bylaw is served shall, within the time specified in such notice, comply with its terms.

#### **8. Application for supply.—**

- (1) Application for the supply of electricity or for the increase in the capacity of an existing electrical supply, or for a prepayment arrangement shall be made in writing by the prospective consumer on the prescribed form obtainable at the office of the Service Provider, and the notified maximum demand, in kVA, required for the installation, shall be stated therein. Such application shall be made as early as possible before the supply of electricity is required in order to facilitate the work of the Service Provider.

- (2) Applicants for the supply of electricity or for the increase in the capacity of an existing electrical supply, or for a prepayment arrangement shall submit the following documents with their application—
  - (a) An identity document or passport, and, in the case of a business, a letter of resolution delegating the authority to the applicant;
  - (b) The consumer shall provide a Deed of Sale or other proof of ownership of the premises for which a supply of electricity is required;
  - (c) Other documents required by the Electrical Engineer or the Chief Finance Officer.
- (3) Applicants for a supply of electricity shall be subject to a credit clearance check as far as debt to the Service Authority is concerned.
- (4) An application for a new temporary supply of electricity shall be considered at the discretion of the Electrical Engineer, who may specify any special conditions to be satisfied in such case.

#### **9. Processing of requests for supply.—**

Applications for the supply of electricity will be processed and the supply made available within the periods stipulated in the applicable standard specification, subject to the applicant complying with all written conditions and requirements duly imposed in terms of bylaw 4.

#### **10. Wayleaves and Servitudes on private property.**

- (1) The Service Provider may refuse to lay or erect a service connection above or below ground on any thoroughfare or land not vested in the Service Authority or on any private property, unless and until the prospective consumer shall have obtained and deposited with the Service Provider written permission granted by the owner of the said private property or by the person in whom is vested the legal title to the land or thoroughfare as aforesaid exists, as the case may be, authorising the laying or erection of a service connection thereon.
- (2) If such permission is withdrawn at any time or if the aforesaid private property or thoroughfare changes ownership and the new owner refuses to grant or continue such permission, the cost of any alteration required to be made to a service connection in order that the supply of electricity may be continued, and of any removal thereof which may become necessary in the circumstances, shall be borne by the consumer to whose premises the supply of electricity is required to be continued.
- (3) The Service Provider may remove any object or rectify any activity that may endanger the integrity of the distribution system as contemplated in bylaw 27.
- (4) The Service Provider may enforce the requirements for wayleaves and servitude as determined by the Electrical Engineer.

#### **11. Statutory Servitude.—**

- (1) Subject to the provisions of subsection (3) the Service Provider may within the municipal area of the Service Authority—
  - (a) provide, establish and maintain electricity services;
  - (b) acquire, construct, lay, extend, enlarge, divert, maintain, repair, discontinue the use of, close up and destroy electricity supply mains;

- (c) construct, erect or lay any electricity supply main on, across, through, over or under any street or immovable property and the ownership of any such main shall vest in the Service Provider;
  - (d) do any other thing necessary or desirable for or incidental, supplementary or ancillary to any matter contemplated by paragraphs (a) to (c).
- (2) If the Service Provider constructs, erects or lays any electricity supply main on, across, through, over or under any street or immovable property not owned by the Service Authority or under the control of or management of the Service Authority, the Service Provider shall determine the restrictions to be imposed on the use of the property under a servitude agreement.
- (3) The Service Authority and the owner of such street or property shall enter into a servitude agreement which may include an agreed amount for compensation, or, in the absence of agreement, as determined either by arbitration or a Court of Law.
- (4) The Service Provider shall, before commencing any work other than repairs or maintenance on or in connection with any electricity supply main on immovable property not owned by the Service Authority or under the control or management of the Service Authority, give the owner or occupier of such property reasonable notice of the proposed work and the date on which it proposes to commence such work.

**12. Right of admittance to inspect, test and/or do maintenance work.—**

- (1) The Service Provider shall, through its employees, contractors and their assistants and advisers, have reasonable access to or over any property for the purposes of—
- (a) doing anything authorised or required to be done by the Service Provider under this Bylaw or any other law;
  - (b) inspecting and examining any service mains and anything connected therewith including but not limited to periodic installation audits which will include assessment of appliances used to confirm the usage of electricity as per meter readings; ;
  - (c) enquiring into and investigating any possible source of electricity supply or the suitability of immovable property for any work, scheme or undertaking of the Service Provider and making any necessary survey in connection therewith;
  - (d) ascertaining whether there is or has been a contravention of the provisions of this Bylaw or any other law; and
  - (e) enforcing compliance with the provisions of these Bylaws or any other law.
- (2) The Service Provider shall pay to any person suffering damage as a result of the exercise of the right of access contemplated by subsection (1), except where the Service Provider is authorised to execute on the property concerned any work at the cost of such person or some other person or to execute on such property any work and recover the cost thereof from such person or some other person, compensation in such amount as may be agreed upon by the Service Provider and such person or, in the absence of agreement, as may be determined by arbitration or Court of Law.
- (3) The Electrical Engineer may, by notice in writing served on the owner or occupier of any property, require such owner or occupier to provide, on the day and at the hour specified in such notice, access to such property to a person and for a purpose referred to in subsection (1).

- (4) The Service Provider may gain access to or over any property without notice and may take whatever action as may, in its opinion, be necessary or desirable in consequence of the existence of a state of war or the occurrence of any calamity, emergency or disaster or where the risk of injury to life and limb or death dictates otherwise.

**13. Refusal or failure to give information.—**

- (1) No person shall refuse or fail to give such information as may be reasonably required of him/her by any duly authorised official of the Service Provider or render any false information to any such official regarding any electrical installation work completed or contemplated.
- (2) The Service Provider shall not make any information available concerning the supply or account details for any premises to any third party without the express written permission from the consumer who signed the supply agreement for the supply to the premises concerned except to the owner of a property upon written request to the Service Provider.

**14. Refusal of admittance.—**

No person shall willfully hinder, obstruct, interfere with or refuse admittance to any duly authorised official of the Service Provider in the performance of his duty under this By-law or of any duty connected therewith or relating thereto.

**15. Improper use.—**

- (1) If the consumer uses the electricity for any purpose or deals with the electricity in any manner which the Service Provider has reasonable grounds for believing interferes in an improper or unsafe manner or is found to interfere in an improper or unsafe manner with the efficient supply of electricity to any other consumer, the Service Provider may disconnect the electricity.
- (2) Any fees or surcharges prescribed by the Service Provider for the disconnection and reconnection shall be paid by the consumer before the electricity supply is restored.

**16. Electricity tariffs, surcharges and fees.—**

- (1) Copies of charges, surcharges and fees may be obtained free of charge at the offices of the Service Provider.
- (2) Availability charges as may be determined from time to time by the Service Provider are payable to the Service Provider by the owner of immovable property with or without improvements if the property is not connected to the electricity distribution system of the Service Provider and if access to an electricity connection is available to the property, provided that the Service Provider may grant written partial or complete exemption from the payment of such charges, and provided further that the Service Provider may at any time withdraw such an exemption.
- (3) Quota charges as may be determined from time to time by the Service Provider are payable by developers or owners of land within the license supply area of the Service Provider when the authorised maximum demand allowed for any particular stand or premises and determined by the Service Provider on the basis of the size of the particular stand and its zoning is exceeded. These charges are used to cover the cost of extending the local distribution and reticulation network, which the Service Provider does not recover from the tariffs for the supply of electricity.

**17. Deposits.—**

- (1) The Service Provider, in terms of a Tariff Policy approved by the Service Authority, reserves the right to require the consumer to deposit a sum of money as security in payment of any charges which are due or may become due to the Service Provider.
- (2) The amount of the deposit in respect of each electricity installation shall be determined by the Chief Financial Officer. Each such deposit may be increased if the Chief Financial Officer deems the deposit held to be inadequate, or as a result of non-payment, or as a result of tampering, or as a result of unauthorized connections or unauthorized reconnections or any other failure to comply with these bylaws or the supply agreement.
- (3) Such deposit shall not be regarded as being in payment or part payment of any accounts due for the supply of electricity for the purpose of obtaining any discount provided for in the electricity tariff referred to in this Bylaw.
- (4) On cessation of the supply of electricity, the amount of such deposit, free of any interest, less any payments due to the Service Provider and/or the Service Authority shall be refunded to the consumer.
- (5) The payment of interest on deposits, held in terms of supply agreements by any previous supplier of electricity, shall cease on the date of transfer of such supplies to the Service Provider.

**18. Payment of charges.—**

- (1) The consumer shall be liable for all charges listed in the prescribed tariff for the electricity service as approved by the Service Authority. The consumer shall also be required to pay all charges of other services supplied by the Service Authority to ensure a continued supply of electricity.
- (2) All accounts shall be deemed to be payable when issued by the Service Provider and each account shall, on its face, reflect the due date and a warning indicating that the supply of electricity may be disconnected should the charges in respect of such supply remain unpaid after the due date.
- (3) An error or omission in any account or failure to render an account shall not relieve the consumer of his obligation to pay the correct amount due for electricity supplied to the premises and the onus shall be on the consumer to satisfy himself/herself that the account rendered is in accordance with the prescribed tariff of charges in respect of electricity supplied to the premises.
- (4) Where a duly authorised official of the Service Provider has visited the premises for the purpose of disconnecting the supply of electricity in terms of subsection (2) and he/she is obstructed or prevented from effecting such disconnection, the prescribed fee shall become payable for each visit necessary for the purpose of such disconnection.
- (5) After disconnection for non-payment of an account, the prescribed fees and any amounts due for electricity consumed shall be paid, or suitable arrangements have been made in terms of the Service Authority's Bylaw or Policies, before the electricity supply is re-connected.
- (6) Notwithstanding the fact that an occupier has an agreement for the supply of electricity, should the owner of immovable property apply for a clearance certificate, in terms of section 118, of the Local Government: Municipal Systems Act, No. 32 of 2000, then such owner will be liable for all charges due to the Service Provider, in respect of the said property, in order to obtain such certificate.

**19. Interest on overdue accounts.—**

The Service Provider may charge interest on accounts which are not paid by the due date appearing on the account, in terms of an approved Credit Control and Debt Collection Policy and any related indigent support.

**20. Principles for the resale of electricity.—**

- (1) Resellers shall comply with the licensing and registration requirements set out in the Electricity Regulation Act and regulations issued under this Act.
- (2) Unless otherwise authorised by the Electrical Engineer, no person shall sell or supply electricity, supplied to his/her premises under an agreement with the Service Provider, to any other person or persons for use on any other premises, or permit or suffer such resale or supply to take place.
- (3) If electricity is resold for use upon the same premises, the electricity resold shall be measured by a submeter of a type which has been approved by the South African Bureau of Standards and supplied, installed and programmed in accordance with the standards of the Service Provider.
- (4) The tariff, rates and charges at which and the conditions of sale under which electricity is thus resold shall not be less favourable to the purchaser than those that would have been payable and applicable had the purchaser been supplied directly with electricity by the Service Provider.
- (5) Every reseller shall furnish the purchaser with monthly accounts that are at least as detailed as the relevant billing information details provided by the Service Provider to its electricity consumers.
- (6) The Reseller shall conclude written agreements with all purchasers of such resold electricity. It shall be a condition of supply to such purchaser that the Service Provider shall not accept any liability for and shall be indemnified against any claim for damages or losses arising from the disconnection of electricity due to tampering or non-payment notwithstanding the fact that the purchaser had paid the reseller for the electricity.

**21. Right to disconnect supply.—**

- (1) The Service Provider may, subject to subsection (2), disconnect the supply of electricity to any premises, which could include the restricting and/or allocation of credit purchases for prepayment meters as set out in the Service Authority's Credit Control and Debt Collection Policy—
  - (a) where the person liable to pay for such supply fails to pay any charge due to the Service Provider in connection with any supply of electricity which he or she may at any time have received from the Service Provider in respect of such premises; or
  - (b) where the Service Authority has requested the Service Provider to disconnect the supply of electricity where there are outstanding municipal service fees, surcharges on fees, property rates and other municipal taxes, levies and duties; or
  - (c) where tampering with the service connection or supply mains has occurred, or
  - (d) where no supply agreement has been concluded, or

- (e) where the terms and conditions of the supply agreement have not been complied with or
  - (f) where the applicant for supply of electricity intentionally or negligently misrepresented or otherwise incorrectly presented the facts or information in an application for supply,
  - (g) where the Service Provider has reasonable grounds for believing that the consumer has interfered in an improper or unsafe manner or was found to have interfered in an improper or unsafe manner with the efficient supply of electricity to any other consumer, in accordance with bylaw 15 or
  - (h) where the provisions of these bylaws have otherwise not been complied with or been contravened.
- (2) The Service Provider must a consumer, in the circumstances described in subsections (1) (a) to (h) notice of—
- (a) the intention to disconnect electricity supply to the premises of such person;
  - (b) a reasonable opportunity for such person to make representations in respect of the intended disconnection; and
  - (c) all the relevant information including reasons for the intended disconnection and the notice period on or after which the disconnection will be effected.
- (3) The Service Provider may disconnect the supply of electricity to any premises without notice under the following circumstances—
- (a) where there is a case of grave risk to any person or property; or
  - (b) for reasons of community safety or the safety of emergency personnel or other employees of the Service Provider; (4) For circumstances other than listed in subsection (3) the Service Provider shall give the person concerned fourteen days' notice to remedy his or her default prior to disconnection.
- (5) After the disconnection contemplated in subsection (1), the fees or surcharges as prescribed by the Service Provider for such disconnection or the reconnection of the service shall be paid by the person concerned.
- (6) In the case where an installation has been illegally reconnected on a consumer's premises after having been previously legally disconnected by the Service Provider, or in the case where the Service Provider's electrical equipment has been tampered with to prevent the full registration of consumption by the meter, the electricity supply may be physically removed from those premises.

## **22. Non-liability of the service authority or service provider.—**

- (a) The Service Provider does not guarantee a continuous or consistent supply of electricity to its Consumers, but will take such reasonable precautions as it is able to endeavor to supply electricity to its Consumers in accordance with their requirements.

The Service Provider shall not be liable for any damage, loss. Direct or consequential caused to any Consumer from any interruption or diminution of the supply of electricity or any temporary increase or surge therein unless the same is due to the negligence of the Service Provider in failing to take such reasonable precautions as aforesaid and in any event shall not be liable for any consequential damage or loss as opposed to direct damage, or loss which may be suffered by any Consumer.

In no case shall the Service Provider be liable for any damage or loss where the same has been occasioned by strikes, lock outs, riots, war, Act of God or other cause beyond the control of the Service Provider affecting the supply of electricity.

- (b) The Consumer is deemed to hold the Service Provider indemnified against any action, claim, expense or demand arising from or in connection with any of the matters aforesaid.

**23. Leakage of electricity.—**

Under no circumstances shall any rebate be allowed on the account for electricity supplied and metered in respect of electricity wasted owing to leakage or any other fault in the electrical installation.

**24. Failure of supply.—**

- (1) The Service Provider does not undertake to attend to a failure of supply of electricity due to a fault in the electrical installation of the consumer, except when such failure is due to the operation of the service protective device of the Service Provider.
- (2) When any failure of supply of electricity is found to be due to a fault in the electrical installation of the consumer or to the faulty operation of apparatus used in connection therewith, the Service Provider shall have the right to charge the consumer the fee as prescribed by the Service Provider for each restoration of the supply of electricity in addition to the cost of making good or repairing any damage which may have been done to the service main and meter by such fault or faulty operation as aforesaid.

**25. Seals of the service provider.—**

The meter, service protective devices and all apparatus belonging to the Service Provider shall be sealed or locked by a duly authorised official of the Service Provider, and no person not being an official of the Service Provider duly authorised thereto shall in any manner or for any reason whatsoever remove, break, deface, or tamper or interfere with such seals or locks.

**26. Tampering with service connection or supply mains .**

- (1) No person shall in any manner or for any reason whatsoever tamper with, interfere with, vandalize, fix an advertising medium to, or deface any meter or metering equipment, tariff mcb, protection device, seal, lock or other electrical equipment belonging to the Service Provider . No person shall tap or attempt to tap or cause or permit to be tapped any supply other than or in excess of that contracted for, might be lawfully obtained, abstracted or diverted.
- (2) If the Electrical Engineer has reasonable grounds for believing that the Service Provider has sustained any loss due to tampering or interference with any supply mains, service connection, meter, tariff mcb, protective devices, seal, lock or other electrical equipment in contravention of sub Bylaw (1) hereof the Service Provider may estimate such loss and such loss will be payable by the Consumer. In addition such Consumer shall pay to the Service Provider any cost which it may incur in repairing or reinstating the equipment concerned, together with the prescribed fee or surcharges for resealing or relocking.
- (3) Where *prima facie* evidence exists of a consumer and/or any person having contravened subsection (1), the Service Provider may disconnect the supply of electricity to the consumer, and that person shall be liable for all fees and charges levied by the Service Provider for such disconnection.
- (4) Where interference or damage is caused by any individual, having contravened subsection (1), legal action may be instituted against such individual.

- (5) Where a consumer and/or any person has contravened subsection (1) and such contravention has resulted in the meter recording less than the true consumption, the Service Provider shall have the right to recover from the consumer the full cost of his estimated consumption.
- (6) The determination by the Service Provider shall be *prima facie* evidence of such consumption.

**27. Protection of service provider's supply mains.—**

- (1) No person shall, without having in his possession on site a Wayleave and a Civil Work Permit issued by the Service Provider and subject to such conditions as may be imposed—
  - (a) construct, erect or lay, or permit the construction, erection or laying of any building, structure or other object, or plant trees or vegetation over or in such a position or in such a manner as to interfere with or endanger the supply mains;
  - (b) excavate, open up, remove the ground or alter the ground level, above, next to, under or near any part of the supply mains, or in any area falling under the jurisdiction of the Supply Authority;
  - (c) damage, endanger, remove or destroy, or do any act likely to damage, endanger or destroy any part of the supply mains;
  - (d) make any unauthorized connection to any part of the supply mains or divert or cause to be diverted any electricity there from.
- (2) The owner or occupier shall limit the height of trees or length of projecting branches in the proximity of overhead lines or provide a means of protection which in the opinion of the Service Provider will adequately prevent the tree from interfering with the conductors should the tree or branch fall or be cut down.
- (3) Should the owner fail to observe this provision the Service Provider shall have the right, after prior written notification, or at any time in an emergency, to cut or trim the trees or other vegetation in such a manner as to comply with this provision and shall be entitled to enter the property for this purpose. The owner shall, in such event, be liable for all cost incurred by the Service Provider which costs may be recovered from the owner by adding same to the owner's rates account.
- (4) The Service Provider may subject to obtaining an order of court demolish, alter or otherwise deal with any building, structure or other object constructed, erected or laid in contravention with this Bylaw.
- (5) The Service Provider may in the case of an emergency or disaster remove anything damaging, obstructing or endangering or likely to damage, obstruct, endanger or destroy any part of the electrical distribution system.

**28. Prevention of tampering with service connection or supply mains.—**

If the Electrical Engineer decides that it is necessary or desirable to take special precautions in order to prevent tampering with any portion of the supply mains, service connection or service protective device or meter or metering equipment, the consumer shall either supply and install the necessary protection or pay the costs involved where such protection is supplied by the Service Provider.

**29. Unauthorised connections.—**

No person other than a person specifically authorised thereto by the Electrical Engineer in writing shall directly or indirectly connect, attempt to connect or cause or permit to be connected any electrical installation or part thereof to the supply mains or service connection.

**30. Unauthorised reconnections.—**

- (1) No person other than a person specifically authorised thereto by the Electrical Engineer in writing shall reconnect, attempt to reconnect or cause or permit to be reconnected to the supply mains or service connection any electrical installation or installations which has or have been disconnected by the Service Provider.
- (2) Where the supply of electricity that has previously been disconnected is found to have been reconnected, the consumer using the supply of electricity shall be liable for all charges for electricity consumed between the date of disconnection and the date the electricity supply was found to be reconnected and any other charges raised in this regard.
- (3) Furthermore, the Service Provider reserves the right to remove part or all of the supply equipment until such time as payment has been received in full. In addition, the consumer will be responsible for all the costs associated with the reinstatement of such supply equipment.

**31. Temporary disconnection and reconnection.—**

- (1) The Service Provider shall, at the request of the consumer, temporarily disconnect and reconnect the supply of electricity to the consumer's electrical installation upon payment of the fee as prescribed by the Service Provider for each such disconnection and subsequent reconnection.
- (2) The Service Provider may inspect the service connection and/or require a Certificate of Compliance to be submitted before reconnecting the supply.
- (3) In the event of the necessity arising for the Service Provider to effect a temporary disconnection and reconnection of the supply of electricity to a consumer's electrical installation and the consumer is in no way responsible for bringing about this necessity, the Service Provider shall waive payment of the fee hereinbefore referred to.
- (4) The Service Provider may temporarily disconnect any installation for the purpose of repairs, test or overhaul without notice at any time

**32. Temporary supplies.—**

It shall be a condition of the giving of any temporary supply of electricity that if such supply is found to interfere with the efficient and economical supply of electricity to other consumers, the Service Provider shall have the right, with notice, or under exceptional circumstances without notice, to terminate such temporary supply at any time and, neither the Service Authority nor the Service Provider shall be liable for any loss or damage occasioned by the consumer by such termination.

**33. Temporary work.—**

- (1) Electrical installations requiring a temporary supply of electricity shall not be connected directly or indirectly to the supply mains except with the special permission in writing of the Electrical Engineer.

- (2) Full information as to the reasons for and nature of such temporary work shall accompany the application for the aforesaid permission, and the Electrical Engineer may refuse such permission or may grant the same upon such terms and conditions as it may appear desirable and necessary.

**34. Load reduction.—**

- (1) At times of peak load, or in an emergency, or when, in the opinion of the Electrical Engineer, it is necessary for any reason to reduce the load on the electricity supply system of the Service Provider, the Service Provider may without notice interrupt and, for such period as the Electrical Engineer may deem necessary, discontinue the electricity supply to any consumer's electrically operated thermal storage water heater or any specific appliance or the whole installation.
- (2) Neither the Service Authority nor the Service Provider shall be liable for any loss or damage directly or consequentially due to or arising from such interruption and discontinuance of the electricity supply.
- (3) The Service Provider may install upon the premises of the consumer such apparatus and equipment as may be necessary to give effect to the provisions of subsection (1), and any duly authorised official of the Service Provider may at any reasonable time enter any premises for the purpose of installing, inspecting, testing adjusting and/or changing such apparatus and equipment.
- (4) Notwithstanding the provisions of subsection (3), the consumer or the owner, as the case may be, shall, when installing an electrically operated water storage heater, provide such necessary accommodation and wiring as the Service Provider may decide to facilitate the later installation of the apparatus and equipment referred to in subsection (3).
- (5) Notwithstanding and in addition to bylaw 34(1) the Service Provider shall be entitled to require a consumer to reduce the consumption of electricity so as to reduce the load on the electricity supply system by such margins or levels as reasonably determined by the Service Provider. In the event of a consumer failing to so reduce the consumption or to maintain such reduced consumption of electricity, the Service Provider shall be entitled to levy a surcharge on or a higher tariff in respect of the electricity consumed by such consumer.

**35. High, medium and low voltage switchgear and equipment.—**

- (1) In cases where a supply of electricity is given at either high, medium or low voltage, the supply and installation of the switchgear, cables and equipment forming part of the service connection shall, unless otherwise approved by the Electrical Engineer, be paid for by the consumer.
- (2) All such equipment installed on the consumer's premises shall be compatible with the Service Provider's electrical performance standards.
- (3) No person shall open, close, isolate, link or earth high or medium voltage switchgear or equipment without giving reasonable prior notice to the Service Provider's System Control Centre.
- (4) In the case of a high or medium voltage supply of electricity, where the consumer has high or medium voltage switchgear installed, the Service Provider shall be advised of the competent person appointed by the consumer in terms of the Regulations, and of any changes made to such appointments.

- (5) In the case of a low voltage supply of electricity, the consumer shall provide and install a low voltage main switch and/or any other equipment required by the Service Provider or any duly authorised official of the Service Provider.

**36. Substation accommodation.—**

- (1) The Service Provider may, on such conditions as may be deemed fit by the Electrical Engineer, require the owner to provide and maintain accommodation which shall constitute a substation and which shall consist of a separate room or rooms to be used exclusively for the purpose of housing high voltage cables and switchgear, medium voltage cables and switchgear, transformers, low voltage cables and switchgear and other equipment necessary for the supply of electricity requested by the applicant.
- (2) The Service Provider shall have the right to supply its own networks from its own equipment installed in such accommodation, and if additional accommodation is required by the Service Provider, such additional accommodation shall be provided by the applicant at the cost of the Service Provider.
- (3) The substation accommodation shall comply with specified requirements and dimensions determined by the Service Provider and shall incorporate adequate lighting, ventilation, fire prevention and fire extinguishing measures.
- (4) The substation accommodation shall be situated on ground floor level at a point to which free, adequate and unrestricted access is available at all times for purposes connected with the operation and maintenance of the equipment.
- (5) Vehicular access to the substation entrance door shall be provided from the adjacent road or driveway.
- (6) Where in the opinion of the Electrical Engineer the position of the substation accommodation is no longer readily accessible or has become a danger to life or property or has for justifiable reasons become unsuitable, the consumer shall remove it to a new position to the satisfaction of the Electrical Engineer, and the cost of such removal, which shall be carried out with reasonable dispatch, shall be borne by the consumer.

**37. Wiring diagram and specification.—**

- (1) When more than one electrical installation or electricity supply from a common main or more than one distribution board or meter is required for any building or block of buildings, the wiring diagram of the circuits starting from the main switch and a specification shall on request be supplied to the Service Provider in duplicate for written consent before the work commences.
- (2) Where an electrical installation is to be supplied from a substation on the same premises on which the current is transformed from high voltage, or from one of the substations of the Service Provider through mains separate from the general distribution system, a complete specification and drawings for the plant to be installed by the consumer shall, if so required, be forwarded to the Service Provider for written consent before any material in connection therewith is ordered.

**38. Standby supply.—**

No person shall be entitled to a standby supply of electricity from the Service Provider for any premises having a separate source of electricity supply except with the written consent of the Electrical Engineer and subject to such terms and conditions as may be laid down by the Electrical Engineer.

**39. Consumer's electricity generation equipment.—**

- (1) No electricity generation equipment provided by a consumer in terms of any Regulations or for his own operational requirements shall be connected to any installation without the prior written consent of the Electrical Engineer.
- (2) Application for such consent shall be made in writing and shall include a full specification of the equipment and a wiring diagram.
- (3) The electricity generation equipment shall be so designed and installed that it is impossible for the Service Provider's supply mains to be energized by means of a back-feed from such equipment.
- (4) The position of the installed generating equipment shall not interfere with the supply mains the generating equipment must be installed entirely on the consumer's premises.
- (5) The consumer shall be responsible for providing and installing all such protective equipment and for obtaining a Certificate of Compliance issued in terms of the Regulations for the work carried out.
- (6) Whereby special agreement with the Service Provider, the consumer's electricity generation equipment is permitted to be electrically coupled to, and run in parallel with the Service Provider's supply mains, the consumer shall be responsible for providing, installing and maintaining all the necessary synchronizing and protective equipment required for such safe parallel operation, to the satisfaction of the Electrical Engineer.
- (7) Under normal operating conditions, any export of surplus energy from the consumer to the Service Provider's network shall be subject to special agreement with the Service Provider.
- (8) In the event of a general power failure on the service provider's network protection equipment shall be installed by the consumer, subject to the Electrical Engineer's approval, so as to ensure that the consumer's installation is isolated from the Service Providers network until normal operating conditions are restored. The cost of any specialized metering equipment will be for the consumer's account.

**40. Technical Standards.—**

The Electrical Engineer may from time to time issue Technical Standards detailing the requirements of the Service Provider regarding matters not specifically covered in the Regulations or this Bylaw but which are necessary for the safe, efficient operation and management of the supply of electricity.

### **CHAPTER 3 RESPONSIBILITIES OF CONSUMERS**

**41. Consumer to erect and maintain electrical installation.—**

Any electrical installation connected or to be connected to the supply mains, and any additions or alterations thereto which may be made from time to time, shall be provided and erected and maintained and kept in good order by the consumer at his own expense and in accordance with this Bylaw and the Regulations.

**42. Fault in electrical installation.—**

- (1) If any fault develops in the electrical installation, which constitutes a hazard to persons, livestock or property, the user of the electrical installation shall immediately disconnect the electricity supply.
- (2) The user of the electrical installation shall without delay give notice thereof to the Service Provider and shall immediately take steps to remedy the fault.
- (3) The Service Provider may require the consumer to reimburse it for any expense to which it may be put in connection with a fault in the electrical installation.

**43. Discontinuance of use of supply.—**

In the event of a consumer desiring to discontinue using the electricity supply, he/she shall give at least three full working days' notice in writing of such intended discontinuance to the Service Provider, failing which he/she shall remain liable for all payments due in terms of the tariff for the supply of electricity until the expiration of two full working days after such notice has been given.

**44. Change of consumer.—**

- (1) Three full working days' notice in writing shall be given to the Service Provider of the intention to discontinue using the electricity supply, failing which the owner shall remain liable for such supply.
- (2) If the person taking over occupation of the premises desires to continue using the electricity supply, the owner of such premises shall make application in accordance with the provisions of section 5 of this Bylaw, and if the owner fails to make application for an electricity supply within ten working days of the person taking occupation of the premises, the supply of electricity shall be disconnected, and the owner shall be liable to the Service Provider for the electricity supply from the date of occupation until such time as the supply is so disconnected.
- (3) Where premises are fitted with prepayment meters and there is no existing electricity supply agreement, until such time as an application is made by the owner for a supply of electricity, in terms of section 5 of this Bylaw, the owner shall be liable for all charges and fees owed to the Service Provider for that metering point as well as any outstanding charges and fees which have accrued to that metering point.
- (4) The Electrical Engineer may impose conditions, which may include the withholding of the electricity supply to premises, in cases where the previous consumer's electricity account at that premises is in arrears.

**45. Service apparatus.—**

- (1) The consumer shall be liable for all costs to the Service Provider arising from damage to or loss of any metering equipment, service protective device, service connection or other apparatus on the premises, unless such damage or loss is shown to have been occasioned by an Act of God or an act or omission of an employee of the Service Provider or caused by an abnormality in the supply of electricity to the premises.
- (2) If, during a period of disconnection of an installation from the supply mains, the service main, metering equipment or any other service apparatus, being the property of the Service Provider and having been previously used, have been removed without its permission or have been damaged so as to render reconnection dangerous, the owner or occupier of the premises, as the case may be, during such period shall bear the cost of overhauling and/or replacing such equipment.

- (3) Where there is a common metering position, the liability detailed in subsection (1) shall devolve on the owner of the premises.
- (4) The amount due in terms of subsection (1) shall be evidenced by a certificate from the Electrical Engineer which shall be final and binding.

#### **CHAPTER 4 SPECIFIC CONDITIONS OF SUPPLY**

##### **46. Service connection.—**

- (1) The consumer shall bear the cost of the service connection, as approved by the Service Provider.
- (2) Notwithstanding the fact that the consumer bears the cost of the service connection, ownership of the service connection shall vest in the Service Provider, the Service Provider shall be responsible for the maintenance of such service connection up to the point of supply.
- (3) The consumer shall not be entitled to any compensation from the Service Provider in respect of such service connection.
- (4) The work to be carried out by the Service Provider at the cost of the consumer for a service connection to the consumer's premises shall be determined by the Electrical Engineer.
- (5) The consumer shall provide, fix and/or maintain on his premises such ducts, wireways, trenches, fastenings and clearance to overhead supply mains as may be required by the Electrical Engineer for the installation of the service connection.
- (6) Unless otherwise approved by the Electrical Engineer each registered erf shall only be provided with one service connection.
- (7) Any covers of a wireway carrying the supply circuit from the point of supply to the metering equipment shall be made to accept the seals of the Service Provider.
- (8) Within the meterbox, the service conductor or cable, as the case may be, shall terminate in an unobscured position and the conductors shall be visible throughout their length when cover plates, if present, are removed.
- (9) In the case of blocks of buildings occupied by a number of individual consumers, separate wireways and conductors or cables shall be laid from the common metering room or rooms to each individual consumer in the blocks of buildings. Alternatively, if trunking is used, the conductors of the individual circuits shall be clearly identified and tied together every 1,5 m throughout their length.
- (10) In the case of normal domestic and business premises a single phase service connection with a maximum capacity of 80A will be provided upon prepayment of the sum prescribed in the Service Provider 's tariff charges.
- (11) In all other cases the connection fees are as prescribed in the Service Provider 's tariff of charges.
- (12) Whether a service is erected in, on or over public or private property, and notwithstanding any payments which have been made by a Consumer by way of fees

therefore, ownership of any service line, pole, cable or other apparatus installed by the Service Provider shall remain vested in the Service Provider, and the Service Provider and its servants shall have rights of access at all times to the service for its proper maintenance, replacement or alteration, and the Service Provider shall retain the right to use the whole or any portion of such service for the purpose of supplying any other Consumer.

- (13) Where a supply is given to a property situated outside the area of jurisdiction of the Service Provider or to any property in a remote or sparsely developed area within its area of jurisdiction, and where the City Electrical Engineer may consider such a display necessary, the consumer shall display his name and the street number of his property clearly and legibly in a conspicuous position at the entrance to his property.

**47. Metering accommodation.—**

- (1) The consumer shall, if required by the Electrical Engineer, provide accommodation in an approved position, the meter board and adequate conductors for the Service Provider's metering equipment, service apparatus and protective devices.
- (2) Such accommodation and protection shall be provided and maintained, to the satisfaction of the Electrical Engineer, at the cost of the consumer or the owner, as the circumstances may demand, and shall be situated, in the case of credit meters, at a point to which free and unrestricted access shall be had at all reasonable hours for the reading of meters but at all times for purposes connected with the operation and maintenance of the service equipment.
- (3) Access at all reasonable hours shall be afforded for the inspection of prepayment meters.
- (4) Where sub metering equipment is installed, accommodation separate from the Service Provider's metering equipment shall be provided.
- (5) The consumer or, in the case of a common meter position, the owner of the premises shall provide a distribution board from which to supply adequate electric lighting and power in the space set aside for accommodating the metering equipment and service apparatus.
- (6) Where in the opinion of the Electrical Engineer the position of the meter, service connection, protective devices or main distribution board is no longer readily accessible or becomes a danger to life or property or in any way becomes unsuitable, the consumer shall remove it to a new position, and the cost of such removal, which shall be carried out with reasonable dispatch, shall be borne by the consumer.
- (7) The accommodation for the Service Provider's metering equipment and protective devices may, if approved, include the consumer's main switch and main protective devices.
- (8) No apparatus other than that used in connection with the supply of electricity and use of electricity shall be installed or stored in such accommodation unless approved.

## **CHAPTER 5 SYSTEMS OF SUPPLY**

### **48. Nominal supply voltage.—**

The nominal supply voltage at which a supply is given shall be determined by the Service Provider as necessitated by technical considerations to ensure the efficient operation of the supply mains.

### **49. Load requirements.—**

Alternating current supplies shall be given as prescribed by the Electricity Regulation Act, 2006 (Act No. 4 of 2006), and in the absence of a quality of supply agreement, as set out in the applicable standard specification.

### **50. Load limitations.—**

- (1) Where the estimated load, calculated in terms of the safety standard, does not exceed 15 kVA, the electrical installation shall be arranged for a two-wire single-phase supply of electricity, unless otherwise approved by the Electrical Engineer.
- (2) Where a three-phase four-wire supply of electricity is provided, the load shall be approximately balanced over the three phases but the maximum out-of-balance load shall not exceed 15 kVA, unless otherwise approved by the Electrical Engineer.
- (3) No current-consuming appliance, inherently single phase in character, with a rating which exceeds 15 kVA shall be connected to the electrical installation without the prior approval of the Electrical Engineer.

### **51. Interference with other persons' electrical equipment.—**

- (1) No person shall operate electrical equipment having load characteristics which, singly or collectively, give rise to voltage variations, harmonic currents or voltages, or unbalanced phase currents which fall outside the applicable standard specification.
- (2) The assessment of interference with other persons' electrical equipment shall be carried out by means of measurements taken at the point of common coupling.
- (3) Should it be established that undue interference is in fact occurring, the consumer shall, at his/her own cost, install the necessary equipment to filter out the interference and prevent it reaching the supply mains.

### **52. Supplies to motors.—**

- (1) Unless otherwise approved by the Electrical Engineer the rating of motors shall be limited as follows—
  - (a) Limited size for low voltage motors rating of a low voltage single-phase motor shall be limited to 2 kW and/or the starting current shall not exceed 70 All motors exceeding these limits shall be wound for three phases at low voltage or such higher voltage as may be required.
  - (b) Maximum starting and accelerating currents of three-phase alternating current motors.

The starting current of three-phase low voltage motors permitted shall be related to the capacity of the consumer's service connection, as follows:

Insulated service cable, size in mm <sup>2</sup> , copper equivalent mm <sup>2</sup>	Maximum permissible starting current A	Maximum motor rating in kW		
		Direct on line (6 x full-load current)	Star/Delta (2,5 x full-load current)	Other means (1,5 x full-load current)
		kW	kW	kW
16	72	6	13,5	23
25	95	7.5	18	30
35	115	9	22	36,5
50	135	10	25	45
70	165	13	31	55
95	200	16	38	67
120	230	18	46	77
150	260	20	52	87

(c) Consumers supplied at medium voltage—

In an installation supplied at medium voltage the starting current of a low voltage motor shall be limited to 1,5 times the rated full-load current of the transformer supplying such a motor. The starting arrangement for medium voltage motors shall be subject to the approval of the Electrical Engineer.

**53. Power factor.—**

- (1) If required by the Electrical Engineer, the power factor of any load shall be maintained within the limits 0,85 lagging and 0,9 leading.
- (2) Where, for the purpose of complying with subsection (1), it is necessary to install power factor corrective devices, such corrective devices shall be connected to the individual appliance terminals unless the correction of the power factor is automatically controlled.
- (3) The consumer shall, at his/her own cost, install such corrective devices.

**54. Protection.—**

Electrical protective devices for motors shall be of such a design as effectively to prevent sustained overcurrent and single phasing, where applicable.

## CHAPTER 6 MEASUREMENT OF ELECTRICITY

### 55. Metering.—

- (1) The Service Provider shall, at the consumer's cost in the form of a direct charge or prescribed fee, provide, install and maintain appropriately rated metering equipment at the point of metering for measuring the electricity supplied.
- (2) Except in the case of prepayment meters, the electricity used by a consumer during any metering period shall be ascertained by the reading of the appropriate meter or meters supplied and installed by the Service Provider and read at the end of such period except where the metering equipment is found to be defective, or the Service Provider invokes the provisions of section 59 (2) of this Bylaw, in which case the consumption for the period shall be estimated.
- (3) Where the electricity used by a consumer is charged at different tariff rates, the consumption shall be metered separately for each rate.
- (4) The Service Provider reserves the right to meter the supply to blocks of shops and flats, tenement-houses and similar buildings for the buildings as a whole, or for individual units, or for groups of units.
- (5) No alterations, repairs or additions or electrical connections of any description shall be made on the supply side of the point of metering unless specifically approved in writing by the Electrical Engineer.

### 56. Accuracy of metering.—

- (1) A meter shall be conclusively presumed to be registering accurately if its error, when tested in the manner prescribed in subsection (5) hereof, is found to be within the limits of error as provided for in the applicable standard specifications.
- (2) The Service Provider shall have the right to test its metering equipment. If it is established by test or otherwise that such metering equipment is defective, the Service Provider shall—  
  
in the case of a credit meter, adjust the account rendered;  
in the case of prepayment meters, (a) render an account where the meter has been under-registering, or (b) issue a free token where the meter has been over-registering,  
  
in accordance with the provisions of subsection (6).
- (3) The consumer shall be entitled to have the metering equipment tested by the Service Provider on payment of the prescribed fee. If the metering equipment is found not to comply with the system accuracy requirements as provided for in the applicable standard specifications, an adjustment in accordance with the provisions of subsections (2) and (6) shall be made and the aforesaid fee shall be refunded.
- (4) In case of a dispute, the consumer shall have the right at his own cost to have the metering equipment under dispute tested by an approved independent testing authority, and the result of such test shall be final and binding on both parties.
- (5) Meters shall be tested in the manner as provided for in the applicable standard specifications.

- (6) When an adjustment is made to the electricity consumption registered on a meter in terms of subsection (2) or (3), such adjustment shall either be based on the percentage error of the meter as determined by the test referred to in subsection (5) or upon a calculation by the Service Provider from consumption data in its possession. Where applicable, due allowance shall be made, where possible, for seasonal or other variations which may affect the consumption of electricity.
- (7) When an adjustment is made as contemplated in subsection (6), the adjustment may not exceed a period of three years preceding the date on which the metering equipment was found to be inaccurate. The application of this section does not bar a consumer from claiming back overpayment for any longer period where the consumer is able to prove the claim in the normal legal process.
- (8) Where the actual load of a consumer differs from the initial estimated load provided for under section 8 (1) to the extent that the Service Provider deems it necessary to alter or replace its metering equipment to match the load, the costs of such alteration or replacement shall be borne by the Consumer.
- (9) (a) Prior to the Service Provider making any upward adjustment to an account in terms of subsection (6), the Service Provider shall—
- notify the consumer in writing of the monetary value of the adjustment to be made and the reasons therefore;
- in such notification provide sufficient particulars to enable the consumer to submit representations thereon; and
- call upon the consumer in such notice to provide it with reasons in writing, if any, within 21 days or such longer period as the Electrical Engineer may permit why his/her account should not be adjusted as notified.
- (b) Should the consumer fail to make any representations during the period referred to in subsection 9 (a) (iii) the Service Provider shall be entitled to adjust the account as notified in subsection 9 (a) (i).
- (c) The Electrical Engineer shall consider any reasons provided by the consumer in terms of subsection (9) (a) and shall, if satisfied that a case has been made out therefore, adjust the account appropriately.
- (d) If the Electrical Engineer decides after having considered the representation made by the consumer that such representations do not establish a case warranting an amendment to the monetary value established in terms of subsection (6), the Service Provider shall be entitled to adjust the account as notified in terms of subsection 9 (a) (i), subject to the consumer's right to appeal the decision of the official in terms of section 62 of the Municipal Systems Act, 2000.

#### **57. Reading of credit meters.—**

- (1) Unless otherwise prescribed in the applicable standard specification, credit meters shall normally be read at intervals of one month and the fixed or minimum charges due in terms of the tariff shall be assessed accordingly. The Service Provider shall not be obliged to effect any adjustments to such charges.

- (2) If for any reason the credit meter cannot be read, the Service Provider may render an estimated account. The electrical energy consumed shall be adjusted in a subsequent account in accordance with the electrical energy actually consumed.
- (3) When a consumer vacates a property and a final reading of the meter is not possible, an estimation of the consumption may be made and the final account rendered accordingly.
- (4) If a special reading of the meter is desired by a consumer, this may be obtained upon payment of the prescribed fee.
- (5) If any calculating, reading or metering error is discovered in respect of any account rendered to a consumer, the error shall be corrected in subsequent accounts. Any such correction shall only apply in respect of accounts for a period of three years preceding the date on which the error in the accounts was discovered, and shall be based on the actual tariffs applicable during the period. The application of this section does not prevent a consumer from claiming back overpayment for any longer period where the consumer is able to prove the claim in the normal legal process.

**58. Prepayment metering.—**

- (1) No refund of the amount tendered for the purchase of electricity credit shall be given at the point of sale after initiation of the process by which the prepayment meter token is produced.
- (2) Copies of previously issued tokens for the transfer of credit to the prepayment meter may be issued at the request of the consumer.
- (3) When a consumer vacates any premises where a prepayment meter is installed, no refund for the credit remaining in the meter shall be made to the consumer by the Service Provider.
- (4) The Service Provider shall not be liable for the reinstatement of credit in a prepayment meter lost due to tampering with, or the incorrect use or the abuse of, prepayment meters and/or tokens.
- (5) Where a consumer is indebted to the Service Provider for electricity consumed or to the Service Authority for any other service supplied by the Service Authority (including rates) or for any charges previously raised against him/her in connection with any service rendered, the Service Provider may deduct a percentage from the amount tendered to offset the amount owing to the Service Authority and/or the Service Provider, as set out in the section 5 agreement for the supply of electricity.
- (6) The Service Provider may, at its discretion, appoint vendors for the sale of credit for prepayment meters and shall not guarantee the continued operation of any vendor.
- (7) The Service Provider shall be competent to require that any or all of its existing consumers whose consumption is measured by credit meters be replaced with a system of prepayment metering or other method of measuring consumption or that any or all of its new consumers utilise a prepayment or other method of measuring consumption. The Service Provider shall be entitled to consider its operational requirements when acting in terms of this bylaw and shall, inter alia, be entitled to phase such replacement in over any period it deems fit. It shall also be permissible for the Service Provider to differentiate between consumers based on the use of their properties, the geographical location of consumers or any other basis provided that such differentiation does not amount to unfair discrimination. The Service Provider shall be entitled to levy the necessary fees and tariffs to give effect to the replacement of the credit metering system and consumers shall be obliged to pay such fees and tariffs.

## **CHAPTER 7 ELECTRICAL CONTRACTORS**

### **59. Electrical contractors' responsibilities.—**

In addition to the requirements of the Regulations the following requirements shall apply—

- (a) Where an application for a new or increased supply of electricity has been made to the Service Provider, the Electrical Engineer may at his/her discretion accept notification of the completion of any part of an electrical installation, the circuit arrangements of which permit the electrical installation to be divided up into well-defined separate portions, and such part of the electrical installation may, at the discretion of the Electrical Engineer, be inspected, tested and connected to the supply mains as though it were a complete installation.
- (b) The examination, test and inspection that may be carried out at the discretion of the Electrical Engineer in no way relieves the electrical contractor/registered person or the user or lessor, as the case may be, from his responsibility for any defect in the installation. Such examination, test and inspection shall not be taken under any circumstances (even where the electrical installation has been connected to the supply mains) as indicating or guaranteeing in any way that the electrical installation has been carried out efficiently with the most suitable materials for the purpose or that it is in accordance with this Bylaw or the safety standard, and neither the Service Authority nor the Service Provider shall be held responsible for any defect or fault in such electrical installation.

### **60. Work done by electrical contractors.—**

- (1) Where an application for a new or increased supply of electricity or form prepayment metering has been made to the Service Provider, the Electrical Engineer may at his or her discretion accept notification of the completion of any part of the electrical installation, the circuit arrangements of which permit the electrical installation to be divided into well-defined separate portions. Any part of the electrical installation may, at the discretion of the Electrical Engineer be inspected, tested and connected to the supply mains as though that part of the electrical installation were a complete installation. Subject to the submission by the owner, consumer or applicant, as the case may be, of a certificate of compliance for that part of the installation.
- (2) Neither the Service Authority nor the Service Provider shall be held responsible for the work done by the electrical contractor/registered person on a consumer's premises and shall not in any way be responsible for any loss or damage which may be occasioned by fire or by any accident arising from the state of the wiring on the premises.

## **CHAPTER 8 COST OF WORK**

### **61. Repair of damage.—**

- (1) The Service Provider may repair and make good any damage done in contravention of this Bylaw or resulting from a contravention of this Bylaw. The cost of any such work carried out by the Service Provider which was necessary due to the contravention of this Bylaw, shall be to the account of the person who acted in contravention of this Bylaw.

## CHAPTER 9 PENALTIES

### 62. Penalties.-

- (1) Any person who contravenes any of the provisions of these Bylaws shall be guilty of an offence.
- (2) Any person who continues to commit an offence after notice has been served on him/her to cease committing such offence or after he/she has been convicted of such offence shall be guilty of a continuing offence.
- (3) Any person who knows or has reason to suspect or should reasonably have known or suspected that any electrical installation or apparatus or any radio aerial or support thereof on or over any premises owned or occupied by him is in a condition likely to be dangerous to himself or to any other person, or to cause damage to the service connection or supply mains shall be guilty of an offence unless he shall immediately either report the same to the Service Provider.
- (4) Any person convicted of an offence under this Bylaw shall be liable to a fine or to imprisonment imposed by a competent Court, or in the case of a continuing offence, to an additional fine or additional imprisonment determined by such a Court or to both such additional fine and imprisonment for each day on which such offence is continued.
- (5) Every person committing a breach of the provisions of this Bylaw shall be liable to recompense the Service Authority and/or the Service Provider for any loss or damage suffered or sustained by it in consequence of such breach.

## CHAPTER 10 ESTIMATION OF CONSUMPTION

### 63. Estimation of consumption.-

(1) The Service Provider may estimate the quantity of electricity provided in respect of a period or periods within the interval between successive measurements which may not be more than 90 days apart, and may render an account to a consumer for the services so estimated, which estimate shall, for the purposes of these By-laws, be regarded as an accurate measurement until the contrary is proved.

(2). For purposes of assessing the quantity of electricity supplied to a consumer during any period and measured by a measuring device installed by the Service Provider over a specific period, for the purposes of these By-laws it will be deemed that—

- (a) the quantity is represented by the difference between measurements taken at the beginning and end of such period;
- (b) the measuring device was accurate during such period; and

- (c) the entries in the records of the Service Provider were correctly made.
- (3) If electricity is supplied to, or taken by, a consumer without its passing through a measuring device, or where tampering or interference with such measuring device has taken place, the estimate by the Service Provider of the quantity of such electricity shall be deemed to be correct.
- (4) Where electricity supplied by the Service Provider to any premises is in any way taken by the consumer without such electricity passing through any measuring device provided by the Service Provider, the Service Provider may for the purpose of rendering an account, make an estimate, in accordance with subsection (5), of the quantity of electricity supplied to the consumer during the period that electricity is so taken by the consumer.
- (5) For the purposes of subsection (4), an estimate of the quantity of electricity supplied to a consumer shall be based on—
- (a) the average monthly consumption of electricity on the premises registered over three succeeding measuring periods taken over not more than 180 days in total, after the date on which the irregularity referred to in subsection (2) was discovered and rectified; and/or
- (b) the period preceding the date referred to in subsection (2) but not exceeding 36 months.
- (6) Nothing in these By-laws may be construed as imposing on the Service Provider an obligation to cause any measuring device installed on any premises to be measured at the end of any fixed period, and the Service Provider may estimate the quantity of electricity supplied over any period during the interval between successive measurements of the measuring device, which may not be more than 90 days apart, and render an account to a consumer for the quantity of electricity so estimated.
- (7) The Service Provider shall, on receipt from the consumer of written notice of not less than seven days and subject to payment of the prescribed fees, measure the quantity of electricity supplied to such consumer at a time or on a day other than that upon which it would normally be measured.
- (8) If a contravention of section 26 occurs, the consumer shall pay to the Service Provider the cost of such quantity of electricity estimated by the Service Provider to have been supplied to the consumer.
- (9) Where electricity supply services are provided through a communal electricity services work, the amount due and payable by consumers gaining access to electricity supply services through that communal electricity services work, will be based on the estimated average consumption of electricity supplied to that electricity services work, and the decision of the Service Provider in arriving at that amount is final and binding on each consumer affected thereby, unless legally set aside.

- (10) Failure by the Service Provider to comply with the periods of 90 and 180 days referred to above will not disentitle the Service Provider from recovering any monies due to it by a consumer.

## **CHAPTER 11 MISCELLANEOUS**

### **64. Miscellaneous**

- (1) All electrical installations shall be maintained and kept in good order by the Consumer, and the service provider will not be responsible for the efficient and proper execution of any work on the Consumer's premises other than that done by the service provider's own workmen, the inspection, insulation, test and service fuses being for the requirements of the service provider only.
- (2) Every facility must be given to authorised Officials of the Service Provider to inspect any part or parts of any installation connected to or intended to be connected to the Service Provider's mains, and suitable trap doors in floors and ceilings must be provided for this purpose where necessary.
- (3) Only one service connection to any one premise will be made or permitted to be retained except with the consent, in writing, of the Electrical Engineer, which consent will only be granted when, in his opinion, special technical considerations render such additional connection necessary or desirable. The Consumer shall pay the entire cost of any service connection made, in addition to the first connection, and shall be liable for payments under the tariff of charges for electricity as if each such connection were made to separate premises.
- (4) The Service Provider will supply any number of Consumers in one building and may lay services direct to each Consumer, but the Service Provider reserves the right to supply the building at a central point. Each separate Consumer's installation must be wired at his own expense. Owners of buildings may fix meters and measure current consumed by tenants in their buildings, but the Service Provider will accept no responsibility for any meters other than those supplied and fixed by the Department.
- (5) These Bylaws apply to the supply of electricity by the Service Provider within its licensed supply area irrespective whether or not the place of consumption falls within the boundaries of the Municipality.

## **CHAPTER 12**

### **REPEAL OF BYLAWS**

- 65.** All existing Electricity Bylaws including the City of Pietermaritzburg Electricity Supply Bylaws are hereby repealed.

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**SCHEDULE 1**  
**APPLICABLE STANDARD SPECIFICATIONS**

- SANS 1019 Standard voltages, currents and insulation levels for electricity supply;
- SANS 1607 Electromechanical watt-hour meters;
- SANS 1524-1 Electricity payment systems;
- SANS IEC 60211 Maximum demand indicators, Class 1.0;
- SANS IEC 60521 Alternating current electromechanical watt-hour meter (Classes 0.5, 1 & 2);
- SANS 10142-1 Code of practice for the wiring of premises;
- NRS 047 Electricity Supply–Quality of Service;
- NRS 048 Electricity Supply–Quality of Supply; and
- NRS 057 Electricity Metering: Minimum Requirements,

# IMPORTANT Information from Government Printing Works

Dear Valued Customers,

Government Printing Works has implemented rules for completing and submitting the electronic Adobe Forms when you, the customer, submits your notice request.

Please take note of these guidelines when completing your form.

## GPW Business Rules

1. No hand written notices will be accepted for processing, this includes Adobe forms which have been completed by hand.
2. Notices can only be submitted in Adobe electronic form format to the email submission address [submit.egazette@gpw.gov.za](mailto:submit.egazette@gpw.gov.za). This means that any notice submissions not on an Adobe electronic form that are submitted to this mailbox will be **rejected**. National or Provincial gazette notices, where the Z95 or Z95Prov must be an Adobe form but the notice content (body) will be an attachment.
3. Notices brought into GPW by "walk-in" customers on electronic media can only be submitted in Adobe electronic form format. This means that any notice submissions not on an Adobe electronic form that are submitted by the customer on electronic media will be **rejected**. National or Provincial gazette notices, where the Z95 or Z95Prov must be an Adobe form but the notice content (body) will be an attachment.
4. All customers who walk in to GPW that wish to submit a notice that is not on an electronic Adobe form will be routed to the Contact Centre where the customer will be taken through the completion of the form by a GPW representative. Where a customer walks into GPW with a stack of hard copy notices delivered by a messenger on behalf of a newspaper the messenger must be referred back to the sender as the submission does not adhere to the submission rules.
5. All notice submissions that do not comply with point 2 will be charged full price for the notice submission.
6. The current cut-off of all Gazette's remains unchanged for all channels. (Refer to the GPW website for submission deadlines – [www.gpwonline.co.za](http://www.gpwonline.co.za))
7. Incorrectly completed forms and notices submitted in the wrong format will be rejected to the customer to be corrected and resubmitted. Assistance will be available through the Contact Centre should help be required when completing the forms. (012-748 6200 or email [info.egazette@gpw.gov.za](mailto:info.egazette@gpw.gov.za))
8. All re-submissions by customers will be subject to the above cut-off times.
9. All submissions and re-submissions that miss the cut-off will be rejected to the customer to be submitted with a new publication date.
10. Information on forms will be taken as the primary source of the notice to be published. Any instructions that are on the email body or covering letter that contradicts the notice form content will be ignored.

You are therefore advised that effective from **Monday, 18 May 2015** should you not comply with our new rules of engagement, all notice requests will be rejected by our new system.

Furthermore, the fax number **012- 748 6030** will also be **discontinued** from this date and customers will only be able to submit notice requests through the email address [submit.egazette@gpw.gov.za](mailto:submit.egazette@gpw.gov.za).

