

DRAFT MERC (STANDARDS OF PERFORMANCE OF DISTRIBUTION LICENSEES, PERIOD FOR GIVING SUPPLY AND DETERMINATION OF COMPENSATION) (FIRST AMENDMENT) REGULATIONS, 2017

EXPLANATORY MEMORANDUM

2 August, 2017

1. The Maharashtra Electricity Regulatory Commission (Standards of Performance of Distribution Licensees, Period for Giving Supply and Determination of Compensation) Regulations, 2014 ('SoP Regulations') classifies installations based on contract demand and accordingly specified the voltage level for connecting such installations to the electrical system. Regulation 5.3 (a) (ii) specifies the following limit on the load which can be released on Low Tension (LT) lines:

“(ii) Four / Three wires, three phase, 230 / 240 volts between phase wire and neutral or 400 / 415 volts between the phases / lines and contract demand not exceeding 80 kW/ 100 kVA in all areas, except in Municipal Corporation areas where such limit would be 150 kW/ 187kVA :

Provided that in case of multiple consumers with contract demand more than 150 kW / 187 kVA, in the same building / premises as a single point supply in the Municipal Corporation areas where such limit would be 480 kW / 600 kVA :”

Thus, except in Municipal Corporation area, load limit of releasing connection on LT line is up to 80 kW/100 kVA. For Municipal Corporation area such limit is 150 kW/187 kVA.

2. The Maharashtra State Electricity Distribution Co. Ltd. (MSEDCL) filed a Petition (Case No. 9 of 2016) for amending the SoP Regulations so as to increase the load limit for releasing connections outside Municipal Corporation areas and bring it on par with the limit specified for Municipal Corporation areas. The Commission rejected this proposal vide its Order dated 16 May, 2016. MSEDCL filed a Review Petition (Case No. 151 of 2016). Vide its Order dated 26 July, 2017 in Case No. 151 of 2016, the Commission held as follows:

“11. The Commission has noted the arguments by MSEDCL as well as CMIA and VIA (both Authorized Consumer Representatives) in support of the original proposal and the Review Petition and, in particular, the limitations on the affected industries by increasing space constraints and difficulties in land availability and its cost for upgradation even outside Municipal Corporation areas. The Commission observes that, due to rapid urbanization and other factors, areas around the Municipal Corporations and other urban and semi-urban areas in particular are increasingly facing space constraints in the development of electrical infrastructure similar to those in the Corporation areas. Therefore, it is necessary to revisit the existing limits for release of connections with connected load above 80 kW on LT line in such areas along the lines of the limits for Municipal Corporations, subject to technical feasibility

in each case. For this purpose, the Commission will undertake a process of public consultation for appropriately amending the SoP Regulations.”

Thus, considering the increasing space constraints, particularly in urban and semi-urban areas, and other factors, the Commission accepted the need for revisiting the load limit (80 kW / 100 kVA) for releasing connections in areas outside Municipal Corporations. Both Orders may be seen on the Commission’s websites.

3. In view of the above, the Commission now proposes to substitute the existing Regulation 5.3 (a) (ii) of the SoP Regulations with the following:

“(ii) Four / Three wires, three phase, 230 / 240 volts between phase wire and neutral or 400 / 415 volts between the phases / lines and contract demand not exceeding 150 kW/ 187kVA :

Provided that in case of multiple consumers in the same building / premises with cumulative contract demand exceeding 150 kW/ 187 kVA, such limit would be 480 kW / 600 kVA:”