

Festive Lighting Inventories

1. Introduction

Festive Lighting or Seasonal Decorations often take their power from Street Lighting or other unmetered electricity sources. This document seeks to explain how the electricity used through unmetered connections can be added to an existing half hourly street lighting inventory (or other unmetered equipment) and charges made to the inventory owner for passing on to a third party if required.

The Institution of Lighting Professionals (ILP) has published [PLG06 Guidance On Installation And Maintenance Of Seasonal Decorations And Lighting Column Attachments](#) which provides excellent guidance on the physical works and checks required to ensure safe attachment, installation and maintenance of Festive Lighting. The ILP also publish [GP03 Code Of Practice For Electrical Safety In Highway Electrical Operations](#) which incorporates guidance on Health and Safety legislation and British Standards, such as BS7671, relating to temporary installations such as Festive Lighting.

2. Unmetered Connections

The Distribution Network Operator (DNO) provides unmetered connections to customers, which are managed by its Unmetered Supplies Operator (UMSO). There is an obligation upon Customers to ensure that details of equipment connected to unmetered supplies is provided to the UMSO on a regular basis by provision of an inventory, a process that Local Authorities will be familiar.

Where a Customer proposes to provide a third party with a supply of electricity, e.g., a trader's association or other organisation, by allowing access to existing unmetered connections the Customer must first seek permission from the DNO/UMSO. This is a requirement of Paragraph 8.10 of Section 4 of the [National Terms of Connection](#). If the Customer has entered into a separate bilateral Connection Agreement with the DNO, there will be a similar requirement. Supplies must not be provided without permission from the DNO and arrangements agreed for the energy used to be calculated and charged to the end user.

In order to ensure that the energy used by the Festive Lighting is accounted for, the customer will be expected to either add the lighting equipment to its existing inventory (MPAN) with the energy recharged to the third party by the Customer (if required), or for a separate inventory (MPAN) to be in place for the third party to pay for the energy directly to an electricity Supplier.

If an existing inventory MPAN is not to be used, it is suggested that an application is made to the UMSO at least three months in advance of the installation of the Festive Lighting. This allows for the creation process for a new MPAN to be completed, and an electricity Supplier to be appointed. There is no procedure for retrospective creation of MPANs.

3. Equipment Details and Inventory Requirements

Details of the equipment to be connected is required in sufficient detail that the total electrical load in watts can be calculated. This may take the form of a list of the number of strings of lights or displays with their power draw rating in watts sufficient to calculate the total electrical load of all the equipment in watts. [Elexon's Operational Information Document](#) at section 2.3.1 explains that a Charge Code of 1500010000100 (rated at one watt), with a number of items equivalent to the total watts can be used in an inventory to represent the total load of festive lighting.

The daily operating times of the lighting and the start and finish dates when the lighting will be in operation will also be required. The Charge Code entry can then be paired with a suitable Switch Regime that represents those operating times. If there is not an existing Switch Regime an application can be made to Elexon, either directly by the customer or by PDA on your behalf

4. Energy Calculations

Once appropriate inventory entries have been established, those entries in respect of the Festive Lighting will be added to the main summary inventory on the day that the lights are switched on.

The UMISO will provide an inventory to the Meter Administrator for use as described above and this will ensure that the half hourly energy consumption calculations made by the Equivalent Meter include the energy used by the Festive Lighting. The additional energy consumed by the decorations can be identified from the half hourly consumption data.

Where the Festive Lighting is a particularly large load a sub-meter could be used to separate this equipment from the main inventory so that the Festive Lighting consumption is clearly identified. If a recharge is to be made to a third party this will enable the additional energy used to be even more readily identified.

At the end of the season the inventory can be updated by removing the Festive Lighting Charge Code with effect from the first day after the lights are switched off. Alternatively, the Charge Code can be amended to 1500000000100 (zero watt rating), which will also remove the lighting from the energy calculations but has the advantage that it remains visible in the inventory.

5. Submission of Inventory to UMISO

When submitting the inventory to the UMISO they may want to know how the inventory Charge Code entries have been derived from the equipment to be connected and the operating times and dates to validate the Switch Regime entry.

If you require further advice or information, please contact your Account Manager or via email UMS@PowerDataAssociates.com.

Change History

Number	Status	Date of issue	Reason for change
1.0	Issue	30/09/2020	Issued for use
1.1	Review	18/03/2021	Introduction of Festive Lighting Charge Codes
1.2	Issue	12/04/2021	Update charge code format
1.3	Issue	25/05/2021	Correction of typo
1.4	Issue	11/10/2021	Correction of typo
1.5	Issue	08/11/2021	Update ILP documents relating to Festive Lighting