

## Research RES LEGAL - Grid issues

Country: Latvia

### 1. Overview of grid issues

<b>Overview of grid regulations</b>	In Latvia, access of renewable energy systems to the grid is subject to the general legislation on energy. Electricity from renewable sources is not given priority. Thus, system operators are entitled against the grid operator to the connection of their systems to the grid and to the transmission of electricity according to the principle of non-discrimination. In pursuance of the general legislation, the grid operator is obligated to expand the grid.
<b>Connection to the grid</b>	The grid operator is obliged to the system operator to connect systems as soon as they comply with the technical requirements. The costs of connecting a system to the grid are borne by the system operator.
<b>Use of the grid</b>	The grid operator is statutorily obligated to transmit via his grid the electricity generated and sold by the system operators on the basis of non-discriminatory criteria. The costs of use of the grid are borne by the consumers.
<b>Grid expansion</b>	The grid operator is statutorily obliged to expand the grid within his area of responsibility. A system operator is entitled to such an expansion only if the grid operator has agreed to do so by contract. The system operator is obliged to bear the costs of the expansion.
<b>Statutory provisions</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>○ Electricity Market Law (Elektroenerģijas tirgus likums, 82 5/25/2005 – general law on electricity)</li><li>○ Regulation No. 1/3 (Tikla kodekss – Grid Code)</li><li>○ Regulation No. 280 (Sistēmas pieslēguma noteikumi elektroenerģijas ražotājiem – Regulation on the connection of electricity producers)</li></ul>

## 2. Basic information on legal sources

<b>Name of legal source (original language)</b>	Elektroenerģijas tirgus likums, 82 5/25/2005	Sistēmas pieslēguma noteikumi elektroenerģijas ražotājiem	Tikla kodekss
<b>Full name</b>			
<b>Name of legal source (English)</b>	Electricity Market Law	Regulation on the connection of electricity producers to the grid	Grid Code
<b>Abbreviated form</b>	Electricity Market Law	Regulation No. 280	Regulation No. 1/3
<b>Entry into force</b>	08.06.2005	03.09.2008	24.02.2010
<b>Last amended on</b>	01.01.2009		
<b>Future amendments</b>			
<b>Purpose</b>	Establishing a market for electricity.	Provisions supplementing the Electricity Market Law with regard to the connection of electricity generation systems.	Regulating the management and use of the electricity grid.
<b>Relevance for renewable energy</b>	Provisions on the promotion of renewable energy systems and their connection to the grid.	This regulation sets out the grid connection procedure for renewable energy systems.	
<b>Link to full text of legal source (original language)</b>	<a href="http://www.likumi.lv/doc.php?id=108834">http://www.likumi.lv/doc.php?id=108834</a>	<a href="http://sprk.gov.lv/index.php?id=4458&amp;sadala=252">http://sprk.gov.lv/index.php?id=4458&amp;sadala=252</a>	<a href="http://sprk.gov.lv/index.php?id=9357&amp;sadala=252">http://sprk.gov.lv/index.php?id=9357&amp;sadala=252</a>
<b>Link to full text of legal source (English)</b>	<a href="http://sprk.gov.lv/index.php?id=4353&amp;sadala=192">http://sprk.gov.lv/index.php?id=4353&amp;sadala=192</a> Please note: The English translation does not provide information on the latest amendment of the Act.		N:\1a-Policy Consulting\BMU-RES Legal (RP)\2-RES LEGAL III\3-Recherche\3-Länder\Lettland (Titel: E1800 - PUC Dec No 1-3 - Network Code_04042011)

### 3. Further information

Institution (name)	Website	Name of contact person (optional)	Telephone number (head office)	E-mail (optional)
<b>Latvijas Republikas Ekonomikas Ministrija (EM) – Ministry of Economics</b>	<a href="http://www.em.gov.lv/em/2nd/?lng=en&amp;cat=3&amp;lng=en">http://www.em.gov.lv/em/2nd/?lng=en&amp;cat=3&amp;lng=en</a>		+371 670 13 173	
<b>Institute of Physical Energetics (FEI) – Research institute</b>	<a href="http://www.innovation.lv/fei/">http://www.innovation.lv/fei/</a>		+371 675 52 011	fei@edi.lv
<b>Sabiedrisko pakalpojumu regulēšanas komisija (SPRK) – Public Utilities Commission (PUC), regulatory authority</b>	<a href="http://sprk.gov.lv/?setl=2&amp;PHPSESSID=77a72473d8dce013b0e4ff8e91b39a14">http://sprk.gov.lv/?setl=2&amp;PHPSESSID=77a72473d8dce013b0e4ff8e91b39a14</a>		+371 670 97 200	sprk@sprk.gov.lv

#### 4. Connection to the grid

<b>Legal source</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Electricity Market Law</li> <li>• Regulation No. 280</li> </ul>	
<b>Overview</b>	<p>The grid operator is obliged to connect electricity generation systems to the grid (§ 9 par. 2 Electricity Market Law). According to the grid operator, this obligation arises from agreements between the grid operator and the system operators.</p>	
<b>Procedure</b>	<b>Procedure</b>	<p>The connection procedure is set out in the Regulation on the Connection of Electricity Producers to the Grid and includes the following steps:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Application for connection (par. 4 Regulation No. 280); applications for wind power plants shall be accompanied by additional documents (par. Regulation No. 280).</li> <li>• The grid operator shall assess the site and notify the system operator of the technical requirements within 60 days after receipt of the application for connection (par. 7 Regulation No. 280).</li> <li>• The system operator shall plan the implementation of the technical requirements (par. 8 Regulation No. 280).</li> <li>• The grid operator shall approve of the implementation plan; a connection agreement is concluded (par. 9 Regulation No. 280).</li> <li>• If grid capacity is insufficient, the grid shall be upgraded (par. 11, 12 Regulation No. 280).</li> <li>• The system operator shall notify the grid operator of the completion of the electricity generation system at least 45 days prior to the first operation (par. 14 Regulation No. 280).</li> <li>• The grid operator shall carry out technical tests and connect the system to the grid within 10 working days after receipt of the notification of completion (par. 15 Regulation No. 280).</li> </ul>
	<b>Deadlines</b>	<p>Grid operator:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The grid operator shall assess the site and notify the system operator of the technical requirements within 60 days after receipt of the application for connection (par. 7 Regulation No. 280).</li> <li>• The grid operator shall carry out technical tests and connect the system to the grid within 10 working days after receipt of the notification of completion (par. 15 Regulation No. 280).</li> </ul> <p>System operator:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The system operator shall notify the grid operator of the completion of the electricity generation system at least 45 days prior to first operation (par. 14 Regulation No. 280).</li> </ul>
	<b>Obligation to provide information</b>	

<b>Priority to renewable energy (qualitative criteria)</b>	( ) Priority to renewable energy ( x ) Non-discrimination	Renewable energy is not given priority. According to the grid regulator, the system operator is entitled to non-discriminatory treatment.
<b>Capacity limits (quantitative criteria)</b>	The grid operator may refuse to connect a plant or system to the grid if grid capacity is insufficient. He shall give a reason for his refusal in writing within 30 days (§ 9 par. 4 Electricity Market Law).	
<b>Funding</b>	Gelöscht	
	<b>State</b>	
	<b>Consumers</b>	
	<b>Grid operator</b>	
	<b>System operator</b>	The costs of connecting a system to the grid are borne by the system operator (par. 12 Regulation No. 280).
	<b>Distribution mechanism</b>	Gelöscht

## 5. Use of the grid

<b>Legal source</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Electricity Market Law</li> <li>Regulation No. 1/3</li> </ul>	
<b>Overview</b>	The transmission grid operator is obliged to transmit electricity from renewable sources (§ 13 par. 1 Electricity Market Law). He shall not discriminate between or against producers of electricity from renewable sources. The amount of electricity to be transmitted may be limited only in case of insufficient grid capacity or emergency.	
<b>Procedure</b>	<b>Procedure</b>	The claim for transmission arises <b>on</b> the date of connection of the system to the grid.
	<b>Deadlines</b>	
	<b>Obligation to provide information</b>	Grid operator: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The grid operator shall notify the system operator in writing of any change to the grid system that might have an impact the operation of the electricity generation system at least 30 days beforehand (3.5. Regulation No. 1/3)</li> </ul> System operator: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The system operator shall provide information on the load factor of his system and on changes to the installed capacity to the grid operator on request (4.1. Regulation No. 1/3)</li> </ul>
<b>Priority to renewable energy (qualitative criteria)</b>	( ) Priority to renewable energy ( x ) Non-discrimination	Renewable energy is not given priority. The transmission grid operator shall comply with the principles of fairness, openness and equality (§ 13 par. 1 Electricity Market Law).
<b>Grid stability</b>	The transmission grid operator may refuse to transmit electricity to <b>prevent system overload</b> (§ 13 par. 5 Electricity Market Law). In case of emergency (environmental emergency, voltage loss) or risk of injury, damage to electric devices or impairment of the operation of the grid, the grid operator may request system operators to reduce the output of their systems or even take measures to reduce the output of certain systems (25.3, 26.5, 26.6, 26.7 Regulation No. 1/3).	
<b>Funding</b>	Gelöscht	
	<b>State</b>	
	<b>Consumers</b>	The costs of <b>use</b> of the grid are borne by the consumers. Quellenangabe gelöscht.
	<b>Grid operator</b>	
	<b>System operator</b>	
	<b>Distribution mechanism</b>	According to the regulatory authority, the costs of grid <b>use</b> are borne by the grid operator. He passes on the costs to the consumers through the electricity price. Quellenangabe gelöscht.

## 6. Grid expansion

<b>Legal source</b>	Electricity Market Law Regulation No. 280	
<b>Overview</b>	The grid operator is obliged to upgrade and expand the grid according to the general legislation on energy (§ 9 par. 1 Electricity Market Law). According to the transmission grid operator, a system operator may be entitled to a grid upgrade only if the grid operator has agreed on the upgrade by contract and if the system operator bears the costs.	
<b>Procedure for system operators</b>	<b>Procedure</b>	The grid operator is obligated to operate and maintain the grid within his area of responsibility (§ 9 par. 1 Electricity Market Law). The exact procedure is specified <b>in</b> the provisions of the grid regulator. According to the grid regulator, the grid operator is obligated to the grid regulator to expand the grid.
	<b>Enforcement of claims</b>	
	<b>Deadlines</b>	
	<b>Obligation to provide information</b>	
<b>Incentives for grid expansion</b>		
<b>Funding</b>		
	<b>State</b>	
	<b>Consumers</b>	According to the regulatory authority, the consumers bear the costs of a grid upgrade.
	<b>Grid operator</b>	
	<b>System operator</b>	The costs of a grid upgrade are borne by the system operator if the upgrade is necessary to connect and operate his system (par. 12 Regulation No. 280).
	<b>Distribution mechanism</b>	According to the regulatory authority, the grid operator may pass on the costs of upgrading the grid to the consumers by imposing grid use charges.
<b>Grid studies</b>		