

Research RES LEGAL – Grid issues

Country: Malta

1. Overview

Overview of grid issues	Operators of renewable energy systems are entitled against to priority transmission of electricity from renewable sources. According to the regulations in place, the provision of additional capacity on the grid, when necessary, is offered through a tendering procedure.
Connection to the grid	System operators are contractually entitled against grid operator Enemalta Corporation to the conclusion of an agreement of connection pursuant to the Network Code.
Use of the grid	System operators are contractually entitled against the grid operator to priority dispatch of electricity from renewable sources.
Grid expansion	In case grid expansion is required in order to connect new plants, the provision of additional capacity is awarded through a tendering procedure.
Statutory provisions	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Electricity Market Regulations 2011 (LN 166/2011)• Network Code (NC)

2. Basic information on legal sources

Name of legal source (original language)	LN 166 of 2011		NC
Name of legal source (full name)	Electricity Market Regulations 2011		The Network Code. Approved by the Malta Resources Authority. Version 1.2d. December 2007
Name (English)			
Abbreviated form	LN 166/2011		NC
Entry into force	10.05.2011		01.12.2007
Last amended on			
Future amendments			A new version of the network code is to be published, in accordance with Art. 9 LN 166/2011 before two years from the entry into force of LN 166/2011 (10.05.2011)
Purpose	Regulating the electricity market in Malta.		The Network Code states the basic technical and operational conditions for the connection of systems to the grid with respect to both electricity producers and consumers.
Relation to renewable energy	LN 166/2011 also applies to the connection of renewable energy systems.		The Network Code also applies to the producers of electricity from renewable energy sources.
Link to full text of legal source (original language)	http://www.mjha.gov.mt/DownloadDocument.aspx?app=lp&itemid=22042&l=1		http://www.enemalta.com.mt/filebank/documents/Network%20Code%20EMC%20Approved%20%20December%202007.pdf
Link to full text of legal source (English)	http://www.mjha.gov.mt/DownloadDocument.aspx?app=lp&itemid=22042&l=1		

3. Further information

Institution (name)	Website	Name of contact person (optional)	Telephone number (head office)	E-mail (optional)
Malta Resources Authority (MRA)	http://www.mra.org.mt/home.shtml		+356 212 206 19	enquiry(at)mra.org.mt
Enemalta Corporation – grid operator	http://www.enemalta.com.mt/page.asp?p=925&l=1		+356 212 246 00	customercare(at)enemalta.com.mt
Malta Intelligent Energy Management Agency (MIEMA) (in planning)	http://www.miema.org/site/	Jesmond Xuereb	+356 213 315 05	jesmond.xuereb(at)ftz.org.mt

4. Connection to the grid

Abbreviated form of legal sources	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> LN 166/2011 	
Overview	<p>System operators are entitled to connection to the grid after an authorisation has been issued by the Malta Resource Authority (MRA) (Art. 4 LN 166/2011). The MRA may refuse to enter into a connection agreement only under the conditions set out in the Electricity Regulations (3rd Schedule LN 166/2011).</p> <p>Authorisations are not required by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Any operator who produces electricity solely for his own use, is not connected in parallel to the distribution system and has installed a total peak generation capacity of less than 1500 kVA. Any operator with a total peak generation capacity rated up to and including 16 Amps per phase, single-phase or multi-phase, 230/400V AC produced solely from renewable sources of energy or cogeneration plant (still, these producers will need to notify the MRA) (1st Schedule LN 166/2011). 	
Procedure	Procedure	System operators are entitled to connection to the grid after an authorisation has been issued by the MRA (Art. 4 LN 166/2011). The MRA may refuse to enter into a connection agreement only under the conditions set out in the Electricity Regulations (3 rd Schedule LN 166/2011). The MRA has to communicate to the applicant its decision on the authorization within 6 months (Art. 4(6) LN 166/2011).
	Deadlines	The deadlines for the connection of a system to the grid depend on the terms and conditions of the contract.
	Obligation to provide information	
Priority to renewable energy (qualitative criteria)	<input type="checkbox"/> Priority to renewable energy <input type="checkbox"/> Non-discrimination	
Capacity limits (quantitative criteria)		
Funding		
	State	
	Consumers	
	Grid operator	
	System operator	The costs arising from the connection of a system to the grid are borne by the system operator.
	Distribution mechanism	The legal framework does not entitle the system operators to pass on the costs.

5. Use of the grid

Abbreviated form of legal sources	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> LN 166/2011 	
Overview	System operators are statutorily entitled against the grid operator to use the grid (Art. 13 LN 166/2011)	
Procedure	Procedure	System operators are statutorily entitled against the grid operator to use the grid (Art. 13 LN 166/2011)
	Deadlines	The regulations do not specify deadlines.
	Obligation to provide information	
Priority to renewable energy (qualitative criteria)	(x) Priority to renewable energy () Non-discrimination	Electricity from renewable energy sources shall be granted priority transmission (Art. 13(4) LN 166/2011).
Grid stability	The grid operator is not obliged to grant priority dispatch where the security and reliability of the grid is at risk (Reg Art. 13(4) LN 166/2011). Where the grid operator has to shut down power stations due to capacity shortage, he has to avoid shutting down renewable energy systems wherever possible (Art. 13(4) LN 166/2011).	
Funding		
	State	
	Consumers	
	Grid operator	The costs of use of the grid are borne by the grid operator.
	System operator	
	Distribution mechanism	Statutory law does not provide for a distribution mechanism.

6. Grid expansion

Abbreviated form of legal source	• LN 166/2011	
Overview	System operators are entitled to the expansion of the grid, if the expansion is necessary to guarantee the due execution of the connection of a system to the grid (Art. 12 LN 166/2011). The construction of additional capacity on the grid can be provided through a tendering procedure or an equivalent one in terms of transparency and non-discrimination (Art. 12 LN 166/2011).	
Procedure	Procedure	System operators are entitled to the expansion of the grid, if the expansion is necessary to guarantee the due execution of the connection of a system to the grid (Art. 12 LN 166/2011). The construction of additional capacity on the grid can be provided through a tendering procedure or an equivalent one in terms of transparency and non-discrimination (Art. 12 LN 166/2011).
	Enforcement of claims	
	Deadlines	Calls for tender must be published at least six months before their closing date (Art. 12 (3) LN 166/2011).
	Obligation to provide information	
Incentives for grid expansion		
Funding		
	State	
	Consumers	Costs are borne by consumers (Art. 13(10) LN 166/2011)
	Grid operator	
	System operator	
	Distribution mechanism	
Grid studies		