

Accelerated Loss of Mains Change Programme Frequently Asked Questions v5.0 May 2021

What is the Accelerated Loss of Mains Change Programme?

The Accelerated Loss of Mains Change Programme (ALoMCP) is an industry run project to reduce the risk of inadvertent tripping of distributed generation due to the sensitivity of loss of mains protection. The requirement to change protection settings is part of an update to the [Distribution Code EREC G59/3-7](#) and all applicable generators must make these changes to remain compliant. The ALoMCP invites generators to submit an application to receive a subsidiary to encourage the change of these settings as soon as possible, to reduce the risk on the network and allow low carbon generation to run more efficiently.

How do I know if it affects me?

The programme applies to all generators (apart from those of domestic installation scale) connected prior to 1st February 2018 in accordance with EREC G59/3-7, that have settable Vector Shift or Rate of Change of Frequency (RoCoF) loss of mains protection

How do I know what type of protection I have?

This information will have been documented at the time of commissioning and you should find this in your commissioning certificate or installation report. It is a legal requirement that the generation owner maintains this information. If you are struggling to find this paperwork you should contact your inverter / relay manufacturer or installer to determine the type of protection you have. Some manufacturers have published information on the applicability of the ALoMCP for their units which can be found on the Energy Networks Association website [here](#)

What are the new rules?

The distribution code has been changed to require that:

- Vector Shift protection is no longer used as a means of LoM protection. This must be removed.
- Where the LoM protection responds to Rate of Change of Frequency (RoCoF), the applied settings must be 1Hz/sec with a definite time delay of 500ms
- Any existing over-frequency setting relays still set at 50.5Hz should if possible be reset to 52.0Hz

What do I need to do?

You need to check that your distributed generation is either:

- A. Outside the scope of EREC G59/3-7 in which case inform SSEN who will update their records and remove you from their ALoMCP distribution list, OR
- B. Within scope of EREC G59/3-7 but is already compliant, in which case inform SSEN using the proforma on our website [here](#), OR

- C. Within scope of EREC G59/3-7 and changes are required, in which case, depending on your equipment, you will need to either change the settings, disable the LoM protection function or replace some of your equipment

My loss of main protection needs to be changed, who can do this work?

Initially consult your inverter or relay manufacturer or installer as many have provided information on the work required to ensure the protection meets the new Distribution Code. The work should be carried out by an accredited G59 generation installer. A list of contractors who have identified themselves as available can be found on the SSEN website [here](#) & Energy Networks Association website [here](#). The Energy Networks Association and SSEN accept no liability or responsibility for the competence of any contractors / consultants listed and do not endorse or make preference to any of the companies or individuals listed. It is the responsibility of the applicant to conduct their own assessment as to the suitability of these contractors.

Is there any funding available?

Yes, we recognise that you may incur some costs as a result of having to make these necessary changes and the industry has arranged for funding to be available to help meet these costs. If, as in most cases, a simple protection device settings change is required, you will receive £1,500 for the first change and an additional £500 per relay after that, up to a maximum of five relays, totalling £4,000. If relays require replacing, you can receive £4,000 towards replacing each relay. To qualify for funding support, you will need to register your generation assets through a dedicated portal on the Energy Networks Association website [here](#). The funding is limited, and you are therefore advised to apply as soon as possible to ensure that you maximise your access to this funding.

Can I apply for funding after completing the required works?

You may apply retrospectively for funding for any protection works which were carried out on or after 01/02/2018 for the purpose of achieving G59/3-7 compliance but you must be able to provide evidence of pre-setting changes

How can I submit an application for funding?

You can submit an application through the dedicated on-line portal [here](#)

How long does the application process take?

Decisions on successful applications (made by NGESO) will be made within three and a half months of your original application, and if your application is successful you will be notified within this time period. If your application is not successful, your application will be automatically reconsidered in the next three-month window

How long have I got to comply with the Distribution Code?

These changes are a legal requirement and must be complied with by **31st August 2022**. After this time, non-compliance will be subject to an enforcement programme. Due to the volume of generators required to make this change we strongly encourage early application and compliance to avoid missing

the deadline. For generators of 5MW and above, National Grid ESO is seeking compliance by June 2021 to improve system resilience over the summer period.

What happens if I don't make the change?

This is a change to the Distribution Code and non-compliance breaches the terms of your connection agreement. These changes are a legal requirement and must be complied with by 31st August 2022, after this date owners who have not made the necessary change will be subject to an enforcement programme

What is the Fast-track scheme and does it apply to me?

To encourage certain generation owners with critical RoCoF settings to make the necessary changes more quickly, a fast-track payment scheme is available where an extra £5000 per site can be applied for. Note, applications for this scheme have now been extended and **close on 28th May 2021**. Your site could be eligible if you satisfy all the following criteria:

- Registered capacity of 500kw or more
- Use RoCoF loss of mains protection
- Pre-change RoCoF setting is 0.2Hz/s or less
- You can complete the necessary changes in 4 weeks or less

If these conditions apply to you and you would like to take advantage of the fast-track payment scheme, please apply through the portal or get in touch with us at G59protectionsettings@sse.com or on **0800 197 6028** as soon as possible

What evidence of the changes is required?

To enable SSEN to approve and progress the application for funding, we require you to submit to us, the ALoMCP Proforma, the populated G59 Section 13.2 & 13.3 and also dated photographs of the relay / inverter (& serial number if possible) both pre- and post-change. These photographs should clearly show both the non-compliant settings and the G59/3-7 compliant settings.

Will SSEN require to be on site when the work is carried out?

If a "Settings Change" or "Protection Function Deactivation" is required to achieve compliance, we do not require to Witness Test this work, though if the work to be carried out is for a "Relay Replacement" then we require to attend to Witness Test the work. SSEN will carry out Witness Testing at no cost to the applicant.

Technical FAQs

NGESO have produced a suite of detailed Technical FAQs which provide further guidance on specific matters not covered in this document. Access them [here](#)

Unable to find the answers to you question?

Further information can be found at www.futureproofyourpower.co.uk and on the SSEN ALoMCP website www.ssen.co.uk/LossOfMains . Alternatively contact the SSEN ALoMCP team at G59protectionsettings@sse.com or on **0800 197 6028**