

Self-approval of contestable designs and associated agreement templates for self-serve

In line with the [Competition in Connections Code of Practice](#), Independent Connection Providers (ICPs) or Independent Distribution Network Operators (IDNOs) can request for us to approve ICPs' contestable designs, or in certain circumstances ICPs can self-approve their own contestable designs (where we allow this).

For details on the market segments where we allow ICPs to self-approve their own contestable designs, please refer to our [POC Self-Determination and Self-Design Approval Guidance](#). This document also contains other information on design approval activities.

Our related detailed design, technical specification and operational documents are available in our [G81 Library](#).

ICPs will generally be able to self-approve their own contestable designs where they have the relevant National Electricity Registration Scheme (NERS) accreditations to undertake design activities – i.e., '**Electrical Design of Distribution Networks**' scopes that cover: -

- '**LV Cable Networks to Domestic and Industrial/Commercial Properties**'. This also covers the domestic properties on a hierarchical basis.
- '**HV Overhead Networks**' with voltage as relevant up to and including 132kV. It can also specify '**Overhead Wooden Pole**' and/or '**Overhead Steel Tower**'.
- '**HV Cable Networks**' with voltage as relevant up to and including 132kV.
- '**Substation Layouts**' with voltage as relevant up to and including 132kV.

Caution: We limit this to specific market segments, voltages, and capacities.

For further details on the relevant scopes of NERS accreditations to undertake design activities, please refer to the [NERS Requirements Document](#) published by Lloyd's Register Quality Assurance (LRQA) on their [website](#).

Adoption Agreement – This is the agreement between and Scottish Hydro Electric Power Distribution (SHEPD) plc or Southern Electric Power Distribution (SEPD) plc and the ICP for the transfer by the ICP to SHEPD/SEPD plc of the property in and responsibility for the contestable works.

When an ICP is constructing an extended network for SHEPD/SEPD plc to adopt the entirety of the contestable works, or when an ICP is constructing an embedded IDNO network for SHEPD/SEPD plc to adopt part of the contestable works at the site boundary, and for an IDNO to adopt the rest of the contestable works, an Adoption Agreement will **always** be required between SHEPD/SEPD plc and the ICP.

Bilateral Connection Agreement – This is an agreement between Scottish Hydro Electric Power Distribution (SHEPD) plc or Southern Electric Power Distribution (SEPD) plc and the IDNO setting out the terms and conditions under which the IDNO's embedded network shall be entitled to be and remain connected to SHEPD/SEPD plc's distribution system.

When an ICP is constructing an embedded network for an IDNO to adopt most or the entirety of the contestable works, a BCA will **always** be required between SHEPD/SEPD plc and the IDNO.

Our Adoption Agreement template for ICPs and our Bilateral Connection Agreement (BCA) templates for IDNOs are available in editable format [here](#) for self-serve (where we allow self-approval of contestable designs), and are listed below: -

- TEM-NET-COM-008 HV or EHV or 132kV BCA Template SEPD
- TEM-NET-COM-009 LV BCA Template SEPD
- TEM-NET-COM-012 HV or EHV BCA Template SHEPD
- TEM-NET-COM-013 LV BCA Template SHEPD
- TEM-NET-COM-014 Metered Connections Adoption Agreement

Where ICPs and IDNOs wish to complete the agreement templates themselves, they will be required to send these completed agreement templates to us at nc.connections@sse.com for our review with their contestable design pack submissions, specifying that they have already completed them, so that our Design Approvers are aware that they do not need to do this task to avoid duplication of effort. We will review the completed agreement templates and confirm that they can be signed or that they shall be revised.