



# KERALA STATE ELECTRICITY BOARD LIMITED

(Incorporated under the Companies Act, 1956)

**CIN:U40100KL2011SGC027424**

Vydyuthi Bhavanam, Pattom, Thiruvananthapuram – 695 004, Kerala

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## **ABSTRACT**

BRAP 2020- Minimizing regulatory compliance burden on industry/ business and on citizens in Power Sector – waiver of conditions for laying of HT cables along private land and alternate documents that can be accepted as Proof of Ownership for new/ existing connections of LT consumers – Sanctioned– Orders issued.

## **CORPORATE OFFICE (SBU-D)**

### **B.O(FTD)No. 288/2021 (D (D&IT)/D6-AE3/EoDB/2020-21) dated, Thiruvananthapuram 04.05.2021**

- Read: 1. BO (FM) No 1113/2008(DPC II/UGcable.13/20017-08) dated, 05.05.2008
2. BO (FB) (Genl) No.510/2010(DPCII/AE/T&C of Supply.02/2009) dated 24.02.2010
  3. Kerala Electricity Supply Code 2014
  4. BO (FTD) No.1902/2018 (D (D&IT)/D6-AE3/Ease of doing business/2018-19) dated 02.11.2018
  5. Electricity (Rights of Consumers) Rules, 2020
  6. Minutes of stakeholders meeting held on 10.03.2021.
  7. Government Letter no.56/B3/2021/PD dated 22.03.2021
  8. Note No.D (D&IT)/D6-AE3/EoDB/2020-21 dated 26.03.2021 of the Director (Distribution, IT & HRM) to the Full Time Directors (Agenda Item No.85/3/21).

## **ORDER**

The Department for Promotion of Industry & Internal Trade (DPIIT), a Central Government Department under the Ministry of Commerce & Industry in India has released reforms under State Business Reform Action Plan (BRAP)-2020, directing the State Government's to initiate steps to reduce the regulatory compliances to minimize the compliance burden of business and citizens. This requires review of Acts/ Rules/ Regulations/and procedures laid down in each department to weed out unnecessary procedures or to simplify the same. In this regard, a stakeholders meeting was conducted to provide feedback on draft regulations before they are enacted, thereby enabling Government authorities to understand the issues from the perspective of the industry and trade bodies.

The following suggestions received from stake holders during the meeting held on 10.03.2021 were reviewed for minimizing compliance burden of business and citizens.

### **Proposal 1: Waiver of conditions for laying of HT cables along private lands**

One of the suggestions was regarding waiver of laying of cable in trenches with removable slabs in case of HT cable and providing metering facility at the beginning of the cable in such cases, since the

construction of cable trenches spoils the architectural aesthetics and other utilities in the building premises as well as incurring additional expenditure.

KSEBL as per BO read as 1<sup>st</sup> above had permitted the consumers to purchase and lay UG cable and do end termination at own cost as per standards in vogue under the supervision of Board staff. It was also stated that the cable can be laid along private land only through cable trenches with removable slabs for enabling inspection. An undertaking to the effect was collected in which it is stated that the consumer shall have no right over the UG cable and end terminations after the initial energisation, further modification/ alterations/ maintenance etc is vested with the KSEB. In line with directives of the Government to review procedures for effecting service connection, Board as per BO read as 2<sup>nd</sup> above, had waived the condition of laying cable trench with cover slabs for the cable laid in private property, if the metering facility is provided at the beginning of the cable in case of HT connections or a check meter at the beginning of the cable in case of LT connections.

The practice of providing metering facility at the beginning of the cable was to avoid misuse of electricity and theft. The energy abstracted by tapping HT cable cannot be utilised until it has been stepped down, which requires several associated equipments, and therefore the chances of theft being very rare, the above suggestion can be considered favorably since this will reduce the compliance burden, as intended in BRAP 2020, subject to the condition that the cable should be laid in such a way that there shall be provision for excavating cable, if required, in case of cable fault or any such instances at site.

**Proposal 2: Alternate documents that can be accepted as proof of ownership for new/ existing connections of all categories of LT consumers.**

KSEBL has taken initiatives to simplify the procedural requirements regarding various services offered by it, on its own initially, and later following Government directives by issuing clarifications on the simplified procedures, specifically mentioning the documents required in each case necessary for achieving the 'Ease of Doing Business" level as intended by the Government as per BO read as 4<sup>th</sup> above.

**(a) Sale deed as proof of ownership**

As per Clause 1.2 of the above BO, "Copy of title deed duly attested by a Gazetted Officer/ KSEB Ltd officer" is enlisted as one of the document accepted as proof of ownership for effecting new connection/ change of ownership and it was also stated that for effecting ownership change for common area connection of apartments, certificate of registration of association along with resolution from association is accepted in lieu of proof of ownership for granting service connection or changing ownership( Clause 1.2.2 (J)) .

It was reported that most apartments are bought by NRIs and mutation at several times is an extremely difficult process, and hence requested for including the copy of sale deed along with an application signed by both the seller and buyer be accepted as a document for effecting the ownership change of electric connections.

It shall be noted that the sale deed becomes a title deed when it is registered. Hence, accepting sale deed as proof of ownership will reduce the compliance burden on the citizens for ownership change in case of apartment/ houses constructed by developer/builder. On the part of KSEBL, if the ownership is changed to the buyer, the rightful owner will be aware of the dues/ dismantling notice etc and will be easier to realize the same and avoid unnecessary litigations.

(b) **Any other address proof not given as part of identity proof** (if the address provided on the document is same as that of site where supply is required.)

Clause 1.2.2 of the Board order read as 4<sup>th</sup> above, states that the documents issued in the address mentioned in the application can also be accepted as “proof of ownership” in case of Domestic connections if the address provided on the document is same as that of site where supply is required.

The Central Government, in exercise of the powers conferred by section 176 of the Electricity Act, 2003 has notified Electricity (Rights of Consumers) Rules, 2020, with effect from 31.12.2020. Rule 4 (9) also states that for new connections up to a load of 10 kW or such higher load as may be specified by the Commission, in the absence of any proof of ownership or occupancy, any other address proof not given as part of identity proof may be accepted as proof of ownership.

The condition for accepting any one of the documents (issued in the address mentioned in the application) shall be accepted as “proof of ownership” as stated in Clause 1.2.2 of the Board read as 4<sup>th</sup> above, may be extended to all categories of LT consumers, in the wake of Rule 4 (9) of Electricity (Rights of Consumers) Rules, 2020, which is in force.

The Director (Distribution, IT&HRM) suggested to implement the proposals under (1) & (2) as part of the action plan to simplify procedures and to minimize the compliance burden of business and citizens and the matter was placed before the Full Time Directors as per note read as 8<sup>th</sup> above.

Having considered the matter in detail, the Full Time Directors in its meeting held on 26/03/2021, resolved to accord sanction to the following:

1. To waive the condition of laying HT cables in trenches with removable cover slabs when laid in private property.
2. To waive the metering facility insisted to be installed at the beginning of the cable in case of HT cables as stated in BO dated 24.02.2010, subject to the condition that the cable should be laid in such a way that there shall be provision for excavating cable, if required, in case of cable fault or any such instances at site.
3. To accept copy of Sale Deed as proof of ownership for effecting ownership change of electric connection in case of apartment/houses constructed by developer/ builder.

4. To accept alternate identity proof (issued in the address mentioned in the application for new connection) as "Proof of ownership" in case of release of connections under all categories of LT consumers.
5. To modify the Board Orders read dated 05.05.2008, 24.02.2010 and 02.11.2018 to the above extent.

Orders are issued accordingly.

By Order of the Full Time Directors

**Sd/-**

Lekha.G

Company Secretary-in charge.

To: The Chief Engineers (Distribution)/ IT, CR&CAPs  
The Deputy Chief Engineers of all Electrical Circles  
The Deputy Chief Engineer (Commercial & Planning) with full powers of Chief Engineer

Copy to: The Financial Advisor /Chief Internal Auditor/LA&DEO/CVO/CPRO  
The TA to Chairman & Managing Director  
The TA to Director (Distribution, IT&HRM / Transmission & System Operation, Generation-  
Electrical & Supply Chain Management / Generation-Civil/Planning, Safety & REES)  
The RCAO/ The RAO/The LLO  
The PA to Director (Finance) /CA to Secretary (Administration)/Company Secretary  
The Fair Copy Superintendent/ Library/Stock File.

Forwarded / By Order



Assistant Engineer