

**JOINT ELECTRICITY REGULATORY COMMISSION
(FOR THE STATE OF GOA AND UNION TERRITORIES)
GURUGRAM**

CORAM

Shri Alok Tandon, Chairperson
Smt. Jyoti Prasad, Member (Law)

Diary No.: 28675/2026

Date of Hearing (Virtual): 16.06.2026

Date of Order: 16.06.2026

In the matter of:

Petition under Sections 50 and 181 of the Electricity Act, 2003 seeking amendment of the Joint Electricity Regulatory Commission (Electricity Supply Code) Regulations, 2018 for facilitating Ease of Doing Business reforms in the Union Territory of Dadra & Nagar Haveli and Daman & Diu.

And in the matter of:

DNH and DD Power Corporation Limited

.... **Petitioner**

Present: -

For the Petitioner:

1. Sh. Anand K. Ganesan, Advocate, DNH and DD Power Corporation Limited.
2. Sh. CA Parmar, Chief Engineer, DNH and DD Power Corporation Limited.

ORDER

1. The instant petition has been filed under Sections 50 and 181 of the Electricity Act, 2003 seeking amendment to certain provisions of the Joint Electricity Regulatory Commission (Electricity Supply Code) Regulations, 2018 with the following prayers:

a) Initiate appropriate proceedings for amendment of the JERC (Electricity Supply Code) Regulations, 2018;

b) Approve and notify the amendments proposed herein;

c) Issue necessary directions to the Distribution Licensee for implementation of the amended provisions;

Petitioner's Submission

Regulation 5.40 and 5.42 - Inspection of Premises

2. Regulations 5.40 and 5.42 of the Supply Code mandate physical inspection of the premises prior to sanction and release of electricity connection. While such inspection was historically justified from the standpoint of safety and verification, the same has, in practice, resulted in avoidable delays and administrative burden.
3. The Department of Industries, UT Administration of Dadra & Nagar Haveli and Daman & Diu, issued a meeting notice dated 23.01.2026 convening a high-level review meeting held on 27.01.2026 at Vidyut Bhavan, Kachigam, Daman, wherein all concerned departments and the Distribution Licensee were directed to examine the existing regulatory provisions and identify areas requiring reform. The deliberations held on 27.01.2026 revealed that mandatory pre-release inspections lead to scheduling constraints, dependence on field personnel, and procedural bottlenecks, particularly in cases of low-load domestic and commercial connections where the associated risk is minimal. The Government of India, under the aforesaid reform initiative, has emphasized a transition from inspection-based regimes to self-certification frameworks for low-risk consumer categories. Several progressive jurisdictions like Punjab and Andhra Pradesh have already adopted such measures.
4. Suitable proviso be inserted under Regulations 5.40 and 5.42 to exempt low-load LT consumers from mandatory pre-release inspection, subject to self-declaration and post-connection audit mechanisms. The proposed amendment is expected to substantially reduce delays, improve operational efficiency, and align the regulatory framework with trust-based governance principles.
5. Regulation 5.41 presently requires submission and verification of test reports issued by licensed electrical contractors prior to release of electricity connection. While the intent of such provision is to ensure safety compliance, the requirement of pre-verification by the licensee leads to duplication of effort and delays in processing applications. The UT-level deliberations that the requirement imposes additional financial and procedural burden on consumers and results in avoidable delays in release of connections. National reform recommendations advocate for simplification of such requirements and encourage acceptance of self-certified declarations for low-risk categories. Accordingly, the Regulation 5.41 be amended to permit acceptance of test reports on a self-certification basis for LT consumers up to a specified load, without mandatory pre-verification by the licensee. Such amendment would reduce compliance burden, expedite connection processes, and maintain safety through post-connection audit mechanisms.
6. Regulation 5.10 provides for recovery of service connection charges based on detailed estimation of cost, which is undertaken on a case-to-case basis. While such methodology ensures cost recovery, the process of estimation introduces uncertainty and delays in issuance of demand notices. The estimation-based framework lacks predictability and transparency from the perspective of consumers, thereby adversely affecting Ease of Doing Business. National reform recommendations have specifically suggested introduction of standardized charges based on normative cost data, thereby eliminating the need for case specific estimation. Various

regulatory jurisdictions, including Andhra Pradesh and Gujarat, have already adopted standardized, slab-wise fixed service connection charges under their respective regulatory frameworks.

7. Such frameworks eliminate the requirement of detailed estimation and provide certainty to consumers regarding upfront costs. The indicative slab-wise fixed service line charges, as aligned with the prevailing practices and suitably benchmarked to the tariff structure of Dadra & Nagar Haveli and Daman & Diu, are proposed as under:

Fixed Service Line Charges	
Load in kW	Charge
Up to 2kW	Rs. 1500
Above 2kW and Up to 6 kW	Rs. 3000
Above 6kW and Up to 12kW	Rs. 6000
Above 12 kW and up to 20 kW	Rs. 21000
Above 20 kW and up to 150 kW	Rs. 21000 + Rs. 1100 per kW (in excess of 20 kW)

8. In addition to the above fixed service line charges, the Distribution Licensee may levy security deposit as per applicable regulations and approved methodology, based on consumption pattern/load, to safeguard revenue recovery. Adoption of such slab-wise fixed service connection charges in the UT of Dadra & Nagar Haveli and Daman & Diu would significantly simplify the process of release of connections, ensure transparency, and eliminate delays associated with preparation and approval of detailed estimates. Regulation 5.10 be suitably amended to enable adoption of standardized, pre-approved service connection charges based on slab-wise rates as proposed herein, and the Distribution Licensee may be directed to notify and implement the same with the approval of this Commission.

9. Regulation 5.52 prescribes timelines for release of electricity connections; however, such timelines are presently linked to procedural stages and vary depending on circumstances. The timelines are adversely impacted by delays in inspection, estimation, and verification processes. Best practices in other jurisdictions indicate that fixed timelines, particularly in cases where no network augmentation is required, significantly improves service delivery. A clear and reduced timeline for low-load LT consumers is necessary to align with Ease of Doing Business benchmarks.

10. Regulation 5.52 be amended to prescribe a definitive timeline of three days in urban areas and seven days in rural areas for release of LT connections up to 10 kW, where no augmentation is required. Such amendment would bring predictability, accountability, and efficiency in service delivery.

11. Regulation 4.3 presently prescribes the voltage of supply and limits the Low-Tension category to lower load thresholds. The existing limit results in smaller industrial consumers being required to opt for High Tension supply, thereby increasing compliance requirements and capital expenditure. Evolving industrial requirements and national policy objectives necessitate

a more flexible approach to voltage classification. In several jurisdictions, the permissible limits for lower voltage supply have been enhanced to facilitate industrial growth and reduce entry barriers. Regulation 4.3 be amended to enhance the limit for LT supply up to 150 kW.

12. The proposed amendments collectively seek to transition the regulatory framework from a compliance-intensive regime to a facilitative, trust-based system that balances efficiency with safety and are consistent with national policy directives, aligned with best practice adopted in other States, and necessary for improving the investment climate and economic growth in the Union Territory.

13. The Commission in the interim order dated 06.05.2026, sought certain information from the Petitioner to justify the proposed amendment to Regulation 5.41. Pursuant to the directions contained in the aforesaid Order, the Petitioner had submitted a short affidavit furnishing the information sought by the Commission as follows:

a. The proposal to amend Regulation 5.40, 5.41 and 5.42 of the JERC Regulations, 2018 is sought so as to permit acceptance of test reports on a self-certification basis for LT consumers up to a specified load, without mandatory pre-verification by the licensee. The existing requirement of physical inspection prior to sanction and release of connection, though originally intended to ensure safety and verification, has in practice caused avoidable delay and administrative burden, particularly in respect of low-load domestic and commercial LT consumers, where the risk profile is comparatively low.

b. The Central Electricity Authority, in exercise of its powers under Section 53 read with Section 177(2)(b) of the Electricity Act, 2003, notified the Central Electricity Authority (Measures relating to Safety and Electric Supply) Regulations, 2023 (hereinafter referred as 'CEA Regulation, 2023') which was published in the Gazette on 08.06.2023. These Regulations have superseded the earlier Central Electricity Authority (Measures relating to Safety and Electric Supply) Regulations, 2010. The proposed amendment is consistent with the policy framework reflected in Regulation 32 of the CEA Regulations, 2023, which expressly recognises self-certification for electrical installations below or equal to the notified voltage, subject to compliance with prescribed safety requirements and post-verification mechanisms. Regulation 32 of the CEA Regulations, 2023 is extracted hereinbelow for the ready reference

“32. Periodic inspection and testing of installations. – (1) *The periodic inspection and testing of installation of voltage above the notified voltage belonging to the owner or supplier or consumer, as the case may be, shall be carried out by the Electrical Inspector:*

Provided that the electrical installation below or equal to the notified voltage shall be self-certified by the owner or supplier or consumer, as the case may be.

(2) *The periodicity of electrical inspection by the Electrical Inspector or the self-certification by the supplier, owner or consumer shall be as directed by the Appropriate Government: Provided that the periodicity of electrical inspection and self-certification shall not exceed five years:*

Provided further that in respect of the electrical installation belonging to mines, oil-fields and railways, such direction shall be issued by the Central Government.

(3) The periodic inspection and testing of installation of voltage equal to or below the notified voltage belonging to the owner or supplier or consumer, as the case may be, shall be carried out by the owner or supplier or consumer and shall be self-certified for ensuring observance of safety measures specified under these regulations and the owner or supplier or consumer, as the case may be, shall submit the report of self-certification to the Electrical Inspector in the Form I or Form II or Form III or Form IV, as the case may be, of Schedule II:

Provided that the electrical installation so self-certified shall be considered as duly inspected and tested only after the report of self-certification is duly received by the office of Electrical Inspector and if not acknowledged by the Electrical Inspector within three working days, it shall be deemed to be received:

Provided further that the owner or supplier or consumer has the option to get his installation inspected and tested by the Electrical Inspector of the Appropriate Government.

(4) Notwithstanding anything contained in sub-regulation (3), every electrical installation covered under section 54 of the Act including every electrical installation of mines, oil-fields and railways shall be periodically inspected and tested by the Electrical Inspector of the Appropriate Government.

(5) Where the supplier is directed by the Central Government or the State Government, as the case may be, to inspect and test the installation, such supplier shall report on the condition of the installation to the consumer concerned in the Form I, Form II, Form III and Form IV as provided in Schedule II and shall submit a copy of such report to the Electrical Inspector.

(6) The Electrical Inspector may, on receipt of such report, accept the report submitted by the supplier or record variations as the circumstances of each case may require and may recommend that the defects may be rectified as per report.

(7) In the event of the failure of the owner of any installation to rectify the defects in his installation pointed out by the Electrical Inspector in his report and within the time indicated therein, such installation shall be liable to be disconnected under the directions of the Electrical Inspector after serving the owner of such installation with a notice for a period not less than forty eight hours: Provided that the installation shall not be disconnected in case an appeal is made under sub section (2) of section 162 of the Act and appellate authority has stayed the orders of disconnection.

(8) It shall be the responsibility of the owner of all installations to maintain and operate the installations in a condition free from danger and as recommended by the manufacturer or by the relevant standards.”

Commission's Analysis

14. The Commission has heard the Petitioner at length with regard to amendments being proposed to some provisions of JERC (Electricity Supply Code) Regulations, 2018 viz., 4.3, 5.10, 5.40, 5.41, 5.42, 5.52. The Petitioner contended that the proposed amendments collectively seek to transition the regulatory framework from a compliance-intensive regime to a facilitative, trust-based system that balances efficiency with safety. This is in furtherance of the national initiative undertaken by the Government of India towards compliance reduction and deregulation with a view to improve Ease of Doing Business across sectors, including the electricity sector.

15. The Commission notes that CEA is framing Regulations from time to time, specifying safety measures for construction, operation and maintenance of power stations, substations, transmissions and distribution lines. At present, the Central Electricity Authority (Measures relating to Safety and Electric Supply) Regulations, 2023 is in place.

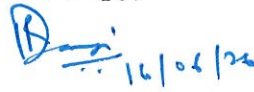
16. The Commission has noted the concern of the Petitioner and directs the staff of the Commission to examine the proposal and come out with a draft amendment to the JERC (Electricity Supply Code) Regulations, 2018 in consonance with the Central Electricity Authority (Measures relating to Safety and Electric Supply) Regulations, 2023 as amended from time to time. The Draft Amendment shall be published seeking comments of all stakeholders and thereafter processed and notified in accordance with law.

17. The Petition is disposed of accordingly.

Sd/-
(Jyoti Prasad)
Member (Law)

Sd/-
(Alok Tandon)
Chairperson

(Certified Copy)


(Rajesh Dangi)
Secretary I/c

Place: Gurugram, Haryana

Date: 16th June, 2026