

GUIDE FOR BUILDING NETWORK OPERATORS CONNECTED TO OUR NETWORK

A Building Network Operator (BNO) is the organisation that owns or operates the electricity distribution network within a multiple occupancy building, between the intake position (i.e. the boundary point of our network), and installations at the end user's premises.

The respective responsibilities of UK Power Distribution (UKPD) and the appointed BNO, and fundamental requirements for the provision of such connection, are governed by the industry standard¹. Here we highlight some key aspects of this engineering recommendation, and provide practical advice relating to its use:

1. **Design:** Building Networks are governed by British Standards BS7671² and UKPD is not in charge of approving their design. We will however require a copy of the BS7671 NICEIC completion certificate prior to energisation.
2. **Boundary point:** the BNO is responsible for the design, installation, operation and maintenance of the internal building's network emanating from the electrical operational boundary between UK Power Distribution and the BNO Network. At energisation, we will provide a record of the demarcation.
3. **Supply related issues:** the BNO is responsible for investigation and repair of any fault / damages to the BNO network within the building. This means that a named and competent individual should be at hand to supervise the investigation of a power-related complaint from an electricity end user. In case the complaints come to us, UKPD needs the contact detail of such named individual in and out of office hours. It is also recommended that the BNO has an arrangement in place with a competent electrical engineer as part of their overall facilities management services.
4. **Meter points:**
 - a. the BNO is responsible for ensuring that service positions/cut outs are clearly and correctly labelled with regards to flat/unit supplied. Assigning a meter to the wrong flat is a frequent mistake, which leads to incorrect billing and frustration for the end user.
 - b. the BNO is responsible for arranging any access, and providing any documentation required by electricity suppliers, meter operators or data collectors to resolve metering issues.
 - c. the BNO is responsible for providing us and the appointed meter operator with any Metering Current Transformer (CT) details required (i.e Ratio, Class, Rating and error test results).
5. **Communication to end users:** best practice encourages the BNO to provide some information to any new occupier of the premises including:
 - a. who to call in a power cut or an emergency linked to electrical infrastructure (contacts with the BNO and with UKPD should both feature),
 - b. the energy supplier of the previous occupier.
6. **Generation:** if any individual or landlord/BNO looks to connect any generation unit on site, normal industry procedures apply, through the ENA ER G98 or G99 processes³. This means that UKPD needs to be at minimum informed (G98), and that where necessary, the BNO will apply to us so we can assess the impact on the network, provide a quotation, assess G99 relays, and give permission for energisation.
7. **Maintenance:** the BNO is responsible for inspecting, repairing, maintaining or replacing its network. If isolation of the network is required, the BNO should contact the UKPD emergency helpline.

Should you have any questions on the above, get in touch at hello@ukpowerdistribution.co.uk

Our emergency helpline is 0800 311 8074 and our Head Office contact is: 03303 209 899

¹ Engineering Recommendations G87, freely available in full from the DCODE's website on <http://www.dcode.org.uk/annexes/annex-2/>

² BS 7671 IET Wiring Regulations, available from: <https://electrical.theiet.org/bs-7671/>

³ More information: www.energynetworks.org/operating-the-networks/connecting-to-the-networks/connecting-generation-to-the-electricity-networks