

Draft

ANDHRA PRADESH ELECTRICITY REGULATORY COMMISSION

[Regulation No. of 2025]

**Third Amendment to the Andhra Pradesh Electricity Regulatory Commission
(Security Deposit) Regulation, 2004 (Regulation No. 6 of 2004)**

Introduction:

The erstwhile APERC (Andhra Pradesh Electricity Regulatory Commission) of the undivided Andhra Pradesh State notified the Andhra Pradesh Electricity Regulatory Commission (Security Deposit) Regulation, 2004 (Regulation No.6 of 2004) (hereinafter referred to as ‘the Principal Regulation’), which was published in the AP Extraordinary Gazette on 17.05.2004. The erstwhile APERC notified the first amendment to the Principal Regulation in the AP Extraordinary Gazette on 19.12.2013.

And the newly constituted APERC for the residual State of Andhra Pradesh, which came into existence w.e.f. 01.08.2014, post bifurcation of the undivided AP State, adopted the above Regulations, among others, vide APERC (Adaption) Regulation, 2014 (Regulation No.4 of 2014). Subsequently, the new APERC notified the second amendment to the Principal Regulation (Regulation No. 2 of 2019) in the AP Extraordinary Gazette on 16.02.2019.

Whereas the Central Electricity Authority (CEA) has issued amendments to the Central Electricity Authority (Installation and Operation of Meters) Regulations, 2006 through the CEA (Installation and Operation of Meters) (Amendment) Regulations, 2019, and the CEA (Installation and Operation of Meters) (Amendment) Regulations, 2022. The 2019 amendment mandates that all new consumer meters must be Smart Meters with a prepayment feature and that the existing meters (excluding Smart Meters) must be replaced with Smart Meters with a prepayment feature within a timeline specified by the Central Government(Clause 4(1)(b)).

The 2022 amendment substitutes the the above Clause 4(1)(b) with the following:

- In areas with a communication network, all consumers must be supplied electricity through Smart Meters operating in prepayment mode, conforming to relevant Indian Standards (IS) within timelines specified by the Central

Government.

- For consumer connections exceeding the current carrying capacity specified in the relevant IS, meters must have an automatic remote meter reading facility or be Smart Meters as per the relevant IS.
- In areas without a communication network, the installation of prepayment meters conforming to relevant IS will be permitted, as approved by the respective State Electricity Regulatory Commission.

Whereas, the Ministry of Power(MOP) issued notifications dated 17.08.2021 specifying the timelines for the replacement of existing meters with smart meters.

Whereas, APDISCOMs, vide their letters requested the Commission to make appropriate amendments to the General Terms and Conditions of Supply (GTSC) and the relevant Regulations notified by the Commission in the backdrop of the installation of Smart Meters.

After thoroughly examining the amendments to the CEA (Installation and Operation of Meters) Regulations, MOP notification, APDISCOMs' requests, and other relevant aspects, the Commission, in exercise of the powers conferred on it under sub-section (v) of Section 181(2) read with Section 47 of the Electricity Act, 2003 (36 of 2003) and all other powers enabling it in that behalf, hereby amends the Principal Regulation as follows.

1. Short title, Extent, and Commencement

- i. This Regulation shall be called the Third Amendment to Andhra Pradesh Electricity Regulatory Commission (Security Deposit) Regulation, 2004 (Regulation No. 6 of 2004).
- ii. This Regulation shall extend to the whole of the State of Andhra Pradesh.
- iii. This Regulation shall come into force on the date of its publication in the Andhra Pradesh Gazette.

2. The text under clause 4(3)(iii) shall be replaced with the following

In case of a new connection with a prepaid smart meter, the consumer shall not be required to deposit any Consumer Security Deposit (CSD) as part of security in pursuance of sub-section (5) of Section 47 of the Electricity Act, 2003.

Provided that for an existing consumer shifting to the smart prepaid metering arrangement, the CSD shall be adjusted against outstanding dues to the Distribution Licensee or any amount becoming due to the Distribution Licensee immediately thereafter. After adjustment of the dues, if any balance is left, the same shall be credited to the e-wallet linked to the prepayment meter.

(By Order of the Commission)

Place : Kurnool
Date : 01.01.2025.

Sd/- 01/01/2025
P.Krishna
Commission Secretary (i/c)

