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§ 92.1 General provisions

(a) The rules and regulations contained in this Part are promulgated to establish minimum requirements for the guidance of meter service providers in instituting practices in connection with the testing and maintenance of electricity meters in order to promote a high degree of metering performance.

(b) The Department of Public Service Part 92 Operating Manual (March 14, 2003) contains additional procedures which must be adhered to by all entities providing metering services. The metering procedures shall be available for public inspection by contacting the Public Service Department's Office of Consumer Education and Advocacy, 3 Empire State Plaza, Albany, NY 12223 and will be posted on the Department's website at www.dps.state.ny.us.

(c) For the purpose of this Part, the term meter service providers shall include all corporations, municipalities, and persons installing, testing, maintaining, or operating electricity meters used for billing customers.

(d) Each meter service provider shall provide adequate and proper meter testing facilities and shall have all electricity meters, used or intended to be used for the purpose of billing customers, tested and adjusted as required by this Part.

(e) Rules pertaining to watt-hour meters shall apply, insofar as they are applicable, to volt-ampere hour meters, var-hour meters, compensated meters, and other electricity meters.

(f) Meters and metering devices used or intended to be used for the purpose of billing customers shall be of types approved by the commission.

(g) Any approved types of meters and metering devices may be used in various combinations provided that the over-all percentage registrations are within the limits as specified in the Part 92 Operating Manual.

(h) A meter or metering device which has been tagged or sealed for a referee test shall be unsealed, tested, replaced or removed in the presence of or at the direction of the commission or its designee.

(i) Specifications for test equipment, calibration intervals, and testing of metering devices are specified in the Part 92 Operating Manual.

§ 92.2 Definitions

(a) A meter testing facility is a laboratory or shop maintained or used by a meter service provider that is suitably equipped to test the accuracy of electricity meters. The facility must be certified by the Public Service Commission or its designee.

(b) A standardizing laboratory is a laboratory or shop equipped to maintain basic units of electrical measurements to apply those measurements to the testing of electricity metering test equipment, and to provide traceability to the standards maintained in the National Institute of Standards and Technology. The laboratory must be certified by the commission or its designee.

(c) The national Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) is the federal agency responsible for the maintenance of nationally recognized measurement standards.

(d) Traceability is the process by which the assigned value of a measurement is compared, directly or indirectly, through a series of calibrations to the value established by the U.S. national standard.

(e) A complaint test (request test) is an as-found accuracy test of an electricity meter, made by a meter service provider as a result of a complaint made to the Energy Service Company, Meter Service Provider or T&D utility by a customer.

(f) A referee test is an as-found accuracy test of an electricity meter, made or witnessed by a representative of the commission as a result of a complaint made to the commission by a customer or at the request of an Energy Services Company, Meter Service Provider or T&D Utility. Referee tests shall be made in a manner acceptable to the commission or its designee.

(g) An as found test is a test of an electricity meter made at prescribed load points to determine its performance prior to any adjustment or disassembly.

(h) An as left test is a test of an electricity meter made at prescribed load points to determine its performance after adjustments have been made and prior to being placed in or restored to service.

(i) An in-service test is an as found test of an electricity meter made in accordance with a test program, as defined in the Part 92 Operating Manual, which is designed to establish the overall performance of the meter population.

(j) The customer is the individual or entity purchasing electrical energy for a fee based on data provided by an electricity meter. This shall include direct customers of the ISO.

(k) The New York Independent System Operator (ISO) is a New York not-for-profit corporation providing operating control over the bulk electricity transmission system within New York State.

§ 92.3 Meter test facilities

(a) Each meter service provider shall maintain or have access to a suitable facility for testing electricity meters that has been certified by the commission or its designee as specified in the Part 92 Operating Manual.

(b) The meter test facility shall be equipped with test equipment suitable to establish test conditions and to determine meter performance.

(c) The meter test facility shall be managed and staffed by competent personnel.

(d) The meter test facility shall be located within New York State and not impose restrictions on its use for tests which are to be witnessed by a customer, the commission or its designee through its location or access requirements.

(e) The use of commercial standardizing laboratories as Meter Test Facilities shall be allowed only where such laboratories can be shown to have the appropriate test equipment and be staffed by personnel knowledgeable in the test and maintenance of electricity meters. Commercial standardizing laboratories used as meter test facilities shall be certified by the commission or its designee.

(f) No meter test facility may be used for the test of electricity meters used for customer billing until it has been inspected and certified by the commission or its designee.

§ 92.4 Calibration

(a) All meters and meter test standards and instruments used to test the accuracy of electricity meters must be calibrated and be traceable to the National Institute of Standards and Technology, as specified in the Part 92 Operating Manual.

§ 92.5 Meter records

(a) For all energy or demand meters installed on customer's premises, records shall be maintained by the Energy Services Company, Meter Service Provider or the T&D Utility controlling the meter which identify the year purchased, the manufacturer, the type, the identifying number, the nameplate data relative to the rating of the meter, and the year and results of the last test. Such records shall be sufficient to identify all associated meters and accessory equipment affecting the accuracy of the billing.

(b) Records for each meter shall be accessible to the commission or its designee and to any entity having direct financial interest in the data provided from that specific meter.

(c) Requests for meter records will be responded to within a time frame as specified in the Part 92 Operating Manual.

§ 92.6 Test loads and conditions

(a) Test conditions and loads shall be as specified in the Part 92 Operating Manual.

§ 92.7 Tests for new meters

(a) All new electricity meters shall be tested and adjusted to an accuracy of as near to 100% registration as practical by either the manufacturer or the meter of the Meter Service Provider before installation as specified in the Part 92 Operating Manual.

(b) Where these tests are performed by a manufacturer who maintains a standardizing laboratory, the meter service provider shall take appropriate action to assure that the watt-hour meters conform to the requirements as specified in the Part 92 Operating Manual.

§ 92.8 Determination of meter performance

(a) Meter registration shall be considered "indeterminate" when there is any doubt as to whether the accuracy of the registration can be determined. Meter registration may also be considered "indeterminate" if two successive readings taken at each load fail to agree within the specified maximum error of the meter.

(b) A meter shall be reported as "Damaged" when it is registering incorrectly due to tampering, incorrect connections, overload or damage originating from external sources.

(c) A meter shall be reported as "Not Registering" if for any reason it is found not registering at both the light load and heavy load test points.

(d) Meter accuracy may be specified as that which is measured at a single test point or as a combined accuracy based on tests taken at multiple load points. Only one method of determining performance may be used for any meter type. The appropriate method for each meter type is specified in the Part 92 Operating Manual.

(e) Test methods used for determination of meter accuracy are specified in the Part 92 Operating Manual.

§ 92.9 Complaint and referee tests

(a) Where possible, a complaint test of a meter shall be made with the meter installed in place on the customer's premises, without requiring the removal of the meter in any manner from its permanent position prior to the test.

(b) A complaint test of a meter may be made at the meter testing facility in lieu of the customer's premises if conditions at the site do not allow safe operation during the test or if the technology of the device requires test conditions not readily available at a customer location.

(c) A detachable meter may be mounted in a test device designed for insertion into the meter mounting.

(d) The cover of a meter may be removed at the time of the test.

(e) Referee tests shall be subject to the same constraints and requirements as complaint tests.

(f) Referee tests shall be made in a manner acceptable to the commission or its designee.

(g) Devices and related circuits such as totalizers or relays for customer billing not detailed in this Part shall be tested, and reports of such tests shall be made, in a manner acceptable to the commission or its designee.

§ 92.10 In-service tests

(a) All installed meters shall be subject to in-service testing to determine the performance of the meter population. These tests must be performed as specified in the Part 92 Operating Manual.

(b) Performance standards for the meter population are specified in the Part 92 Operating Manual.

(c) Any entity operating electricity meters used for billing of customers within New York State and who are eligible to be meter service providers under the Commission's "Practices and Procedures for the Provision of Electric Metering

in a Competitive Environment" will be responsible for the administration of an in-service test program for any meters that they have installed within the state. The program will be based solely on the population of meters installed in New York and shall not be affected by any meters installed in other states.

(d) Individual test programs for in-service meters will be filed with and approved by the commission or its designee prior to their use.

(e) Reports of meter performance will be made to the commission or its designee as specified in the Part 92 Operating Manual.

§ 92.11 Meter registers and add-ons, auxiliary devices, and data processing

(a) Meter demand registers shall be tested as specified in the Part 92 Operating Manual.

(b) Meter add-ons, such as pulse initiators, communications modules, etc., shall be verified for performance and effect on the meter as part of the approval process for the meter on which they will be used as specified in Part 93. The tests for new meters specified in 92.7 and the in-service tests specified in 92.10 shall not apply to these add-ons.

(c) Functions performed on the raw meter data by data processing systems shall be verified for compliance with specifications, functionality, and accuracy before use. The approval requirements of Part 93, the tests for new meters specified in 92.7 and the in-service tests specified in 92.10 shall not apply to these functions.

(d) Auxiliary devices, such as pulse recorders, totalizers, etc., must be approved for use in customer billing applications as specified in Part 93. Their performance will be verified as part of the approval process. The tests for new meters specified in 92.7 and the in-service tests specified in 92.10 shall not apply to these devices.