

Public Utilities Commission BELIZE

Here are some FAQs to help navigate and understand the regulatory requirements for the distributed generation process.

1) WHAT IS "ELECTRICITY LICENSING AND CONSENT REGULATIONS", AND WHY IS IT IMPORTANT?

Answer: The regulations that allow a major shift in Belize's energy sector—from centralized to decentralized power generation. The current regulations, also known as S.I. No. 47, was approved on April 29, 2026, and it:

- Allows private investment in renewables.
- Opens the door for Distributed Generation.
- Sets a clear, fair system for connecting to the grid.
- Allows smaller producers to sell power back to the grid.

2) WHAT IS DISTRIBUTED GENERATION (DG)?

Answer: Distributed Generation (DG) refers to electricity produced by a customer-owned system at or near the location where electricity is used. Examples may include rooftop solar photovoltaic systems connected to the electricity grid.

3) WHY IS THERE A PROCESS?

Answer: A process helps ensure that distributed generation systems are assessed within the regulatory framework, and evaluated for compatibility with the electricity network for interconnection purposes and safe operation. The process addresses technical requirements, equipment, protection systems, metering, and the safe operation of the interconnected system.

4) WHEN SHOULD I INSTALL AN ELECTRICITY GENERATION SYSTEM?

Answer: There are 2 separate but related processes to the electricity generation system; respectively the Electrical Compliance process and the Electricity Licensing process.

The Electrical Compliance process covers the details of the electrical design and PUC's inspection of installation, while the Electricity Licensing process covers the authorization of the PUC for the owner to engage in electricity generation activities. Each of these processes are independently submitted, either at the same time or one after the other. The PUC recommends completing both before installing your system. Electrical installations that require an electricity licence must first submit an electricity licence application before the PUC conducts an inspection.

5) WHAT ARE THE ELECTRICITY LICENCE CATEGORIES, AND HOW DO I CHOOSE THE RIGHT ONE?

Answer: Selection of the specific licence class depends on:

- Whether the electricity grid connected (on-grid or grid-tied) or if it would be completely off-grid. On-grid or grid-tied systems require a Distributed Generation class licence, while off-grid systems require a Self-Generation class licence.
- Electricity generation systems are classified into three main categories, as described in the regulation. The specific limits and requirements are detailed within the Capacity Limits Order.

SCAN OR CLICK

FORM 1

Backup Self Generation & Distributed Generation (Minor & Intermediate)

SCAN OR CLICK

FORM 2

Major Self Generation
Major Distributed Generation

6) WHAT IS THE DISTRIBUTED GENERATION LICENSING PROCESS?

Answer:

Step 1 – Find your system's licence class and ensure capacity is within the limits of the licence class.
Step 2 – Choose the application form and prepare your application together with supporting documentation.
Step 3 – Submit completed application to the PUC in accordance with the instructions on application form.
Step 4 – Receive invoice and clear application fee.
Step 5 – Application review.
Step 6 – PUC decision and authorization.

SCAN OR CLICK

Electricity Licensing and Consent Regulations, 2026

SCAN OR CLICK

Electricity Licensing and Consent (Capacity Limits) Order, 2026

7) WHY IS LICENCING PROCESS MANDATORY FOR DISTRIBUTED GENERATION SYSTEMS?

Answer: Licensing ensures that distributed generation systems are installed and operated legally and safely, under the authority and standards set by the PUC.

8) MY DISTRIBUTED GENERATION SYSTEM IS OFF-GRID. DO I STILL NEED A LICENCE?

Answer: Yes. S.I. No. 47 applies to all systems, including off-grid (Self-Generation class licence)

9) ARE THERE SPECIAL RULES FOR GRID-TIED SYSTEMS?

Answer: Yes. Grid-tied systems must:

- Comply with applicable interconnection codes and standards as approved by the PUC.
- Obtain BEL's approval to ensure grid compatibility and infrastructure capacity in your area.

10) WHY ARE MAJOR CLASS LICENCE APPLICATIONS MORE CLOSELY REVIEWED?

Answer: Larger systems need more checks due to higher safety requirements. Higher capacity systems require robust engineering and compliance checks.

11) DOES PUC APPROVAL GUARANTEE THAT EVERY PROPOSED SYSTEM CAN CONNECT?

Answer: The PUC approval does not mean automatic connection. Ensure Electrical Compliance process is complete before installation or interconnection.

12) WHO SHOULD I CONTACT ABOUT MY APPLICATION?

Answer: The recommended method is by emailing electricity@puc.bz, or to call PUC at 223-4938.

13) WILL I RECEIVED CREDIT OR PAYMENT FOR EXCESS ELECTRICITY?

Answer: This depends on the applicable tariff, metering, and distributed generation arrangements. The Belize Electricity Limited is the entity that manages the credit and or payments. Consumers should confirm the current terms rather than assume surplus electricity will automatically earn a credit or payment.