L.N. 206 of 2026

REGULATOR FOR ENERGY AND WATER SERVICES ACT (CAP. 545)

Promotion of Energy from Renewable Sources (Amendment) Regulations, 2026

IN EXERCISE of the powers conferred by article 37 of the Regulator for Energy and Water Services Act, the Minister responsible for energy and water services after consultation with the Regulator for Energy and Water Services, has made the following regulations:-

Citation.

1. The title of these regulations is the Promotion of Energy from Renewable Sources (Amendment) Regulations, 2026 and these regulations shall be read and construed as one with the Promotion of Energy from Renewable Sources Regulations, hereinafter referred to as the "principal regulations".

S.L. 545.43.

Amends regulation 2 of the principal regulations.

2. Regulation 2 of the principal regulations shall be amended as follows:

(a) sub-regulation (1) thereof shall be amended as follows:

(i) immediately after the definition "district heating" or "district cooling" there shall be added the following new definition:

"domestic battery" means a stand-alone rechargeable battery of rated capacity greater than 2 kwh, which is suitable for installation and use in a domestic environment;

(ii) immediately after the definition: "high-efficiency cogeneration" there shall be added the following new definition:

" "industrial battery" means an industrial battery as defined in point (13) of Article 3(1) of Regulation (EU) 2023/1542;";

(iii) immediately after the definition "Planning Authority" there shall be added the following new definition:

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" "power set point" means the dynamic information held in a battery's management system prescribing the electric power settings at which the battery should optimally operate during a recharging or discharging operation, so that its state of health and operational use are optimised;";

(iv) immediately after the definition "solar energy equipment" there shall be added the following new definition:

" "state of charge" means state of charge as defined in point (27) of Article 3(1) of Regulation (EU) 2023/1542;

"state of health" means state of health as defined in point (28) of Article 3(1) of Regulation (EU) 2023/1542;";

(b) sub-regulation (2) thereof shall be substituted by the following new sub-regulation:

S.L. 545.34.

"(2) For the purposes of these regulations, the relevant definitions in the Electricity Regulations shall apply.";

and immediately thereafter there shall be added the following new sub-regulation:

"(3) Unless the context otherwise requires, words and phrases used in these regulations which are not defined in these regulations shall have the same meaning as assigned to them in the Act.".

Adds a new regulation to the principal regulations.

3. Immediately after regulation 20 of the principal regulations there shall be added the following new regulation:

"20A. The Regulator shall coordinate with the appropriate persons and entities to ensure that in so far as is reasonable, certification schemes or equivalent qualification schemes are available for installers and designers of all forms of renewable heating and cooling systems in buildings, industry and agriculture, installers of solar photovoltaic systems, including energy storage, and for installers of recharging points enabling demand response:

Provided that the Regulator may take into account existing schemes and structures, as appropriate, which are based

on the criteria established in the Eight Schedule.".

4. Regulation 46 of the principal regulations shall be substituted by the following new regulation: Substitutes regulation 46 of the principal regulations.

"Facilitating system integration of renewable electricity. S.L. 545.34.

46. (1) The distribution system operator designated in accordance with regulation 27 of the Electricity Regulations shall make available data on the share of renewable electricity and the greenhouse gas emissions content of the electricity supplied, as accurately as possible, at intervals of not more than one (1) hour, including forecasts where available.

(2) The Minister shall provide incentives for upgrades of smart grids for better grid balance monitoring and for real time data availability.

(3) Where this is technically available, the distribution system operator shall make available anonymised and aggregated data on the demand response potential and the renewable electricity generated and injected to the grid by self-consumers and renewable energy communities.

(4) The data referred to in sub-regulation (1) shall be made available digitally in a manner that ensures interoperability, on the basis of harmonised data formats and standardised data sets, so that it can be used in a non-discriminatory manner by electricity market participants, aggregators, consumers and end-users, and may be read by electronic communication devices such as smart metering systems, electric vehicle recharging points, heating and cooling systems and building energy management systems.

(5) In addition to the requirements established in Regulation (EU) 2023/1542, manufacturers of domestic and industrial batteries shall enable real-time access to basic battery management system information, including battery capacity, state of health, state of charge and power set point, to battery owners and users, as well as to third parties acting, with explicit consent, on the owners' and users' behalf, such as building energy management undertakings and electricity market participants, under non-discriminatory terms, at no cost and in accordance with Regulation 2016/679 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 27 April 2016 on the protection of natural persons with regard to the processing of personal data and on the free movement of such data, and repealing Directive 95/46/EC (General Data Protection Regulation) and the Data Protection Act, and any regulations made thereunder.

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(6) Vehicle manufacturers shall make available, in real-time, in-vehicle data related to the battery state of health, battery state of charge, battery power set point, battery capacity and, where appropriate, the location of electric vehicles, to electric vehicle owners and users, as well as to third parties acting on the owners' and users' behalf, such as electricity market participants and electromobility service providers, under non-discriminatory terms and at no cost, in accordance with Regulation 2016/679 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 27 April 2016 on the protection of natural persons with regard to the processing of personal data and on the free movement of such data, and repealing Directive 95/46/EC (General Data Protection Regulation) and the Data Protection Act, and any regulations made thereunder, in addition to further requirements with regard to type approval and market surveillance established in Regulation (EU) 2018/858 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 30 May 2018 on the approval and market surveillance of motor vehicles and their trailers, and of systems, components and separate technical units intended for such vehicles, amending Regulations (EC) No 715/2007 and (EC) No 595/2009 and repealing Directive 2007/46/EC.

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(7) In addition to the requirements stipulated in Regulation (EU) 2023/1804, non-publicly accessible normal power recharging points which are new or being replaced shall support smart recharging functionalities and, where appropriate, the interface with smart metering systems, and bi-directional recharging functionalities in accordance with the requirements of Article 15(3) and (4) of the said Regulation.

(8) In addition to the requirements stipulated in Regulation (EU) 2019/943 and the Electricity Regulations, small or mobile systems such as domestic batteries and electric vehicles and other small, decentralised energy sources shall be entitled to participate in the electricity markets, including congestion management and the provision of flexibility and balancing services, including through aggregation:

Provided that to this end the Minister in cooperation with all market participants and regulatory authorities, shall establish the technical requirements for participation in the electricity markets, on the basis of the technical characteristics of those systems:

Provided further that this shall be without prejudice to Malta's exercise of the derogations from Articles 4 and 6 of Directive (EU) 2019/944.

(9) A level playing field and non-discriminatory participation in the electricity markets shall be ensured for small, decentralised energy assets or mobile systems.

(10) This regulation shall apply without prejudice to Malta's right to exercise the derogations granted pursuant to Article 66 of Directive (EU) 2019/944.".

Adds a new Schedule to the principal regulations.

5. Immediately after the Seventh Schedule to the principal regulations there shall be added the following new Schedule:

"Eight Schedule
Regulation 20A
Certification of Installers

The certification schemes or equivalent qualification schemes referred to in regulation 20A shall be based on the following criteria:

1. The certification or equivalent qualification process shall be transparent and clearly defined by the Regulator.

(a) The certificates issued by certification bodies shall be clearly defined and easy to identify for workers and professionals seeking certification.

(b) The certification process shall enable installers to acquire the necessary theoretical and practical knowledge and guarantee the existence of skills needed to put in place high quality installations that operate reliably.

2. Installers of systems using biomass, heat pump, shallow geothermal, solar photovoltaic and solar thermal energy, including energy storage, and recharging points shall be certified by an accredited training programme or training provider or equivalent qualification schemes.

3. (1) The accreditation of the training programme or provider shall be effected by an appointed body, following discussions between the Minister and the relevant competent authority. The accrediting body shall ensure that the training, including upskilling and reskilling programmes, offered by the training provider are inclusive and have continuity and regional or national coverage.

(2) The training provider shall have adequate technical facilities to provide practical training, including sufficient laboratory

equipment or corresponding facilities to provide practical training.

(3) The training provider shall offer, in addition to the basic training, shorter refresher and upskilling courses organised in training modules allowing installers and designers to add new competences, widen and diversify their skills across several types of technology and their combinations. The training provider shall ensure adaptation of training to new renewable energy technology in the context of buildings, industry and agriculture. Training providers shall recognise acquired relevant skills.

(4) The training programmes and modules shall be designed to enable life-long learning in renewable energy installations and be compatible with vocational training for first time job seekers and adults seeking reskilling or new employment.

(5) The training programmes shall be designed in order to facilitate acquiring qualifications covering different types of technology and solutions and avoid limited specialisation in a specific brand or technology. The training provider may be the manufacturer of the equipment or system, institutes or associations.

4. The training leading to certification or qualification of an installer shall include theoretical and practical parts. At the end of the training, the installer shall have the skills required to install the relevant equipment and systems to meet the performance and reliability needs of the customer, incorporate quality craftsmanship, and comply with all applicable codes and standards, including energy and eco-labelling.

5. The training course shall end with an examination leading to a certificate or qualification. The examination shall include a practical assessment of successfully installing biomass boilers or stoves, heat pumps, shallow geothermal installations, solar photovoltaic or solar thermal installations, including energy storage or recharging points, enabling demand response.

6. The certification schemes or equivalent qualification schemes referred to in regulation 20A shall take due account of the following guidelines:

(a) accredited training programmes should be offered to installers with work experience, who have undergone, or are undergoing, the following types of training:

(i) in the case of biomass boiler and stove installers: training as a plumber, pipe fitter, heating

engineer or technician of sanitary and heating or cooling equipment as a prerequisite;

(ii) in the case of heat pump installers: training as a plumber or refrigeration engineer and have basic electrical and plumbing skills (cutting pipe, soldering pipe joints, gluing pipe joints, lagging, sealing fittings, testing for leaks and installation of heating or cooling systems) as a prerequisite;

(iii) in the case of a solar photovoltaic or solar thermal installer: training as a plumber or electrician and have plumbing, electrical and roofing skills, including knowledge of soldering pipe joints, gluing pipe joints, sealing fittings, testing for plumbing leaks, ability to connect wiring, familiar with basic roof materials, flashing and sealing methods as a prerequisite; or

(iv) a vocational training scheme to provide an installer with adequate skills corresponding to a three-year education in the skills referred to in points (a), (b) or (c), including both classroom and workplace learning.

(b) The theoretical part of the biomass stove and boiler installer training should give an overview of the market situation of biomass and cover ecological aspects, biomass fuels, logistics, fire protection, related subsidies, combustion techniques, firing systems, optimal hydraulic solutions, cost and profitability comparison as well as the design, installation and maintenance of biomass boilers and stoves. The training should also provide good knowledge of any European standards for technology and biomass fuels, such as pellets, and biomass related national and Union law.

(c) The theoretical part of the heat pump installer training should give an overview of the market situation for heat pumps and cover geothermal energy sources and ground source temperatures of different regions, soil and rock identification for thermal conductivity, regulations on using geothermal energy sources, feasibility of using heat pumps in buildings and determining the most suitable heat pump system, and knowledge about their technical requirements, safety, air filtering, connection with the heat source and system layout, and integration with energy storage solutions, including in combination with solar installations. The training should also provide good knowledge of any European standards for heat pumps, and of any relevant national and Union law. The installer

should demonstrate the following key competences:

(i) a basic understanding of the physical and operation principles of a heat pump, including characteristics of the heat pump circle: context between low temperatures of the heat sink, high temperatures of the heat source, and the efficiency of the system, and determination of the coefficient of performance and seasonal performance factor (SPF);

(ii) an understanding of the components and their function within a heat pump circle, including the compressor, expansion valve, evaporator, condenser, fixtures and fittings, lubricating oil, refrigerant, super heating and sub-cooling and cooling possibilities with heat pumps; and

(iii) the ability to choose and size the components in typical installation situations, including determining the typical values of the heat load of different buildings and of hot water production based on energy consumption; determining the capacity of the heat pump based on the heat load for hot water production, the storage mass of the building and interruptible current supply; and determination of energy storage solutions, including buffer tank components, their volume and integration of a second heating system;

(iv) an understanding of feasibility and design studies;

(v) an understanding of drilling, in the case of geothermal heat pumps.

(d) The theoretical part of the solar photovoltaic and solar thermal installer training should give an overview of the market situation of solar products and cost and profitability comparisons, and cover ecological aspects, components, characteristics and dimensioning of solar systems, selection of accurate systems and dimensioning of components, determination of the demand for heat, options for integrating energy storage solutions, fire protection, related subsidies, as well as the design, installation and maintenance of solar photovoltaic and solar thermal installations. The training should also provide a sound knowledge of European technology standards, certification such as Solar Keymark, and related national law and Union law. Installers shall demonstrate the

following key competences:

(i) the ability to work safely using the required tools and equipment and implementing safety codes and standards and to identify plumbing, electrical and other hazards associated with solar installations;

(ii) the ability to identify systems and their components specific to active and passive systems, including the mechanical design, and to determine the location of the components, the system layout and the configuration, and options for the integration of energy storage solutions, including through combination with recharging stations;

(iii) the ability to determine the required installation area, orientation and tilt for the solar photovoltaic and solar water heater, taking account of shading, solar access, structural integrity, the appropriateness of the installation for the building or the climate and to identify different installation methods suitable for roof types and the balance of system equipment required for the installation; and

(iv) for solar photovoltaic systems in particular, the ability to adapt the electrical design, including determining design currents, selecting appropriate conductor types and ratings for each electrical circuit, determining appropriate size, ratings and locations for all associated equipment and subsystems and selecting an appropriate interconnection point.

(e) Installer certification shall be time limited, such that continued certification requires attendance at a refresher seminar or other refresher training.

VERŻJONI ELETTRONIKA

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