

Dynamic and Flexible Exports Requirements

Installer Training Webinar Q&A



Empowering South Australia

Q1. How do we find out which inverters are listed in SA Power Networks SmartApply and, how do we know which inverters need to do a phone application?

The easiest way to determine which inverters are compatible is to look at inverters available in the dropdown in SmartApply. Anything visible in SmartApply can be auto approved through the portal.

Inverters on these lists are available for SmartApply approval:

assets.cleanenergycouncil.org.au/documents/products/Inverters-with-SCC-230706.pdf

sapowernetworks.com.au/industry/flexible-exports/compatible-equipment/

Exempt inverters on this list will require a phone call to SA Power Networks to approve

energymining.sa.gov.au/__data/assets/pdf_file/0010/923329/List-of-Dynamic-Export-Exempt-and-Deemed-to-Comply-Inverters.pdf

Q2. Can you please provide any reason a client in a full export area would want to join Flexible Exports scheme?

Customers who are installing larger systems (e.g. 8.2 or 10kW single phase system) may wish to sign up to be able to export more than the 5kW limit. We have seen some customers enquire about this.

Q3. What happens when the home owner changes their modem and the wifi drops out? Who is responsible for reprogramming the inverter wifi connection? What happens if the inverter manufacturer leaves Australia and their native systems disappear, does the customer have to remove the inverter?

When the wifi drops out for one reason or another the export limit will reduce down to 1.5kW after a period of time. Ongoing maintenance of the system is the responsibility of the owner.

The SA Government Dynamic Export Regulations don't require removal of an inverter at any point (unless it poses a risk to safety of course). If a manufacturer ceases support, it may be that the customer will need to investigate an alternative way to receive export limits or will only be able to utilise a static export limit."

Q4. The only reason you would sign up to Flexible Exports is if you have installed a single phase inverter over 5kW or three phase inverter over 15kW and want to maximise usage, correct?

If the customer is within a Flexible Exports eligible area, they will have a choice between a fixed 1.5kW/phase export limit and a flexible export limit 1.5-10kW/phase. In most cases they will be much better off than customers on a 1.5kW/phase limit.

For customers outside Flexible Exports eligible areas who are on 5kW/phase static limit - we expect only customers with systems more than 5kW/phase limit (15kW for 3 phase) to sign up once available to them.

Q5. Can a site outside of Flexible Exports have the capability tests done so that when the area is included the site automatically qualifies?

Not at this stage, you will need to submit a new SmartApply application to enrol that customer into the flexible option once available in their area. You can complete the capability test at this time.

Q6. SWER line limits with Flexible Exports?

We are currently finalising arrangements for SWER customers in relation to Flexible Exports. We will update the industry through the usual channels once we have more information to share.

Q7. Are you able to advise on the likely curtailment frequency for those existing systems >5kW who opt into Flexible Exports? i.e. is curtailment (flexible export) expected on most days, once per month, during peak summer periods etc

Frequency of curtailment depends on the customers location on the network. The best thing to do is to check the [eligibility checker](#) that will give you an indication of export levels (curtailment) for the last 12-months in the customer's area (e.g. 10kW for 98.5%-100% of the time).

For the majority of customers, we expect export levels to be not curtailed for 95% of daylight hours, but again, this will depend on their location.

Q8. Has SA Power Networks created or can you create a 1 or 2 page flyer explaining Flexible Exports that i can send with my quote to customers?

You can find a one page printable customer flyer on Flexible Exports here:

sapowernetworks.com.au/public/download/?id=324009

There is also a video on Flexible Exports available for customer: youtu.be/X_2ioBuNbVI?si=zTMRoUOMhcYNdgaz

Installer flyer and video also available on our Flexible Exports page sapowernetworks.com.au/industry/flexible-exports/

Information on Dynamic Export Limits Requirement is available via energymining.sa.gov.au/industry/modern-energy/solar-batteries-and-smarter-homes/regulatory-changes-for-smarter-homes/dynamic-export-limits-requirement

Q9. If an installation is switching from Fixed to Flexible and only requires a software update and capability test, can this be completed by a non-qualified SmartInstall user?

Switching a fixed installation to Flexible may require changes to onsite metering, inverter setting changes and software updates, as well as the SmartInstall step of capability testing and close-out.

The SmartInstall step for installation close-out is a declaration that all equipment onsite has been installed and commissioned correctly, in accordance with technical requirements and standards, and can

only be completed by an individual holding a current PGE or CEC accreditation number. Depending on the equipment and site set up, switching from fixed to flexible may be completed remotely through SmartInstall. Please discuss your specific situation with your qualified installer and equipment manufacturer to ensure you action the changes correctly.

Q10. How is a wrong NMI detected, how does the SA Power Networks server handle a random NMI?

Our utility server will reject a non compatible NMI. OEMs will get an error message and then choose how to display that to the user of their app.

Q11. What manufacturers presenting can support multiple inverters with a Flexible Exports site?

Live answered - please refer to recording and slide deck as some OEMs covered in their presentations.

CATCH Power can support a mix of inverter brands onsite. You will just require a catch solar relay in place of the propriety smart meter per inverter.

Fronius with CATCH Relay.

SolarEdge can support multiple inverters, and everything right up to our 100kW inverters and multiple-mode (with batteries) when this comes a requirement next year.

Solax

Sungrow

Q12. Can CATCH Power relay support multiple inverters, even different brands?

This is correct. Will just need 1 x CATCH Solar Relay per Inverter. CATCH Power become the one connection to SA Power Networks for Flexible Exports for a site.

Q13. Does the CATCH Power work on 3 phase systems?

We are working on the product and expect the three phase relay to be available in the near future.

Q14. Is CATCH Power compatible with SolarEdge inverters?

No

Q15. Is Catch Power compatible with Sungrow and Huawei inverter?

We are compatible with Sungrow single phase inverters, however we will need to perform a proving test with SA Power Networks for the Huawei SUN2000 as we are already compatible with that inverter from smart meter point of view.

Q16. Can the CATCH Power control 2 x separate systems. 1x just PV and 1x PV and battery. Both system are different brands.

2 x separate systems with no batteries yes.

We can't control a hybrid system with a battery connected. However this is on our very soon road map.

Q17. Is SwitchDin compatible with SolarEdge?

A. No (even though it's mentioned in the slide deck).

Q18. Solax, a bit off topic but what brand of MC4 connectors do your inverters use? X1 series.

We use different brand for different generations, for G4 inverters, we are currently using DEVALAN.

Q19. Sungrow, can we install one hybrid inverter and one normal grid connect inverter on same site?

It cannot be, we only can support one hybrid inverter, you must remove other PV inverters.

Q20. Can multiple grid connect Sungrow inverters run the master/slave setup or only the hybrid?

Yes, also can support all PV inverters with a Logger1000

Q21. Is there a dummy NMI to type in when using SmartApply?

We haven't got any test NMI's available. If you need some more information on what equipment is compatible or if you want some assistance with the application process you can reach out to us.

Q22. If battery only inverters are still able to be used why are most removed from SA Power Networks list? Selectronic in particular has been missing for a while apparently?

The Selectronic SP pros aren't available for selection in SmartApply at the moment because the VDRT capability is not certified by CEC.

We have engaged in extensive discussions with Selectronic manufacturers to ensure the approved connection requirements for stand-alone inverters with grid input are finalised.

We are working on a way to differentiate between the Selectronics and regular grid connected inverters in SmartApply so they can be selected, with some extra requirements agreed to up front.

If you require any further information or want to know more about how you can get an approval for a Selectronic, don't hesitate to reach out.