1. SCOPE

This document details SP Energy Networks policy for enabling New Connections Providers to undertake Contestable works within the Companies licensed areas.

2. ISSUE RECORD

This is a Controlled document. The current version is held on the EN Document Library.

It is your responsibility to ensure you work to the current version.

Issue Date	Issue No.	Author	Amendment Details
February 2004	1	A.Graham	Initial Issue
March 2016	2	C Woodman	Dec 12: Interim review, further assessment with Connections Business required in 2013.
		N Evans	Amend title- -Update NERS information.
Jan 2019	3	N Evans	Reviewed no changes
1 June 2022	4	Bev Hudson	Minor housekeeping changes
28 May 2025	5	Antonis Xenos	General housekeeping. Updated NERS link.

3. ISSUE AUTHORITY

Author	Owner	Issue Authority
Name: Antonis Xenos Title: Senior Compliance Reporting Analyst	Name: Bev Hudson Title: Process and Compliance Manager	Name: Derek Fairbairn Title: District General Manager Merseyside Derek Fairbairn Date: 28/05/2025

4. REVIEW

This is a Controlled document and shall be reviewed as dictated by business / legislative change but at a period of no greater than 3 years from the last issue date.

5. DISTRIBUTION

This document is not part of a Manual maintained by Document Control and does not have a maintained distribution list but is published to the SP Energy Networks website.

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7. DEFINITIONS AND ABBREVIATIONS

Company:	Refers to SP Distribution plc, SP Transmission plc and SP Manweb plc.
Contestable work:	Design, Project Management, Cable Laying (LV, 11kV, 33kV, 132kV), Cable Jointing (LV, 11kV, 33kV, 132kV), Overhead Lines (wooden pole/steel tower) up to 132kV, Substation Installation (up to 132kV), Associated civil engineering works including excavation, backfilling and permanent reinstatement.
Equipment:	Switchgear, transformers, cables, overhead lines, surge arresters, voltage transformers, current transformers, unit substations, protection relays, batteries, telecoms, SCADA, unit substations, etc.
Independent Assessors:	Independent technical auditor appointed by the Lloyd's NERS scheme.
NERS Fully Accredited:	New Connections Provider who has successfully demonstrated that they have the competence and procedures to undertake Contestable work for which accreditation is sought and have demonstrated this capability to the Lloyd's Assessors.
NERS Partially Accredited:	New Connections Provider who has successfully demonstrated that they have adequate policies, procedures, method statements and competencies for the scope of work for which the accreditation is sought but does not have the track record. Partial Accreditation enables the New Connections Provider to tender for work. Once work has been awarded, the New Connections Provider must advise the Lloyd's Assessors in order that an assessment covering the scope of work for which registration is sought can be carried out.
ICP:	Independent Connection Provider wishing to undertake Contestable work with the Companies licensed areas.
New:	Approved Equipment which has not previously been connected to the system and which has been routine tested in a Manufacturing facility with a Quality Management System in accordance with the relevant standard prior to installation.
SPEN:	SP Energy Networks, operator of network assets on behalf of the Company.
SP Distribution plc:	The Distribution Licence Holder for the distribution service area formerly known as ScottishPower.
SP Manweb plc:	The Distribution Licence Holder for the distribution service area formerly known as Manweb.
SP Transmission plc:	The Transmission Licence Holder for the transmission service area formerly known as ScottishPower.

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8. RELATED DOCUMENTS

Lloyd's Register:

National Electricity Registration Scheme (NERS) for the Assessment of Competence of Service Providers Carrying out Contestable Works.

https://www.lrqa.com/en-gb/utilities/ners/

9. INTRODUCTION

This document details the criteria which require to be met by New Connections Providers prior to undertaking Contestable work within the Companies licensed geographical areas.

Prior to commencing any Contestable work, all New Connections Providers must gain the appropriate NERS Accreditation for the Contestable work to be undertaken.

Deviations from the above shall result in the withdrawal of SP Energy Networks Approval.

There are two means of Assessment by which New Connections Providers can be assessed and two accreditations which can be awarded which allows a New Connections Provider to undertake Contestable work.

- Partial NERS Accreditation, detailed in Section 9.1
- Full NERS Accreditation, detailed in Section 9.2

More information regarding the schemes can be obtained from Lloyd's Register at the website in Section 8, or by contacting:

Ben Wright
Senior Customer Services Administrator, Energy
Lloyd's Register EMEA

E ben.wright@lr.org
T +44 (0)330 414 1206

Lloyd's Register EMEA
1 Trinity Park, Bickenhill Lane, Birmingham B37 7ES (for SATNAV use B37 7ET)

All New Connections Providers applying to gain accreditation shall be required to undertake the assessment on the nationally recognised NERS scheme.

The assessment process is in two parts:

9.1 NERS Partially Accredited New Connections Providers

NERS Partially Accredited New Connections Providers complying with the 'Scheme for the Assessment of Competence of Service Providers Carrying out Contestable Work' document are allowed to undertake Contestable work within the Companies licensed areas. New Connections Providers shall only undertake work for which they have received the appropriate accreditation.

The Lloyd's Assessor will verify that the Provider under assessment has the appropriate Management Systems, Method Statements and Competencies in place and that their health and safety provision is appropriate for the work being done. The achievement of partial accreditation, in terms of time frame, is dependent upon how responsive the Provider is in dealing with any issues arising from an assessment and the extent to which working practices and competencies actually align to documented systems.

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Partial accreditation was established as a means for Providers, who did not possess a track record in the electricity distribution industry, to enter the Contestable market. If a Provider possesses the competencies and method statements together with safe systems of work, relevant to the scheme requirements, which indicate that they could safely and competently perform the services for which they are seeking accreditation, then they could be awarded partial accreditation. This would enable them to bid for Contestable work, within the electricity distribution industry. Once successful then they would be required to advise Lloyd's Register who would perform a site assessment on their first contract to enable them to gain full accreditation in the particular scope of work demonstrated. Without the partial accreditation and subsequent registration phase it would be difficult for contractors with no track record to enter the Contestable market.

9.2 NERS Fully Accredited New Connections Providers

NERS Fully Accredited New Connections Providers complying with the Lloyd's Register document 'Scheme for the Assessment of Competence of Service Providers Carrying out Contestable Work' shall be enabled to undertake Contestable works within the Companies licensed areas. New Connections Providers shall only undertake work for which they have received the appropriate scopes of accreditation.

The Lloyd's Assessor will verify that the Provider has work control, contract change control, HR, Procurement and storage systems in place to ensure that a consistency of working process and competency is maintained and that applies both at site works and in the office based supporting services.

SP Energy Networks reserves the right to impose additional requirements on Accredited New Connections Providers, including as a minimum:

- Proactively gain the appropriate NERS Full Accreditation on the first Contestable works undertaken within the Companies licensed areas.
- Proactively ensure that the installation meets all SP Energy Networks technical and installation requirements prior to adoption.
- Provide suitable opportunities for SP Energy Networks nominated persons to undertake site audits both random and planned.

Further requirements may be required at the discretion of the District General Manager, or their nominated representative, dependent on the network risk and complexity of the Contestable work being undertaken.

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