

ELECTRICITY (PORT MORESBY) REGULATIONS, 1932.⁽¹⁾

SHORT TITLE.

1. These Regulations may be cited as the *Electricity (Port Moresby) Regulations, 1932.*⁽¹⁾

REPEAL.

2. The following regulations are hereby repealed:—
No. 3 of 1925, No. 7 of 1925, No. 9 of 1925, No. 11 of 1926,
No. 8 of 1927, No. 4 of 1928, No. 7 of 1928 and No. 2 of 1932.

APPLICATION FOR SUPPLY.

3. Applications for supply or extensions of supply of electricity must be made in writing upon the printed form supplied by the Electric Authority for the purpose.

INSPECTION OF INSTALLATION.

4. No new installation and no addition to an existing installation shall be connected until it has been inspected and approved by the Electric Authority or his authorized officer.

DEPOSIT BEFORE SUPPLY.

5. The Electric Authority may require a security deposit from applicants for supply of electricity. Applicants will be notified as to

(1) The *Electricity (Port Moresby) Regulations, 1932* (made under the *Port Moresby Electric Light and Power Ordinance, 1925-1938*), comprise the original *Electricity (Port Moresby) Regulations, 1932*, as amended by the other Regulations referred to in the following Table:—

REGULATIONS MADE BY THE LIEUTENANT-GOVERNOR IN COUNCIL.^(a)

Description and number and year.	Date on which made by Lieut.-Gov. in Council. ^(a)	Date on which published in <i>Papua Govt. Gaz.</i>	Date on which took effect.
<i>Electricity (Port Moresby) Regulations, 1932</i> (S.R. 1932, No. 3)	4.1.1932	3.2.1932	3.2.1932 (<i>Papua Govt. Gaz.</i> of 3.2.1932)
<i>Amending Regulations</i> (S.R. 1932, No. 5)	7.3.1932	6.4.1932	3.2.1932 (Reg. 2, S.R. 1932, No. 5)
<i>Amending Regulations</i> (S.R. 1935, No. 4)	28.5.1935	5.6.1935	1.7.1935 (Reg. 2, S.R. 1935, No. 4)
<i>Amending Regulation</i> (S.R. 1937, No. 3)	27.4.1937	5.5.1937	12.3.1935 (Reg. 1(2), S.R. 1937, No. 3)
<i>Amending Regulations</i> (S.R. 1939, No. 10)	(Undated)	5.7.1939	1.7.1939 (Reg. 2, S.R. 1939, No. 10)
<i>Amending Regulations</i> (S.R. 1941, No. 13)	15.9.1941	25.9.1941	(b)

(a) Regulations made after the commencement of the *Papua Act 1940* on 18.9.1940 were made by the Administrator in Council.

(b) Reg. 2 of S.R. 1941, No. 13 stated: "These regulations shall come into operation in respect of accounts rendered for the month of October, 1941, and thereafter."

the amount of deposit required as determined by the Electric Authority. When such notification has been forwarded no further action shall be taken to connect the installation until the deposit has been paid to the Electric Authority.

TEMPORARY CONNECTION.

6. The following is the scale of charges which shall be made for inspection and connection of temporary connections used for the supply of current for less than one month. Such charges must be prepaid:—

	£	s.	d.
(1) For the inspection, connection and disconnection of a temporary installation to an existing meter	0	10	0
(2) For the inspection, connection and disconnection of a temporary installation requiring one meter	1	0	0
(3) For the inspection, connection and disconnection of a temporary installation requiring two meters	1	10	0
(4) For the inspection, connection and disconnection of a temporary installation requiring three meters	2	0	0
Each additional meter	0	10	0

TEMPORARY SERVICE.

7. Where it is necessary to lay a temporary service from the mains for building operations or other purposes an additional charge will be made by the Electric Authority and such charge must be deposited with the Electric Authority before the temporary service is run.

SUPPLY RATES

8. The rates set out in the Schedule hereto shall be charged for the supply of electricity to be measured by meter or otherwise as determined by the Electric Authority subject to such alterations as may from time to time be made, the supply to be alternating current at 50 periods per second and the voltage 240 for lighting and single-phase power and 415 volts three-phase for power supply for motors of one horse-power and over. Except as otherwise provided a minimum charge of Five shillings per month for electricity shall be made for each installation.

METERS TO BE FREE.

9. No charge shall be made by the Electric Authority for the installation or use of a meter.

Sub. by S.R.
1935, No. 4, r. 1.

ELECTRICITY ONLY TO BE SUPPLIED THROUGH METER.

10. Except as provided in these Regulations no electricity shall be supplied except through a meter provided by the Electric Authority. The Electric Authority shall determine the number of meters required to be installed for his purposes.

ELECTRIC LIGHT AND POWER—

METER TESTING.

11. No charge for testing a meter upon its installation shall be made but a fee of Five shillings shall be charged by the Electric Authority for any subsequent test made at the request of the consumer but should such test disclose the meter as registering more than two per cent. in excess of accuracy the fee shall be refunded.

Any inaccuracy will be charged or allowed from the beginning of the month in which it is discovered and up to and including the date of discovery.

METER REGISTRATION.

12. The register of any meter installed or authorized by the Electric Authority for ascertaining the quantity of electricity supplied shall be prima facie evidence of such quantity.

RE-CONNECTING FEES.

13. When the supply of electricity to any installation has been disconnected or the service fuses have been broken the Electric Authority may charge a re-connecting fee of Five shillings. If re-connected after ordinary hours Ten shillings.

ACCOUNTS.

14. Accounts will be rendered weekly, monthly, bi-monthly or quarterly as the Electric Authority shall decide and shall be payable at the office of the Treasurer. No receipt shall be valid unless on the official receipt form. In the case of neglect or refusal to pay any amount due within fourteen days after rendering the account the Electric Authority may disconnect the supply and remove the meter after twenty-four hours' notice in writing, and a re-connection of the service will only be made when all amounts owing by the consumer have been paid and in addition a re-connecting fee of Five shillings.

MAINS—POINT OF ATTACHMENT.

15. The Electric Authority will supply and bear the cost of bringing the mains to the nearest point of attachment on a building: Provided however that where the nearest point of attachment to a building is situated at a distance (measured by the shortest practicable route) upwards of three hundred feet from the nearest existing pole which is supporting a main other than a pole that is exclusively used for supporting service (drop-off) mains connecting some other building, the applicant shall bear the cost of the additional material and if required the labour; and provided further that the additional material shall become the property of the Government.

SERVICE CUT-OUTS, METERS, ETC.

16. The Electric Authority will fix such service cut-outs, meters and meter-boards as he considers necessary. Such service cut-outs, meters and meter-boards will be fixed by the Electric Authority in

positions chosen by him and they will always remain the property of the Government. All other equipment will be supplied by the applicant.

LEADS—FIXING.

17. The consumer's wiring shall start from the point of attachment of the service mains to the building and he shall leave loops for connecting the service mains, fuses and meters. All connections between the consumer's wiring and the service mains, fuses and meters shall be made only by the Electric Authority.

ATTACHMENTS TO BUILDING.

18. The consumer shall allow the Electric Authority to make such attachments to the building as may be necessary in connection with the supply of electricity to such building.

ADDITIONS AND ALTERATIONS TO INSTALLATIONS.

19. A consumer shall not make any addition substitution or alteration to the electrical installation on his premises which involves, in respect of lamps, increase of lighting strength or in respect of power (measured in watts, kilowatts or horse-power) or in respect of motors, cooking, heating or other apparatus, increase of power (measured as aforesaid) until notice shall have been given to the Electric Authority of such intended addition substitution or alteration and approval has been given to the same. If such notice be not given the Electric Authority may, without prejudice to any other remedy, cut off the consumer's supply.

FAILURE OF SUPPLY.

20. The Electric Authority shall not be liable for any loss suffered by any person in consequence of any failure to supply or delay in supplying electricity or for any defect in such supply.

ACCESS TO PREMISES.

21. The consumer shall give access to his premises at all reasonable times to duly authorized officers of the Electric Authority on production of an authority signed by the Electric Authority for the purpose of inspection and for reading the meter.

TESTS.

22. On completion of the consumer's installation and before connection to the mains the installation shall be inspected and tested by an authorized officer of the Electric Authority. Should the test and inspection show that the installation does not comply with the regulations the Electric Authority at his discretion may refuse to connect the installation with the mains until the regulations have in his opinion been complied with. No charge shall be made for the first test and inspection but a charge of Ten shillings may be made for each and every subsequent test and inspection made by the officers of the Electric Authority.

ELECTRIC LIGHT AND POWER—

SPECIAL TESTS.

23. Inspection and connection of power and light installations or either of them made after the usual working hours at the request of a consumer shall be made upon payment of a fee of Thirty shillings.

DAMAGE TO METERS, FUSES OR OTHER APPARATUS.

24. The consumer shall be held responsible for any loss or damage to meters fuses or other apparatus the property of the Government, on the consumer's premises, whether caused by fire or any other cause.

DISCONTINUING SUPPLY.

25. The Electric Authority shall have the right from time to time to discontinue the supply of electricity at such times as he may desire for the purpose of testing or for any other reason connected with the efficient working of the service.

CONDUCTORS NOT TO BE EARTHED.

26. No conductor in a consumer's installation shall be connected to earth and all conductors must be equally insulated as provided in the latest-published Standards Association of Australia Wiring Rules as amended from time to time and available at the office of the Electric Authority.

FITTINGS NEAR EARTHED PIPES.

27. Switches or fittings must not be installed above or in close proximity to stoves laundry-tubs sinks or baths.

SWITCHES—CONTROL.

28. No switch except the main switch shall control more than ten amperes except with the special permission of the Electric Authority. All single-pole switches must be connected on the pole between which and the earth there is greatest potential difference. No single-pole switches will be allowed in connection with 415-volt motors.

SWITCHES TO BE ON NON-EARTHED CONDUCTORS.

29. No single-pole switch shall be placed in the neutral or earth conductor of any installation. All active conductors must be labelled "Switch Wire" to enable the Electric Authority or his officers to correctly connect the consumer's leads to the service leads.

SWITCHBOARDS—LIVE METAL TO BE COVERED.

30. The live metal of all switchboards must be covered except switchboards erected in engine rooms or in rooms specially set apart for switchboards.

ISOLATION OF CIRCUITS.

31. Lighting and power circuits must be installed separately from each other and each such circuit must be connected with a separate meter: Provided that the Electric Authority may by special arrangement and consent in writing allow two such circuits to be attached to one meter.

BALANCING.

32. Not more than fifteen amperes may be connected to a two-wire service and not more than thirty amperes to a three-wire service. A four-wire service will be run where the load to be connected is more than thirty amperes. Four-wire service will in all cases be run where motors of one horse-power and over are to be used. Motors of one horse-power or upwards shall not be connected to a single-phase supply. When the supply required is greater than that allowed on a two-wire service the circuits must be divided equally, as nearly as practicable, between the conductors or phases to which they are connected. In determining the number of conductors to be run in any service, the number of lamps, fans, irons, etc., applied for will be considered and not the number of points wired.

NATURE AND PROTECTION OF CONSUMER'S LEADS.

33. The consumer's main switchboard may be placed in any convenient position on his premises. The conductors between the point of entry and the consumer's main switch must be enclosed in steel screwed conduit and must be stranded and be of adequate sectional area which in no case may be less than that of a 7/.036 cable.

WATER HEATERS.

34. Instantaneous water heaters with loading exceeding twelve amperes per phase will not be connected to the supply mains. For electric water heaters which are continuously in use day and night electricity may with the permission of the Electric Authority in writing be supplied at a special rate per 100 watts of demand determined as set out in the Schedule hereto. The heaters may be connected directly to the mains without any meters. Should the heating apparatus carry a booster heating coil for occasional use current to such coil shall only be supplied through a meter at domestic power rate.

ELECTRIC RANGES.

35. The maximum current taken by electric ranges must not exceed:—

In the case of a two-wire service, 15 amperes (about 3½ kilowatts).

In the case of a three-wire service, 30 amperes (about 7 kilowatts).

INTERFERENCE WITH SUPPLY TO OTHER CONSUMERS.

36. Applicants wishing to connect electric welding apparatus, furnaces, X-ray outfits, fluctuating motor loads and the like should first communicate with the Electric Authority and ascertain what conditions they should observe with regard to such apparatus.

The Electric Authority shall have the right to discontinue supply of electricity for such apparatus if it appears to him that the operating of such apparatus interferes with the supply to other consumers.

ELECTRIC LIGHT AND POWER—

DEFECTS IN INSTALLATION.

37. If any defect in a consumer's installation is at any time discovered, the Electric Authority shall be at liberty to disconnect the installation until such defect is made good.

MISUSE OF ELECTRICITY.

38. If any consumer uses or deals with electric energy supplied to him by the Electric Authority in such a manner as to interfere with the efficient carrying out of the Electric Authority's obligations to other consumers the Electric Authority may disconnect such consumer's installation without notice.

STARTING CURRENT OF MOTORS.

39. The starting current of motors shall not exceed ten per cent. over full load running current.

The maximum starting currents, as measured by a damped ammeter, must not exceed for—

Motors not exceeding 3 b.h.p.	12 amps.
Motors exceeding 3 b.h.p. but not exceeding 8 b.h.p.	6 amps. per b.h.p.
Motors exceeding 8 b.h.p. but not exceeding 12 b.h.p.	5 amps. per b.h.p.
Motors exceeding 12 b.h.p. but not exceeding 25 b.h.p.	4 amps. per b.h.p.
Motors exceeding 25 b.h.p. but not exceeding 100 b.h.p.	3 amps. per b.h.p.
Motors exceeding 100 b.h.p.	2 amps. per b.h.p.

POWER FACTOR OF MOTORS.

40. The power factor of A.C. motors at full load must be not less than for—

Motors not exceeding 2 b.h.p.	75 per cent.
Motors exceeding 2 b.h.p. but not exceeding 8 b.h.p.	80 per cent.
Motors exceeding 8 b.h.p. but not exceeding 25 b.h.p.	84 per cent.
Motors exceeding 25 b.h.p.	86 per cent.

MOTORS.

41. All motors of 3 h.p. and upwards, must be provided with suitable starting devices; and all motors over 25 h.p. must be fitted with a no-volt release.

STARTING AND SWITCHING ARRANGEMENTS.

42. The starting and switching arrangements for all apparatus and motors shall be designed to avoid interference with the supply of current to other consumers.

UNSAFE APPARATUS.

43. If in the opinion of the Electric Authority or any of his officers any electrical apparatus used by a consumer is in an unsafe condition the Electric Authority may prohibit the further use of such apparatus. Should the consumer fail to observe any such prohibition the Electric Authority may disconnect the supply of electricity to such consumer.

INTERFERENCE WITH EQUIPMENT, SEALS, ETC.

44. The consumer shall not interfere with any electrical equipment the property of the Government or interfere with any meter or seal thereon without the permission of the Electric Authority.

WRONGFUL USE OF ELECTRICITY.

45. No person shall use electricity for any purpose other than the purpose indicated by the rate of charge approved for the installation in question.

WASTING ELECTRICITY.

46. Every person who maliciously causes to be wasted or diverted any electricity shall be guilty of an offence punishable on summary conviction and shall be liable to a penalty not exceeding Twenty pounds.

PREMISES UNSUITABLE FOR ELECTRICAL INSTALLATION.

47. Should the Electric Authority consider that any premises are unsuited to the purpose of carrying an electrical installation he may decline to supply electricity to such premises.

DAMAGE TO WORKS.

48. Any person who shall wilfully or negligently injure or damage or cause to be injured or damaged any of the works under the control of the Electric Authority shall be liable on summary conviction to a penalty not exceeding Twenty pounds and in addition he shall be liable for the cost of repairing any such injury or damage. Nothing herein contained shall operate as a bar to proceedings under any other law or laws for the time being in force: Provided always that no person shall be liable to be punished twice for the same offence.

RENT FOR ELECTRICAL APPARATUS OR LINES.

49. The Electric Authority may install electric lines fittings and apparatus in buildings or on premises approved to receive electricity, and may charge rent for same at rates to be prescribed.

INSTALLATIONS BY ELECTRIC AUTHORITY.

50. The Electric Authority may make electrical installations in any premises on behalf of the owner or of the tenant or occupier with the owner's consent under the following conditions:—

- (1) When there is no person capable of undertaking and willing to undertake electrical installations; or

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- (2) where there is unreasonable delay on the part of any person who has undertaken to make electrical installations in making such installations; or
- (3) where the charges demanded by any person for making electrical installations are shown to be unreasonable.

CHARGES FOR INSTALLATIONS BY ELECTRIC AUTHORITY.

51. The charges for electrical installations by the Electric Authority shall be such as may be mutually agreed upon between the Electric Authority and the owner of the premises or the tenant or occupier thereof.

WIRING RULES.

52. All work in connection with an installation must be carried out and maintained in accordance with the regulations and to the satisfaction of the Electric Authority. The Standards Association of Australia Wiring Rules as amended from time to time and available at the office of the Electric Authority shall be taken as a standard of satisfactory wiring.

REPORTS TO LIEUTENANT-GOVERNOR⁽²⁾ OF ACCIDENTS.

53. Where any accident by explosion or fire, or any other accident of such kind as to have caused or to be likely to have caused loss of life or personal injury, has occurred at any part of any electric line or other works the Electric Authority shall give immediate notice thereof to the Lieutenant-Governor.⁽²⁾

SCHEDULE.

Rate 1—Lighting—One shilling per Unit.

Rate 2—Domestic power—For all purposes other than lighting and except where otherwise specially provided: For the first 40 Units, Sixpence per Unit: For all in excess thereof, Threepence per Unit.⁽³⁾

Rate 3—Motive Power—For the first 30 Units used per horse-power or part thereof connected per month, Sixpence per Unit: For all in excess of 30 Units, Threepence per Unit. Minimum charge, 1s. 7d. per horse-power installed.

(2) See Section 19(2) of the *Ordinance Interpretation Ordinance*, 1911-1940.

(3) Section 8A of the *Port Moresby Electric Light and Power Ordinance*, 1925-1938, provides that "the Lieutenant-Governor may by Order in Council published in the *Gazette* fix alter or revoke rates payable for the supply of electricity." By an Order in Council made under the *Port Moresby Electric Light and Power Ordinance*, 1925-1932, dated 1.3.1937 and published in *Papua Govt. Gaz.* of 1.9.1937, the Lieutenant-Governor ordered as follows:—

"Power rate reduced by One-third from 1st July; to be reconsidered after 12 months."

This Order in Council did not define the words "Power rate". However, before this Order in Council was published, but after the date on which it was made, the Electric Authority by a notice (which was not itself an Order in Council within the meaning of Section 8A) dated 4.3.1937 and published in *Papua Govt. Gaz.* of 7.4.1937, notified that:—

"For the purpose of encouraging an increase in the use of electric current for domestic purposes it has been decided to reduce, by one-third, Rate 2—Domestic Power—of the Schedule to Statutory Rules No. 3 of 1932, made under the *Port Moresby Electric Light and Power Ordinance*, 1925-1932, for a period of twelve months from the 1st July 1937, after which the matter will be further considered."

By an Order in Council made under the *Port Moresby Electric Light and Power Ordinance*, 1925-1938, dated 3.8.1938 and published in *Papua Govt. Gaz.* of 7.9.1938, the Lieutenant-Governor, referring to the Order in Council dated 1.3.1937, ordered as follows:—

"Reduced rates to continue".

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Rate 4—For all electricity used for—

- (a) Cooking ranges with minimum approved connected load 2,000 watts;
- (b) Lighting of streets or similar purposes of a public nature;
- (c) Light and power in hospitals,

Threepence per Unit.

Rate 5—For all electricity used for Government purposes, in places of public worship, in places primarily used for educational purposes, at night sports and in approved public institutions not specially provided for, Sixpence per Unit.

Am. by S.R.
1937, No. 3, r. 1.

Rate 6—For all electricity supplied in bulk at such times and under such conditions as may be specially determined by the Electric Authority: For the first 1,200 Units per month, Threepence per Unit; 1,201 to 3,000 Units, Two and one-half pence per Unit; all in excess, One penny per Unit. The acceptance of applications for bulk supply shall be at the discretion of the Electric Authority.

Am. by S.R.
1932, No. 5, r. 1.

Rate 7—Battery charging—Seven shillings and sixpence per 6-volt battery.

Rate 8—Water heaters in continuous use at a special monthly rate to be determined by the Electric Authority.

Rate 9—Temporary supply for less than one month—

- (a) Lighting, One shilling and threepence per Unit.
- (b) Power, Sixpence per Unit.

Minimum charge per installation, Ten shillings.

Rate 10—Stand-by rate—A consumer desiring a supply of electricity to supplement a supply from a privately-owned plant or for use as a substitute on occasion of a failure of supply from such a plant shall for any electricity supplied to him pay an added charge of twenty-five per centum of the ordinary general rates: Provided that for every installation connected with a meter of the Electric Authority on premises in connection with which a privately-owned plant is used a minimum charge of Twenty shillings per month shall be made whether current is consumed in the month or not.

Agreements between the Electric Authority and consumers entered into prior to the passing of these regulations for the supply of electricity at the combined lighting and power rate of Sixpence per Unit will remain in force at the option of the consumer provided he notifies the Electric Authority in writing within a period of fourteen days of the commencement of these regulations of his desire to do so.

Rate 11—Large Consumers—A discount of ten per centum in any month shall be allowed when an installation consumes not less than 1,000 units and a discount of fifteen per centum in any month when an installation consumes not less than 1,500 units: Provided in each case that payment is made on or before the last day of the month in which the account is rendered and provided that the discount allowed under this rate shall not be allowed to consumers supplied with current under Rate 6 of this Schedule.

Am. by S.R.
1939, No. 10,
r. 1; sub. by
S.R. 1941, No.
13, r. 1.

ELECTRIC LIGHT AND POWER—