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Feed-in Tariffs (FIT)

www.ofgem.gov.uk/fits

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Guidance for renewable installations

Overview

This is an overview of the Feed-in Tariff (FIT) scheme, its eligibility criteria, and the accreditation process.

This document is intended for owners, or potential owners, of Solar PV and wind installations with a Declared Net Capacity (DNC) over 50kW up to a Total Installed Capacity (TIC) of 5MW, and all anaerobic digestion and hydro installations up to a TIC of 5MW, who want to benefit from the FIT scheme.

It supersedes the 'Feed-in Tariffs: Guidance for renewable installations (Version 15)'

This is a guidance document only and is not a definitive technical or legal guide to the FIT scheme. It is the installation's owner or prospective owner's responsibility to ensure that they are aware of the requirements of the FIT Order and legislation (see associated documents).

Context

The FIT scheme was introduced by the Department of Energy and Climate Change (DECC) in April 2010 and is administered by the Gas and Electricity Markets Authority (the Authority), whose day-to-day functions are performed by Ofgem.[1]

The FIT scheme has now closed to new applications received after 31 March 2019, subject to certain conditions. Installations already accredited under the scheme will continue to receive payments for generating and exporting renewable and low carbon electricity.

The FIT scheme encourages the uptake of small-scale renewable and low-carbon technologies up to a Total Installed Capacity (TIC) of 5MW in England, Wales and Scotland. The FIT scheme creates an obligation for certain licensed electricity suppliers to make tariff payments for generating and exporting renewable and low carbon electricity. Installations using solar photovoltaic (PV), wind, hydro and anaerobic digestion (AD) technologies up to 5MW and fossil fuel-derived Combined Heat and Power (CHP) up to 2kW or "microCHP", (up to a maximum of 30,000 Eligible Installations) can receive FIT payments, providing all eligibility requirements are met.

The FIT scheme replaced the Renewables Obligation (RO) as the main support for PV, wind and hydro installations with a declared net capacity (DNC) of 50kW or less ("micro installations"). The scheme also gives eligible small-scale generators with a DNC over 50kW to 5MW ("small installations") the one-off choice of applying under the FIT or the RO.

A FIT scheme was not introduced in Northern Ireland. Instead, a change to the Northern Ireland Renewables Obligation (NIRO) Order put additional incentives into place for generating stations of certain technologies and installed capacities.

[1] Ofgem is the office of GEMA. "The Authority" & "Ofgem" are used interchangeably in this document.

Associated Documents

The following documents support this publication:

Policy and legislation

The Feed-in Tariffs Order 2012, as amended:
http://www.legislation.gov.uk/uksi/2017/131/contents/made

Modifications to Conditions 33 and 34 of the Standard Conditions of Electricity Supply Licences:
https://epr.ofgem.gov.uk/Content/Documents/Electricity%20Supply%20Standard%20Licence%20Conditions%20Consolidated%20-%20Current%20Version.pdf

Renewables Obligation Order 2015 (as amended) for England and Wales:
http://www.legislation.gov.uk/uksi/2015/1947/contents/made

Renewables Obligation Order 2009 (as amended) for Scotland:
http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ssi/2009/140/contents/made

Guidance

All documents are available at www.ofgem.gov.uk

- Feed-in Tariffs: Essential guide to closure of the scheme
- Feed-in Tariffs: Guidance for Licensed Electricity Suppliers
- Renewables and CHP Register User Guide (April 2008)
- Essential Guide to applying for preliminary accreditation under FITs
- Essential Guide to applying for ROO-FIT Accreditation
- Feed-in Tariff: "Generating equipment" decision (February 2013)
- Feed-in Tariff: Guidance for Community Energy and School Installations
- FIT Community and Schools FAQ
- Feed-in Tariffs: Commissioned Guide
- Guidance on pausing the FIT scheme
- Feed-in Tariffs: Guidance on sustainability criteria and feedstock restrictions

- Guidance for generators: Co-location of electricity storage facilities with renewable generation supported under the Renewables Obligation or Feed-in Tariff schemes

Contents

Executive Summary

This document shows you how to get FIT accreditation (known as ROO-FIT) and preliminary accreditation for solar PV and wind installations with a DNC over 50kW up to 5MW, and all AD and hydro installations with a capacity up to 5MW. It also explains how the deployment caps mechanism works.

Due to the closure of the FIT scheme, applications for ROO-FIT accreditation must be received by us on or before 31 March 2019. Installations whose applications are received after this date will not be eligible for accreditation. See chapter 3 for more details on closure. To make an application on or before this date, follow the steps below.

How to apply for the scheme: five steps to receiving FIT payments

Step 1 - Check whether you are using an eligible technology

If your installation generates renewable electricity using solar PV, wind, hydro or AD and has a Total Installed Capacity (TIC) of up to 5MW or is a fossil fuel-derived CHP with a TIC up to 2kW, you could receive FIT payments if you meet the scheme eligibility requirements.

Step 2 - Make an application for accreditation

Applications for accreditation are made through one of two routes:

- Applicants using solar PV or wind with a declared net capacity (DNC) up to 50kW, or CHP up to a TIC of 2kW ("microCHP"), need to ensure they use Microgeneration Certification Scheme (MCS)-certified equipment installed by an MCS-certified installer. Applicants should approach a FIT licensee (such as their electricity supplier) for accreditation.
- Solar PV and wind installations with a DNC over 50kW up to a TIC of 5MW and AD or hydro installations of any capacity up to 5MW should apply to Ofgem for ROO-FIT accreditation. You can make such an application to us via a generator account set up on our Renewables and CHP Register (the Register). There is more detail on ROO-FIT accreditation in Chapter 5.

Step 3 - Agree to a Statement of FIT Terms[2] with your supplier

[2] See Chapter 5 for more information.

Step 4 – Provide meter readings to your supplier who will make FIT payments.

This document provides guidance for applicants using the ROO-FIT accreditation process, in Step 2 above.

The initial point of contact for anyone wanting to find out more about electricity generation and how they can join the scheme is the Energy Saving Advice Service in England and Wales (www.energysavingtrust.org.uk) and Home Energy Scotland in Scotland (www.greenerscotland.org/warm-homes or 0808 808 2282). Home Energy Scotland is funded by the Scottish Government and advice is delivered by the Energy Saving Trust.

Introduction

Chapter summary

Here you can find out about Ofgem's role in the FIT scheme and information about the scheme.

2.1 The FIT scheme requires FIT Licensees to pay fixed tariffs to qualifying renewable and combined heat and power (CHP) installations for electricity generated and exported to the transmission or distribution network. The cost of the FIT scheme is spread across each of the FIT Licensees based on their share of domestic electricity supply customers, in a process known as levelisation.

2.2 Generation payment rates vary depending on the technology and TIC of the installation. An installation will receive the generation tariff rate and export tariff rate applicable on the Eligibility Date of the installation. See paragraphs 15.11 - 15.19.

2.3 Generation and export tariffs are adjusted by the Retail Prices Index by Ofgem in accordance with FIT legislation.

2.4 **Applications for FIT payments are made through one of two routes:**

- Owners of solar PV or wind installations with a DNC of 50kW or less, or micro-CHP, need to use Microgeneration Certification Scheme (MCS)-certified equipment installed by an MCS-certified installer, or an equivalent. Large parts of this document will not be relevant to this type of application. Applicants should approach their electricity supplier for further details about accreditation.
- Owners of solar PV or wind installations with a DNC over 50kW up to a TIC of 5MW and AD or hydro installations of any capacity up to 5MW must apply to Ofgem for ROO-FIT accreditation. This document is aimed at applicants deploying these types of installation.

Role of Ofgem in FIT

2.5 We have several functions in administering the FIT scheme. These include:

- assessing and determining applications for accreditation and preliminary accreditation for wind and solar PV installations over 50kW DNC up to 5MW TIC and all installations using hydro or AD technology up to 5MW TIC

- assessing and determining applications for pre-registration and status verification of community energy installations and school installations
- allocating tariff codes and (where applicable) rates
- calculating and publishing FIT payment rate tables
- establishing and maintaining the Central FIT Register
- calculating, periodically and annually, the FIT contribution of each Licensee, receiving Levelisation Payments from all FIT Licensees, and making Levelisation Payments
- monitoring licensed electricity suppliers' compliance with the requirements of Section C of the Electricity Supply Licence and the FIT Order 2012
- publicly reporting on licensed energy suppliers' compliance with the requirements of Section C of the Electricity Supply Licence and the FIT Order 2012
- publicly reporting the total number of FIT Generators registered on the Central FIT Register, and the number of MWh generated and FIT Payments made under the FIT
- determining whether a deployment cap in a tariff period has been reached
- administering the degression mechanisms
- assessing and determining if sustainability and feedstock requirements are met by AD generators who made an application for preliminary or full (other than during the period of validity of any preliminary accreditation) accreditation on or after 1 May 2017.

2.6 We perform our functions as efficiently and effectively as possible. We cannot act beyond the scope of the powers laid down in FIT legislation. Amendments to the relevant legislation is a matter for the Secretary of State.

Queries

2.7 If you have any queries about ROO-FIT accreditation, you can contact the ROO-FIT team at renewable@ofgem.gov.uk or by phone on 020 7901 7310 during office hours (9am-5pm). Written queries can also be sent to the address below, marked for the attention of the ROO-FIT Team. Explain the nature of your query clearly in the subject field.

Updates to this Document (December 2021)

2.8 This document has been updated to reflect amended our decision on replacement generating equipment[3]. The following chapters of this guidance have been added or updated in addition to minor amendments to aid clarity:

- **Chapter 3: Eligibility for the FIT scheme**

  Modifications: extensions and reductions

  Definition of extension

  Definition of reduction

  Meter readings and pro-rating

  Exceeding the specified maximum capacity

  (updated and merged with newly created Chapter 6)

- **Chapter 6: Modifications to accredited installations**

2.9 You can find further information on all policy consultations and decisions on the central government website.

This document

2.10 Article 31 of the FIT Order sets out that the Authority may publish procedural guidance for participants or administrators of the FIT scheme. The purpose of this document is to provide guidance to existing or prospective FIT Generators and explain procedures for implementing the accreditation provisions under FIT legislation.

2.11 The document does not anticipate every possible scenario. If a scenario arises that these procedures don't address, we will handle it in a way that's consistent with legislation. Any separate guidance in addition to this document will be published on our website.

2.12 This is a guidance document only. At all times, the onus is on the owner of the installation to ensure that they are aware of the requirements of the FIT Order and

[3] Consultation on FIT replacement generating equipmentn FIT replacement generating equipment | Ofgem

related legislation. This document is not intended to provide comprehensive legal advice on how the FIT Order should be interpreted.

2.13 This document is procedural guidance for the FIT scheme. It sits below the obligations, powers and duties of the FIT Order and the supplier license conditions (SLCs). If there is ever an inconsistency between the FIT Order and the SLCs, the FIT Order prevails.

Contacts

2.14 Direct general questions on this document and ROO-FIT accreditation to the ROO-FIT Team (renewable@ofgem.gov.uk and 020 7901 7310).

2.15 Direct specific questions about compliance with the SLCs and FIT Order to the Renewable Electricity Compliance Team (recompliance@ofgem.gov.uk).

2.16 Direct specific questions regarding the Central FIT Register and Fraud Prevention to the Central FIT Register Team (fitregister@ofgem.gov.uk).

2.17 Direct specific questions regarding community energy or school installations to the FIT Community Team (fitcommunity@ofgem.gov.uk).

2.18 "Ofgem", "us", "our" and "we" are used interchangeably when referring to the Authority's functions under the Orders.

2.19 Direct all written correspondence to Ofgem and the relevant team at the address: Commonwealth House, 32 Albion Street, Glasgow, G1 1LH.

Deployment caps

Chapter summary

Here you can find out about deployment caps and what these mean for generators applying for ROO-FIT full and preliminary accreditation.

What are deployment caps?

2.1 On 8 February 2016 quarterly deployment caps for all technologies with the exception of micro CHP were introduced into the FIT scheme. On 1 April 2017 six monthly deployment caps were introduced for micro CHP. A deployment cap is a limit on the capacity that can receive a particular FIT tariff in a particular tariff period.[4] Separate deployment caps are available for each technology and tariff band.[5] Applications are received continuously and are allocated to a tariff period in the following way:

2.2 For ROO-FIT installations – these are ordered by the date and time that the application was submitted to Ofgem.

2.3 For MCS installations – these are ordered by the date and time recorded on the installation's MCS certificate.

2.4 Once a deployment cap has been reached, no further installations are eligible to receive the tariff rate applicable for that band in that tariff period.

2.5 FIT tariff rates[6] have been set for each tariff period until March 2019. These tariffs automatically reduce each tariff period. This is known as default degression. If a deployment cap is reached within a tariff period the tariff in the next, and all subsequent, tariff periods will degress by a further 10% in addition to the default degression. This is

[4] A 'tariff period' for all technologies with the exception of micro CHP, is a period of three months starting on 1 April, 1 July, 1 October, 1 January (except for the first tariff period which is 8 February until 31 March 2016). For micro CHP installations, a tariff period is a period of six months, starting from 1 April 2017.

[5] The deployment cap limits are available in Tables 3A – 3C of the SLCs. For the latest version of the Licence Conditions, follow this link: https://www.ofgem.gov.uk/licences-codes-and-standards/licences/licence-conditions, and under the 'Electricity' heading, click 'Electricity Supply Standard Licence Conditions'.

[6] The FIT tariff tables are available in the Licence Conditions. For the latest version of the Licence Conditions, follow this link: https://www.ofgem.gov.uk/licences-codes-and-standards/licences/licence-conditions, and under the 'Electricity' heading, click 'Electricity Supply Standard Licence Conditions'.

known as contingent degression. Further information, including the default degression rates, is provided in Appendix 4.

2.6 Installations queued past the final tariff period, ending 31 March 2019, will not be eligible for accreditation as part of the FIT scheme.

Applying for ROO-FIT accreditation under deployment caps

2.7 All applications for full ROO-FIT accreditation submitted on or after 15 January 2016 (the start of the pause) and all applications for ROO-FIT preliminary accreditation submitted on or after 8 February 2016 (the date that preliminary accreditation was reintroduced into the FIT scheme) are subject to deployment caps.

Tariff period

2.8 The tariff an installation will receive, assuming all eligibility requirements are met, is determined by the date and time that the application is submitted to Ofgem.

2.9 If an application is submitted during a tariff period and the relevant deployment cap is open with space available to accommodate the full Total Installed Capacity (TIC) of the installation, the installation will receive the tariff available on the date the application was received by Ofgem.

2.10 If an application is submitted during a tariff period and the relevant deployment cap is already full, the installation will be queued for entry into the next cap. This means it will have a position in the queue (based on the date and time of the application). The installation will receive the tariff available on the first day that a deployment cap opens with capacity available to accommodate the installation.

2.11 If an application is submitted during a tariff period, the relevant deployment cap has limited capacity available and the TIC of the installation in that application exceeds the level of deployment allowed, neither that installation nor any subsequent installations will qualify for the tariffs available in that tariff period. That installation and all ROO-FIT applications submitted after a cap has been reached will be queued for entry into the next cap. This means that it will have a position in the queue (based on the time and date of the application). When the next cap opens we will assess whether there is sufficient capacity available for each queued application.

2.12 The final tariff period begins on 1 January 2019. Once the deployment cap for this final period is full, ie an application for accreditation would cause the cap to be exceeded, neither that installation nor any subsequent installations of that type can be accredited as part of the FITs scheme.

2.13 An application is submitted to Ofgem, and takes its place in the deployment caps queue, on the date and time the applicant completed all of the questions in the ROO-FIT application form on the Renewables and CHP Register and clicks the 'send' button at the end of the application. The applicant must then go on to complete the relevant declarations.

3.1 Examples

3.2 A tariff period opens on 1 April 2016 at 00:00:00 and closes on 30 June 2016 at 23:59:59. A standalone PV installation submits an application to Ofgem on 1 June 2016 at 12:20:35. The deployment cap for this technology and tariff band has not been reached and there is sufficient capacity available to accommodate the TIC of the installation. The tariff rate for this installation is the tariff rate that applies to the tariff period that the application was submitted in.

3.3 B A tariff period opens on 1 April 2016 at 00:00:00 and closes on 30 June 2016 at 23:59:59. A standalone PV installation applies and exceeds the relevant cap for that tariff period on 1 June 2016 at 12:20:35. The tariff rate for that tariff period is applicable to installations with an application date and time from 1 April 2016 at 00:00:00 to 1 June 2016 at 12:20:34. Applications received on or after 1 June at 12:20:35 are queued for entry into the next available tariff period. The tariff rate applicable for applications submitted after the cap is exceeded will be the tariff rate associated with the next tariff period with capacity available to accommodate the TIC of the installation. The next tariff period opens on 1 July 2016 at 00:00:00 and there is sufficiency capacity to accommodate the TIC of the installation. The installation receives the tariff rate available in that tariff period.

2.14 Figure 1 illustrates how the deployment caps mechanism works in practice for all technologies with quarterly tariff periods. Please note the dates at which caps are reached are examples to help generators understand the impact of caps on their tariff date.

2.15 Further information on applying for preliminary accreditation and full accreditation is available in Chapters 4 and 5 respectively.

ROO-FIT transitional installations

2.16 Applications for full accreditation received before 15 January 2016 where the installation is commissioned after 15 January 2016 are not subject to deployment caps; they do not queue for entry into a cap and their capacity does not count towards the deployment caps. These installations will be eligible to receive FIT support from the date the

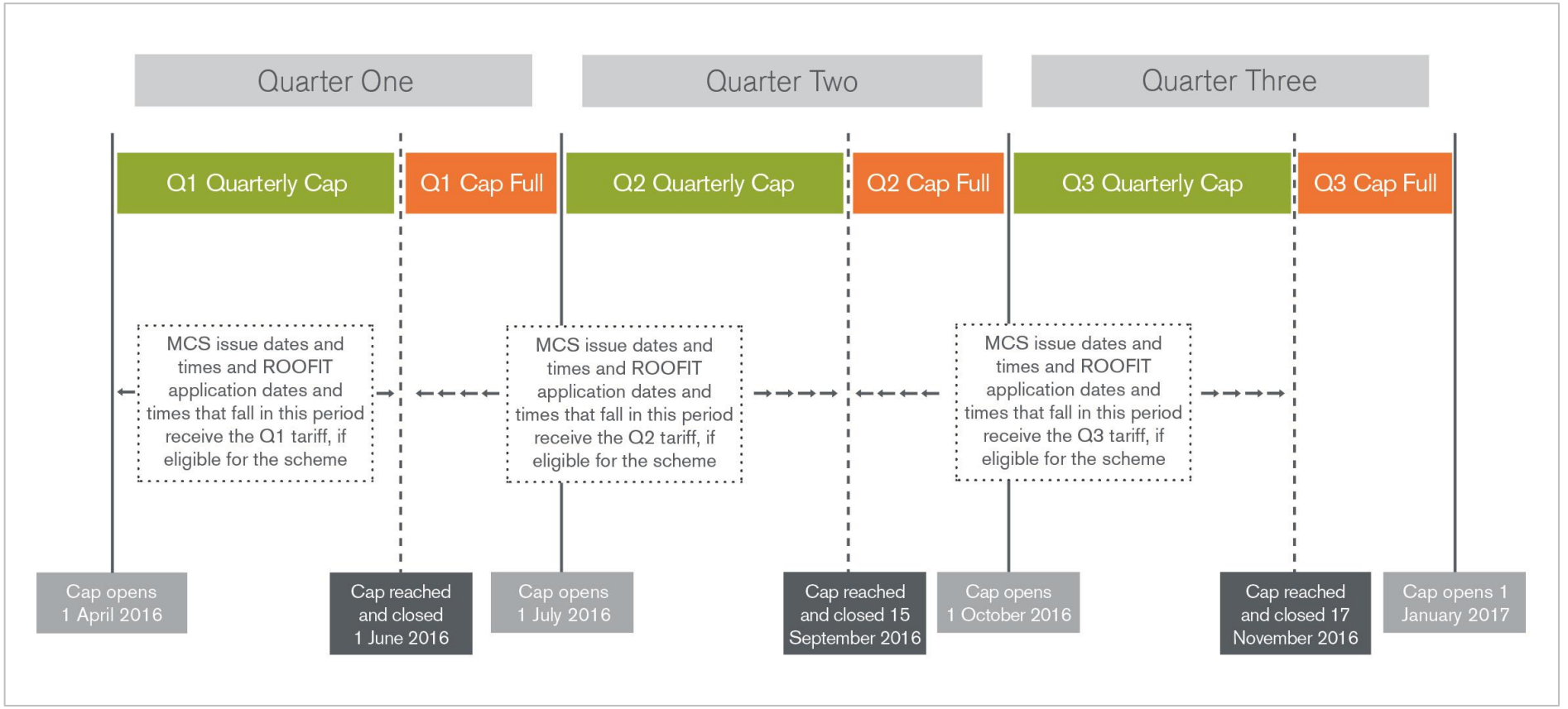
installation was commissioned at the FIT tariffs available on the date the installation was commissioned.

2.17 Applications for full accreditation received before 15 January 2016 and commissioned before 8 February 2016 are not subject to deployment caps.

Monitoring and reporting on deployment caps

2.18 Appendix 5 provides information on how we monitor deployment caps and how we will report on deployment.

Figure 1: Deployment caps mechanism for technologies with quarterly tariff periods



Eligibility for the FIT scheme

Chapter summary

Here you can find out about the eligibility requirements of the FIT Order and Schedule A to Standard Licence Condition 33.

Eligibility Requirements

3.1 We consider the following when determining a generating installation's eligibility:

- the arrangements around the closure of the FITs scheme
- the Site
- the rating of the generating equipment
- the commissioned date
- the implications of Non-Fossil Fuel Obligation (NFFO)/Scottish Renewables Obligation (SRO) contracts
- extensions
- energy efficiency requirements
- benefits for Community Organisations and Education Providers
- multi-installation tariffs
- the combination of FITs and grants.

Closure of the FITs scheme & Eligibility

3.2 Applications received on or after 1 April 2019 are not eligible for accreditation except in the following instances:

3.3 ROO-FIT scale (>50kw) installations that apply for pre-accreditation on or before 31 March 2019 can use standard validity periods to convert to full accreditation (subject to meeting all other eligibility criteria).

3.4 ROO-FIT scale community installations that apply for pre-accreditation on or before 31 March 2019 can use the standard additional 6-month period on top of the relevant

validity period per technology, in which to convert to full accreditation (subject to meeting all other eligibility criteria).

3.5 ROO-FIT scale installations with a preliminary accreditation expiring on or after 1 March 2020 receive a 12 month extension to their original validity period.7

3.6 ROO-FIT installations with preliminary accreditation whose full application is prevented by grid or radar works delays beyond their control can apply up to 12 months after the end of their validity period8 if they can provide the necessary evidence.

3.7 MCS scale (≤ 50 kW) installations which commission and have an MCS certificate issued on or before 31 March 2019 have until 31 March 2020 to apply to their FIT licensee for accreditation.

3.8 MCS scale community installations that apply for pre-registration on or before 31 March 2019 can use the standard 12-month validity period in which to commission and apply to their FIT licensee for accreditation.

3.9 MCS scale community pre-registrations which were initially to expire between 1 March and 31 March 2020 receive a 12 month extension to their original validity period. 9

3.10 MCS scale school installations that apply for pre-registration on or before 31 March 2019 can use the standard 12-month validity period in which to apply to their FIT licensee for accreditation.

Definitions of "Eligible Installation" and "Site"

3.11 The "Site" of an "Eligible Installation" is determined as part of our assessment of an application for ROO-FIT accreditation. This determination is relevant because, under the FIT Order, the total capacity of the same eligible technology type on a single Site will identify the "Eligible Installation", and will affect its eligibility and generation tariff level.

[7] The Feed-in Tariffs (Amendment) (Coronavirus) Order 2020. For more information, visit our Changes to the FIT Scheme web page.
[8] Where an installations validity period has been extended due to The Feed-in Tariffs (Amendment) (Coronavirus) Order 2020 the Grace period will begin on the day after the last day of the relevant validity period.
[9] The Feed-in Tariffs (Amendment) (Coronavirus) Order 2020. For more information, visit our Changes to the FIT Scheme web page.

Eligible Installation

3.12 "Eligible Installation"[10] is defined as:

"any Plant on a Site which is capable of Small-scale Low-carbon Generation; and except as provided otherwise in the FIT Order all such Plant on the same Site which is capable of generating electricity from the same type of Eligible Low-carbon Energy Source is to be treated as a single Eligible Installation."

3.13 "Plant" is further defined as:

"any equipment, apparatus or appliance."

3.14 We expect any applications to us to show all the Plant that constitutes the Eligible Installation in question. We also expect all of this Plant to have been commissioned and an application submitted (see 'How to apply for accreditation section', Chapter 5), if full accreditation is to be granted.

Defining "Site"

3.15 Before we can grant accreditation, we must assess the "Site" [11] of all installations powered by the same low carbon energy source. The extent of the Site will determine the extent of the Eligible Installation that is eligible for FITs payments. The extent of the Eligible Installation will in turn determine its TIC and its generation tariff.

3.16 Where an installation is grid connected, the Site is usually determined by these criteria:

- the meter point administration number (MPAN) of the meter measuring the supply of electricity to the installation
- all electrical or mechanical interactions (eg shared inverters, generators, turbines, gas blowers or control systems).

3.17 Apart from the prescribed cases listed below, all installations powered by the same low carbon energy source that connect to the grid with the same import/export MPAN(s) will be considered on a single Site.

[10]Schedule A to Standard Condition 33 of the Electricity Supply Licence
[11] Article 15 – FIT Order

3.18 Where installations powered by the same low carbon energy source connect to the grid[12] via separate MPANs and share no electrical, mechanical or civil works or structures, they will normally be considered on separate Sites.

3.19 For hydro generating stations that do not share a grid connection, civil works will not be taken into account when assessing the Site of the installation.

3.20 For hydro generating stations that share a grid connection, all turbines that are supplied with water by or from the same "civil works" will, except in prescribed cases, almost always be[13] considered to be on the same Site.

3.21 Where an installation is not grid connected, the Site is usually determined by these criteria:

- all electrical or mechanical interactions (eg shared inverters, generators, turbines, gas blowers or control systems)
- the address
- the Ordnance Survey grid reference of the installation

3.22 The Site assessment is completed as part of our review of an application for FIT accreditation (or preliminary accreditation). The assessment is completed on a case-by-case basis.

Significance of MPAN in prescribed cases

3.23 There are four scenarios where we won't take into account the supply MPAN when doing the Site assessment. This means certain installations sharing a grid connection but which are not otherwise electrically or mechanically connected can be considered located on separate Sites. The four scenarios are:

1. Where two or more installations of the same eligible low carbon energy source are attached to separate self-contained private residential dwellings, e.g. park homes[14].

[12] This can be a connection to the electricity distribution or transmission system
[13] See "Significance of MPAN in prescribed cases" section below
[14] Article 15(4)(a) - FIT Order

2. Where two or more hydro installations are supplied with water by or from different civil works[15].

3. Where two or more hydro installations are supplied with water by or from the same civil works and one or more of those installations are driven by a statutory compensation flow[16].

4. Where no more than two installations share a grid connection and at least one of them is owned, or will be owned, by a "community organisation".[17] [18]

Claiming FIT payments when Site is determined in the prescribed cases above

3.24 Where several Sites share a grid connection, each Site should independently meter the renewable electricity generated. If separate generation metering is not available, generation payments may be calculated by pro-rating any meter readings available[19].

3.25 Several Sites sharing a grid connection may affect eligibility to receive FIT export payments:

- If the TIC of an Eligible Installation on a Site is 30kW or less, FIT export payments can be deemed.
- If the TIC of an Eligible Installation on a Site is greater than 30kW and it is not possible to separately meter the renewable electricity exported onto the distribution or transmission network from that individual Site, the export may be calculated by pro-rating the export meter readings. It may alternatively be possible to independently negotiate a Power Purchase Agreement (PPA) with an energy company outside the FIT scheme.

[15] Article 15(4)(b) - FIT Order

[16] Article 15(4)(c) - FIT Order

[17] Article 15(4)(d) – FIT Order

[18] Please refer to additional publication, "Feed-in Tariff: Guidance for Community Energy and School Installations" for further information on this and other community energy benefits.

[19] Schedule A to Standard Condition 33 of the Electricity Supply Licence

Specified maximum capacity

3.26 The "specified maximum capacity" of Eligible Installations is 5MW TIC[20]. This means that, on a Site, it is possible to have up to 5MW of generating capacity installed that generates electricity from the same eligible low-carbon energy source. If the TIC exceeds 5MW, all Eligible Installations of the same technology that constitute the TIC will become ineligible under the scheme.

Definition of TIC and DNC

3.27 An application for accreditation or preliminary accreditation submitted on or after 15 January 2016 must accurately state the total installed capacity (TIC) of the installation. If the TIC is incorrectly stated when the application is submitted, the application may be refused and the place in the deployment caps queue forfeited. We encourage all applicants to carefully read this section and take care when completing their application.

3.28 TIC is defined in Schedule A to Standard Licence Condition 33 as:

"the maximum capacity at which an Eligible Installation could be operated for a sustained period without causing damage to it (assuming the Eligible Low-carbon Energy Source was available to it without interruption), a declaration of which is submitted as part of the processes of ROO-FIT Accreditation and MCS certified Registration."

3.29 Declared net capacity (DNC) is defined in Schedule A to Standard Licence Condition 33 as:

"The maximum capacity at which the installation can be operated for a sustained period without causing damage to it (assuming the source of power used by it to generate electricity was available to it without interruption) less the amount of electricity that is consumed by the plant."

3.30 When assessing a ROO-FIT application, we must consider the definitions of TIC and DNC. The FIT Generator will declare the TIC and DNC of their installation as part of their application for ROO-FIT accreditation. We usually consider the capacity rating of the

[20] Article 3 - FIT Order 2012

generating equipment to indicate the TIC of the installation, with any other restrictions, such as the capacity of parasitic loads, being factored into the DNC.

3.31 Given the importance of TIC when determining tariffs for an Eligible Installation, we will ask a third party to verify it during the accreditation process. This could be a declaration made by the installer or manufacturer of the generating equipment. If, for any reason, we remain unclear as to the TIC of an Eligible Installation, we will ask the applicant to get an independent audit report. This report will attest to the TIC of the Eligible Installation, with reference to the legislative definition.

De-rating or altering an installation to cap its generating capacity

3.32 If an applicant wants to declare a TIC which deviates from the capacity rating of the generating equipment, it is the FIT Generator's responsibility to give us evidence which establishes the TIC of the installation. If a FIT Generator wishes to apply for accreditation of an installation on the basis of de-rated or capped capacity equipment, they will need to satisfy Ofgem that the TIC is in accordance with the FIT Order. We can give you more information if you email: renewable@ofgem.gov.uk.

Definition of "Commissioned"

3.33 In order to apply for accreditation[21] (without first seeking preliminary accreditation) the installation must have commissioned on or before the date the application is submitted to Ofgem[22]. If the installation is not commissioned, the application will be refused and the place in the deployment cap queue will be forfeited.

3.34 "Commissioned" is defined in FIT legislation[23] as meaning:

"means, in relation to an Eligible Installation, that:

[21] This applies to applications submitted on or after 15 January 2016

[22] An application is submitted to Ofgem and takes its place in the deployment caps queue on the date and time the applicant completed all of the questions in the application form on the Renewables and CHP Register and clicks the 'send' button at the end of the application. The applicant must then go on to complete the relevant declarations.

[23] Schedule A to Standard Condition 33 of the Electricity Supply Licence

(a) such procedures and tests have been completed as constitute, at the time they are undertaken, the usual industry standards and practices for commissioning that type of installation such that it is capable of operating at its Declared Net Capacity (assuming that the relevant Eligible Low-Carbon Energy Source was available to it without interruption or limitation); and

(b) the installation is connected to Plant such that the whole of its maximum output could be used in a permitted way;

For this purpose:

(1) the maximum output of an installation is the amount of electricity that it would generate if operated at its Declared Net Capacity; and

(2) electricity is used in a permitted way if it is:

(i) consumed by the FIT Generator or (if different) the operator of the installation, or by persons to whom it is supplied by the FIT Generator; or

(ii) exported.

3.35 When we assess accreditation applications, we will ask for independent verification that the Eligible Installation in question has been commissioned. We will assess this information against the definition in the FIT Order.

3.36 Further information on evidencing the 'commissioned' date of an installation is available in the 'Feed-in Tariffs: Commissioned Guide' on our website.

3.37 If the capacity of a grid connection is less than the DNC of the installation, this may affect the applicant's ability to demonstrate that their installation is "commissioned". It may result in permanently limiting the capacity of the generating installation if it is to be accredited under the FIT scheme. When assessing an application for FIT accreditation, we will require evidence confirming the grid connection capacity and the scale of any onsite loads, other than those loads consumed by the installation's plant.

Metering

3.38 FIT payments are based on generation and export meter readings[24]. All metering used for measuring generation and export from FIT installations must be approved to set standards (see below). Exported electricity can be deemed[25] for installations with a TIC of 30kW or less if it's not possible to measure electricity generation with an export meter[26]. For all other installations, an approved export meter is needed to receive FIT export payments.

Metering requirements

3.39 All metering to record generation or export for FIT payment purposes must comply with specific metering legislation[27].

3.40 The National Measurements Office (NMO) approves meters on Ofgem's behalf, where the maximum demand exceeds 100kW. It also approves any modifications to existing meters that were originally approved before the Measuring Instruments (Active Electrical Energy Meters) Regulations 2006 (the MI (AEEM) Regulations)[28] were implemented.

3.41 A meter can also be considered approved for the FIT scheme if it has been approved by, or under similar regulations to the MI (AEEM) Regulations after 2007 in European Member States. If a FIT Generator wants to use a meter approved in another jurisdiction, it should direct Ofgem to the applicable laws and a list of meters, with a copy of the certification for the meter.

3.42 As part of the accreditation process, we review all installed metering which will be used for FIT payment purposes. To be accredited, an installation must use approved metering: we will withhold accreditation until approved metering is installed. We recommend that any installation without approved metering replaces its metering

[24] See Chapter 5 of this document for more information on FIT payments.

[25] Schedule A to Standard Condition 33 of the Electricity Supply Licence.

[26] Deemed at 50% of generation for micro CHP, AD, solar PV and wind. Deemed at 75% of generation for hydro.

[27] The definition of "metering legislation" can be found in Schedule A to Standard Condition 33 of the Electricity Supply Licence.

[28] These regulations implement part of the Measuring Instruments Directive (MID) in to UK legislation.

before applying for accreditation to avoid affecting the period from which the installation can receive FIT payments.

3.43 As set out above, a meter must be approved to appropriate standards. We understand that, at the current time, there are no direct current (DC) meters that meet the FIT metering requirements.

3.44 The FIT legislation does not make provision for the use of estimates.

Metering scenarios

3.45 FIT generation payments are made based on the total generation produced by an installation. A generation meter is normally located close to the point of generation.

3.46 FIT export payments are made based on electricity exported onto the distribution or transmission network. An export meter is always located at the point where the installation connects into the distribution or transmission network.

3.47 A generation meter (located as set out in paragraph 3.45) cannot be used to claim FIT export payments. This is because an "export meter" is defined in the FIT legislation as a meter which measures the quantity of export, and export is defined as the flow of electricity from an eligible installation onto a distribution or transmission network. If the generation meter is located at the point of generation and not at the point of connection between the installation and the distribution or transmission network, it cannot be used to claim FIT export payments.

3.48 At least once every two years, FIT Licensees must verify the generation and/or export meter readings submitted by generators[29]. Normally this verification is done by the Licensee or their agent physically reading the meters.

3.49 It may be possible to verify Automatic Meter Reader (AMR) meter readings remotely subject to certain criteria. If a generator wants to verify using AMR data, they should contact their FIT Licensee to discuss the options. Further information is available in our 'Feed-in Tariffs: Guidance for Licensed Electricity Suppliers'.

[29] Schedule A to Part 33 of the Standard conditions of electricity supply licence, Paragraph 3.2.6

Co-locating storage with a FIT installation

3.50 Where storage is co-located with a FIT installation, FIT payments can be made if the metering requirements set out in the standard licence conditions are satisfied and it is clear that the generation meter and, if relevant, the export meter only measure electricity generated by the FIT installation. We provide examples of when storage can be co-located with a FIT installation in our 'Guidance for generators: Co-location of electricity storage facilities with renewable generation supported under the Renewables Obligation or Feed-in Tariff schemes'.

3.51 As with other changes to a FIT installation, co-locating storage with the FIT installation should be reported to the FIT Licensee, in accordance with the requirement within the Statement of FIT Terms. ROO-FIT installations should also ensure this is reflected as an amendment to the ROO-FIT accreditation application to Ofgem.

3.52 When notifying the change, generators will need to provide the FIT Licensee, and where relevant Ofgem, with the following information:

- an updated single line or schematic diagram identifying how the electricity from the installation is provided to the storage facility and the metering arrangements in place,
- details of the meter readings used to claim the FIT payments, and
- details of the storage facility installed, including confirmation of the date the storage facility was installed and commissioned together with supporting evidence.

Using previously accredited equipment

3.53 If we believe that any generating equipment has formed part of an installation previously accredited under the FIT or RO schemes, the installation will not receive FIT accreditation.

3.54 If a FIT installation is moved from its Site, for example where its owner moves property and takes the generating equipment to their new property, they will not be entitled to receive a new FIT accreditation, nor will they be able to continue receiving FIT payments under their previous accreditation.

Installations which are selling or have sold electricity under a NFFO or SRO contract[30]

3.55 Electricity from installations which are selling or have sold electricity under a NFFO or SRO arrangement will be ineligible to join the FIT scheme.

3.56 In addition to the requirements of Article 7(1)(c) of the FIT Order, we will also look to the NFFO/SRO requirements in the ROO when assessing an application for accreditation. Further guidance on the NFFO/SRO requirements under the ROO is available in the 'Renewables Obligation: Guidance for generators' on our website.

Hydro installations and pumped storage

3.57 "Hydro Generating Station" is defined in the FIT Order as:

"a generating installation driven by water, except for such an installation—

a) driven by waves, ocean currents or geothermal sources;

b) driven by tidal flows, unless also driven partly by non-tidal flows from a water course; or

c) where the hydrostatic head of the water has been increased by pumping."

3.58 The definition of "Hydro Generating Station" must be read alongside the FIT "Site" requirements (see 'Defining "Site"' section).

3.59 A Hydro Generating Station which generates electricity from water where the hydrostatic head of the water has been increased by pumping will not be eligible to receive FIT accreditation.

[30] NFFO contracts were the initial means used by the Government to implement its renewable energy policy, prior to the introduction of the RO. These required the then Public Electricity Suppliers to purchase electricity from renewable generators and provided for this electricity to be purchased at fixed prices for long term contract periods (typically 15 years).

3.60 If it is unclear to us whether water that feeds an Eligible Installation has been pumped or not, we may request that the applicant arranges for an independent audit report to be submitted to us.

Combining FIT and grants

3.61 The FIT scheme aims to replace publicly funded grants as a way to encourage the growth of small-scale renewable generation. As such, it is not generally possible for an installation which has received a grant from public funds to be eligible for the FIT scheme.

3.62 The FIT Order prohibits accrediting an installation where a grant has been made from public funds towards any costs of purchasing and/or installing it[31]. There are some grant exemptions – please see paragraph 3.72 for further information.

3.63 The term "grant from public funds" is defined in the FIT Order as:

"a grant made by a public authority or by any person distributing funds on behalf of a public authority.[32]"

3.64 These authorities or people could include:

- UK Government departments such as Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA), Department of Energy and Climate Change (DECC), Department for Business, Innovation and Skills (BIS) and Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy (BEIS)
- Local and regional councils
- Organisations distributing money on behalf of the Government and European Union such as Energy Saving Trust
- European governments
- The National Lottery

[31] Article 7(3) of the FIT Order
[32] Article 2(1) of the FIT Order

What costs are associated with purchasing or installing an installation?

3.65 These costs include all costs associated with the Eligible Installation (see 'Definitions of "Eligible Installation"' section and "Site" section), including all electrical components, civil works for hydro installations and the costs associated with installing a grid connection. This does not include grid reinforcement costs associated with the DNOs' wider network.

What costs are not associated with purchasing or installing an installation?

3.66 Grant(s) received for items outside of the Eligible Installation need not be declared as part of an application for FIT accreditation. Table 1 below shows some examples.

Table 1: Examples of costs not associated with an installation

Technology	Example of costs that are not part of the installation for the purposes of FIT
PV	• Pre-design feasibility studies • Local electricity grid reinforcement/upgrades
Wind	• Pre-design feasibility studies • Local electricity grid reinforcement/upgrades
MicroCHP	• Pre-design feasibility studies • Local electricity grid reinforcement/upgrades
AD	• Pre-design feasibility studies • Infrastructure for transmitting electricity/heat generated by AD plant, e.g. to neighbouring buildings • Local electricity grid reinforcement/upgrades • Transforming digestate into different products, e.g. dewatering to create dry compost as opposed to a low dry matter liquid. • Secondary gas treatment/use • Educational facilities associated with the AD plant, e.g. visitor centre. Large scale: • Secondary feedstock pre-treatment Small scale: • Slurry/maize storage
Hydro	• Pre-design feasibility studies • Local electricity grid reinforcement/upgrades

Declaring a grant during the accreditation process

3.67 During the accreditation process, all generators will be asked if they have received a grant or the offer of a grant from public funds for the purposes of purchasing and/or installing the installation. If you declare that a grant has been or will be received, we will assess whether the grant affects whether the installation is eligible to receive FIT accreditation.

3.68 If you have received a grant but it has been repaid to the grant issuing body before you apply for accreditation, you must declare 'yes' when asked if you have received a grant or the offer of a grant from public funds. You will be asked for documentary evidence of the grant being repaid as part of your application.

Assessing a grant

3.69 If an applicant declares to have received a grant from public funds, we will find out:

- Whether the grant is from public funds[33]
- Whether the grant was made for the purposes of purchasing and/or installing the installation

3.70 As part of assessing the grant, we will need to see several documents, including:

- A copy of the grant application form submitted to the grant issuing body to ask for the grant funding
- A copy of the grant offer letter including the full terms and conditions
- A breakdown of what the grant was actually and/or will be used for, including project costs and paid invoices

3.71 We will consider any additional supporting information provided by the FIT Generator as part of the grant assessment.

Grants exemptions

3.72 There are a limited number of circumstances when an installation owner may be eligible to receive FIT payments despite having received a grant from public funds. These circumstances fall into two categories:

- Reasonable additional costs exemption, and

[33] The 2012 FIT Order defines a "grant from public funds" as a grant made by a public authority or by any person distributing funds on behalf of a public authority. In assessing whether a grant making body is a public authority some of the criteria we will take into account are the nature of its functions, the degree of control exercised by the state in the performance by it of its functions and the extent to which it is funded by public funds.

- Compliance with the EC's rules on de minimis aid

Reasonable additional costs exemption

3.73 The FIT Order 2012 allows an installation to receive FIT payments even if a grant has been received, provided that the grant is made for reasonable additional costs to avoid or mitigate environmental harm.

3.74 This may include measures to protect fish and other wildlife in small hydro schemes. The grant **must not** exceed the total reasonable additional costs[34].

3.75 Costs associated with purchasing land or inefficient or poorly located installations will not be considered reasonable additional costs.

3.76 The costs and returns associated with solar PV, wind and CHP are relatively standard. We do not expect installations using these technologies to have reasonable costs associated with avoiding or mitigating environmental harm.

3.77 It is for the FIT Generator to give us supporting documentary evidence that:

- the installation has incurred reasonable costs, additional to the standard costs of purchasing or installing an installation of that technology and size
- those costs have been incurred through avoiding or mitigating environmental harm
- any grant(s) received for the installation have been made to cover all or some of the cost of those measure(s) and no other costs of the installation

3.78 As with any eligibility matter, Ofgem cannot confirm whether a grant meets the reasonable additional costs exemption before receiving an application for accreditation. It is for the FIT Generator to prove to us that their installation meets the requirements of this exemption at the point of application.

[34] Previous versions of this guidance included a non-exhaustive list of costs that were standard to an installation of a specific technology type (table 2). The list has now been removed. When assessing whether the costs are reasonable additional costs, we will do so within the meaning of Article 7(3) and the definition of an eligible installation. The assessment is completed on a case-by-case basis.

Complying with the European Commission's rules on de minimis aid

3.79 The FIT Order 2010 included provisions allowing Eligible Installations to combine a public grant and FIT payments, provided the combined support complied with the European Commission's rules on de minimis aid. These provisions don't apply to installations commissioning at present.

3.80 For these provisions to be relevant, the Eligible Installation must have, at a minimum:

- received a grant made before 1 July 2011
- been commissioned before 1 October 2011.

3.81 If you need more information, refer to the FIT Generator Guidance Version 5.

Grants that do not meet the exemptions

3.82 If a grant for an installation does not meet any of the above exemptions, the grant must be repaid before the installation can be considered for FIT accreditation.

3.83 The FIT Generator should discuss grant repayment with the grant issuing body directly. We will ask for evidence that a grant has been repaid to the relevant body before we consider an application for FIT accreditation.

False declarations

3.84 FIT Generators must confirm that all information they submit to support their application for accreditation is true and accurate.

3.85 Following accreditation, if we become aware that the grant information was inaccurate, we will consider suspending the accreditation using our powers under Article 17 of the FIT Order, or instructing the FIT Licensee to recoup FIT payments under Article 35 of the FIT Order.

Stand-alone and standard PV installations[35]

3.86 For FIT tariff purposes, PV installations fall into one of two categories, "stand-alone" or "standard". An application for accreditation or preliminary accreditation submitted on or after 15 January 2016 must correctly state the category of PV installation. If the wrong category is stated when the application is submitted the application may be refused and the place in the deployment caps queue forfeited. We encourage all PV applicants to carefully read this section and take care when completing their application for FIT accreditation.

Solar PV installations with a TIC of 250kW or less

3.87 A solar PV installation with a TIC of 250kW or less will be classified as stand-alone if it is not wired to provide electricity to a building. If it is wired to provide electricity to a building, it will be classified as standard[36].

Solar PV installations with a TIC greater than 250kW

3.88 A solar PV installation with a TIC of greater than 250kW will be classed as stand-alone if it:

- is not wired to provide electricity to a building; or
- is wired to provide electricity to a building or buildings where:

A) the maximum amount of electricity that the site can consume is less than 10% of the DNC of the installation,

or

B) the maximum amount of electricity that can be imported from the network via the import connection(s) of the site is less than 10% of the DNC of the installation.

[35] Schedule A to Standard Condition 33 of the Electricity Supply Licence and the FIT tariff tables refer to "other than stand-alone". However, for simplicity and ease of reference, the application and our guidance uses the term "standard".

[36] Annex 3 of Schedule A to Standard Condition 33 of the Electricity Supply Licence

Standard PV installations >250kW

3.89 To demonstrate that an installation greater than 250kW that is wired to a building should be classed as standard, applicants will need to provide documentary evidence in support of both A and B above. At a minimum, the evidence for A and B should take the form of:

A) An explanation and summary of the main on-site loads supplied by the installation. This should refer to the maximum kW demand of the loads,

and

B) The connection agreement for the site listing the maximum permitted import capacity from the grid.

3.90 We must be satisfied by the evidence and we may ask for more if necessary. Each application will be assessed on a case by case basis.

3.91 Both criteria A and B must be met in order for the installation to be classed as "standard". Evidence against both criteria must confirm a load/import capacity equal to at least 10% of the installation's DNC.

3.92 The DNC of a solar installation is normally assessed as either: the maximum AC output (kW) of the inverters, or the maximum DC (kW) output of the panels, whichever is the lesser.

3.93 Please note, if you are applying for preliminary accreditation, the application must declare whether the installation is stand-alone or standard. On converting the accreditation to full accreditation that classification cannot change, or the benefits of preliminary accreditation will be lost. Please see the section "Invalidating Preliminary Accreditation" in paragraphs 44.65 and 44.66.

3.94 Where an installation that has been accredited as a standard installation is extended and that extension is commissioned before 15 January 2016, the extension will also be classed as standard[37].

[37] Paragraph 1C, Annex 3 of Schedule A to Standard Condition 33 of the Electricity Supply License

Energy efficiency requirements (PV only)

3.95 Where the energy efficiency requirement applies, applicants must demonstrate that the building that the solar PV is wired to provide electricity has achieved an Energy Performance Certificate (EPC) rating of level D or above to receive the higher tariff. This assumes that the multi-installation tariff (see 'Multi-installation tariff' section) does not apply.

3.96 Installations with an application date (or, for installations which have been granted preliminary accreditation, a commissioned or 'convert to full' [38] application date) on or after 10 May 2016 must have an EPC rating of level D or above issued before the commissioned date in order to be considered for the higher tariff rate (or the middle tariff if the multi-installation tariffs are applicable). Any installation that has not achieved an EPC level D or above at this time will receive the lower tariff.

3.97 Community energy and school installations may still be permitted to receive the higher tariff with a lower EPC rating if certain conditions are met.

3.98 There are a limited number of other situations where this requirement does not need to be met. These are discussed later.

What is an EPC?

3.99 The Energy Performance of Buildings (EPB) Regulations[39] require an Energy Performance Certificate (EPC) whenever a building is constructed or marketed for sale or rent. The certificate gives an asset rating which indicates how energy efficient a building is.

3.100 A rating band is allocated on both domestic and non-domestic EPCs.

3.101 A domestic EPC may have two rating bands – an energy efficiency rating band and an environmental impact rating band. For the purpose of meeting the energy efficiency requirement under the FIT, the rating band addressing energy efficiency is the relevant rating band. The EPC allocates an estimate of the amount of energy needed for certain activities (such as heating) associated with the use of the building.

[38] This is the date an application is submitted converting the preliminary accreditation to full accreditation

[39] EPB (England and Wales) Regulations 2012; EPB Regulations (Scotland) 2008 - www.legislation.gov.uk

3.102 A non-domestic EPC has one rating band – the Energy Performance Asset Rating band (England and Wales) or Building Energy Performance Rating band (Scotland) which is based upon calculated greenhouse gas emissions. For the purpose of meeting the energy efficiency requirement under the FIT, this is the relevant rating band.

3.103 An EPC is valid for ten years from the issue date unless a new assessment is made and a new certificate is issued.

3.104 More information on EPCs is on the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government (MHCLG) website[40] and the Scottish Government website.[41]

Assessing whether the energy efficiency requirement applies

3.105 The energy efficiency requirement does not apply to stand-alone PV installations or standard PV installations with a TIC greater than 250kW.

3.106 The energy efficiency requirement applies to a PV installation with a TIC of 250kW or less which is wired to a "relevant building" or wired to provide electricity to one or more such buildings.

3.107 A relevant building is defined in Schedule A to Standard Licence Condition 33[42] and must be a roofed construction which has walls *and* where energy is used to condition the indoor climate, whether heating or cooling systems. If any aspect of this definition does not apply to all buildings to which the PV installation is wired to provide electricity to on its commissioned date, then the energy efficiency requirement does not apply.

3.108 A relevant building must also be a building in respect of which an EPC can be issued before the PV installation is commissioned. If an EPC cannot be issued at this point then the building is not a relevant building and the energy efficiency requirement does not apply.

3.109 Under the EPB Regulations, some properties are exempt from the requirement for an EPC, but if a building can be assessed and receive an EPC then the energy efficiency

[40] MHCLG information on Energy Performance Certificates can be found at www.gov.uk; "Energy Performance Certificates guidance" section .

[41] Scottish Government Website - www.scotland.gov.uk

[42] Annex 5 of Schedule A to Standard Condition 33 of the Electricity Supply Licence

requirement will apply under the FIT legislation (irrespective of whether an EPB exemption applies).

Meeting the requirement

3.110 If the energy efficiency requirement applies, we will ask the FIT Generator to provide a copy of a valid EPC level D or above. The EPC must, at the time the PV installation was commissioned, be the most recent EPC issued for the relevant building and should confirm:

- whether an EPC level D or above was achieved (or level G for community energy and school installations), and
- the date the EPC was issued.

3.111 An EPC is "valid" if it was issued before, but not more than 10 years before, the commissioned date[43] of the PV installation *and* was, on the commissioned date, the most recent EPC that had been issued for the relevant building.

3.112 A Display Energy Certificate (DEC) will not be accepted as proof of meeting the energy efficiency requirement.

3.113 If an installation is wired to provide electricity to a number of relevant buildings, only one of those buildings needs to satisfy the energy efficiency requirement.

How to demonstrate that you are exempt from the Energy Efficiency Requirement

3.114 Where it is claimed that the energy efficiency requirement does not apply because the installation is not wired to provide electricity to any relevant buildings the following evidence should be provided:

- A self-declaration completed by both the FIT Generator and an accredited EPC assessor or other suitably qualified person (a template declaration is provided in appendix 7).

  A) Part 1 should be completed by the owner or FIT Generator of the PV installation.

[43]See paragraph 33.34.

B) Part 2 should be completed by an accredited EPC assessor or other suitably qualified person.

3.115 In all cases, failure to demonstrate that the energy efficiency requirement does not apply will result in the lower tariff being allocated to the installation.

3.116 These examples describe different scenarios and explain what evidence is needed, where an installation is wired to provide electricity to:

- one "relevant building": must provide an EPC for that building,
- one non "relevant building": must prove that the building is not a "relevant building" (self-declaration template in Appendix 7) and that they therefore do not need to meet the energy efficiency requirement,
- multiple "relevant buildings": must provide one EPC for any one of the buildings,
- multiple non-relevant buildings: must prove that all the buildings do not need to meet the energy efficiency requirement, and
- a combination of "relevant" and non "relevant buildings": must provide one EPC for any of the relevant buildings.

Declarations

3.117 Applications for accreditation must include a declaration relating to the energy efficiency requirement (see Appendices 2 and 3). The declaration must be signed to confirm that the energy efficiency requirement is applicable and if it has been met.

3.118 We advise you to read the relevant sections of the FIT Order, the SLCs, and this guidance document and take your own legal advice, before signing the relevant declarations.

Multi-installation tariffs (PV only)

3.119 Multi-installation tariffs apply to any solar PV installation with a TIC up to and including 250kW and where the FIT Generator or nominated recipient already owns or gets FIT payments for **25 or more other** eligible solar PV installations.[44]

3.120 For the purposes of this document, the multi-installation tariff is a reduced, middle tariff rate that applies to an installation. But where the energy efficiency requirement is applicable and not met, the lower tariff rate will always apply.

3.121 Tariff information is available on Ofgem's website[45]. Please see the paragraph below and table 2 for an explanation on the effect of the energy efficiency requirement and multi-installation tariff in terms of the higher, middle and lower tariff rate.

Determining when multi-installation tariffs apply

3.122 When determining whether the multi-installation tariffs apply, use the following criteria:

- where the FIT Generator for the installation and anyone connected to them (see below for definitions) are or have applied to be, the FIT Generator or nominated recipient for 25 or more other eligible solar PV installations on different sites, the multi-installation tariffs will apply, or
- where the nominated recipient for the installation and anyone connected to them (see below for definitions) are, or have applied to be, the FIT Generator or nominated recipient for 25 or more other eligible solar PV installations on different sites, the multi-installation tariffs will apply.

3.123 A "connected person" means anyone in the context of a FIT Generator or nominated recipient connected to that person within the meaning of section 1122 of the Corporation Tax Act 2010.[46] These provisions are detailed and a full explanation of them is beyond the scope of this guidance.

3.124 Where participants or prospective participants in the FIT scheme are assessing whether the multi-installation tariffs may apply to them, we suggest they take independent legal

[44] Allocated through the tariff code under Article 13 of the FIT Order

[45] www.ofgem.gov.uk/FITs

[46] Corporation Tax Act 2010, section 1122 - www.legislation.gov.uk

advice. Participants or prospective participants should note that the FIT legislation requires that a FIT Generator or nominated recipient and (in each case) connected people are assessed collectively when assessing whether the multi-installation rate applies.

3.125 Below are some common **examples** only of how a person (person A) may be a connected person relative to someone else (person B):

- Person A is person B's spouse or civil partner
- Person A is person B's relative
- Person A is a relative of person B's spouse or civil partner
- Person A is a spouse or civil partner of a relative of person B
- Person A and person B are both companies: and the same person (person C) has control over both
- Person A and person B are both companies; person C has control over person A; and persons connected with person C have control over person B.

Determining when multi-installation tariffs apply when the FIT Generator or nominated recipient changes after accreditation

3.126 When a FIT Generator or nominated recipient changes in relation to an accredited installation, the multi-installation assessment should be made again with reference to the following criteria:

- If (on the date the notice is received) the new FIT Generator or new nominated recipient for the installation identified in the notice and anyone who is a connected person (see paragraphs above) are, or have applied to be, the FIT Generator or nominated recipient for 25 or more other eligible solar PV installations on different sites, the multi-installation rate will apply to the installation that the notice relates to.

Continued application of the multi-installation tariff

3.127 If, before a change in FIT Generator or nominated recipient, an installation is receiving the higher tariff (please refer to the Multi-installation tariff table in this section) and after the change the multi-installation tariff is to apply, the tariff level will be lowered to the middle tariff.

3.128 If, before a change in FIT Generator or nominated recipient, an installation is receiving the middle tariff (please refer to the Multi-installation tariff table in this section) then, following the change, although the criteria for the multi-installation tariff may no longer apply, the multi-installation tariff will continue to apply.

3.129 So if the multi-installation tariff has been applied to an installation, the installation will continue to be subject to the tariff, even if changes in FIT Generator or nominated recipient mean the criteria for the multi-installation are no longer met.

Declarations

3.130 Applications for accreditation and notices of changes of FIT Generators or nominated recipients received on or after 1 April 2012 must include a declaration about the multi-installation tariffs (see Appendix 2 and 3). The owner or nominated recipient must sign a declaration to confirm that they are or are not the owner or nominated recipient for 25 or more other solar PV installations.

3.131 There are different outcomes of each declaration that can be signed in Appendices 2 and 3:

Appendix 2

- If Declaration 4 is signed, this indicates that the multi-installation tariff will apply to the installation.
- If Declaration 5 is signed, this indicates that the multi-installation tariff will not apply to the installation.

Appendix 3

- If Declaration 1 for changes to the FIT Generator or nominated recipient is signed, this indicates that the multi-installation tariff will apply to the installation.
- If Declaration 2 for changes to the FIT Generator or nominated recipient is signed, this indicates that the multi-installation tariff will not apply to the installation unless already subject to the middle tariff.

3.132 We advise you to read the relevant sections of the FIT Order, the SLCs, and this guidance document and take your own legal advice, before signing the relevant declarations.

Existing installations, extensions and other technologies

3.133 Existing solar PV installations with an Eligibility Date before 1 April 2012 will be included when assessing whether the multi-installation tariff applies. Tariffs for these installations will not change as a consequence of the multi-installation tariff applying to any new installations.

3.134 In these circumstances the multi-installation tariff will apply to the 26th installation and each subsequent installation will be subject to the multi-installation tariff, depending on whether the energy efficiency requirement applies and is met.

3.135 Extensions to accredited solar PV installations will not be treated as separate installations when assessing whether the multi-installation tariff applies.

3.136 FIT installations using technologies other than solar PV will not be included when assessing whether the multi-installation tariff applies.

The effect of energy efficiency and multi-installation on tariff rates

3.137 Since 1 April 2012, three tariff rates have been available to solar PV installations: a higher rate, a middle rate, and a lower rate. These rates depend on meeting the energy efficiency requirement and whether the multi-installation tariff applies.

3.138 Tariff information is on Ofgem's website.[47]

3.139 Table 2 shows the tariff outcomes based on a new solar PV installation, its interaction with the energy efficiency requirement, and whether the multi-installation tariff applies.

Table 2: Multi-installation tariffs

New solar PV installations with an Eligibility Date on or after 1 April 2012	**Multi-installation tariff applies**	**Multi-installation tariff does NOT apply**

[47] http://www.ofgem.gov.uk/FITs

Energy efficiency requirement met by installation	Middle rate	Higher rate
Energy efficiency requirement NOT met by installation	Lower rate*	Lower rate*
Energy efficiency requirement not applicable for installation	Middle rate	Higher rate

* Installations will receive the lower tariff rate when an installation has not met the energy efficiency requirement, regardless of whether the multi-installation tariff should apply.

Community energy installations and school installations

3.140 A number of benefits are available for "community energy installations[48]" and "school installations".[49]

3.141 These include:

- A six-month extension to ROO-FIT preliminary accreditation validity periods for community energy installations. These validity periods remain valid beyond the closure date of 1 April 2019.
- MCS-scale installations applying for pre-registration before 1 April 2019 can use the standard 12-month validity period to commission and apply.
- Community pre-registrations which expire between 1 March and 31 March 2020 receive a 12-month extension to their original validity period [50].
- A modification for community organizations that, in principle, allows two installations to share a grid connection (MPAN) and still be considered as

[48] Article 11(6) – FIT Order
[49] Article 12(6) – FIT Order
[50] The Feed-in Tariffs (Amendment) (Coronavirus) Order 2020. For more information, visit our Changes to the FIT Scheme web page.

occupying separate Sites, provided that both installations have Tariff or Eligibility Dates on or after 1 April 2015.

- A relaxation of the Energy Efficiency Requirement for non-domestic PV installations with a capacity not exceeding 250kW.
- A tariff guarantee for MCS-scale PV community energy installations for applications received from 1 December 2012 to 30 September 2015 (inclusive).

3.142 There are specific eligibility requirements to benefit from these measures. For further information, refer to our separate publications: 'Feed-in Tariff: Guidance for Community Energy and School Installations' and 'FIT Community and Schools FAQ'.

Additional requirements for AD

3.143 From 1 May 2017, AD generators that made a new application for preliminary accreditation or full accreditation on or after 1 May 2017 will have to comply with sustainability criteria. These generators will also be subject to feedstock restrictions and reporting requirements which may affect their FIT generation payments. FIT export payments will not be affected by these new requirements.

3.144 Generators who made an application for preliminary accreditation or full accreditation before 1 May 2017, but fall into a tariff period that starts on or after 1 May 2017, **will not** be required to comply with the sustainability criteria and feedstock restrictions.

3.145 Affected AD generators will only be entitled to full FIT generation payments if they comply with the sustainability criteria, feedstock restrictions and reporting requirements. In summary, these ongoing obligations are:

- Generators will have to submit quarterly sustainability declarations to confirm whether the feedstocks used in the previous quarter meet the sustainability criteria.
- Generators will have to submit annual feedstock declarations to confirm the feedstocks used in the previous year and whether the previous year's FIT generation payments are affected by the feedstock restrictions.
- Quarterly generation meter readings must be submitted to the FIT licensee within 28 calendar days from the end of the relevant quarterly period. Unless otherwise specified by Ofgem, the quarterly meter reading timetable will commence from the installation's Eligibility Date, and as best practice we recommend generators

take their generation meter readings within a window of +/- 3 days of the start and end dates of each quarterly period.

- Installations with a TIC greater than or equal to 1MW will have to submit an annual independent audit report to Ofgem to demonstrate and verify compliance with the sustainability criteria and feedstock restrictions.

- Records of all feedstocks used for production of biogas by the installation must be kept. Ofgem may request these records throughout the duration of an installation's accreditation on the FIT scheme.

3.146 Generators will also have to complete and submit a Fuel Measurement and Sampling (FMS) questionnaire when making an application for preliminary accreditation, when converting to full accreditation or making an application for full accreditation. The FMS questionnaire requires generators to detail the procedures for the measurement and sampling of their fuels which must be discussed with Ofgem before accreditation can be granted.

3.147 Please see 'Feed-in Tariffs: Guidance on sustainability criteria and feedstock restrictions' for more information.

Preliminary Accreditation

Chapter summary

Here you can find out about the key eligibility requirements of the preliminary accreditation process, the documents required, and how to apply.

What is preliminary accreditation?

4.1 Preliminary accreditation under the FIT scheme is a way to assure prospective generators that they will be accredited, and of the tariff rate they will receive, before they commission their Eligible Installation. This assurance will have a set validity period depending on the technology.

4.2 Preliminary accreditation is available to all installations that, once commissioned, would use the ROO-FIT route of accreditation (solar PV and wind installations with a DNC over 50kW and all AD and hydro installations).

4.3 Preliminary accreditation was re-introduced into the FIT scheme on 8 February 2016.[51]

4.4 Preliminary accreditation is not available to extensions.

4.5 Installations that applied for preliminary accreditation on or before 31 March 2019 can still receive accreditation after this date, as long as they commission and convert to a full application within their validity period.

4.6 Preliminary accreditations which expire on or after 1 March 2020 receive a 12-month extension to their original validity period.

4.7 Only installations with preliminary accreditation can use the closure grace period for grid or radar works delays.

How to apply for preliminary accreditation

4.8 You can submit an application for preliminary accreditation for yourself or on behalf of a company who proposes to construct or operate an installation. The "super user" of the generator account set up on our Register should be the individual or representative of the company that proposes to construct or operate the Eligible Installation.

[51] Preliminary accreditation was temporarily closed to new applications between 1 October 2015 and 7 February 2016.

4.9 Installations to be owned by a community organisation get a six-month extension to their validity period. For further information, refer to our publication: 'Feed-in Tariff: Guidance for Community Energy and School Installations'.

4.10 An application for preliminary accreditation is made via the Register. It can be submitted at any time before the installation's commissioning date. Please refer to paragraph 4.53 which shows an installation's validity period.

4.11 An application must be accompanied by all the documents listed in paragraph 4.16. Documents must have been issued on or before the date that the application for preliminary accreditation is submitted to Ofgem.[52] They must clearly state the date it was issued. If this requirement is not met in full, the application will be rejected and the guaranteed tariff and place in the queue will be forfeited.

4.12 The onus is on the generator to familiarise themselves with the Register and guidance documents before setting up a generator account and submitting an application. The applicant will need to complete these steps:

- Create a generator account via the Register.
- Complete an application for accreditation via their generator account and click the 'send' button.[53]
- Provide supporting documentary evidence either by uploading it with the application or emailing it to renewable@Ofgem.gov.uk.
- Complete the relevant declarations.
- Respond to any queries we raise on the application. Email notifications will be sent to generators if we have queries.

4.13 Once an application has been submitted the generator will receive an email confirming receipt of the application.

[52] An application is submitted to Ofgem and takes its place in the deployment caps queue on the date and time the applicant completed all of the questions in the application form on the Renewables and CHP Register and clicks the 'send' button at the end of the application. The applicant must then go on to complete the relevant declarations.

4.14 Each application goes through two or three stages of review depending on complexity. If we need more information, we will raise a query and the applicant will be able to view this in their account on the Register. We will grant accreditation once we are satisfied that all eligibility criteria are met. If the assessment of an application is complete before the tariff period that the application falls into is opened, we will grant the preliminary accreditation following the opening of the relevant tariff period.

4.15 An application for preliminary accreditation submitted on or after 15 January 2016 must accurately state the technology and TIC of the installation. For PV installations it must also accurately state whether the installation will be categorised as standard or stand-alone (see 'Stand-alone and standard PV installations' section above). If any of these details are incorrectly stated when the application is submitted, the application may be refused and the place in the deployment caps queue forfeited. We encourage all applicants to carefully read this guidance and take care when completing their application.

Prerequisite documentation

4.16 Your application for preliminary accreditation must be accompanied by documentary evidence that addresses:[54]

- planning permission
- grid connection agreement
- licences and consents (hydro only)

4.17 The documentary evidence should satisfy us that you have got planning permission, you have entered into a grid connection agreement, and, for hydro installations, that all relevant licences and consents have been granted for the installation. Alternatively, if any of the above are not required for the installation, the documentary evidence to show that this is the case.

4.18 In all cases, the documentary evidence must have been issued on or before the date the application for preliminary accreditation was submitted to Ofgem.

4.19 If documentary evidence is absent, insufficient or issued after the date of application, preliminary accreditation cannot be granted. The application will be rejected, the place in the deployment queue forfeited and no 'Tariff date' will be allocated (see 'The guaranteed

[54] Article 9(3)(3) The FIT Order 2012

tariff' section below). A new application may be submitted once suitable evidence is available.

Planning permission

4.20 An application for preliminary accreditation must be accompanied by a copy of the planning permission issued under the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 ("TCPA") in relation to installations in England and Wales, or the Town and Country Planning (Scotland) Act 1997 ("TCPSA") in relation to installations in Scotland. The planning permission must be specific to the installation for which an application for preliminary accreditation has been submitted.

Permitted development in Wales and Scotland

4.21 Where it is claimed that planning permission is granted as permitted development under the Town and Country Planning (General Permitted Development Order) 1995 (as amended) in Wales, or the Town and Country Planning (General Permitted Development (Scotland) Order 1992 (as amended) in Scotland, a Certificate of Lawfulness of Proposed Use or Development (CLOPUD) issued under section 192 of the TCPA or section 151 of the TCPSA should be provided as evidence of that grant of planning permission.

4.22 Where presented, a CLOPUD must be specific to the installation for which an application for preliminary accreditation has been submitted. It must also contain the planning authority's reasons for having issued the CLOPUD. A copy of the application for the CLOPUD should also accompany the application. This will enable an assessment to be made as to whether the installation described in the CLOPUD is the installation specified in the application for preliminary accreditation. Any CLOPUD submitted as evidence in support of an application for preliminary accreditation should be issued on or before the date of the application for preliminary accreditation.

Permitted development in England

4.23 On 15 April 2015 changes were made to permitted development in England[55]. One of the changes that may affect FIT preliminary accreditation applicants is that non-domestic roof-mounted PV installations up to 1MW and located in England may now be considered permitted development.

4.24 Where it is claimed that planning permission is granted as permitted development under any part of the Town and Country Planning (General Permitted Development Order) 2015

[55] Town and Country Planning (General Permitted Development) Order 2015

in England, a CLOPUD issued under section 192 of the TCPA (see paragraph 4.22 which explains what must be included in the CLOPUD) may be provided as evidence of that grant of planning permission.

4.25 Alternatively, where it is claimed that planning permission is granted as permitted development under schedule 2, part 14, class J of the Town and Country Planning (General Permitted Development Order) 2015, the following may be provided as evidence of that grant of planning permission:

Either:

- copies of:
  - the completed application for 'prior approval' as submitted to the relevant planning authority;[56] and,
  - the relevant planning authority's decision, giving prior approval or confirming that prior approval is not required.[57]

Or:

- a self-declaration (a template declaration is provided in appendix 6).
  - confirming that planning permission is granted under schedule 2, part 14, class J in respect of the installation; and,
  - describing the installation by reference to the relevant requirements of schedule 2, part 14, class J.

4.26 All documents submitted as evidence in support of the application for preliminary accreditation should be issued on or before the date of the application for preliminary accreditation is submitted to Ofgem.

4.27 Where a self-declaration is provided, we will include a condition on the grant of preliminary accreditation. That condition will require the applicant to provide evidence of the application for prior approval from the planning authority[58] and the result of that

[56] Required under Schedule 2 Part 14 Class J Condition J.4 of the Town and Country Planning (General Permitted Development) Order 2015

[57] Required under Schedule 2 Part 14 Class J Condition J.4 of the Town and Country Planning (General Permitted Development) Order 2015

[58] Required under Schedule 2 Part 14 Class J Condition J.4 of the Town and Country Planning (General Permitted Development) Order 2015

application. That evidence must be provided upon converting the preliminary accreditation to full accreditation.

4.28 Should a self-declaration incorrectly assert that planning permission is granted as permitted development, this may affect whether a commissioned installation may receive full accreditation, and/or the tariff date that is allocated to such an installation[59]. Further, this may result in the suspension or withdrawal of FIT accreditation and the suspension, reduction or recovery of FIT payments.[60]

4.29 We will not accept a self-declaration for any other class of permitted development under the Town and Country Planning (General Permitted Development Order) 2015. The self-declaration in appendix 6 should not be changed to suit any other class of permitted development.

4.30 Given the possible consequences of making an inappropriate self-declaration, we encourage applicants to consider obtaining appropriate advice in respect of issues related to planning permission. Due to their legal effect and status, we encourage the use of CLOPUDs for proposed installations wherever possible.

Planning permission is not required

4.31 Where it is claimed that a proposed installation does not require planning permission, satisfactory supporting evidence must be provided. Such evidence must have been issued on or before the date the application for preliminary accreditation is submitted to Ofgem.

4.32 We are unlikely to accept an informal officer's opinion or a statement or declaration from the applicant as suitable evidence that planning permission is not required.

Grid connection agreements

Grid connected installations

4.33 For installations which will be grid connected, one of the following two scenarios will apply:

A) If the installation needs a new connection: provide documentary evidence demonstrating that an agreement for the making of a grid connection is in place with a transmission or distribution network operator (TNO/DNO).

[59] Article 10(2) of the FIT Order

[60] Article 17 of the FIT Order

B) If the installation will use an existing connection: give documentary evidence demonstrating that the TNO/DNO is content for the installation to connect to its network without requiring further upgrade works to the existing connection.

4.34 In both scenarios, documentary evidence must have been issued on or before the date of application is submitted to Ofgem.

New Connections

4.35 If scenario "A" applies, the evidence should include, at minimum:

- a copy of the grid connection offer
- evidence of valid acceptance of that offer

4.36 A grid connection offer will usually specify the steps needed for it to be accepted. Examples of evidence of valid acceptance include (but are not limited to):

- evidence that a signed and dated acceptance of a connection offer was received by the DNO/TNO
- evidence that any payment required to accept a connection offer has been received by the DNO/TNO
- a letter from the DNO/TNO confirming an agreement for the making of the connection.

4.37 Because individual connection offers may vary, these examples are only illustrative. We will assess all evidence on a case-by-case basis.

4.38 The grid connection offer must cover the non-contestable works relating to the installation at a minimum. Any contestable works do not need to be covered in the offer.

Existing connections

4.39 Where scenario "B" applies (see "Grid connected installations" section above), supporting evidence must be provided. Again, because individual cases will vary it is not possible for this guidance to identify the evidence for any individual case. It could, for example, be a letter from the TNO/DNO confirming that no new works or upgrades to existing connections are necessary for connecting the new installation. This is often referred to as a "no works connection offer".

4.40 We are unlikely to accept a declaration from the applicant as suitable evidence that a grid connection agreement is not required.

4.41 We remind applicants that all evidence submitted must have been issued on or before the date the application for preliminary accreditation is submitted to Ofgem.

Restricted export capacity

4.42 If a grid connection agreement specifies an export capacity less than the DNC of the installation specified in an application for preliminary accreditation, applicants should consider how they will demonstrate that their installation has "commissioned". This matter is important at the full ROO-FIT accreditation stage, and applicants must be aware of it at the preliminary accreditation stage. Please refer to the "commissioned" section of this document for further details.

Off-grid installations

4.43 Off-grid installations do not have to provide any documents to meet this requirement. However please note paragraphs 4.65 and 4.49 which are concerned with 'Invalidating preliminary accreditation'.

Hydro generating station licences and consents

4.44 If the planned installation is a hydro generating station, it must have the following licences, consents and authorisations:

- For hydro generating stations in England and Wales the following licences and consents issued under the Water Resources Act 1991:
  - an abstraction licence,
  - an impounding licence, and
  - consent to erect any structure in, over or under a watercourse which is part of a main river. We will also accept permits issued under regulation 13 of the Environmental Permitting (England and Wales) Regulations 2010, or regulation 13 of the Environmental Permitting (England and Wales) Regulations 2016.
- For hydro generating stations in Scotland, an authorisation under the Water Environment (Controlled Activities) (Scotland) Regulations 2011 for:
  - abstraction,
  - impounding works, and
  - any other engineering works required for the installation.

4.45 All licences, consents and authorisations listed above which are relevant to the planned installation must have been issued for the installation on or before the date the application for preliminary accreditation is submitted to Ofgem.

4.46 If the installation does not need a licence, consent or authorisation, please supply supporting documentary evidence. We are unlikely to accept a declaration from the applicant as suitable evidence that any licences and consents are not required. Applicants are reminded that such evidence must have been issued on or before the date the application for preliminary accreditation is submitted to Ofgem.

Granting preliminary accreditation

4.47 If we are satisfied that the documents meet the requirements of the FIT Order and, were the installation to be commissioned, it could receive accreditation under the FIT scheme, we will grant preliminary accreditation. If the assessment of an application is complete before the tariff period the application falls into is opened, we will grant the preliminary accreditation following the opening of the relevant tariff period. We will notify the applicant to confirm preliminary accreditation and include the following information:

- the technology, TIC and location of the installation
- whether the installation is grid connected
- the dates when the preliminary accreditation starts and stops being valid
- the tariff period the installation has gained entry into which will apply if the installation is commissioned and submits an application converting the preliminary accreditation to full accreditation within the validity period
- the preliminary accreditation number (see paragraph 15.22)
- details of what constitutes a material change under the FIT scheme (see 'invalidating preliminary accreditation'), and
- any general or specific conditions attached to the preliminary accreditation by the Authority.

4.48 The energy efficiency and multi installation requirements are not assessed as part of the preliminary accreditation process. PV installations affected by these requirements could receive the higher, middle or lower tariff applicable on the tariff date.

4.49 If we refuse preliminary accreditation, we will tell the applicant in writing of the reasons for refusing it.

The guaranteed tariff

4.50 For installations granted preliminary accreditation which successfully go on to receive full accreditation, the FIT generation tariff is guaranteed based on the tariff period that the date of the application for preliminary accreditation falls into.

4.51 The "eligibility period" – i.e. the duration of FIT support – and the "eligibility date" – i.e. the date from which FIT support is payable is - is the later of the date we received the application converting the preliminary accreditation to full accreditation and the commissioned date.

4.52 The tariff guarantee will be valid provided:

- an application is submitted converting the preliminary accreditation to full accreditation and the installation is commissioned within the validity period (see paragraph 4.58).
- all eligibility requirements are met (see Chapter 3), and
- the installation is not materially different to the one that received preliminary accreditation (see paragraph 4.65 onwards).

4.53 Subject to paragraph 4.6, the 'validity period' of the preliminary accreditation tariff guarantee lasts for a fixed period[61]. The duration depends on technology[62]:

- PV – six months
- AD and Wind – one year
- Hydro – two years

4.54 The 'validity period' starts on the later of:

- the date the application for FIT preliminary accreditation is submitted to Ofgem, and
- the first day of the relevant tariff period the application for preliminary accreditation falls into.

[61] Preliminary accreditations due to expire after 1 March 2020 receive a 12-month extension to their original validity period
[62] Article 9(8) - FIT Order

4.55 Installations to be owned by a community organisation[63] get a six-month extension to their validity period[64]. For further information, refer to our publication: "Feed-in Tariff: Guidance for Community Energy and School Installations"[65].

Example

A tariff period opens on 1 April 2016 at 00:00:00 and closes on 30 June 2016 at 23:59:59. An installation exceeds the cap for that tariff period on 1 June 2016 at 12:20:35. An application for preliminary accreditation for a PV installation is submitted on 2 June 2016 at 11:53:20. That application is queued for entry into the next available tariff period. The next tariff period opens on 1 July 2016 at 00:00:00 and capacity is available for this installation to receive the tariff available in that tariff period. The validity period for this installation is 6 months commencing on 1 July 2016 and ending on 31 December 2016. The preliminary accreditation is granted. The installation is commissioned on 30 November 2016 and an application converting the preliminary accreditation to full accreditation is submitted to Ofgem on 1 December 2016; both within the 6-month validity period. The eligibility period and eligibility date start on 1 December 2016.

Effect of preliminary accreditation

4.56 Once an installation has been granted preliminary accreditation, a new application for preliminary accreditation cannot be made for the same installation until the validity period of the original application has expired.

4.57 Preliminary accreditation cannot be cancelled or withdrawn, other than in the circumstances provided for in Article 17A of the FIT Order.

Converting preliminary accreditation to full accreditation

4.58 To realise the benefits of preliminary accreditation, the installation must have been commissioned and the FIT Generator must have submitted an application to convert their preliminary accreditation to full accreditation, both within the validity period. This is done through the relevant generator account on the Register:

- Access your generator account on the Renewables and CHP Register.

[63] Article 11 – FIT Order

[64] Community pre-registrations due to expire between 1 March 2020 and 30 March 2020 receive a 12-month extension to their original validity period

[65] https://www.ofgem.gov.uk/environmental-programmes/feed-tariff-fit-scheme/applying-feed-tariff/benefits-communities-and-schools

- Click on the "Accreditation" tab.
- Click on "Convert preliminary accreditation to full accreditation"
- Select "view" next to the installation.
- The application will automatically fill in some of the answers to the questions based on the answers you provided in your application for preliminary accreditation.
- Review the previous answers and answer all new questions.
- Upload and submit any other information.
- Make the relevant declarations in advance of submitting an application.[66]

4.59 We will then assess the installation against all eligibility requirements of the FIT scheme. These are covered in Chapter 3 of this document.

Making a grace period application

4.60 Following the closure of the FIT scheme to new applications from 1 April 2019, only those who have made an application by 31 March 2019 may receive accreditation.

4.61 Installations with preliminary accreditation that experience a grid or radar works delay beyond their control can apply for a grace period within 12 months from the final day of their validity period. The installation must be commissioned when this application is made. This only applies to installations whose period of validity ends on or after 31 March 2019.

4.62 To make a grid works delay grace period application, the following documents must be provided:

- Evidence of a grid connection agreement from the TNO/DNO (this will have already been provided during preliminary accreditation – see 4.34)
- A copy of a document from the TNO/DNO estimating or setting a date for the grid connection works to be carried out, which should be before the end of the validity period for preliminary accreditation.

[66] An application will not be received by Ofgem until all declarations are agreed and the application submitted

- A letter or email from the TNO/DNO confirming that the grid works happened after the initially agreed date, and that in the opinion of the TNO/DNO the installation developer was not responsible for this.
- A declaration by the FIT generator that to the best of their knowledge and belief the installation would have been commissioned by the end of the validity period if the grid works were completed on time.

4.63 To make a radar works delay grace period application, the following documents must be provided:

- Evidence of an agreement from another party for radar works.
- A copy of a document from the radar works contractor estimating or setting a date for the radar works to be carried out, which should be before the end of the validity period for preliminary accreditation.
- A letter or email from the radar works contractor confirming that the radar works happened after the initially agreed date, and that in their opinion the installation developer was not responsible for this.
- A declaration by the FIT generator that to the best of their knowledge and belief the installation would have been commissioned by the end of the validity period if the radar works were completed on time.

4.64 For more information on making grace period applications, including a declaration template, see '[Feed-in Tariffs: Essential guide to closure of the scheme]'.

Invalidating preliminary accreditation

4.65 The preliminary accreditation and tariff guarantee will be void if:

- the installation is materially different from the installation which was granted preliminary accreditation (see below)
- any condition attached to the preliminary accreditation has not been complied with
- the information on which the preliminary accreditation was granted was incorrect in such a way that, had the Authority known the true position, preliminary accreditation would have been refused.

4.66 An installation would be considered materially different from the installation which was granted preliminary accreditation if:[67]

- its site is different to that stated in the preliminary accreditation
- it uses a different eligible low carbon energy source to that stated in the preliminary accreditation
- the installation is either:
  - grid connected and the preliminary accreditation said it was off-grid
  - off-grid while the preliminary accreditation stated grid connected.
- its TIC is greater than that stated in the preliminary accreditation
- its TIC is less than that stated in the preliminary accreditation such that the installation is subject to a different tariff band.
- for solar PV installations, the installation is either:
  - stand-alone and the preliminary accreditation said standard[68]
  - standard and the preliminary accreditation said stand-alone
- the installation is not owned by a community organisation[69] and the preliminary accreditation said it would be.

[67] Article 10(4) - FIT Order

[68] Standard Condition 33 of Electricity Supply License and the FIT tariff tables refer to "other than stand-alone". However, for simplicity and ease of reference, the application form and our guidance uses the term "standard".

[69] Article 11 – FIT Order

5. Accreditation for FIT

Chapter summary

Explains the ROO-FIT accreditation process. Shows how to apply for accreditation, how to appoint a FIT Licensee, the statement of FIT terms, the process for switching FIT Licensee, and FIT payments.

Types of accreditation

5.1 There are two routes to getting accredited under the FIT scheme:

- Customers using solar PV or wind with a DNC of 50kW or less, or CHP up to a TIC of 2kW, must use MCS-certified equipment installed by an MCS-certified installer, or an equivalent. Applicants should approach their electricity supplier for accreditation.
- All installations using a FIT-eligible technology with a DNC over 50kW up to a TIC of 5MW and AD and hydro installations of all capacities should apply to Ofgem for ROO-FIT accreditation.

5.2 This guidance covers the ROO-FIT accreditation process only. Applicants should approach their electricity supplier for further details about MCS scale accreditation

5.3 Please note that due to the closure of the scheme from 1 April 2019, no new applications are eligible for accreditation.

How to apply for accreditation

5.4 Only an installation owner can make an application for FIT accreditation. The "super user" of the generator account set up on our Register should be a representative of the company that owns and operates the Eligible Installation.

5.5 An application for ROO-FIT accreditation is made via a generator account that has been set up on the Register.[70] In order to apply for accreditation (without first seeking preliminary accreditation (see Chapter 4)) the installation must have been commissioned

[70] www.renewablesandchp.ofgem.gov.uk

before the application is submitted to Ofgem. If the installation is not commissioned when the application is submitted, the application will be refused and the place in the deployment caps queue forfeited.

5.6 The onus is on the generator to ensure that they are familiar with our Register and guidance documents before setting up and using a generator account and submitting an application. The installation owner will need to:

- create a generator account via the Register
- complete an application for accreditation to Ofgem via their account and click the 'send' button[71]
- provide supporting documentary evidence either by uploading it with the application or emailing it to renewable@ofgem.gov.uk
- complete the relevant declarations
- respond to any queries we raise on the application. Email notifications will be sent to generators if we have queries.

5.7 Once an application has been submitted the generator will receive an email confirming receipt of the application.

5.8 Each application goes through two to three stages of review. If we need more information, we will raise a query on the application, which the applicant will be able to view in their account. Accreditation will be granted once we are satisfied that all eligibility criteria have been met. If the assessment of an application is complete before the tariff period the application falls into is opened, we will grant the accreditation following the opening of the relevant tariff period.

5.9 An application for accreditation submitted on or after 15 January 2016 must accurately state the technology and TIC of the installation. For PV installations it must also accurately state whether the installation is categorised as standard or stand-alone (see 'Stand-alone and standard PV installations' section in Chapter 3). If any of these details are incorrectly stated when the application is submitted, the application may be refused and the place

[71] An application is submitted to Ofgem and takes its place in the deployment caps queue on the date and time the applicant completed all of the questions in the application form on the Renewables and CHP Register and clicks the 'send' button at the end of the application. The applicant must then go on to complete the relevant declarations.

in the deployment caps queue forfeited. We encourage all applicants to carefully read this guidance and take care when completing their application.

5.10 New installations with a DNC over 50kW, and up to a TIC of 5MW, have the one-off choice of applying under the RO or FIT schemes. Once accreditation has been granted, the installation cannot switch between schemes at any point. We strongly advise generators to be sure which scheme they wish to apply under before they apply to us.

The "Eligibility Date"

5.11 Once accreditation is granted, FIT support is payable from the "Eligibility Date".[72]

5.12 For applicants seeking full accreditation (without first seeking FIT preliminary accreditation), if all eligibility criteria are met the "Eligibility Date" is **the later of**:

- the date a full accreditation application is received by us – i.e. the date that the application is submitted via the Register, and
- the start date of the tariff period that the installation falls into

5.13 For applicants that have been granted preliminary accreditation and are seeking full accreditation, if all eligibility criteria are met and all necessary actions are completed within the validity period (see paragraph 4.53) the "eligibility date" **is the later of**:

- the date an application is submitted to Ofgem converting preliminary accreditation to full accreditation, and
- the date the installation commissioned.

5.14 For applications from a community organisation, where the MCS certificate was issued on or after 1 April 2019, the "eligibility date" is the date the application is received by the FIT licensee.

5.15 See 'Chapter 2: Deployment caps' for more on how FIT tariffs are assigned to an application.

5.16 Applicants should take meter readings on the date that the application is submitted to Ofgem. Where a relevant cap is closed at the time of an application being submitted, we also recommend that applicants take further readings on the first day of each quarter to

[72] Article 2(1) FIT Order and Schedule A to Standard Condition 33 of the Electricity Supply Licence

ensure they have a meter reading taken on the start date of the tariff period that the installation falls into.

5.17 FIT payments cannot be issued before the Eligibility Date nor can we backdate accreditation to before an application was first submitted. For example, an installation is commissioned on 20 January 2016 and an application for accreditation is submitted on 30 March 2016 at 17:20:22. There is sufficient capacity within the relevant cap to accommodate that installation. The "Eligibility Date" is 30 March 2016. FIT support is payable for generation or export from 30 March 2016. FIT support is not payable for any generation or export between 20 January 2016 and 29 March 2016.

5.18 If a FIT accredited installation is extended using the same technology, the eligibility date of the extension is the date the extension was commissioned. Extensions with commissioning dates on or after 15 January 2016 are not eligible for FIT accreditation.

5.19 We recommend that applicants contact their chosen FIT Licensee before or upon making an application for FIT accreditation. The FIT Licensee will explain the process for submitting meter readings.

Confirming accreditation

5.20 If we are satisfied that the installation meets all eligibility requirements and the installation has gained entry into a tariff period, we will confirm accreditation in writing to the FIT Generator. They should then take this confirmation to their FIT Licensee to agree a statement of FIT terms.

5.21 The confirmation of accreditation will state:

- the FIT accreditation number
- the TIC of the installation
- the technology type
- the Eligibility Date
- the Tariff Period they have gained entry to and the Tariff Date
- whether or not the multi-installation threshold applies (PV only)
- whether or not the energy efficiency requirement has been met (PV only)
- any general and specific conditions attached to the accreditation.

Accreditation number

5.22 When an installation is granted accreditation, we will issue a unique accreditation number. For example, for a wind installation in England, we would allocate a number such as FWD00006EN.

5.23 In this example:

- F signifies a FIT code
- WD is the ROO-FIT technology code for wind
- 00006 is the sequential installation number (in other words, this might be 00001 for the first installation of that technology type to be accredited, 00002 for the second installation of that technology type to be accredited etc.), and
- EN is the code for England, the country where the installation is (SC would indicate that the installation is in Scotland, and WA in Wales).

Technology codes

5.24 Here is a list of technology codes for all installation types accredited under the ROO-FIT:

- PV – Photovoltaics
- WD – Wind
- HD – Hydro
- AD – Anaerobic digestion.

5.25 Preliminary accreditation codes will follow the same structure as above but will begin with a P rather than an F.

5.26 Once the preliminary accreditation is converted to full accreditation, the accreditation number will have a prefix of the letter P, followed by five digits, two letters denoting the technology and two letters denoting the country, e.g. P12345PVEN.

Refusal to accredit

5.27 We will refuse to accredit an installation:

- if we are not satisfied it meets all eligibility requirements,
- if the application has been made fraudulently or by someone not entitled to apply for accreditation,

- if the application is for full accreditation (without first seeking preliminary accreditation) and the installation has not commissioned (see Chapter 3: Definition of 'commissioned' section above),
- if the technology stated in the application is incorrect,
- if the TIC stated in the application is incorrect (See Chapter 3: Definition of TIC and DNC' section above),
- for PV installations, if the application states the installation is categorised as standard when it is actually a stand-alone installation (see Chapter 2: Stand-alone and standard PV installations section above),
- for PV installations, if the application states the installation is categorised as stand-alone when it is actually a standard installation (see 'Stand-alone and standard PV installations' section above).

5.28 Where an application is refused, the place in the deployment caps queue is forfeited. We encourage all applicants to carefully read this guidance and take care when completing their application.

Appointing a FIT Licensee

5.29 Once successfully accredited, the FIT Generator must approach a FIT Licensee to register to receive FIT payments. The FIT Licensee will need the accreditation number to register the installation on the CFR. We recommend that the FIT Generator contact their chosen FIT Licensee before or upon making an application for FIT accreditation to discuss meter readings and FIT payments.

5.30 A list of FIT Licensees is available on our website.

5.31 A Mandatory FIT Licensee is obliged to register and make FIT payments in respect of an accredited FIT installation which:

- occupies a Site in relation to which the Mandatory FIT licensee is the "relevant electricity supplier" (as defined in the standard conditions of the electricity supply license).
- occupies a Site in relation to which the Mandatory FIT licensee is not the "relevant electricity supplier": and, which is not supplied with electricity by an Electricity Supplier (as defined in the standard conditions of the electricity supply licence) which is not a Mandatory FIT Licensee.

- occupies a Site which does not receive an electricity supply from any electricity supplier.

5.32 A Mandatory FIT Licensee is also free to register and make FIT payments to any FIT Generator or nominated recipient it chooses to offer FIT services.

5.33 A Voluntary FIT Licensee is obliged to register and make FIT payments when requested by one of its own customers who own an installation with a DNC of 50kW or below.

5.34 A Voluntary FIT Licensee is also free to register and make FIT payments to any FIT Generator or nominated recipient it chooses to offer FIT services.

5.35 There is more information on the roles and responsibilities of FIT Licensees in the Feed-in Tariff supplier guidance.

Statement of FIT terms

5.36 Once a FIT Licensee has been appointed by the FIT Generator, a Statement of FIT Terms must be agreed before FIT payments can begin.

5.37 The Statement of FIT terms must be made in writing and include the Principal Generator Terms[73] as follows:

- obligations relevant to FIT Payments, including:

a. Tariff Code
b. Confirmation Date
c. Eligibility Date and Eligibility Period
d. Tariff Date
e. the Generation Tariff applying at the Confirmation Date
f. the Export Tariff applying at the Confirmation Date (where applicable) and how to choose to receive Export Payments
g. frequency of FIT Payment
h. data that FIT Payments calculations are based on and how it is provided

[73] Schedule A to Standard Licence Condition 33, Section B (6)

i. the consequences of ceasing to be eligible for FIT Payments

j. and any other term that may significantly affect the evaluation by the FIT Generator of the arrangement under which FIT Payments are made by the Mandatory FIT Licensee, and

- obligations around protecting the FIT Generator that the Mandatory FIT Licensee must adhere to, including:

a. a description of the Complaints Procedure and a stated duty to participate in the Complaints Procedure on disputes over compliance with obligations under the FIT Scheme

b. a duty to not discriminate without objective justification in changing Relevant Electricity Supplier, or the prices for supply and other charges between FIT Generators and anyone else that the Mandatory FIT Licensee supplies electricity to

c. a description of the process of Switching and a stated duty to facilitate the Switching of a FIT Generator

d. a duty to not impose any obligations on a FIT Generator which are additional to, or more onerous than those necessary to allow the Mandatory FIT Licensee to meet its obligations under the FIT Scheme

e. a duty to fulfil obligations under the FIT Scheme efficiently and quickly

f. a term setting out the termination rights which permit the FIT Generator to withdraw from the FIT Scheme or Switch

g. a term identifying the risks to a FIT Generator of failing to adhere to the Statement of FIT Terms, for example following failure to promptly provide the required data and about suspension and recoupment of FIT Payments.

5.38 The Principal FIT Licensee Terms will include:

- a term explaining that FIT Payments shall be made by reference to data in the Central FIT Register
- a term identifying the FIT Generator's obligations to provide information, declarations and evidence to the Mandatory FIT Licensee and the Authority (as well as any consents for data protection) for administering the FIT Scheme

- a term requiring the FIT Generator to inform the Mandatory FIT Licensee as soon as possible of a change in ownership of an Accredited FIT Installation
- a term requiring the FIT Generator to inform the Mandatory FIT Licensee as soon as possible of Extensions or Reductions to an Accredited FIT Installation
- a term setting out the circumstances and procedures for changing the Nominated Recipient on the Central FIT Register
- a term explaining meter ownership and responsibilities, including access to the property of the FIT Generator for inspection, testing and (in the case of the Export Meter) maintenance and replacement.

5.39 In the event the Central FIT Register is amended by the Authority to correct an error or to reflect a change in circumstances, the Mandatory FIT Licensee will revise the Statement of FIT Terms and an amended version will be supplied to the FIT Generator.

5.40 The Mandatory FIT Licensee will take account of guidance issued by the Authority over the content and the form of the Statement of FIT Terms, but can agree terms more favourable to the FIT Generator they want.

5.41 In addition to what is stipulated in the Statement of FIT Terms, the Mandatory FIT Licensee will have the following duties:

- when providing information to a FIT Generator about the FIT Scheme, the Mandatory FIT Licensee will ensure the information:

  a. is complete and accurate

  b. can be easily understood by the FIT Generator

  c. does not mislead the FIT Generator

  d. is fair, transparent, appropriate and professional manner in its content and presentation (with the most important information prominent).

5.42 As a FIT Generator comes under the definition of a Customer, Domestic Customer or micro-business Consumer under the Electricity Supply Licence, their participation in the FIT Scheme and involvement in small-scale low carbon generation will not affect their rights and obligations resulting from that status under Sections A and B of the Electricity Supply Licence.

5.43 When making FIT Payments to a FIT Generator or Nominated Recipient, the Mandatory FIT Licensee will ensure that the Statement of FIT Terms does not materially discriminate

without objective justification between one group of FIT Generators and any other such group;

5.44 The Mandatory FIT Licensee will tell FIT Generators and Nominated Recipients it makes FIT Payments to, as soon as reasonably possible in the occurrence of an Insolvency Event.

5.45 In addition, the Statement of FIT Terms must include a term:

- to say that the information provided by the FIT Generator or Nominated Recipient can be used for administering, reporting and auditing FITs by the FIT Licensee and Ofgem
- which, specifically for Eligible Installations installed off-grid, requires them to say: "I declare that I intend to use any and all electricity generated by my FIT Installation and that I fully understand that any electricity generated but not used will not be eligible for FIT payments."
- which requires FIT Generators to notify the FIT Licensee of any installations, including any extensions, which may affect the eligibility and capacity of an Eligible Installation
- requiring the FIT Generator to declare that the information they provide is complete and accurate
- requiring generation and export meters to be in an accessible location, and able to be accessed by the FIT Licensee or its contractor for generation and export meter readings
- requiring a declaration to be made by the FIT Generator to confirm that they do not receive any grants which may make their installation ineligible for the FIT scheme.

5.46 You must tell your FIT Licensee if you become the owner/nominated recipient or are a connected person of 25 or more FIT installations.

Switching FIT Licensee

5.47 If a FIT Generator wants to switch FIT Licensees, they should approach the new FIT Licensee with this request. The new FIT licensee will note the FIT Generator's request to switch and the date on which the switch will take place on the CFR. The current licensee will then review and approve the switch provided there are no objections. The new licensee will then complete the switch and issue a new statement of FIT terms to the FIT Generator.

5.48 The Principal Generator Terms must include a description of the process of switching and a stated duty on the FIT Licensee to participate as required to facilitate the switching of a FIT Generator.

5.49 When a Voluntary FIT Licensee notifies the FIT Generator that they have decided to withdraw their participation from the FIT scheme, the FIT Generator should approach a new licensee and initiate the switching process as soon as possible in order to maintain continuity in their FIT Payments.

5.50 Voluntary FIT Licensees are required to give the FIT Generator at least 6 weeks' notice of their intention to withdraw their participation in the FIT scheme and of the consequences for the FIT Generator. FIT Licensees are required to assist FIT Generators in completing the switching process.

5.51 When a FIT Generator decides to switch to a new FIT Licensee, all installations sharing the same meter must also be switched to the same FIT Licensee.

5.52 The new FIT Licensee will be obliged to pay all FIT payments from the switch date.

5.53 The old FIT licensee will be obliged to pay all FIT payments due to the FIT Generator up to the switch date.

5.54 FIT Generators should ensure that the closing generation meter read and export meter read with the existing FIT Licensee matches the opening meter read with the new FIT Licensee.

5.55 Where a FIT licensee has its supply licence revoked/becomes insolvent, it is the responsibility of the FIT generator to seek a new FIT licensee. This does not happen automatically.

Continuity of FIT Payments Direction

5.56 A Continuity of FIT Payments Direction (CoFPD) may be issued if a Voluntary or Mandatory FIT licensee's electricity supply licence is revoked, or if such a licensee becomes insolvent. It provides assurance that electricity generated by an accredited FIT installation between the date of the last meter reading, where FIT payments were made, and the date the accredited FIT installation moves to a new FIT licensee, will be paid.

5.57 A CoFPD can also cover previously missed payments for which the failed licensee was responsible, where appropriate and as set out by Ofgem in any CoFPD issued. Payment of interest due to delayed payments is not provided for under the FIT Order.

5.58 A CoFPD will state the matters to be taken into account by FIT licensees in determining the date on which affected FIT generators transfer to them.

5.59 The CoFPD is intended to ensure that payments due to FIT generators are not affected by the failure of their FIT licensee. This will usually include payments which were previously missed by the failed FIT licensee, never made or not made in full, provided the generator was entitled to receive those FIT payments immediately before the licence revocation or insolvency event.

5.60 If a generator elects to switch to another FIT licensee before that FIT licensee's licence is revoked or they become insolvent, the generator will usually receive protection under the CoFPD, provided that the generator was immediately entitled to receive FIT payments from the failed licensee at the point of licence revocation or insolvency. In addition, some protection is also provided to applicants to the FIT scheme with MCS-certified installations which are yet to be accredited.

5.61 It is for the licensee to satisfy themselves that any missing payments are evidenced appropriately before payment is made. Generators will be expected to produce evidence of any missing payments to their new licensee before any payment is made in respect of this.

5.62 Further information on the CoFPD can be found in Appendix 11 of the FIT Guidance for Suppliers.

FIT payments

5.63 FIT payments can be broken down into two main components:

- FIT Generation Payment – a fixed payment made by the FIT Licensee to the FIT Generator or Nominated Recipient for every kWh generated by the Eligible Installation. The level of the generation tariff is based on the technology, the TIC and Eligibility Date of the installation[74].
- FIT Export Payment – a fixed payment made by the FIT Licensee to the FIT Generator or Nominated Recipient for every kWh exported to the National Grid.

[74] The FIT Payment Rate Table is available from our website: www.ofgem.gov.uk/FITs

5.64 FIT payments are made at the rates on our website. Annually, Ofgem will publish tariff tables adjusted by the percentage increase or decrease in the Retail Price Index (RPI) over the 12-month period ending on 31 December of the previous year.

5.65 Additionally tariff rates are subject to possible further reductions through the degression mechanism. This is summarised in Appendix 4.

5.66 Updated tariff rates will be published on Ofgem's website within five working days of the start of a tariff period. BEIS also periodically reviews the tariff bands and rates.

Reducing, recouping and withholding FIT Payments

5.67 FIT Payments may be reduced, recouped or withheld by the FIT Licensee if:

- an error has been made by the FIT Licensee, Ofgem or the FIT Generator, and a FIT Generator or nominated recipient has received a payment to which it is not entitled as a result
- Ofgem notifies the relevant FIT Licensee that it has good reason to believe that a FIT Payment should not have been made.

5.68 All FIT Licensees must ensure all FIT Payments are those that a FIT Generator or nominated recipient is entitled to.

5.69 If a FIT Licensee believes that in making a FIT Payment to a FIT Generator or Nominated Recipient it would contravene their obligations, it must notify Ofgem immediately. If Ofgem determines that a FIT Payment could result in improperly administering the FIT scheme, it may suspend the Eligible Installation(s) from the Central FIT Register.

5.70 If instructed to withhold payments, the FIT Licensee will continue to do so until notified by Ofgem that the suspension has been rescinded, or if Ofgem instructs them to recover or reduce FIT Payments.

5.71 If we discover an error in the Central FIT Register we will:

- correct it
- if the correction affects the entitlement to FIT payments, we will notify the FIT Licensee responsible for making the payments.

Ofgem powers

5.72 Under powers granted by the Feed-in Tariffs Order 2012, Ofgem may, in certain specified situations:

- withdraw accreditation
- suspend accreditation
- change the tariff code
- attach conditions to the accreditation
- amend conditions of accreditation.

5.73 Those specified situations are:

- if the decision to grant accreditation or preliminary accreditation was based on incorrect information
- if any condition attached to an accreditation has not been complied with
- if an installation has been extended or modified in a way that stops it from being entitled to accreditation
- where Ofgem is told by a public authority that constructing or operating an installation breaches legislation, a licence or a consent (eg a planning authority notifies Ofgem that an installation has not been granted planning permission).

5.74 If Ofgem does any of the above, we will notify the FIT Generator and Licensee explaining why.

Change of FIT Generator

5.75 In order to change the FIT Generator of a generating installation, please email renewable@ofgem.gov.uk to request this change. The team will then send you a transfer request form. Once received, complete the form and email it, along with the relevant supporting documentation, to the Renewables Team inbox (renewable@ofgem.gov.uk). The FIT Generator must notify their FIT licensee when the ownership of a FIT installation has changed. The FIT Licensee will update the details of the FIT Generator on the CFR.

5.76 When taking ownership of an installation, it is the new generator's responsibility to obtain all appropriate records from the previous FIT Generator. If we audit an installation, the new generator is expected to supply documentation from the date the installation commissioned and thereafter in order to evidence the installation's eligibility on the scheme. Paragraph 2.3 details the documents reviewed during the audit process.

Audits

Why do we audit installations?

5.77 We routinely carry out audit checks on both accredited installations and installations applying for accreditation to ensure that generators are complying with the scheme rules. Auditing can help identify and protect against errors and fraud. These checks also ensure that an installation remains eligible, that we hold all of the most up-to-date information for an installation and that the generator is receiving the correct FIT payments.

5.78 We undertake a targeted audit programme, selecting installations for audit based on a number of reasons such as commissioning date and TIC concerns.

What is reviewed during audit?

5.79 Audits are carried out by an external contractor on Ofgem's behalf. They involve a site visit to the installation and a review of associated documentation and evidence. This includes all of the testing documents as constituted the usual industry standards and practices for commissioning that type of installation, as well as all documents to support the installation's eligibility to receive support under the FIT scheme. The auditors make contact with the generator to arrange the site visit, which should take place within 3 weeks of receipt of the audit notification letter.

5.80 Our auditors review, among other things, commissioning evidence, site set-up, capacity, metering arrangements and the data that has been submitted for FIT payments. Generators of installations should keep all of the appropriate records, such as test documents and meter recordings, from the time the installation commissioned and thereafter so that the generator can provide a full audit trail at the time of audit.

5.81 Generators should provide the auditors with all information requested during the audit process within the timescales requested. Any information that remains outstanding will be listed in the audit report and could affect the assurance rating of the audit report.

What happens following an audit?

5.82 Following an audit site visit, the auditor will write up a report detailing what was assessed during the audit, along with any findings to be addressed and outstanding information to be provided. A draft version of the report is submitted to Ofgem and duly reviewed, before a final version is produced by the auditor and subsequently checked and accepted by Ofgem. This process of completing the audit report usually takes around 2 months, but can take longer due to complexities or changes to the report.

5.83 Once the audit report is complete, Ofgem will aim to write to the generator within 2-3 weeks, outlining any findings and including a copy of the auditor's report. The generator is expected to address these findings by reporting back to Ofgem and providing all of the relevant evidence to resolve the issues that have been highlighted.

5.84 Any records that are incorrect which have been identified during the audit will be reviewed to ensure the installation continues to comply with the scheme's rules. Once the reviewer is satisfied with the alterations, the accreditation will be updated with any necessary amendments.

5.85 In certain circumstances, we can suspend accreditation until the audit findings have been addressed. As explained above, we also have the power to withdraw accreditation in certain circumstances and reduce, recoup and withhold FIT payments as appropriate.

5.86 Delays in resolving audit findings can occur when FIT generators do not provide comprehensive responses and/or the relevant third party evidence to support their responses. To avoid any delays, FIT generators should aim to provide a full response with all third party supporting evidence by the response deadline set out within the audit findings letter.

Suspension and removal from the Central FIT Register

5.87 FIT Generators and Eligible Installations may be suspended from the Central FIT Register in the circumstances in paragraph 5.27 and 5.28 above, and if:

- a change is made to an Installation which makes it ineligible
- we suspect fraud or abuse of the FIT scheme
- conditions in a Statement of FIT Terms have been breached
- Ofgem has good reason to believe that a FIT Payment should not have been made

5.88 FIT Licensees must not make any FIT Payments to a FIT Generator or Nominated Recipient if Ofgem informs the FIT Licensee that payments are to be suspended, or that a FIT Generator or Eligible Installation has been suspended or removed from the Central FIT Register. Suspending an Eligible Installation should not affect FIT Payments for the FIT Generator or Nominated Recipient for other Eligible Installations.

5.89 If Ofgem suspends or removes a FIT Generator or Eligible Installation from the Central FIT Register, we will write to the FIT Licensee and FIT Generator and explain what we are doing and why. If the suspension is lifted, Ofgem will again write to the FIT Licensee and FIT Generator confirming this.

5.90 FIT Licensees must promptly inform Ofgem's Central FIT Register and Fraud Prevention Manager if they believe an error has occurred in relation to a FIT Generator or FIT Installation's eligibility, or that there is the possibility of fraud or abuse of the FIT scheme. This should be done before the next FIT Payment is due. FIT Licensees should try to correct errors before the next FIT Payment is due. If appropriate, Ofgem may suspend the entry on the Central FIT Register until the error is corrected or any investigation into suspected fraud or abuse has concluded.

6. Modifications to accredited installations

Chapter summary

Explains the process a generator must follow when making modifications to an accredited installation.

Decommissioning

6.1. An accredited FIT installation is any plant on site which wholly or mainly relies on an Eligible Low-carbon Energy Source (eg solar PV or wind) when generating electricity.

6.2. If all of those plant are removed up to the point of grid connection, the accredited installation has been decommissioned and accreditation ends. If you are only replacing or repairing generating equipment, see the 'Generating equipment' section, below.

6.3. You must inform your FIT licensee if you decommission an accredited installation. If your installation was accredited under ROO-FIT, you must also inform Ofgem. For information on the difference between the two, see paragraph 2.4.

Extensions and reductions

6.4. An extension or reduction is a modification to an accredited installation to increase or decrease its total installed capacity (TIC) from the same type of eligible technology (eg solar PV or wind).

6.5. This may happen by:

- adding or removing generating equipment
- replacing generating equipment with a larger or smaller TIC

6.6. You must notify your FIT licensee if you extend or reduce the TIC of the accredited installation. If it was accredited under ROO-FIT, you must also inform Ofgem. For information on the difference between the two, see paragraph 2.4.

6.7. If an extension does not have a separate generation or export meter, readings must be prorated according to TIC, to ensure you are paid correctly. For example, if a 40kW installation has been extended by 10kW:

- and the extension is accredited, the generator is entitled to payment for 80% of the electricity at the tariff rate(s) of the original installation and 20% at the tariff rate(s)6 of the extension
- and the extension is **not** accredited, the generator is only entitled to payment for 80% of the electricity they generate and export

6.8. Meter readings should be taken on the date of the extension or reduction.

Treatment of extensions

6.9. If an **accredited installation** is extended and the commissioning date of the extension **was before 15 January 2016** the extension is assessed as a separate Eligible Installation. If accredited, the extension is assigned a separate tariff code based on the aggregate TIC of both the extension and existing FIT installation. The eligibility date and the eligibility period of the extension are based on its commissioning date. The original installation's eligibility date, tariff, and eligibility period are not affected. Both installations will, however, share the same FIT ID on the Central FIT Register (CFR).

6.10. If an **eligible installation** that is **not accredited** is extended and the commissioning date of the extension was **before 15 January 2016**, the extension is assessed as a separate eligible installation. The eligibility date and the eligibility period of the extension are based on its commissioning date.

6.11. Any extension commissioned **on or after 15 January 2016** is not eligible for FIT payments. This will not affect the eligibility of the original installation unless the specified maximum capacity of 5mW is exceeded (see below).

6.12. Where capacity is added to a site using a different eligible low-carbon technology, this is not considered an extension.

Maximum capacity

6.13. An accredited installation and any extensions on site must not exceed 5MW in combined TIC (or 2kW for micro-CHP). If they do, they are no longer eligible to the scheme and you must notify Ofgem who will remove the installation from the CFR.

Generating equipment

6.14. Generating equipment for each technology type is the following:

- **Anaerobic digestion**:
  - all equipment required to convert gas formed by the anaerobic digestion of material (which is neither sewage nor material in a landfill) into electricity

- **Hydro:**
  - any turbine runners, turbine blades, propellers, hydrodynamic screws (including Archimedes' screw), water wheels and/or all prime movers
  - all the inlet guide vanes or all the inlet guide nozzles
  - any generators/alternators (or any part thereof)

- **Micro-CHP:**
  - the prime mover (either gas engine, small gas turbine, or fuel cell)
  - the generator and heat recovery equipment
  - all the associated pipework, valves, controls etc within the unit

- **Solar PV**
  - the solar panels and inverters

- **Wind installations**
  - the turbine blades
  - the tower (or equivalent supporting structure excluding the foundation pad)
  - hub, brakes, nacelle including gear-trains

- generator/alternator and any other contents therein

6.15. You may repair or replace all or some generating equipment without affecting the compliance of an accredited installation, provided that the installation continues to meet the scheme rules. These include that the:

- maximum capacity of 5MW (or 2kW for micro-CHP) is not exceeded
- generating equipment has not been used at another installation that was previously accredited under the FIT or Renewable Obligation
- accredited installation continues to generate electricity from the same eligible technology
- accredited installation is not decommissioned or relocated

6.16. When carrying out such works, if your installation:

- was accredited under ROO-FIT, you must notify Ofgem of the modifications to the accredited installation. If the TIC of the accredited installation changes, you must also notify your FIT licensee.
- was accredited under MCS-FIT, you should only notify your FIT licensee of the modifications to the accredited installation.

For information on the difference between the two, see paragraph 2.4.

6.17. A modification may interact with the legislation in an unforeseen way that does not fall under one of the currently identified scheme rules. If you are unsure whether a change will affect the accredited installation's compliance with legislation, it is recommended that you seek your own legal advice.

Other modifications

6.18. You must notify your FIT licensee if a generation or export meter has been replaced, removed or begins measuring electricity that is not generated by the accredited installation.

6.19. When:

- battery storage is connected to the accredited installation[75]
- there are any other modifications to the accredited installation.

You must notify Ofgem if your installation was accredited under ROO-FIT, or your FIT licensee if it was accredited under MCS-FIT.

[75] Guidance for generators: co-location of battery storage | Ofgem

Appendices

Appendix 1 – Glossary

A	AD	Anaerobic Digestion
	AEEM	Active Electrical Energy Meters
B	BEIS	Department for Business Energy and Industrial Strategy
C	CEN	The European Committee for Standardization
	CFR	Central FIT Register
	CHP	Combined Heat and Power
	Community Organisation	A community interest company; a community benefit society or co-operative society; a registered charity or a subsidiary, wholly owned by a registered charity which has 50 or fewer employees
	Community energy installation	An Eligible Installation which is wired to provide electricity to a building which is not a dwelling; and in relation to which the FIT Generator is a community
	Contingent degression	A 10% reduction in the tariff rate for all subsequent tariff periods following a cap being reached in addition to the pre-determined default degression rates.
D	DEC	Display Energy Certificate
	DECC	Department of Energy and Climate Change

	Default degression	An automatic reduction in tariff rates that is set for all tariff periods from February 2016 until March 2019.
	Deployment cap	A limit on the capacity that can receive a particular FIT tariff in a particular tariff period.
	Deployment period	Has the same meaning as 'tariff period'.
	DNC	Declared Net Capacity
E	Education Provider	The owner of a building used as the premises of a qualifying educational institution; or a person or body responsible for the management of such an institution
	Eligibility Date	For applications for full accreditation (without first seeking FIT preliminary accreditation), the eligibility date is the date from which FIT payments commence and the FIT generation tariff is assigned. The "eligibility date" is the later of: • the date that the application is submitted[76] via the Register, and • the start date of the tariff period that the installation falls into. For installations granted preliminary accreditation which successfully go on to receive full accreditation, the eligibility date is the date from which FIT payments commence. The "eligibility date" is the later of: • the date we received the application converting the preliminary accreditation to full accreditation, and • the commissioned date.

[76] An application is considered submitted once the application has been completed and submitted to Ofgem. The applicant must then go on and agree the declarations associated with the application.

	Eligibility period	The maximum period during which a FIT Generator can receive FIT Payments for a particular Eligible Installation, as set out in the table at Annex 1 of Schedule A to Standard Condition 33 of the Electricity Supply Licence.
	Eligible Installation	On a Site, any Installation owned by a FIT Generator capable of producing Small-scale Low-carbon Generation from the same type of Eligible Low-carbon Energy Source, the Total Installed Capacity of which does not exceed the specified maximum Declared Net Capacity
	EPBD	Energy Performance of Buildings Directive
	EPC	Energy Performance Certificate
F	FIT	Feed-in Tariffs
	FIT ID	The unique identifier for an accredited installation on the Central FIT Register
	FIT Order	An order made in accordance with sections 43(3) and 41(1) EA08
	FMS	Fuel Measurement and Sampling
M	MCS	Microgeneration Certification Scheme operated by Gemserv
	MHCLG	Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government
	Micro installation	Term for an installation with a declared net capacity of 50kW or less

	MPAN	Meter Point Administration Number
N	NFFO	Non-Fossil Fuel Obligation
	NMO	National Measurement Office
O	OS grid reference	Ordnance survey grid reference
P	PPA	Power Purchase Agreement
	Preliminary accreditation	Mechanism for prospective FIT Generators, giving increased security with regard to tariff rates and eligibility prior to commissioning
R	RO	Renewables Obligation
	ROO	Renewables Obligation Order
	RPI	Retail Price Index
S	School installation	An Eligible Installation which is wired to provide electricity to a building which is used as the premises of a qualifying educational institution; and in relation to which the FIT Generator is the Education Provider which owns that building or is responsible for the management of that institution
	Small installations	Term for an installation with a capacity over 50kW up to the Specified Maximum Capacity of 5MW TIC
	SLC	Supplier Licence Conditions
	SRO	Scottish Renewables Obligation

Tariff Date	In relation to (a) an Eligible Installation for which the method of determining the Tariff Date is specified in the FIT Order, means the date as determined in the FIT Order; (b) an Eligible Installation whose Eligibility Date is before 15 January 2016 means the Eligibility Date; or(c) an Eligible Installation whose Eligibility Date is on or after 8 February 2016, means the first day of the first Tariff Period within which the installation Qualifies for Accreditation. (ROO-FIT transition installations should refer to Chapter 2).
Tariff Period	For micro CHP, means one of the following periods - (a) the period beginning on 1 April 2017 and ending on 30 September 2017; or (b) any subsequent period of 6 months beginning on 1 October or 1 April. For all other technologies, means one of the following periods - (a) the period beginning on 8 February 2016 and ending on 31 March 2016; (b) the period of 3 months beginning on 1 April 2016; or (c) any subsequent period of 3 months beginning on 1 July, 1 October, 1 January or 1 April.
TIC	Total Installed Capacity
Voluntary FIT Licensee	Means a licensee which is not a Mandatory FIT Licensee but which voluntarily elects to participate in making FIT Payments under the FIT Scheme.

Appendix 2 – Solar PV (Declarations for installations and extensions

Feed-in Tariffs (FIT) solar PV declarations (installations and extensions)

All applications for accreditation of solar PV installations with a TIC up to and including 250kW (including extensions to existing installations), with an Eligibility Date on or after 1 April 2012, need to be accompanied by a copy of this document with the relevant section signed and dated. This will then be used by FITs licensees/Ofgem as appropriate to determine whether or not (i) the energy efficiency requirement applies and, if so, has been met; and (ii) the multi-installation tariff rates should apply.

If your application is for a PV installation with an Eligibility Date on or after 1 April 2012, you must sign two of the enclosed declarations; one declaration from the energy efficiency section and one declaration from the multi-installation section. Tick one of the boxes in relation to the energy efficiency declarations **and** one of the boxes in relation to the multi installation declarations. Then go on to sign the two relevant declarations. **(This includes community energy or school installations)**

However, if your application is for an extension to an existing PV installation that commissioned before 15 January 2016, you must sign one declaration from the energy efficiency section only. Tick one of the boxes in relation to the energy efficiency declarations then go on to sign the relevant declaration.

Please read the following information to understand which of the declarations are relevant to you.

Energy Efficiency declaration

Tick **one** of the following boxes in relation to the energy efficiency requirement and sign the relevant declaration overleaf:

☐ The energy efficiency requirement does apply and an Energy Performance Certificate (EPC) rating of level D or above *has* been achieved (complete declaration 1)

☐ The energy efficiency requirement does apply and an EPC rating of level D or above *has not* been achieved (complete declaration 2)

☐ The energy efficiency requirement does apply and an Energy Performance Certificate (EPC) rating of level G or above *has* been achieved (complete declaration 3) **Community energy and school installations ONLY**

Note - If you intend to seek an exemption under the energy efficiency requirement please do not complete declarations 1-3. Instead, complete declarations 4 or 5 and complete the self-declaration form which can be found in appendix 7.

Multi-installation declaration

Tick **one** of the following boxes in relation to the multi-installation requirement and sign the relevant declaration overleaf:

☐ The "FIT Generator"[77] or "nominated recipient"[78] owns or will receive FIT payments from 25 or more other eligible solar PV installations (complete declaration 4)

☐ Neither the FIT Generator or nominated recipient owns or will receive FIT payments from 25 or more other eligible solar PV installations (complete declaration 5)

[77] "FIT Generator" means in relation to an Accredited FIT Installation, the person identified as the Owner in the Central FIT Register; and in relation to any other Eligible Installation, the Owner,
Whether or not that person is also operating or intending to operate the Eligible Installation

[78] "nominated recipient" means a person appointed by a FIT Generator to receive FIT Payments in respect of an Accredited FIT Installation owned by that FIT Generator and recorded as such on the Central FIT Register.

Energy Efficiency declarations
(sign one declaration only from declarations 1-3)

Declaration 1

I _____ certify in respect of this application for accreditation that all of the following are applicable:

a. the eligible PV installation is wired to provide electricity to one or more relevant buildings;
b. a valid energy performance certificate is enclosed in respect of the building (or one of the buildings) to which the PV installation is wired to provide electricity;
c. the enclosed energy performance certificate is the most recently issued energy performance certificate in respect of that building;
d. the enclosed energy performance certificate certifies that the relevant building to which it relates has been assessed as being level D or above;

Signed _____

Dated _____

Declaration 2

I _____ certify that declaration 1 above does not relate to my eligible solar PV installation. An EPC level D or above *is required* AND *has not* been achieved.

I understand that this means I will receive the lower FIT generation tariff.

Signed_____

Dated_____

Declaration 3

I _____ certify in respect of this application for accreditation of a community energy/school installation[79] on behalf of (name of community organisation or education provider) _____

_____ that all of the following are applicable:

a. the eligible PV community energy/school installation is wired to provide electricity to one or more relevant buildings at the address below;

Address of the building to which the installation is wired: _____

_____

_____

_____

b. a valid energy performance certificate is enclosed in respect of the building (or one of the buildings, which is not a dwelling) to which the PV installation is wired to provide electricity;

c. the enclosed energy performance certificate is the most recently issued energy performance certificate in respect of that building;

d. the enclosed energy performance certificate certifies that the relevant building to which it relates has been assessed as being level G or above;

Signed _____

Dated _____

[79] As defined in the FIT Order

Multi-installation declarations

(sign one declaration only from declarations 4-5, unless your application is for the accreditation of an extension to an existing PV installation in which case you do not need to sign either of these declarations)

Declaration 4

I _____ ("the FIT Generator") (and[80] I _____ ("the Nominated Recipient"*)) certify in respect of this application for accreditation that either the FIT Generator or the Nominated Recipient (if there is one) are, or have applied to be, the FIT Generator or Nominated Recipient for 25 or more other eligible PV installations located on different Sites.

In this certification, references to the "FIT Generator" and "Nominated Recipient" include all persons who are "connected persons"[81] in relation to them.

Signed FIT Generator:_____

Signed Nominated recipient*:_____

Dated:_____

Please tick the relevant box or boxes to confirm whether the FIT Generator and/or the nominated recipient owns or will receive FIT payments from 25 or more other eligible solar PV installations:

☐ FIT Generator

☐ Nominated recipient*

*where applicable

[80] Only to be completed where there is a nominated recipient.

[81] A "connected person" in relation to a FIT Generator or a nominated recipient, means any person connected to that person within the meaning of section 1122 of the Corporation Tax Act 2010.

Declaration 5

I _____ ("the FIT Generator") (and[82] I _____ ("the Nominated Recipient"*)) certify in respect of this application for accreditation that neither the FIT Generator nor the Nominated Recipient (if there is one) are, or have applied to be, the FIT Generator or Nominated Recipient for 25 or more other eligible PV installations located on different Sites.

In this certification, references to the "FIT Generator" and "Nominated Recipient" include all persons who are "connected persons" in relation to them.

Signed FIT Generator:_____

Signed Nominated recipient*:_____

Dated:_____

*where applicable

[82] Only to be completed where there is a nominated recipient.

Appendix 3 – Solar PV declaration (change to the FIT generator or nominated recipient)

Feed-in Tariffs (FIT) solar PV declaration – change to the FIT Generator or nominated recipient

You must sign one of the enclosed declarations where the FIT Generator or nominated recipient changes.

Please read the following information to understand which of the declarations are relevant to you.

Tick one of the following boxes then go on to sign the relevant declaration:

☐ The new "FIT Generator"[83] or "nominated recipient"[84] owns or will receive FIT payments from 25 or more other eligible solar PV installations (complete declaration "1")

☐ The new FIT Generator and or the new nominated recipient does not own or will not receive FIT payments from 25 or more other eligible solar PV installations (complete declaration "2")

[83] "FIT Generator" means (a) in relation to an Accredited FIT Installation, the person identified as the Owner in the Central FIT Register; and (b) in relation to any other Eligible Installation, the Owner, whether or not that person is also operating or intending to operate the Eligible Installation;

[84] "nominated recipient" means a person appointed by a FIT Generator to receive FIT Payments in respect of an accredited FIT Installation owned by that FIT Generator.

NOTE: Sign one declaration only

Declaration 1

I _____ ("the new FIT Generator") (and[85]/or I _____ ("the new Nominated Recipient"*)) certify in respect of this notice of change of identity that the new FIT Generator or the new Nominated Recipient (as applicable) is, or has applied to be, the FIT Generator or Nominated Recipient for 25 or more other PV Eligible Installations located on different Sites.

In this certification, references to the "FIT Generator" and "Nominated Recipient" include all persons who are "connected persons"[86] in relation to them.

Signed FIT Generator:_____

Signed Nominated recipient*:_____

Dated:_____

Please tick the relevant box or boxes to confirm whether the FIT Generator and/or the nominated recipient owns or will receive FIT payments from 25 or more other eligible solar PV installations:

☐ FIT Generator

☐ Nominated recipient*

*where applicable

[85] Only to be completed where there is a nominated recipient.

[86] A "connected person" in relation to a FIT Generator or a nominated recipient, means any person connected to that person within the meaning of section 1122 of the Corporation Tax Act 2010.

Declaration 2

I _____ ("the new FIT Generator") (and[87]/or I _____ ("the new Nominated Recipient"*)) certify in respect of this notice of change of identity that the new FIT Generator or the new Nominated Recipient (as applicable) is not, or has not applied to be, the FIT Generator or Nominated Recipient for 25 or more other PV Eligible Installations located on different Sites.

In this certification, references to the "FIT Generator" and "Nominated Recipient" include all persons who are "connected persons"[88] in relation to them.

Signed FIT Generator: _____

Signed Nominated recipient*: _____

Dated:_____

*where applicable

[87] Only to be completed where there is a nominated recipient.

Appendix 4 – Degression

This appendix summarises the degression mechanisms in effect for all FIT eligible technologies based on deployment of new installation generating capacity.

Default Degression Mechanism

3.148 A4.1. A default degression mechanism, as described in the Licence Conditions, will run between 8 February 2016 and 31 March 2019 for PV, wind and hydro installations and between 1 April 2017 and 31 March 2019 for AD installations. Installations that do not fall under a tariff period before 31 March 2019 will not be eligible for accreditation on the scheme. Generation tariffs will change on the first day of each quarter for new installations that applied on or after 15 January 2016 for all technologies with the exception of AD and micro CHP. Contingent degression will occur if a deployment cap is reached. These tariffs are also subject to adjustment at the end of each FIT year to reflect the RPI change. Further information on contingent degression is provided below.

3.149 A4.2. The initial tariff rates for each tariff period associated with the default degression mechanism, as they were published on 8 February 2016, are available in the Licence Conditions[89]. We will publish updated tariff tables within 5 working days of the start of each tariff period on our website[90].

Contingent Degression Mechanism

3.150 A4.3. If a deployment cap is reached, this will be result in a 10% degression of the tariff rate that applies to the next tariff period, and all subsequent tariff periods for that specific cap. As an example, if the <10kW band is reached in tariff period 1 (2016), then:

- In tariff period 2 (2016), the tariff will degress by 10% from 4.32 to 3.89,
- In tariff period 3 (2016), the tariff will degress by 10% from 4.25 to 3.82,
- This will continue until tariff period 1 (2019).

[89] For the latest version of the Licence Conditions, follow this link: https://www.ofgem.gov.uk/licences-codes-and-standards/licences/licence-conditions, and under the 'Electricity' heading, click 'Electricity Supply Standard Licence Conditions'.

[90] https://www.ofgem.gov.uk/environmental-programmes/feed-tariff-fit-scheme/feed-tariff-fit-reports-and-statistics

3.151 A4.4. Within 5 working days of the start of each tariff period we will publish updated tariff rates on our website[91].

A4.5. Micro CHP installations will be subject to contingent degression from 1 April 2017.

91 https://www.ofgem.gov.uk/environmental-programmes/feed-tariff-fit-scheme/feed-tariff-fit-reports-and-statistics

Appendix 5 – Monitoring and reporting on deployment caps

3.152 This appendix explains how we monitor deployment caps and report on deployment.

How we monitor deployment caps

3.153 A5.1. Ofgem monitors MCS and ROO-FIT deployment using data from the MCS database and ROO-FIT applications. Deployment caps are filled in date and time order according to an applicant's ROO-FIT application date and time, or an installation's MCS issue date and time. The data is refreshed daily until a tariff period is closed or a cap is reached.

3.154 A5.2. As soon as a deployment cap has been reached we will freeze the deployment data for that cap. No alterations will be made to the data. Where an application is submitted after a cap has been reached but before the tariff period ends, we will continue to process these applications and will provide an indication of which tariff period they are queued for entry into. This will be an indication only, as if applications for installations that are ahead in the queue are cancelled, the installation may fall into an earlier tariff period. We will confirm the tariff period the installation has gained entry into once the relevant tariff period has opened.

Cancelled and refused ROO-FIT applications

3.155 A5.3. ROO-FIT applications that are cancelled before a tariff period is closed or before a cap is reached are discounted from the cap and space in the cap is available to later applicants. ROO-FIT applications that were counted towards a cap and are cancelled after a tariff period is closed or after a cap is reached will be counted towards that cap. See information on 'Recycling un-used capacity' at the end of this appendix.

MCS certificate versions

A5.4. Where more than one MCS certificate exists for an installation, it is the issue date and time of the first certificate that will count towards the cap.

Reporting

Deployment statistics

3.156 A5.5. We publish regular reports on our website showing deployment against the caps for the tariff period that is open.

3.157 A5.6. We also publish indicative information on the capacity and number of installations which are queued for entry into future tariff periods. This is indicative only, because the deployment data for these installations will be refreshed when the new tariff period opens. This refresh of the data means that any applications cancelled prior to the new tariff period opening will be removed from the queue and space in the new tariff period will be available to later applicants.

When a deployment cap is reached

3.158 A5.7. We publish when caps are reached on our website as soon as possible after a cap has been reached. We also publish updated information on all deployment caps at the same time. No further installations are then eligible for the tariff rate that applies in that period and a contingent degression of 10% will be applied to the tariff rate in the next and all subsequent tariff periods. New tariffs are published within five days of the start of each tariff period.

3.159 A5.8. Figure 2 lists our reporting timelines.

Regular reporting	When a tariff period opens	When a cap is breached
• Deployment towards each cap is published weekly for the first month of deployment caps. We will then reassess the frequency of reporting based on deployment.	• Tariff rates will be published within five working days of the start of each tariff period.	• The cap that has been reached will be published on our website.
• An indicative queue (i.e. capacity and number of installations) for future tariff periods is published regularly.	• Deployment statistics for the previous tariff period will be published within the five working days of the start of the next tariff period.	• A tweet will be published shortly after the cap is reached.
	• Deployment caps for the current tariff period will be adjusted if there is un-used capacity in the previous tariff period and the adjusted deployment caps published.	• Deployment statistics for each cap in the current tariff period are updated and published on our website.
	• Applicants that have been in the queue for this tariff will be emailed to confirm whether they have fallen into the open tariff period.	• An indicative queue (i.e. capacity and number of installations) for future tariff periods is published.

Recycling of un-used capacity

3.160 A5.9. When a tariff period is closed, any un-used capacity will be added to the corresponding cap in the next tariff period.

Appendix 6 – Feed-in Tariffs self-declaration under the Town and Country Planning (General Permitted Development) Order 2015

Feed-in Tariff self-declaration under the Town and Country Planning (General Permitted Development) Order 2015

I declare that the proposed installation that is the subject of FIT preliminary accreditation application (ENTER GENERATING STATION NAME) _____
meets the requirements of Schedule 2 Part 14 Class J of the Town and Country Planning (General Permitted Development) Order 2015 for this installation to be considered permitted development.

Provide a brief description of the installation making reference to the relevant requirements of Schedule 2 Part 14 Class J of the Town and Country Planning (General Permitted Development) Order 2015 (continue on a separate sheet as necessary):

Should this application for FIT preliminary accreditation be successful, I confirm that I will provide evidence to the Authority of the application for prior approval from the planning authority (as required under Schedule 2 Part 14 Class J Condition J.4 of the Town and Country Planning (General Permitted Development) Order 2015) and the result of that application.

I am aware that, should this declaration be incorrect, any or all of the entitlement to receive or retain full FIT accreditation for the installation, the tariff date allocated to the installation, and the entitlement to FIT payments in respect of electricity generated by the installation, may be affected.

I understand that the Authority[92] is not a planning authority; and that any decision to grant FIT preliminary accreditation following the submission of this completed declaration does not affect my rights and responsibilities in relation to planning permission.

I consent to the release to the Authority of information relating to this declaration by planning authorities. I understand that the Authority will request and use such information only for the purpose of carrying out its legal functions in connection with the FIT scheme.

Name:_____ Dated: _____

Signed:_____

[92] The Gas and Electricity Markets Authority

Appendix 7 – Feed-in Tariffs: Exemption from the Energy Efficiency Requirement (EER) – self-declaration form

1. When should this form be used?

This form should only be completed where all of the following criteria apply:

- The 'installation type' is Solar PV;
- The total installed capacity (TIC) is 250kW or less;
- The installation is wired to provide electricity to a building(s);
- None of the buildings to which the installation is wired to provide electricity is a "relevant building[93]";
- You believe that the "higher" PV tariff should be awarded (or the middle PV tariff in instances where the multi installation criteria apply).

Note: Under the Energy Performance of Buildings (EPB) Regulations[94] some properties are exempt from the requirement for an Energy Performance Certificate (EPC), however, if a building can be assessed and receive an EPC, then the EER will apply (irrespective of whether an EPB exemption applies or not).

2. Who should complete this form?

Part 1: Should be completed by the owner of the PV installation where an application is being submitted for full ROO-FIT accreditation.

[93] "Relevant building" is defined in Annex 5 of Schedule A to Standard Condition 33 of the Electricity Supply Licence

[94] EPB Regulations (England and Wales) 2012; EPB Regulations (Scotland) 2008

Part 2: Should be completed by an accredited EPC assessor or other suitably qualified person.

3. Is this form an application for FIT accreditation?

This form does not constitute an application for FIT accreditation.

This form should be completed alongside an application for FIT accreditation.

PART 1: To be completed by the owner of the ROO-FIT installation

Declaration in respect of the installation[95] (ENTER GENERATING STATION NAME): .....

1. I declare that the installation named above is wired to provide electricity to one or more buildings;
2. None of those buildings is a "relevant building" or were not relevant buildings on the installation's commissioned date.

Please explain why you believe that none of the buildings is a "relevant building", or were not relevant buildings on the installation's commissioned date

In support of this declaration I have provided:

1. The following declaration (see Part 2) from an accredited EPC assessor or other suitably qualified person. The EPC assessor (or other suitably qualified person) undertook an assessment of all the buildings to which the installation is wired to provide electricity and concluded that none of the buildings assessed was a "relevant building" on the installation's commissioned date.

2. Photographs of all the buildings to which the installation is wired to provide electricity.

[95] The installation name must be an exact match with the name given to the installation on the Renewables and CHP Register.

3. A copy of the single line or schematic diagram showing all the buildings to which the installation is wired to provide electricity.

I confirm that this evidence has not been used in support of any other FIT applications.

I understand that, should this declaration be incorrect, any or all of the entitlement to receive or retain full FIT accreditation for the installation, the tariff date allocated to the installation, and the entitlement to FIT payments in respect of electricity generated by the installation, may be affected.

Owner of Installation Name: .....

Owner of Installation Signature: .....

Dated: .....

PART 2: To be completed by an accredited EPC assessor or other suitably qualified person

I declare that I attended the following address _____ on the (Enter date)_____ and assessed whether any of the buildings to which the installation is wired to provide electricity is a "relevant building" within the meaning of Annex 5 of Schedule A to Standard Licence Condition 33.[96]

I understand that under the Energy Performance of Buildings (EPB) Regulations, some properties are exempt from the requirement for an EPC. I also understand that, under FIT scheme, if a building can be assessed and receive an EPC at the time the installation commissioned, then the Energy Efficiency Requirement will apply (irrespective of whether an EPB exemption applies).

[96] Under Annex 5 of Schedule A to Standard Licence Condition 33 "relevant building" means a roofed construction having walls, for which energy is used to condition the indoor climate, other than such a building for which an energy performance certificate cannot be issued; and a reference to a relevant building includes a reference to part of such a building which has been designed or altered to be used separately.

Please explain why you believe that none of the buildings is a "relevant building", or were not relevant buildings on the installation's commissioned date

I confirm that I am an accredited EPC assessor (or other suitably qualified person) and provide my credentials:

Accreditation Number: _____

Accreditation Scheme: _____

Other relevant credentials: _____

EPC Assessor (or other suitably qualified person) Name: .....

EPC Assessor (or other suitably qualified person) Signature: .....

Dated: .....

3.1