

# Feed-in Tariffs (FIT)

www.ofgem.gov.uk/fits

MARCH 2019

## Essential guide - How do I confirm the date that my installation was commissioned?

This guide will help you to establish the date that your installation commissioned when you apply for the Feed-in Tariff (FIT) scheme.

The commissioned date is important because it forms part of the criteria for deciding which tariff your installation will be eligible to receive. Providing us with the right information first time reduces the risk of delays to your accreditation.

This document is not a definitive legal guide. If you are in doubt over the commissioned date of your installation you should seek your own independent legal or technical advice as appropriate.

More information is available on our website on the [ROOFIT](#) webpage.

### Commissioned date definition

“Commissioned” is defined in the FIT scheme framework<sup>1</sup>. The definition has two main criteria:

- a) *the completion of such procedures and tests that constitutes, at the time they are undertaken, the usual industry standards and practices for commissioning that type of installation*
- b) *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 the installation is connected to Plant such that the whole of its maximum output could be used in a permitted way.*

This means that both a) all the usual commissioning tests must have been completed and b) the installation could operate at its maximum output (DNC) without limitation which could be consumed either onsite or exported.

The date on which both these criteria are met is the commissioned date of the installation.

---

<sup>1</sup> In ‘Definitions and Interpretation’ in Schedule A to Standard Condition 33 of the Electricity Supply Licence

## Demonstrating your FIT installation has commissioned

When applying for the FITs scheme, you must produce evidence to confirm the date the installation was commissioned. We encourage you to provide as much detail as possible to evidence your installation has commissioned.

### Part A

The relevant procedures, tests and supporting documents for your installation will vary depending on the renewable technology being used and whether the installation is grid connected or not.

The following are the minimum documents you will be expected to provide:

#### Confirmation of the commissioned date

This should take the form of a commissioning certificate or letter signed by the installer or engineer who carried out the tests and procedures for commissioning.

This should confirm the location of the installation and the date the installation was commissioned.

#### G59/G99 Requirement (for grid connected installations only)

Until 27 April 2019, either a G59 or a G99 test certificate can be provided. If the grid connection tests are completed on or after 27 April 2019, only a G99 test certificate will be accepted, unless otherwise indicated to us by the relevant DNO.

You should provide one of the following (this document must be dated and refer to the installation name or address);

1. The G59/G99 witness test certificate signed and dated by the relevant distribution network operator (DNO). This should be signed by the testing engineer.
2. The G59/G99 test certificate which the DNO has not witnessed along with correspondence from the DNO stating that they did not wish to witness the test.

#### Timeline and explanation of procedures completed

A timeline of all the tests and procedures that were completed as part of commissioning.

You should also include an explanation to why you believe the commissioned date is as stated. An example for a PV application is provided below.

You can email all documents to [renewable@ofgem.gov.uk](mailto:renewable@ofgem.gov.uk) clearly stating the name of the installation.

Part B

**Evidence that the installation can operate at its maximum output**

You must also demonstrate that the installation was capable of operating at its DNC on the commissioned date by showing that all electricity could be consumed either onsite (directly or through a private wire network) or exported. On request, you must provide evidence to confirm the grid connection capacity and the scale of any onsite loads.

Where the grid connection capacity is less than the DNC of the installation, this may affect the applicant’s ability to demonstrate that their installation is “commissioned”, or it may result in permanently limiting the capacity of the installation if it is to be accredited under the FIT scheme.

**How do I produce a timeline of the commissioning tests and procedures?**

Example timeline for a solar PV station:

Date	Commissioning Test
11 February 2019	DC string test
11 February 2019	Earthing test
26 February 2019	G59/G99 test
26 February 2019	First generation
27 February 2019	Inverter commissioning
28 February 2019	Commissioning certificate



This timeline clearly shows the dates the relevant tests were completed.

It is important that **all tests** that relate to the commissioning of the site are included in the timeline. This will mitigate the risk that the commissioned date, and therefore tariffs, may be adjusted in the future if further information comes to light. Make sure you keep copies of all testing documents so that you can provide supporting evidence should we audit your installation.

## Commissioning information check list

Have you emailed the following to [renewable@ofgem.gov.uk](mailto:renewable@ofgem.gov.uk)?

- Confirmation of the commissioned date.
- Evidence of how you've met the G59/G99 requirement which, if applicable, clearly states the DNO that witnessed the test, the location, and is signed by the engineer.
- A timeline of all commissioning tests and procedures that have been completed along with an explanation why you believe the commissioned date is as stated.
- Evidence that the installation can operate at its maximum DNC, including documents supporting the size of grid connection and / or onsite loads.