

The logo of the Nigerian Electricity Regulatory Commission (NERC) is a circular emblem. It features a central lightbulb with a glowing filament. The words "NIGERIAN ELECTRICITY REGULATORY COMMISSION" are written around the perimeter of the circle in a yellow font. The background of the entire page is a faded image of high-voltage power lines and electrical towers.

**TIT-BITS**

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# **NIGERIAN ELECTRICITY REGULATORY COMMISSION (NERC) INTRODUCES METER ASSET PROVIDER AND NATIONAL MASS METERING REGULATION, (REGULATION) 2021**

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In a bid to bridge the metering gap in the Nigerian Electricity Supply Industry (NESI), the Nigerian Electricity Regulatory Commission (NERC), on 9 August 2021, introduced the Meter Asset Provider and National Mass Metering Regulation, (Regulation) 2021.

The said Regulation merges certain provisions of the Meter Asset Providers (MAP) Regulation, 2018 and the National Mass Metering Policy (NMMP). Amongst others, it provides for the following:

- Upfront payments for the meters by customers with the proviso that DISCOs reimburse customers through equal installments of energy credits.
- Minimum local content, technical and financial requirements for Meter Asset Providers (MAPs), Local Meter Manufacturers/Assemblers (LMMA) who are engaged to manufacture or assemble meters in Nigeria.
- Vendor financing by LMMA or MAP for supply of the meters to customers, with payments to be made by DISCOs at a later date.
- Periodic inspection of meters by DISCOs to ensure integrity and reading accuracy.
- Repair and replacement of faulty meters (at no cost to the customer) within 2 working days of receiving a customer's complaint.
- Billing of all unmetered customers in accordance with NERC's Order on capping of estimated bills.
- Requirement for upfront payment by customer, for replacement of meter willfully damaged by customer.
- Use of dispute resolution mechanism as provided in the metering code, in the event of a disputes.
- Non-tampering with installed meters and grant of access to customers' premises for inspection and installation of meters, with the risk of disconnection.
- Non-requirement of customers to instantly bear the cost of payment for the meters. Customers who have urgent need for meters may apply through the MAP framework and have meters installed in 10 days, the cost of which shall be refunded through payments for energy credits.

It is hoped that the introduction of the Regulation, will indeed help to accelerate the closure of the metering gap whilst improving customer satisfaction and ensuring the financial sustainability of NESI.

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