CEA (Installation and Operation of Meters) Regulations, 2006 — Regulatory Evolution to 2026

Principal notified 22 Mar 2006 · Five amendments: 2010, 2014, 2019, 2022, 2026 (latest notified 1 Apr 2026)

Regulatory Evolution at a Glance

Year	Source	Core Regulatory Focus
2006	Principal Regulations	Base framework for interface, consumer and energy-accounting/audit metering; ownership, locations, reading, failure, anti-tampering, quality assurance.
2010	Amendment	Recast Regulation 7 and meter-location arrangements; strengthened consumer-meter installation/location provisions.
2014	Amendment	Introduced Renewable Energy Meter framework for grid-interactive RE plants, incl. feed-in tariff and net-metering at 415V and below.
2019	Amendment	Modernised definitions and architecture: smart meters, revised check/standby/interface concepts, remote reading, prepayment; new cyber security and power-to-relax clauses.
2022	Amendment	Introduced Advanced Metering Infrastructure (AMI) and AMI Service Provider concepts; smart/prepayment metering and feeder/DT remote-reading requirements.
2026	Amendment	Extends smart/prepayment requirements; mandates AMI interoperability; clarifies open-access consumer metering with a specific 650V threshold.

2026 Amendment — What's New

- Regulation 4(1)(b): all AMI must now include prepayment functionality and be interoperable per Authority guidelines; a Smart Meter with accuracy class 1.0/0.5S acts as the Interface Meter for open-access consumers at voltage ≤650V.
- Regulation 7, Table-1: new Sl. No. 4 (open access >650V — main & check meter at consumer premises, standby on a separate instrument transformer or at the licensee's substation as mutually agreed) and Sl. No. 5 (open access ≤650V — main & check meter at consumer premises, no standby meter required).
- Notified 1 April 2026 (F.No. 1/12/CEA/DPM/Regulations/2025); effective from the date of publication in the Official Gazette; draft published for comment on 23 February 2026.

Practical Implications by Stakeholder

- Large consumers / open access: metering configuration is now tied to digital/remote-read capability, smart/prepayment functionality and voltage level, with 2026 specifically addressing consumers at and below 650V.
- DISCOMs / licensees: architecture progressively shifts toward smart meters, AMI, remote meter reading, and feeder/distribution-transformer energy accounting.
- Generators / RE projects: the 2014 amendment established a dedicated Renewable Energy Meter framework with feed-in and net-metering locations.
- AMI / metering service providers: the 2022 amendment recognises AMI Service Providers and permits contract-period meter ownership in an AMI project area.
- Compliance teams: the 2006 framework's detailed responsibilities on meter reading, records, seals, failure/discrepancy handling, anti-tampering and quality assurance remain the base text every later amendment modifies.

Why It Matters

This is a genuinely continuous 20-year regulatory thread rather than a series of standalone notifications — every amendment modifies Regulation 4, 6 or 7 of the same 2006 principal text. The 2026 amendment is the most consequential recent change: it draws a bright line at 650V for open-access metering architecture (determining whether a standby meter is required) and makes AMI interoperability and prepayment functionality mandatory rather than optional. Any metering specification, EPC scope, or open-access compliance check should be validated against both the 2019 accuracy-class schedule and the 2026 Table-1 categories together, since the 2026 amendment explicitly builds on the 2019 accuracy classes rather than restating them.

POWERPPT.COM