CERC Cross Border Trade of Electricity Regulations, 2019

Notified 8 Mar 2019 · Gazette No. 160, 14 May 2019 | First Amendment 2023 (SNA Charge) | Second Amendment 2025 (GNA/T-GNA alignment) — notified 9 Dec 2025

SCOPE & INSTITUTIONAL FRAMEWORK (REGS. 3–4)

Applies to Participating Entities in India/neighbouring countries in cross-border trade, and the SNAs. Four transaction routes: bilateral agreement, bidding, mutual agreement, or Indian Power Exchange (Reg. 6). DA, CTU, NLDC and SNA share institutional roles.

ACCESS FRAMEWORK — GNA/T-GNA (REGS. 8–16)

2025 amendment replaced legacy LTA/MTOA/STOA with GNA/T-GNA throughout. Connectivity & GNA via CTU; T-GNA via NLDC. Connectivity confers no transmission-access rights by itself — GNA/T-GNA must be obtained separately.

FEES & BANK GUARANTEES (REGS. 9–10, 15)

Connectivity/GNA application fee Rs 5 lakh; T-GNA fee Rs 5,000/application. Application BG (Conn-BG1) Rs 50 lakh; Access BG Rs 5 lakh/MW of GNA, returned one-fifth per year. One-time connectivity charge Rs 1 lakh/MW.

CROSS BORDER TRANSMISSION LINK — CBTL (REG. 7)

The physical link between Indian and neighbouring-country pooling stations. 2025 amendment adds two routes: open-access use of spare CBTL capacity, and third-party CBTL development by a transmission licensee after Government approval.

TARIFF DETERMINATION (REG. 5)

Import: competitive bidding or mutual agreement; hydro imports may go to the Commission via the neighbouring Government. Export: mutual agreement or bidding. IGA tariffs continue until expiry. CBTL tariff: bidding, G2G, or Commission determination.

SNA CHARGE & TRANSMISSION CHARGES (REG. 30)

ISTS charges per the Sharing Regulations; CBTL charges per G2G negotiation or Annexure-II. SNA Charge — introduced by the 2023 First Amendment — is 0.50 paisa (half paisa)/kWh on scheduled energy, payable by neighbouring-country entities.

PAYMENT SECURITY & DUE DATE (REGS. 33, 2(X-I))

Two revolving LCs (2.1× average monthly bill each) to CTU and SNA, established ≥90 days before Transmission Access starts. 'Due Date' — new in 2025 — is the 45th day from presentation of the CTU bill; default may trigger Access BG encashment.

ELIGIBILITY — 2025 AMENDMENT

'Applicant' now also includes an Indian electricity trading licensee and a generating station in India electrically connected to a neighbouring country via dedicated line(s) — previously not explicitly provided for.

REGULATORY TIMELINE

- 5 Dec 2016 MoP issues original CBTE Guidelines → 18 Dec 2018 MoP Guidelines 2018 supersede it → 8 Mar 2019 CERC notifies CBTE Regulations, 2019 → 14 May 2019 published, Gazette No. 160.
- 26 Feb 2021 DA approval Procedure first issued → 15/26 Dec 2023 First Amendment (SNA Charge) notified/gazetted → 12 Aug 2024 MoP amends Guidelines Cl. 5.2(a) & 8.9 → 9 Dec 2025 Second Amendment notified (GNA/T-GNA alignment) → 8 Feb 2026 Statement of Reasons issued.

KEY CAVEATS

- Two instrument tracks run in parallel — MoP's policy Guidelines and CERC's binding Regulations — and the 2025 CERC amendment was drafted specifically to align with MoP's 2024 change; don't conflate the two.
- The 2023 and 2025 amendments barely overlap in subject matter: 2023 is narrowly about the SNA Charge, while 2025 is a near-total vocabulary and eligibility rewrite touching roughly 20 regulations.
- Always cite CBTE provisions by amendment year — a clause number correct in the 2019 principal text may have been renumbered, substituted or deleted by the 2025 Second Amendment.
- 'Due Date' (45th day from CTU bill) and the expanded 'Applicant'/'Cross-Border Customer' definitions did not exist before the 2025 amendment — treat pre-2025 analysis of these terms as superseded.