



Rule 17
ADJUSTMENT OF BILLS AND METER TESTS

Sheet 1

A. General.

Estimated Usage: When regular, accurate meter readings are not available or the electric usage has not been accurately measured, SCE may estimate the customer's energy usage for billing purposes on the basis of information including, but not limited to, the physical condition of the metering equipment, available meter readings, records of historical use, and the general characteristics of the customer's load and operation.

B. Meter Tests.

1. Prior to Installation. Every meter will be tested at or prior to the time of installation, and no meter will be placed in service if found to register more than 1% fast or 1% slow.
2. On Customer Request. A customer may, on notice of not less than one week, require SCE to test the meter for his service.

No charge will be made for such a test, but, should a customer demand a test within six months after installation or more often than once in six months, he will be required to deposit \$2.00 to pay, in part, the cost of the test. This deposit will be returned if the meter is found to register more than 2% fast or 2% slow.

A customer shall have the right to require SCE to conduct the test in his presence or in the presence of an expert or other representative appointed by him. The results of the test will be furnished to the customer within a reasonable time after completion of the test.

C. Adjustment of Bills for Meter Error.

A Meter Error is incorrect kilowatthour, kilovarhour, or demand registration resulting from a malfunctioning or defective meter. It does not include Billing Error, Unauthorized Use, or an error in registration caused by meter tampering by an unauthorized person. It also does not include conditions such as grounds, shorts, incorrect meter readings, meter dial overs, improper load wiring (including other customers' circuits connected to the wiring), accounting errors, switched meters, improper customer wiring, blown fuse in one energized conductor, or incorrect meter sizing.

(Continued)

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C. Adjustment of Bills for Meter Error. (Continued)

Where, as the result of a meter test a meter is found to be nonregistering or incorrectly registering, SCE may render an adjusted bill to the customer for the amount of the undercharge, and shall issue a refund or credit to the customer for the amount of the overcharge, computed back to the date that SCE determines the Meter Error commenced, except that the period of adjustment shall not exceed three years. Such adjusted bill shall be computed in accordance with the following:

1. Fast Meter. If a meter is found to be registering more than 2% fast, SCE will refund to the customer the amount of the overcharge based on corrected meter readings or SCE's estimate of the energy usage either for the known period of meter error or, if the period of error is not known, for the period during which the meter was in use. Refunds for fast meters cannot exceed three years. (T)
(N)

2. Slow Meter. If a meter for residential service is found to be registering more than 25% slow, or any meter for other class of service is found to be registering more than 2% slow, SCE may bill the customer for the amount of the undercharge based on corrected meter readings or SCE's estimate of the energy usage either for the known period of meter error or, if the period of meter error is not known for the period the meter was in use, not exceeding three months in the case of a residential service to a SCE-metered Single-Family Dwelling or Accommodation as defined in Rule 1, Definitions; not exceeding three months for a Small Business Customer, as defined in Rule 1 Definitions (or for a customer who certifies that it meets the California Government Code Section 14837 definition of "Micro-Business"); and not exceeding three years for all other service. (N)
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(N)

3. Nonregistering Meters. If a meter is found to be nonregistering, SCE may bill the customer for SCE's estimate of the electric service used but not registered, not exceeding three months in the case of residential service to a SCE-metered Single-Family Dwelling or Accommodation as defined in Rule 1, Definitions; not exceeding three months for a Small Business Customer, as defined in Rule 1 Definitions (or for a customer who certifies that it meets the California Government Code Section 14837 definition of "Micro-Business"); and not exceeding three years for all other service. (N)
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(N)

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D. Adjustment of Bills for Billing Error.

A Billing Error is an error by SCE which results in incorrect billing charges to the customer. Billing Errors may include incorrect meter reads or clerical errors by an SCE representative such as applying the wrong rate, wrong billing factor, or an incorrect calculation. Billing Error shall also include failure to deliver a bill, actual or estimated, in a timely manner in accordance with Rule 9.A.2.

If estimated bills do not result from inaccessible roads, the customer, the customer's agent, other occupant, animal or physical condition of the property preventing access to SCE's facilities on the customer's Premises, other causes within control of the customer, or a natural or man-made disaster such as a fire, earthquake, flood, or severe storms, the issuance of estimated bills shall be considered "Billing Error" for the purpose below, except for customers served under Schedule ESC-OO which provides for estimated meter readings on a bi-monthly basis (i.e) every two months.

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(T)

Billing Error does not include a Meter Error or Unauthorized Use, nor any error in billing resulting from meter dial over caused by other than SCE; switched or mismarked meters by other than SCE; improper customer wiring; blown fuse in one energized conductor; inaccessible meter; failure of the customer to notify SCE of changes in the customer's equipment or operation; or failure of the customer to take advantage of a rate or condition of service for which the customer is eligible; or failure to issue a bill in accordance with Rule 9.A.2. due to a natural or man-made disaster such as fire, earthquake, flood, or severe storms.

Where SCE overcharges or undercharges a customer as the result of a Billing Error, SCE may render an adjusted bill for the amount of the undercharge, and shall issue a refund or credit to the customer for the amount of the overcharge for the period of the Billing Error, but not exceeding three years in the case of an overcharge for all service accounts, and, in the case of an undercharge, not exceeding three months for residential service to a SCE-metered Single-Family Dwelling or Accommodation as defined in Rule 1, Definitions, not exceeding three months for a Small Business Customer, as defined in Rule 1 Definitions (or for a customer who certifies that it meets the California Government Code Section 14837 definition of "Micro-Business"); and not exceeding three years for all other service.

E. Adjustment of Bills for Unauthorized Use.

Unauthorized Use is the use of energy in noncompliance with SCE's tariffs or applicable law. It includes, but is not limited to, meter tampering, unauthorized connection or reconnection, theft, fraud, intentional or unintentional use of energy whereby SCE is denied full compensation for electric service provided.

Where SCE determines that there has been Unauthorized Use of electric service, SCE may bill the customer for SCE's estimate of such unauthorized use. However, such estimated bill shall indicate unauthorized use for the most recent three years and, separately, unauthorized use beyond the three-year period for collection as provided by law.

Nothing in this Rule shall be interpreted as limiting SCE's rights under any provisions of any applicable law.

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E. Adjustment of Bills for Unauthorized Use. (Continued)

1. Actual Usage.

If accurate meter readings from a remote check meter are available for the unauthorized use period, they will be used for billing purposes.

2. Estimated Usage.

If the electric usage has not been accurately measured, SCE may estimate the energy usage for billing purposes. The basis for the estimate may include, without limitation, the physical condition of the metering equipment, available meter readings, records of historical use, or the general characteristics of the load and operation of the Customer or person being billed, with consideration of any appropriate seasonal adjustment.

Estimated bills for the unauthorized use period may be determined by SCE based on one or more of the following, without limitation:

- a. Accurately-metered use from a remote check meter during the unauthorized use period;
- b. The known percent error in metering attributable to the unauthorized use;
- c. Accurately-metered use prior to the onset of the unauthorized use;
- d. The equipment and hours of operation of the Customer or person being billed;
- e. Accurately-metered subsequent use of 30 days or more (if available);
- f. Annual use profile of at least five Customers with similar connected load, premises load profiles, hours or energy use, etc. (percent of annual use); or
- g. Other reasonable and supportable billing methodology when none of the aforementioned billing techniques are appropriate under the circumstances.

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E. Adjustment of Bills for Unauthorized Use. (Continued)

3. Recovery of Associated Costs.

SCE may recover from the Customer the associated costs resulting from the unauthorized use including both investigative and equipment damage costs. Investigative costs include time and material spent for investigation, bookkeeping, film and film development, and other costs of gathering evidence. Equipment damage costs include the cost to replace the SCE-owned equipment damaged by the customer.

4. Discontinuance of Service.

In accordance with the provisions of Rule 11, where SCE determines unauthorized use is occurring, SCE may refuse or discontinue service without further notice.

If any part of the Customer's wiring or any other equipment, or the use thereof, is determined by SCE or any other authorized public agency to be unsafe or in violation of applicable laws, ordinances, rules or regulations of public authorities, or is in such condition as to endanger SCE's service facilities, SCE may discontinue service without further notice.

SCE may also discontinue service in accordance with the provisions of its tariffs, for nonpayment of a delinquent billing for unauthorized use and for associated costs, including nonpayment under an amortization agreement.

F. Limitation on Adjustment of Bills for Energy Use.

For any error in billing not defined as billing error, meter error, or unauthorized use, SCE is not required to adjust the bill. However, any billing adjustment not specifically covered in the tariffs for an undercharge or overcharge shall not exceed three years.

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