

Bilateral Connection Agreement (BCA) – ICP Guidance

April 2026

This document is intended for Independent Connection Providers (ICP) with an accepted Point Of Connection (POC) offer from SP Electricity North West (SP ENW).

It provides guidance on the use, process and production of Bilateral Connection Agreements (BCA).

The Bilateral Connection Agreement (BCA) documents network connections between companies who are parties of the Distribution Connection Use of System Agreement (DCUSA).

For network connections these will predominantly be Independent Distribution Network Operators (IDNO) that have a requirement to be connected to SP Electricity North West distribution network.

Most IDNO connections will be LV extensions to SP ENW network or SP ENW HV RMU and IDNO Transformers and LV cabinets.

The Bilateral Connection Agreement (BCA) is an industry standard document contained in Schedule 13 of the DCUSA Distribution Connection and Use of System Agreement, [DCUSA Document - DCUSA](#).

For any variations from the above seek guidance from the Connections Charging Manager.

Bilateral Connection Agreement (BCA) Submission Process

- For all new IDNO connections onto SP ENW network, you must complete and submit a BCA template.
- We recommend you submit templates with your design submission to avoid delays at energisation.
- The latest version of the BCA templates are published on the SP ENW website and can be found by following the link below:
<https://www.enwl.co.uk/get-connected/our-services/connection-agreements/>
- Select the appropriate template for the interface type.
- For sites with multiple interfaces, we require a template for each interface.
- Notes have been provided to indicate the fields to complete.
- **Incorrect or Incomplete forms will be rejected and returned.**

- All submitted templates will be reviewed by an engineer for accuracy.
- Submitting templates with your design submission into the cic@enwl.co.uk mailbox will avoid delays with the production process.
- Approved templates will be forwarded to the contracts team following your design approval.
- The contracts team aim to produce the BCA document and submit it to your IDNO within 10 working days of receipt.
- If it is not possible to produce the BCA document at this time, for example if the new substation cannot yet be named, the commitment will begin from the date the missing information is available.
- Templates with amendments or those not submitted with a design submission should be sent direct to the contracts team, contracts@enwl.co.uk. The Contracts team will aim to forward these for review within 3 working days. The engineer will aim to review these within 5 working days.
- **Do not send to any other mailbox to avoid delays.**

Bilateral Connection Agreement (BCA) Signatory Process

- The agreement must be reviewed and signed by the IDNO and returned electronically to contracts@enwl.co.uk.
- SP ENW will then review sign and return the BCA to the IDNO.
- The BCA forms part of conditions precedent and must be signed, returned and confirmed received at least 5 working days prior to energisation.
- We recommend completing this process at the very earliest opportunity to avoid any issues with energisation

For further information or guidance please contact the following mailboxes:

For design submission queries –contact the Competition in Connections team – cic@enwl.co.uk

For contract queries – contact the Contracts team – contracts@enwl.co.uk