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## The Regulatory Framework for the Electric Vehicle Charging Activity

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**ERD - LL – 001 (V01/20)**

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**Legal Document:**

Decision of the Board of Directors of the Water & Electricity Regulatory Authority  
No. (42/48/01) Dated 21/01/1442 H.

**Reference Point for this Document:**

In case of any inquiries or observations about this document, the reference shall be to  
the Director of the General Department of Legal Affairs

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**Periodic Update of this Document:**

This Regulatory Framework will be updated as needed.

**Document language:**

This is a translation of these regulations from the Arabic original. It is provided for  
the convenience of non-Arabic speakers. The Arabic text is the official reference and  
shall govern in case of disagreement between the English and Arabic versions.

## 1. Legal Basis

Pursuant to the powers granted to the Water & Electricity Regulatory Authority (the “**Authority**”) in Article four (4) of the Electricity Law promulgated by Royal Decree No. (M/56) dated 20/10/1426 H., and amendments; and Articles four (4) and five (5) of the Authority Charter issued under the Council of Ministers’ Resolution No. (154), dated 04/05/1428 H., and amendments; as well as the relevant Clauses in the Saudi Arabian Distribution Code, the Authority issued this document.

## 2. Introduction

Rapid developments in the field of Electric Vehicle Batteries have led to a rapid uptake of this type of vehicle. Therefore, the development of dedicated infrastructure for charging stations in homes, commercial, and public locations has become of paramount importance. As part of the duties entrusted to the Authority in this regard, it has issued this document clarifying the regulatory requirements that must be complied with when installing Electric Vehicle Charging Equipment.

Note that this document is subject to changes and updates on a continuous basis, and whenever is needed.

## 3. Purpose of this Document

This document aims to:

- a. Specify the regulatory requirements that must be complied with when installing Electric Vehicle Charging Stations or Equipment.
- b. Ensure the effectiveness and safety of Electric Vehicle Charging Equipment, and ensure that it complies with the requirements of the Distribution Code so as to maintain the reliability of the Distribution Network.

## 4. Definitions and Terms

4.1 The terms and expressions defined in the Electricity Law, Implementing Regulations of the Electricity Law related to the duties of the Authority, or in the Authority’s Charter, or in the Distribution Code, shall have the same meaning when used in this regulatory framework, unless the context requires otherwise.

4.2 The following words and expressions shall have the meanings given below, whenever used in this document, unless the context requires otherwise:

**Electric Vehicle Charging Activity:** the process of providing an Electric Vehicle with the electric power needed to charge its Battery using fast or slow chargers.

**Charging Modes:** operational mode by which power is transferred from the power source to the Electric Vehicle Battery.

**Electric Vehicles:** any vehicle powered by one or more electric motors or one or more traction motors to propel the vehicle, where the motor derives electric current from a rechargeable storage battery or other portable energy storage device (rechargeable, or using energy derived from a source outside the vehicle), that is manufactured primarily for use in streets, public roads or highways.

**Electric Vehicle Charging Station or Equipment:** the conductors, including phase and neutral conductors, circuit grounding conductors, Electric Vehicle Charging ports, plugs, and all other accessories, electrical appliances, sockets, and devices specifically installed for the purpose of delivering power from a Facility's electrical installation to electric vehicles, and that permit connection between them if necessary (such as units mounted on poles or hung on walls).

**Internal Charger:** a charger installed inside the vehicle that is designed to operate only inside the vehicle.

**External Charger:** a charger connected to an alternating current source using a Facility's electrical installations that are designed to operate entirely outside the vehicle.

**Distribution Service Provider:** each person holding a valid license issued by the Authority allowing such person to develop, construct, own, operate and maintain a Distribution System.


**Facility:** any property with a connection point to the Distribution System.

**Contractual Load:** the Facility's load contractually agreed with the Distribution Service Provider.

**Qualified Contractor:** is a contractor qualified by the Distribution Service Provider to install and/or operate Electric Vehicle Charging Stations or Equipment.

## 5. Scope of Application and General Provisions


- a. Anyone wishing to install Electric Vehicle Charging Stations or Equipment in any Facility, irrespective whether such Facility is residential, commercial, governmental or industrial, shall comply with the provisions of this document.
- b. If the Electric Vehicle Charging Stations or Equipment are not connected to the Distribution Network, then their owners or operators are not required to comply with the Distribution Code.
- c. Providing Electric Vehicle Charging Services is exclusive to the entities that connected to the licensed operators.
- d. Owners or operators of Electric Vehicle Charging Stations or Equipment are prohibited from supplying electricity to such stations or equipment through the use of mobile electric power generation units.
- e. Owners or operators of Electric Vehicle Charging Stations or Equipment must be fully aware of such equipment and its operational methods, in order for them to be able to select the appropriate products of such equipment, and suitably Qualified Contractors to install them correctly. The basic components of any Electric Vehicle Charging Infrastructure are:
  - Electrical power supplied by the Distribution Service Provider
  - Electrical connections on site
  - Charging stations or equipment

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- f. To enable charging in residential Facilities, Electric Vehicle owners may install residential charging equipment in a suitable location within the boundaries of their facility, and shall coordinate with the Distribution Service Provider and manufacturers of both electric vehicles and charging equipment.
- g. Owners or operators of Electric Vehicle Charging Stations or Equipment, as well as Distribution Service Providers, shall comply with all applicable laws, regulations, and approved technical standards and codes, and any amendments to them, as well as any other relevant requirements approved by the Authority, or any other competent authority in the Kingdom.
- h. Owners or operators of Electric Vehicle Charging Stations or Equipment shall comply with all applicable environmental regulations when engaging in the Electric Vehicle Charging Activity, as well as any directives issued in this regard by the Authority, or any other related authority in the Kingdom.
- i. Owners or operators of Electric Vehicle Charging Stations or Equipment shall comply with all applicable health and safety regulations when engaging in the Electric Vehicle Charging Activity, as well as any directives issued in this regard by the Authority, or any other related authority in the Kingdom.
- j. Owners or operators of Electric Vehicle Charging Stations or Equipment shall comply with all approved municipal zoning requirements upon installation of Electric Vehicle Charging Stations; they shall also comply with any directives issued in this regard by the Authority, or any other related authority in the Kingdom.
- k. Approval granted to owners and operators of Electric Vehicle Charging Stations or Equipment to start practicing Electric Vehicle Charging Activity shall not constitute exemption from complying with any related laws or regulations; it is their responsibility to ensure they comply with all necessary legal requirements stipulated in any relevant laws or regulations.
- l. When owners and operators of Electric Vehicle Charging Stations or Equipment engage other third party to assist them in carrying out the Electric Vehicle Charging Activity, then such owners or operators shall select the qualified party that are able to carry out this activity efficiently and effectively. The owner of the charging equipment shall be responsible for the performance of the third party.
- m. It is prohibited for those licensed to engage in the activity of electricity distribution and retail sale, or any institution associated therewith, to engage in the Electric Vehicle Charging Activity.


## 6. Mechanism of Practicing the Electric Vehicle Charging Activity

- a. Based on the powers vested in the Authority under the Electricity Law and its Implementing Regulation related to the Authority's duties, the Authority has decided that the Activity of Electric Vehicle Charging is one of the activities that does not require obtaining a license from the Authority. However, owners and operators of Electric

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Vehicles Charging Stations or Equipment shall comply with regulatory and technical requirements issued by the Authority from time to time.

- b. Owners and operators of Electric Vehicle Charging Stations or Equipment shall cooperate with the Authority as needed, or as they are notified in writing to do so, with respect to everything related to enable the Authority's performance of its regulatory duties under the Electricity Law, its Charter, and the Implementing Regulations of the Electricity Law related to the Authority's duties. Furthermore, owners and operators of Electric Vehicles Charging Stations or Equipment must comply with any instructions or requests addressed to them by the Authority regarding the matters within the Authority's competence, according to any method and at any times as determined by the Authority.
- c. Owners and operators of Electric Vehicle Charging Stations or Equipment shall coordinate with the Distribution Service Provider before start any work related to the installation of charging equipment. In addition, the installation process shall be in accordance with the designs approved by the Distribution Service Provider.
- d. The Distribution Service Provider shall prepare the coordination mechanism that owners and operators of Electric Vehicle Charging Stations or Equipment shall follow when installing or operating such equipment, and must submit the mechanism to the Authority for approval.
- e. Owners and operators of Electric Vehicle Charging Stations or Equipment to shall notify the Distribution Service Provider of any changes in their activity immediately upon occurrence of such change.
- f. Owners and operators of Electric Vehicle Charging Stations or Equipment shall ensure that such equipment are in compliance with the standards and specifications approved by the related authorities.
- g. The Distribution Service Provider shall qualify contractors who install or operate Electric Vehicle Charging Stations or Equipment in Facilities connected to the Distribution Network. The Distribution Service Provider shall prepare the qualification procedures and submit them to Authority for approval.
- h. Contractors wishing to install or operate Electric Vehicle Charging Stations or Equipment shall obtain the necessary qualification from the Distribution Service Provider before starting any works related to this activity.
- i. The Distribution Service Provider shall notify the Authority as soon as possible, but not to exceed two (2) business days, of any major incident affecting any part of the Distribution Service Provider's system, or of any essential equipment owned or operated by the Distribution Service Provider at any location. The Distribution Service Provider shall, within twenty (20) business days from the date of occurrence of the incident or within any shorter period determined by the Authority, submit a report illustrating the available details of that accident and its causes, in accordance with the provisions of the Document of "*Incident Reporting Rules and Procedures*" approved by the Authority.
- j. The Distribution Service Provider shall provide the Authority with a statement that contains detailed information about the owners and operators of Electric Vehicle Charging Stations or Equipment, where such statement must include, for example but not limited to (details of the name of owners or operators, capacity, locations, contact

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addresses, the name of the contact person, and the charger type and voltage). The Distribution Service Provider shall update the aforementioned statement periodically every three (3) months.


- k. If a complaint or dispute arises regarding any subject related to this document or its implementation, or in relation to any aspect related to the Electric Vehicle Charging Stations or Equipment, the affected party may file a complaint with the Distribution Service Provider, in accordance with the procedures for Handling Consumers Complaints approved by the Authority. However, if the Distribution Service Provider and the affected party failed to reach a satisfactory solution for such complaint or dispute through the aforementioned procedures, then either of them has the right to submit the complaint to the Authority for its decision.

## 7. Tariff Determining Basis

- a. The Distribution and Retail Service Provider shall apply the approved tariff for feeding Electric Vehicle Charging Stations or Equipment according to the consumption category of the Facility to which it is connected, and in accordance with the provisions of the Electricity Service Provision Manual.
- b. The prices of the Electric Vehicle Charging Service are not subject to regulation, and are left to the market in order to be determined, taking into account the applicable regulations on combating monopoly and unfair competition. However, the Authority may - in accordance with the followed legal and regulatory procedures - set an upper limit for the price of such services in light of the market developments, provided that the sale shall only be carried out from the charging stations or equipment associated with facilities classified in the commercial consumption category.

## 8. Technical Requirements

- a. Owners and operators of Electric Vehicle Charging Stations or Equipment shall comply with the technical requirements issued by the Authority, especially the requirements of the Distribution Code.
- b. Owners and operators of Electric Vehicle Charging Stations or Equipment shall comply with all technical requirements issued by the Distribution Service Provider in the location where such equipment will be installed.
- c. Approval from the Distribution Service Provider shall be obtained prior to installing and operating any Electric Vehicle Charging Stations or Equipment in order to ensure the availability of the required electrical load or to allocate a source of electrical power supply.
- d. Electric Vehicle Charging Stations or Equipment shall be designed and installed in a way that allows maintenance and service work to be carried out in a safe manner.
- e. Owners and operators of Electric Vehicle Charging Stations or Equipment shall carry out periodic checks and tests in accordance with the instructions and recommendations of the manufacturer. Those Stations and equipment can only be operated after inspection and clearance by the Distribution Service Provider.

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- f. Owners and operators of Electric Vehicle Charging Stations or Equipment shall provide the Distribution Service Provider with the data it may request, including for example but not limited to (the use of charger, number of users, charging time, and quantities).

## 9. Final Provisions

The Authority may introduce any amendments or addition to this document, whenever is needed, or when the Authority is required to do so, whether pursuant to the requirements of any applicable law or its implementing regulations, or based on any relevant regulations.

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