



REGULATORY FRAMEWORK ON ELECTRICITY THEFT

The antisocial practice of electricity theft has surged in recent years, leading to the tightening of the relevant regulatory framework by the Regulatory Authority for Energy (RAE), in order to address it more effectively. More specifically, based on the new framework:

- ⊘ The unauthorized tampering with elements of the electrical grid, such as the meters which fall under the exclusive jurisdiction of HEDNO, for the purpose of altering or avoiding the recording of consumed energy (electricity theft), constitutes a criminal offence prosecuted ex officio in addition to posing a significant risk of electric shock.
- ⊘ HEDNO performs unannounced inspections to detect electricity theft and may immediately suspend the electricity supply if any interference or unauthorized reconnection, which can be dangerous for the safety of consumers and their property, is discovered.
- ⊘ In the case of detection of electricity theft, the offender will be required to compensate HEDNO for the amount of electricity that has been consumed without being recorded by the meter, at a considerably increased kilowatt-hour price (kWh). Specifically, the price of electricity will then be based on the Administratively Defined Price of 0.15 €/kWh increased by 70%, i.e. € 0.255 €/kWh, in accordance with RAE's relevant decision. Furthermore, the offender will also be required to pay HEDNO's administrative costs, ranging from € 300 to € 750.
- ⊘ If the amount due (or its installment, in the event of a settlement) is not paid by the deadline, HEDNO will immediately terminate the electricity supply and the supply will only be reconnected after the debt has been

paid in full. HEDNO may also restrict changing this supply's user until the debt has been settled or hinder that user's access to the Grid via another supply.

- ⊘ HEDNO warns consumers against any suggestions who promise "energy savings" by installing various devices on measuring systems. The alleged "savings" in these cases are the result of unlawful tampering with the measuring system, i.e. electricity theft. This means the consumers are in danger of being charged with electricity theft as well as related criminal offences. Moreover, they will be required to pay an increased price for the amount of electricity which has not been recorded, while also risking a suspension of their electricity supply.
- ⊘ To avoid being held accountable for any unlawful acts committed by others when leasing their property, owners must ensure that tenants transfer the electricity supply to their name.
- ⊘ Since the unauthorized reconnection of a suspended supply due to the termination of a supply contract (e.g. when a previous tenant has terminated the electricity supply after vacating a property) is also considered electricity theft, owners who lease properties without active electricity supply contract must not allow their use until the tenants have signed a new electricity supply in their own name.
- ⊘ It should be stressed that diligent/conscientious consumers are the ones burdened by this practice, since the increased cost of electricity due to electricity theft in the wholesale market is passed on to them. To that effect, electricity theft is an antisocial behavior, as the benefit of the few results in damages to many.
- ⊘ In addition to the steadfast enforcement of the new framework, HEDNO shall intensify targeted inspections for electricity theft, deploying all its resources in the struggle to initially halt this practice and then drastically reduce it, relying on the support and assistance of consumers.

More information

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