



UNDERSTANDING METER DEPOSIT REFUND

What is a meter deposit?

It is the amount required by distribution utilities (DUs) to be paid by the customer to guarantee against damage or loss of the electric meter installed at the latter's service address.



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In 1987, MERALCO started collecting meter deposits following the Board of Energy's Order 85-121 followed by the Energy Regulatory Board's (ERB) Order 95-21.

Is meter deposit the same as bill deposit or service deposit?

NO. The meter deposit is different from the bill deposit or service deposit. The bill or service deposit as defined in the Magna Carta for Residential Electricity Consumers, shall mean the deposit required from customers by distribution utilities of new and/or additional service equivalent to the estimated billing for one month to guarantee payment of bills.

Are residential customers still required to pay meter deposit?

NO. Pursuant to Article 8 of the Magna Carta for Residential Electricity Consumers approved on June 17, 2004, all consumers shall be exempt from payment of meter deposits since private distribution utilities have incorporated the cost of these electric watt-hour meters in their rate base.

Since July 2004, MERALCO has stopped collecting meter deposits from residential customers.

What is the refund on meter deposit all about?

The Energy Regulatory Commission (ERC) issued the Rules on Meter Deposit Refund (MDR) for all DUs in the Philippines on June 4, 2008. Implementation of these rules started six months after its effectivity date of July 5, 2008. The refund shall be implemented for a period of five (5) years starting January 2009.

For MERALCO Residential and General Services customers who have paid meter deposits within 1987 to June 2004, they can claim their refund from the Meralco branch servicing their account. After the MDR implementation period, all unclaimed meter deposits (MDs) will be surrendered to the Office of the Solicitor General. The unclaimed MDs will then be deposited in an escrow account to be advised by the utility.

Who is entitled to MDR?

Only registered residential customers who paid their meter deposit (for MERALCO – 1987 to 2004) are entitled to claim their MDR.

How much is the MDR?

It depends on when the meter was installed. Basically, the amount consists of the principal paid by the customer plus the interest earned. The interest is computed starting on the date the meter deposit was paid.

How will the customer know if he/she is eligible for MDR?

The DU shall post a notice on the customer's electric bill informing him/her of the details as to how, where, and when to claim.

For MERALCO customers, different modes of refund are available (i.e., cash or check, application to unpaid bills or credit to future bills). MERALCO Application Forms for bill/meter deposit refund for active and terminated accounts can be downloaded through their website: www.meralco.com.ph

