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Meter Socket Adapter Program Program Guidelines

Program Overview

The Meter Socket Adapter (MSA) Program is designed to facilitate the installation or removal of customer-owned MSAs (which may or may not provide electrical isolation capabilities) without modification of the residential panel. The primary goal of the MSA Program is to support the transition to a more efficient and sustainable energy infrastructure by expanding customer access to energy products that make installation faster, easier, and more affordable. Traditional installation of distributed energy resources and electric vehicle (EV) charging equipment often requires re-wiring of the main panel, resulting in costly installation. Instead, the MSA Program offers an installation option that will help customers avoid rewiring of the panel or panel upgrades when adding loads, such as distributed energy resources and EV charging equipment. MSAs are installed as an extension of the customer's meter cabinet, providing a safer installation by eliminating the need to enter or modify the service panel and saving customers time and money compared to the traditional method.

Level of Funding and Program Duration

In January 2021, the CPUC, via Decision 21-01-018, facilitated the commercialization of customer microgrid devices and required California investor-owned utilities to evaluate devices, such as MSAs, that enable microgrids for customers. In April 2023, SCE launched a pilot to evaluate the safety, reliability, installation, and operation of the Tesla MSA (also known as the Tesla Backup Switch). This pilot was extended through June 2025. Starting on June 12, 2025, this pilot was expanded to include additional SCE-approved isolating MSAs as well as the evaluation and subsequent installation of non-isolating MSAs that could be utilized by customers to avoid panel upgrades when adding distributed energy resources or EV charging equipment, per CPUC Decision 25-06-034. Customer requests for MSA installation will be accepted for the foreseeable future.

Program Eligibility

To be eligible for the MSA Program, applicants must meet the following criteria:

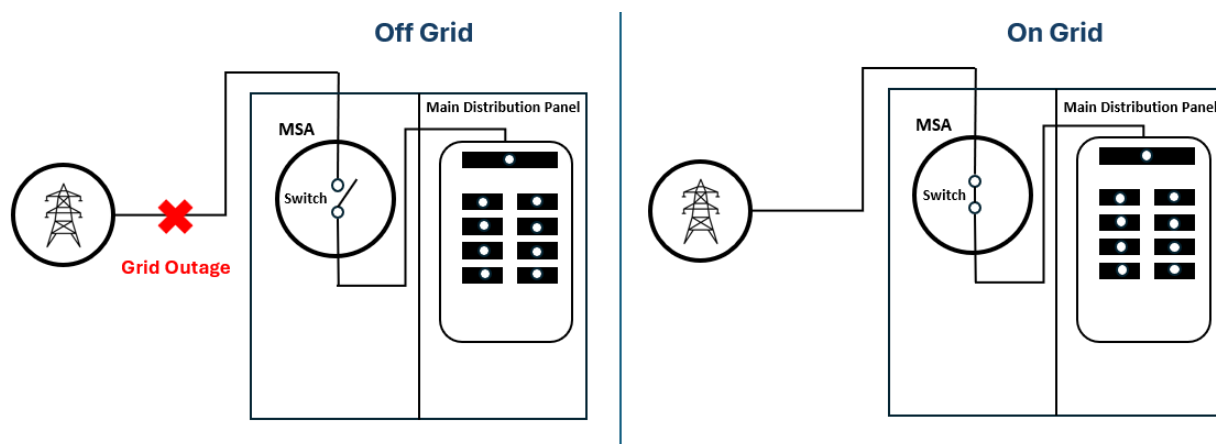
- Residential self-contained meter with single phase 3-wire 120/240-volt service panel, not exceeding a 200-amp rating that meets utility service and National Electrical Code standards
- Generating facility back-feed does not exceed rated load of service panel
- SCE-approved MSA will be left with the customer next to the meter panel in a high-visibility, waterproof package
- Meter panel has no **Electrical Service Requirement** violations
- No liquid-tight conduit is used for communication cables for isolating MSAs that have micro-gird capabilities, as the communication cable does not contain any 120/240VAC voltage source
- Liquid tight conduit is used for the interconnection cable for non-isolating MSAs due to the 120/240VAC in the interconnection cable

For specific requirements related to your selected device, please refer to the **Approved Product List**.

How the Program Works

Customers or their certified vendors and installers can participate in the program by submitting an MSA request through the **online program enrollment portal**. Once the request has been deemed valid by SCE, the MSA Program facilitates the installation or removal of an MSA as an extension of a customer's meter cabinet. All MSA installations and removals will be completed by an SCE meter technician. Figure 1 illustrates a high-level example of an isolating MSA installation.

Figure 1 – MSA Installation



Eligible Equipment

All MSAs installed through this program must be listed on **SCE's MSA Approved Product List**. Prior to submitting an MSA request, customers must purchase an approved MSA through an approved vendor and work with their vendor and/or installer to ensure that all manufacturer requirements have been met, in addition to SCE's requirements.

Please note, removal of any MSA device, as well as existing generation meter adapters (GMAs) can be requested through the program enrollment portal. If any maintenance is needed for an existing MSA device, the removal of the lock ring to complete the necessary maintenance should be requested by calling the SCE Customer Contact Center at 800-655-4555. SCE is not responsible for the maintenance of the MSA device, only the removal and replacement of the meter collar that is needed for the manufacturer to conduct maintenance.

To have a product added to the MSA Approved Product List, please refer to the **MSA Evaluation Guide** and reach out to **MEintake@sce.com** to request an evaluation by SCE's meter engineering department.

Installation/Removal Process

Once an MSA request has been submitted and deemed valid, SCE will issue a request for a meter technician site visit to attempt to complete the MSA installation or removal. For SCE meter technicians to successfully complete MSA installation, the following are required:

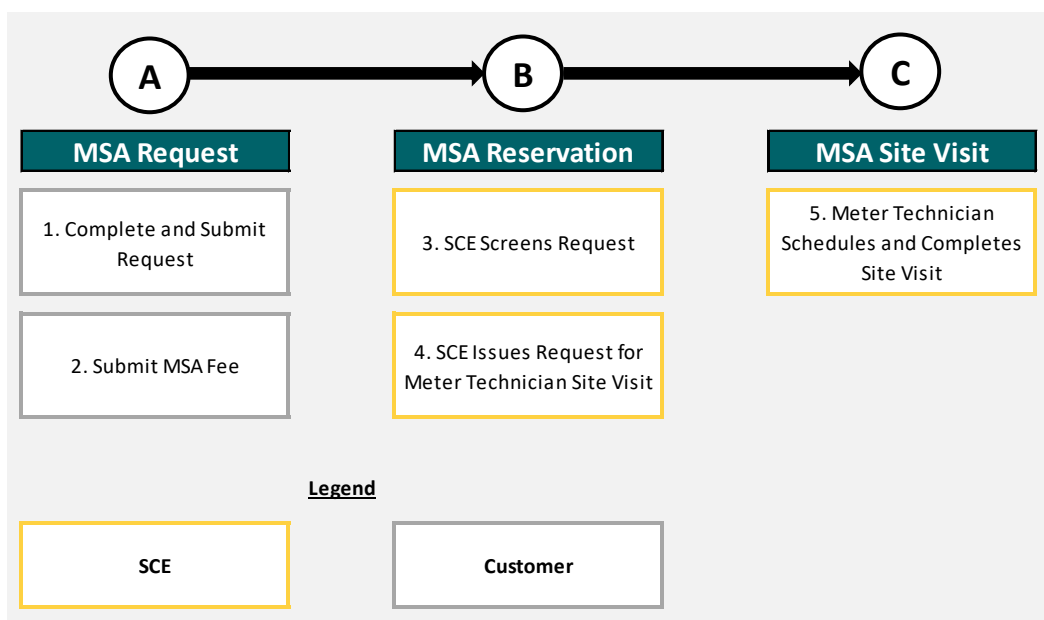
- MSA is left at the customer site near the meter in a high visibility, waterproof package or bag
- MSA is not damaged, dirty, or wet
- MSA should be installed to meet manufacturer requirements (please see **MSA Approved Product List**)
- All program eligibility requirements have been met

Please note, customers and/or contractors are not required to be present for the site visit as long as the meter technician has unobstructed, safe meter access.

To ensure smooth installation, vendors and contractors should refer to the **MSA Vendor Checklist**.

Detailed Program Activities and Process Flows

Process Diagram:



A. MSA Request

1. Complete and Submit Request	
Description	Customers and/or their certified vendors or installers submit the MSA request form which can be accessed through the online program enrollment portal .
Customer Activities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Complete the online MSA request form which is accessible through the program enrollment portal Ensure all eligibility requirements have been met Provide MSA device information Provide interconnection project number (if available) Indicate MSA request type (install, removal, replacement, or maintenance)
Documents Required	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Signed MSA Customer Agreement (available for download in program enrollment portal)
SCE Activities	None.
System Status	Unsubmitted

It is important that all MSA requests are submitted to SCE, as third-party contractors are not permitted to remove the utility meter to install, uninstall, or complete maintenance on an MSA. Please note, if an interconnection application was submitted separately, the MSA request will ask customers to provide the project number for that application so as to ensure both requests run in parallel.

If a contractor, vendor, or installer is submitting a request on behalf of the customer, it is required that the “Authorization to Act as Agent to Request SCE Work” section of the agreement is completed and signed by both the third-party agent and customer. The agent must also complete the “Application Submittal Form” section of the agreement. These sections of the agreement.

2. Submit MSA Fee	
Description	In order to complete the MSA online request, payment is required to cover the MSA site visit fee. After the request form is completed and submitted, the “Submit Meter Socket Adapter Fee” form becomes available.
Customer Activities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Complete the MSA payment form and submit payment • Ensure the MSA is left near the meter in a high visibility, waterproof package (if requesting installation) • Ensure the MSA is not damaged, dirty, or wet (if requesting installation)
Documents Required	None.
SCE Activities	None.
System Status	Unsubmitted

B. MSA Reservation

3. SCE Screens MSA Request	
Description	SCE screens MSA request for completeness and eligibility.
Customer Activities	None.
Documents Required	None.
SCE Activities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Verify the program agreement and application are filled out correctly and that customer information matches SCE records
System Statuses	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Request Submitted • Corrections Required

Before deeming a request valid, SCE will review the MSA request to ensure that the customer information matches SCE’s system of records, and the following conditions are met:

- Program agreement is signed by both customer and third-party agent (if request submitted by a third-party agent)
- Application information is complete and matches the agreement

If the MSA request is deemed not valid due to one of the conditions above, the system status will be updated to “Corrections Required.” Customers are eligible to receive a refund on their MSA fee, assuming they do not adjust their MSA request and are later deemed valid and have a site visit completed.

4. SCE Issues Request for Meter Technician Site Visit	
Description	After SCE deems a request valid, SCE issues a request for the meter technician to schedule and complete the site visit to install or uninstall the MSA.
Customer Activities	None.
Documents Required	None.
SCE Activities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Program team issues a request to the meter technician team to schedule and complete a site visit to install or uninstall the MSA
System Status	Pending Service Order

The meter technician site visit request will only be made once an MSA request has been deemed valid and payment has been received. It generally takes 5 to 10 business days for SCE to issue a service request, depending on the program’s request volume.

C. MSA Site Visit

5. Meter Technician Schedules and Completes Site Visit	
Description	SCE meter technician completes site visit and installation or uninstallation of MSA.
Customer Activities	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Customer should ensure that the meter technician has safe access to the meter• Customers are not required to be present for the site visit as long as the meter technician has unobstructed meter access
Documents Required	None.
SCE Activities	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• SCE meter technician completes site visit and indicates if MSA was successfully installed or not• If installation is unable to be completed, SCE informs customer of next steps
System Statuses	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Service Order Issued• Installation Complete• Site Visit Unsuccessful• Reschedule Requested

Prior to the site visit taking place, the system status will be “Service Order Issued” indicating that the meter technician team has received the MSA request but has yet to complete the site visit.

If a site visit is successful and the MSA was installed, the system status will be updated to “Installation Complete.”

If for any reason the meter technician was unable to install or remove the MSA, the system status will be changed to “Site Visit Unsuccessful” and a notice from SCE will be sent to the customer. The notice will provide the following options and will include additional details as to why the MSA was unable to be installed:

1. Select a different MSA using the “Modification Request” form
2. Request a second site visit using the “Reschedule MSA Site Visit” form (after necessary corrections have been made)
3. Withdraw this application, using the “Withdraw IR” form

In addition to the email notice, the meter technician will leave behind a flyer indicating the reason the MSA was unsuccessfully installed.

To reschedule a site visit once all identified issues have been addressed, the customer will need to initiate a reschedule MSA form (link can be found on email). The reschedule form will indicate if a new payment is needed for a second field visit. A second field visit will not

be scheduled until the second payment has been received (if required). At this point in time, the system status will be updated to “Reschedule Requested.”

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

1. What is an MSA?

A device that is placed in the meter socket, behind-the-meter, which may or may not enable grid isolation, that allows customers to interconnect their distributed energy resources or electric vehicle charging equipment to the supply-side of their main panel breakers without the need to modify the electric panel.

2. Can Certified Installers install or remove the MSA?

No. An SCE meter technician must install or remove the MSA. Contractors or customers do not need to be present for the MSA installation or removal. Please note, SCE meter technicians are not responsible for troubleshooting issues with the MSA. Please contact your installer or manufacturer for support.

3. Can any MSA device be installed by SCE?

No, please refer to the [MSA Approved Product List](#) for all eligible MSA devices.

4. Is an MSA compatible with all meter panel types?

MSAs are not compatible with any panels that have a meter socket with double-sided clips (rather than solid bolts or rivets) holding the bus bars.

Incompatible Panel Types:

- MBED2040B200BF/MBED2040B225BF
- MBED2040B200BF/MBED2040B225BF
- MBE1836B125BS/MBE1836B125BF
- MBED2040B200BFN/MBED2040B225BFN
- MBED2040B200BF/MBED2040B225BF
- MBED2040B200BF/MBED2040B225BF
- MBED3042B200BF/MBED3042B200BF6/MBED3042B200PV
- MBED2040B200BS/MBED2040B200BF
- MBED3042B200BF/MBED3042B200BF6/MBED3042B200PV

Please note, this is not a comprehensive list, as other incompatible panel types may be discovered at a later date.

5. Which conditions automatically disqualify installations?

- MSA isn't left next to the meter panel in a high visibility, waterproof package
- MSA is damaged, dirty, or wet
- Meter exceeds a 200-amp rating and/or does not meet utility service and National Electric Code Standards
- Liquid-tight conduit is used for communication cables for isolating MSAs
- Liquid-tight conduit is not used for the interconnection cable for non-isolating MSAs
- Communication conduit is obstructing pull section or breaker opening
- Instrument rated panel
- Panel has a meter socket with double-sided clips (rather than solid bolts or rivets) holding the bus bars
- Generating facility back-feed exceeds rated load of service panel
- Meter socket is incompatible with MSA
- Presence of any other safety hazard identified by the meter technician

6. Is an MSA the same as the Generation Meter Adapter (GMA)?

A GMA is a SCE-owned adapter that allows certain customers to interconnect their solar system to the supply side of their main panel breakers without the need to modify their panels. However, GMAs do not allow grid isolation whereas some MSA devices do allow grid isolation. If customers have an existing GMA and would like to install an isolating MSA, customers need to also request the removal of the existing GMA. Customers can request GMA removal by submitting a request through the [online program enrollment portal](#) and marking the MSA request type as "replacement". Please note, customers that have a GMA with existing solar only (without energy storage) will not be able to use an MSA for grid isolation. MSAs that allow grid isolation would need additional required devices, such as energy storage, as defined on the [MSA Approved Product List](#).

7. Is an MSA permitted with overhead service?

Yes.

8. What can and cannot be installed in the 3 ft gas meter clearance range?

See current [Electrical Service Requirements](#) listed on SCE's website.

9. When should customers request MSA installation?

The SCE MSA request should be submitted after the SCE-approved MSA has been purchased and left on site. Please note, any other generating facility applications and installation processes will run in parallel with the MSA request.

10. Does SCE charge for installation or removal?

Yes, \$279.22 per site visit.

11. Is there an MSA available for a 400-amp service?

No.

12. How long does the approval and installation/removal process take?

Installation timelines vary, but for standard applications with no incomplete or missing information, timelines are estimated to be the following:

MSA Reservation – 10 to 20 business days

MSA Site Visit – 10 to 20 business days

13. Does the MSA request cover my interconnection application?

No, a separate Rule 21 application will need to be submitted for any interconnection requests (i.e., solar, battery, etc.). This application will run in parallel with the MSA request.

14. How do I request a lock ring removal if I need to perform maintenance on my MSA?

Please reach out to the SCE Customer Contact Center at 800-655-4555 to request a lock ring removal.