

The New Reactive-Power Charge and Mandatory Hourly Pricing

What You Need to Know Now, and Why

The Causes of Low Power Factor

Low power factor is caused by inductive loads such as transformers, induction motors, generators and certain lighting ballasts. In Con Edison's service area, a significant amount of the power consumed by commercial customers is comprised of inductive loads

Inductive loads require the current to create a magnetic field that produces the desired work. The result is an increase in reactive and apparent power and a decrease in the power factor, or efficiency, of a system.

The efficiency of inductive equipment — and how it affects your system's power factor — will vary depending on its manufacturer, design, size, and age. Most inductive equipment has a nameplate with operating data, including its power factor at rated load. You can use this information to identify equipment that may need to be upgraded. You may also need to invest in specialized meters or measuring devices that determine power factor.

Con Edison will upgrade meters for customers that will be charged for reactive power and this may enable you to read power factor at service.