

Summary of the Rulings Panel's 2026 Procedures

The Rulings Panel is an independent body that assists in enforcing the Electricity Industry Participation Code by hearing complaints about breaches of the Code, appeals from certain decisions made under the Code, resolving disputes between industry participants that relate to the Code and reviewing trading suspensions.

The Panel has published Procedures: www.electricityrulingspanel.govt.nz

The Procedures provide for matters not covered by the Act, Regulations or Code, and are to be read in conjunction with the Electricity Act 2010, the Electricity Industry (Enforcement) Regulations 2010 and Electricity Industry Participation Code 2010.

Matters are commenced by filing with the Panel at registrar@electricityrulingspanel.nz

Complaints

When a complaint is made, the Electricity Authority decides whether to appoint an investigator and, if it does, the investigator must endeavour to affect a settlement in relation to it. If a settlement is not reached, or if the Authority rejects a settlement, then the Authority may lay a formal complaint with the Rulings Panel. Alternatively, if the Authority decides not to lay a formal complaint, then an industry participant that was a party to the investigation and that has suffered loss as a result of the alleged breach may independently lay a formal complaint with the Rulings Panel.

Appeals

There are three areas where the Code provides for appeals to the Rulings Panel. They are:

- Information Disclosure (Part 2, clause 2.15);
- Common Quality (Part 8, clauses 8.36 and 8.53); and
- Distributor Agreements and Arrangements (Schedule 12A.4, clause 7).

Disputes

There are two types of disputes that the Rulings Panel may resolve:

- Disputes that are identified in regulation 78: disputes in relation to the submission of information provided for the purposes of reconciliation under Part 15 of the Code, and disputes that relate to a contract for the procurement of ancillary services; and
- Disputes that are, by agreement, referred to the Rulings Panel for determination.

The Code identifies the following types of disputes:

- Part 8 – Allocating costs for ancillary services and extended reserve;
- Part 14 – Clearing and Settlement – Disputes about amounts;
- Part 14A – Prudential requirements; and
- Part 15 – Reconciliation – Revisions.