IHC SECTOR INTELLIGENCE

Energy Licensing Factsheet

ZERA Electricity Licensing Guidelines (Revision 11, June 2026)

- Power generation licence fees in Zimbabwe for power plants up to 10MW have now been scrapped. Application fees still apply at a flat US$20. Effectively, generation licence fees for capacities up to 10MW are now zero across every generation category, commercial & captive alike.
- This reform should be considered as a major fee & cost-of-capital win, not a full deregulation of process. Bankability cases can safely assume US$0 licence fees below 10MW. They should not assume the EIA, Grid Impact Assessment, Land, & Technical Partner documentation no longer matter.
- It should be known that there are important nuances & caveats regarding this development. Those aspects & more are covered in this factsheet.

IMPORTANT NUANCES & CAVEATS

● It is important to note that there have been some misrepresentations across some platforms online. Thus, this serves to clear up some misconceptions regarding the latest energy licensing reforms. Here is the summary of the important details to take note of:

ASPECT	NARRATIVE	VALIDATED POSITION
Licence Requirement For ≤10MW	Some have been reporting it as removed entirely & replaced by simple registration	● It has not been removed. A full generation licence application is still required with the full supporting document list.
Application Fee	US$20 flat fee	● The US$20 licence application fee, excluding VAT, is consistent across renewable & non-renewable categories.
Licence Fee For ≤10MW	It has been scrapped (prior it was ~US$7000)	● This is true. It is now US$0 licence fee for all technologies up to 10MW. This applies for both commercial & own consumption.
Registration Replacing Licensing	Developers register with ZERA pre-construction & notify post-commissioning (instead of holding a licence)	● ZERA still frames this a licence application; not a lighter registration or notification regime. No registration-only pathway is mentioned.
Above 10MW	Full licence & technology-specific fees still apply	● This is true. The full licence fee schedule applies above 10MW.

✅ All the aspects above are verified & validated against the Zimbabwe Energy Regulatory Authority (ZERA), Electricity Licensing Guidelines & Requirements, Revision 11, June 2026.

Where licence fees apply, renewable fees vary by technology & capacity factor. Non-commercial off-grid generation continues to attract no licence fees under the guidelines, independent of the 10MW threshold.

ZERA Licensing Framework

- ZERA licenses four classes namely, GENERATION, TRANSMISSION, DISTRIBUTION & RETAIL/SUPPLY, for any activity exceeding 100kW.

Generation Licensing Fee Schedule

	Application Fee	Licence Fee (≤10MW)	Licence Fee (>10MW)
Non-Renewable Commercial (Grid/Non-Grid)	US$20	**No licence fee**	US$10 000 + US$5000 per 25MW
Non-Renewable Own Consumption (Captive)	US$20	**No licence fee**	N/A
Own Consumption Renewable	US$20	**No licence fee**	N/A
Renewable Commercial, Solar PV	US$20	**No licence fee**	US$2875 Fixed + US$1437.50 Per 25MW
Renewable Commercial, Small Hydro	US$20	**No licence fee**	US$6875 Fixed + US$3437.50 Per 25MW
Renewable Commercial, Biomass	US$20	**No licence fee**	US$7500 Fixed + US$3750 Per 25MW
Renewable Commercial, Wind	US$20	**No licence fee**	US$3750 Fixed + US$1875 Per 25MW
Renewable Commercial, Geothermal	US$20	**No licence fee**	US$9000 Fixed + US$4500 Per 25MW

Documentation Still Required For ≤10MW Own-Consumption (Captive) Projects

- A captive generation project, which is the structure most relevant to mining, agro-processing, hospitality & industrial-park opportunities must still submit:

☑ Completed application form & certified registration documents (Certificate of Incorporation, Memorandum & Articles, CR5/CR6/CR11, share certificates)

☑ Tax clearance certificate & audited financial statements for the past 3 years (where available)

☑ Board profile, proof of funding & Technical Partner MoU or Letter of Intent

☑ Grid Impact Assessment by ZETDC & where applicable, fuel supply arrangements

☑ Land use permit, project maps, EIA certificate from EMA & a project implementation timeline

☑ Proof of payment of the US$20 application fee & where applicable, a ZIDA licence

Why The ≤10MW License Fee Removal Matters

- It removes a real cost barrier; not the compliance barrier. This is particularly relevant to captive power for mining, agro-processing, real estate & hospitality opportunities that depend on an overstretched national grid.
- This is also directly relevant to opportunities with embedded or planned on-site generation & mining assets that could add captive solar, hydro or diesel capacity.
- It improves the bankability narrative for hospitality & industrial deals. This is essentially for scenarios where reliable self-generated power is a recurring investor risk factor.
- It broadens the addressable opportunities beyond mining & hospitality. Solar IPPs, mini-hydro, agro-processing, industrial parks, educational institutions & data centre or telecoms infrastructure all fit within the ≤10MW captive or off-grid bracket.

This factsheet illustrates a recurring pattern in Zimbabwe's regulatory environment. Policy signals often travel faster through press & social channels than the underlying legal text is amended or clarified. This tends to create a verification gap that raises real diligence risk for investors relying on secondary reporting. At IHC one of the many things we do is to source, read & reconcile a regulator's own guidelines documentation against press and informal claims.