



Preparing for the British Industrial Competitiveness Scheme

A Guide for Manufacturers

From April 2027, the British Industrial Competitiveness Scheme (BICS) could reduce eligible manufacturers' electricity costs by around £35-£40/MWh. The first application window runs for just two months, so now is the time to check your position and prepare the evidence.

At a glance

1

Potential relief:
up to 100% of RO, FiT and CM costs.

2

Application window:
1 October to 30 November 2026.

3

Notification window:
1 December 2026 to 8 January 2027.

4

Minimum site use:
33 MWh of grid electricity a year.

5

Support begins:
April 2027.

What is BICS?

BICS is designed to tackle the high electricity costs affecting UK manufacturing competitiveness. Around 10,000 businesses across Great Britain's manufacturing base are expected to benefit.

It will support eligible frontier manufacturers in the Industrial Strategy's growth-driving sectors - including defence, clean energy and advanced manufacturing - and foundational industries that supply them. It complements the British Industry Supercharger (BIS), which supports Energy Intensive Industries.

Could your business qualify?

Your business must meet all four core criteria:



Be registered with Companies House.



Operate in an eligible sector under an eligible four-digit SIC code.



Manufacture an eligible product in Great Britain under an eligible six-digit HS code.



Use at least 33 MWh of grid-supplied electricity a year at each site for which support is claimed.

The 33 MWh threshold excludes electricity generated on site. SIC codes can usually be found in Companies House records, while businesses must identify and confirm their own HS codes. The government has published the eligible code lists for the first year.

Use [the checker](#) as a first step. The government's BICS eligibility checker can indicate whether a site is likely to qualify, but it is not a final eligibility decision.



What support could you receive?

BICS relief can cover:



Renewables
Obligation (RO)



Feed-in Tariffs
(FiT)



Capacity Market
(CM)

The following costs remain payable (not conclusive):

Wholesale
costs

Contracts for
Difference (CfD)

Nuclear RAB

EI Support Levy

TNUoS, BSUoS and DUoS
network charges



Relief is awarded by site, based on the proportion of imported grid electricity used for eligible manufacturing activities.

25% or less:

0% relief - no
BICS exemption

**More than 25%
but less than
50%:**

50% relief on
eligible import
MPANs

50% or more:

100% relief on
eligible import
MPANs

Shared meters, or electricity already covered by
an EI certificate, may require further adjustments.

More complex arrangements



**Landlord-supplied
sites:** the manufacturer
may still qualify, but
must make its own
application and
evidence the supply
arrangement and
electricity use.



**Private networks and
private wire:** sites may
qualify where policy
costs and metering
can be verified. Some
generator import meter
arrangements are
excluded in year one,
so contact your supplier
before applying.



Existing BIS support:
a business may apply
for separate eligible
activity, but cannot
receive relief twice for
the same electricity
consumption.

Additional payment in 2027

Businesses approved in the initial window will also receive a payment reflecting support they would have received had BICS started earlier. It will use consumption data from April 2026 to March 2027 and be delivered through suppliers, but BIST has not yet confirmed the calculation, value or delivery arrangements. Businesses are likely to receive the payment in early summer 2027.



What do you need to apply?

The [first application window opens on 1 October 2026](#) and closes at 11:59pm on 30 November 2026. Submitted applications cannot be amended. Each legal entity can make one application during the year, although it may cover multiple sites.

Customers will be notified of their eligibility by 8 January 2026, although decisions for more complex sites may take longer.

The following will need to be prepared:

1

Companies House number, registered name, GOV.UK One Login and proof of identity.

2

Authorisation from a Companies House-registered officer if an employee, consultant or agent is applying.

3

Site addresses and relevant MPANs.

4

Electricity bills covering the most recent six consecutive months available within the previous 12 months.

5

Six months of production evidence, such as production logs, ERP records or batch-linked quality-control records.

6

Relevant SIC and HS codes, plus a calculation of grid electricity used for eligible production and any sub-metering data.

7

Evidence for shared meters, landlord supply or private-wire arrangements, and an EII certificate where applicable.

We would recommend that you start preparing now, as six consecutive months of electricity and production evidence are required. Reviewing your MPANs, consumption data and records early gives you time to resolve gaps before the deadline.

How can Brook Green Supply help?

BICS can be complex, particularly for multi-site businesses or manufacturers with a mix of eligible and ineligible products. We can help you:

Identify relevant supply points and MPANs, and provide available invoices and consumption data.

Check whether sites appear to meet the 33 MWh threshold and explain how eligible electricity use is calculated.

Navigate the relief tiers, shared-meter and landlord arrangements, private networks and interactions with BIS.

Estimate the potential financial benefit and explain the non-commodity costs that will remain payable.

After approval, ensure the exemption is linked to the correct sites and MPANs and help you understand how it appears on your invoices.

Think your business could qualify?

If you're a Brook Green Supply customer, speak to your account manager and ask for a BICS readiness review. We can review the electricity information available for your sites and identify the practical steps to take before applications open.

Not a Brook Green Supply customer? Talk to our team about BICS and your business energy requirements. We can help you understand what the scheme could mean for your sites and the electricity costs that may remain outside the exemption.

[Speak to our team >](#)

Your business remains responsible for confirming its SIC and HS codes, evidencing its manufacturing activities and submitting an accurate application. Brook Green Supply can provide guidance and electricity-supply information but cannot guarantee eligibility or approval. BIST makes all final eligibility decisions.

