

What is a half hourly meter?

A half hourly meter (HHM) registers how much electricity is used in a building for every half hour of every day. For businesses that have a peak load at any time during the day of more than 100kWh their electricity meter will be half hourly.

HHM typically have a fixed or mobile phone connection to provide the data to the energy suppliers automatically each month, rather than being manually read. This helps energy suppliers issue accurate bills and show building occupiers how they use energy throughout each day which is very useful for energy efficiency initiatives.

Types of half hourly meters

There are four types of HHM that the Environment Agency describes as follows:

Mandatory: these are found in buildings that use enough energy to be required by law to have a HHM.

Voluntary: although not required by law, building owners or occupiers may have opted to have HHMs installed because they provide better data for accurate billing and energy efficiency.

Light: these are also called Smart Meters or Automated Meter Readers (AMR) and are installed voluntarily by building owners or occupiers for improved billing and energy efficiency benefits.

Pseudo: these are also called UnMetered Supplies (UMS). They are very rare and generally only used for installations such as street lighting, bus shelters and billboards.

How to tell the meter type

Your electricity bill should contain a Supply Number that indicates whether the meter is half hourly or not. If the Profile Class reference number indicated below is **00** the meter is always HH. It may be a 'light' or 'voluntary' HHM if the numbers are 05, 06, 07, or 08. Your electricity supplier or meter operator should be able to confirm the meter status in these instances. As a rule of thumb, if your annual electricity spend is over £30,000, you are likely to be on a HHM.

The numbers on the bottom row of your Supply Number form your Meter Point Administration Number (MPAN).

