

BICS Qualification Checklist

British Industrial Competitiveness Scheme · quick self-check for manufacturers · Hawley Energy, October 2026



BICS exempts eligible manufacturers from some of the policy costs loaded onto business electricity bills: Renewable Obligation and Feed-in Tariff exemptions from April 2027, Capacity Market from October 2027. Use this sheet to see whether your business is likely to qualify before you start the formal application.

The four tests

Test	What it asks	Where to check
1. Registration	Company registered at Companies House	Companies House record
2. Eligible sector (SIC)	At least one registered SIC code corresponds to an eligible manufacturing sector (up to four codes can be registered; only one needs to be eligible)	Annex A / GOV.UK sector list, SIC codes
3. Eligible products (HS)	The products your site manufactures fall on the eligible products list, identified by 6-digit HS codes (export isn't required: products may be sold or transferred between sites)	GOV.UK eligible products spreadsheet
4. Electricity use	33 megawatt hours or more of grid electricity per site per year (evidence: most recent six consecutive months within the last twelve showing more than 16.5 MWh)	Half-hourly meter data or bills

SIC code tip: the code doesn't decide eligibility: the actual activity does. If a company genuinely manufactures an eligible product but its registered SIC code is out of date, the code can be amended via a confirmation statement (£34 online, unless you've already paid a confirmation statement within the current 12-month payment period) and is usually processed within 24 to 48 hours. Registering a code for activity that doesn't happen is false information and puts the relief at risk.

Key dates and facts

Item	Detail
Application window	✓ Opened 1 October 2026, closes 30 November 2026 at 11:59pm
Application limit	One application per legal entity, no amendments after submission
First-window bonus	One-off lump-sum payment for businesses confirmed as eligible in this first window, covering the relief that would have been received had the scheme been in operation from April 2026. Payment expected in 2027 via your electricity supplier; exact amounts will be confirmed by government
Relief worth	Exempts the indirect costs of the Renewables Obligation and Feed-in Tariffs from April 2027, and the Capacity Market from October 2027
Administered by	Department for Business, Innovation, Science and Trade (BIST), not DESNZ, not the Environment Agency

Not the Supercharger

Don't confuse BICS with the Energy Intensive Industries scheme. BICS is broader (covers far more sectors, including foundational manufacturers like food, metals, cement, paper and chemicals) but shallower (fewer levies relieved, and no network charging compensation). The schemes are separate, with different eligibility tests and different relief levels. A business cannot claim relief under both schemes for the same activity. Check the published guidance rather than assuming either way.

Ongoing obligations after claiming

- Keep all supporting records for at least six years.
- Annual declarations in years 1, 3 and 4 (declaration window: December to end of January); fuller eligibility review in year 2, submitted between April and 30 November of that year.
- Tell BIST promptly about material changes: restructuring, site closure, metering changes, errors in previous submissions.
- BIST runs audits, spot checks and site visits; genuine honest mistakes are treated differently from material inaccuracies, which can mean relief suspended, revoked or recovered.

Where Hawley Energy can help

The evidence is the hard part: consumption by site and meter point, product-level HS codes, six consecutive months of data. That's a data exercise, and it's what we do. Our Enerlyse service brings your half-hourly meter data and billing data together into the electricity evidence BICS asks for, consumption by site and meter point over the required six-month window, working alongside the production evidence you'll need to compile. And if you'd rather talk it through first, a 30-minute call with Andrew Hawley costs nothing and carries no pressure.

Email: hello@hawleyenergy.co.uk · Phone: 01484 958761 · Web: hawleyenergy.co.uk/wyms

Source: GOV.UK, "Eligibility for the British Industrial Competitiveness Scheme" (version 3, 25 August 2026) and "BICS: guidance for applicants" (updated 10 August 2026). This sheet is a summary, not legal advice: always check the published guidance before applying. Last verified against GOV.UK: 20 October 2026.