

International Practices on Smart Meter Choice and Privacy Protection

Attachment to the petition · October 9, 2026

When advanced countries roll out smart meters, they generally preserve the customer's choice: customers may refuse installation, take a meter without communication functions, switch off remote transmission, or limit how detailed the returned data is. Article 2 of Taiwan's Personal Data Protection Act also provides that data which can directly or indirectly identify a person is personal data; a 15-minute usage curve can reveal a household's routine and when people are home. This page summarizes practices in other countries for Taipower's reference in handling this household's petition.

Comparison by country

Country	Mandatory?	Option to not install or not transmit data	Privacy protection design
Switzerland	80% of each area must be replaced by end of 2027; a 2025 Federal Administrative Court ruling held that customers may not refuse.	Those who refuse pay extra costs such as manual reading; some utilities use power-line (wired) transmission instead of wireless.	"Metering" and "remote control" are separate: controlling a customer's equipment requires the customer's explicit consent (opt-in).
Netherlands	A 2011 law states installation is not mandatory; from 2026 old dial meters must be replaced, but a digital meter without communication may be chosen.	Customers may refuse; those with a meter installed may request "administrative off" (administratief uit), ending remote reading, and report readings themselves.	Enabling smart functions requires customer consent; the meter keeps a log of switching that can be checked.
Germany	Communicating smart meters are mandatory only for annual use above 6,000 kWh, or homes with heat pumps or EV chargers.	Ordinary households get only a "modern metering device": digital display, no communication module, still read manually.	The communication gateway must be certified by the Federal Office for Information Security (BSI), with security comparable to online banking.
United Kingdom	Households have no legal obligation; they may refuse.	Customers with a meter may choose not to share half-hourly data and share only daily or monthly readings.	The customer decides the level of data sharing; 89% of consumers consider the opt-out option important.
United States	Varies by state.	California customers may keep an analog meter (US\$75 one-time plus US\$10 per month, reduced for low-income households); Vermont allows free opt-out by law.	Many states also offer a smart meter with the wireless transmitter switched off.

Requests for Taipower's consideration

The countries above show that both "not installing a smart meter" and "installing one but not transmitting detailed data" are workable and have legal precedent. This household asks Taipower to consider the following, in order:

1. Keep this household's existing meter, or replace it with an electronic meter without a communication module (the German and Dutch approach), with manual reading every two months.
2. If replacement is required, do not install or do not activate the communication module, following the Dutch "administrative off" approach, so usage data is not read remotely.
3. If data must be transmitted, send only the total kWh for each billing period needed for billing, not the 15-minute usage curve (the UK approach).
4. Without this household's written consent, do not use usage data for appliance analysis or marketing, or provide it to third parties; remote control functions also require prior consent (the Swiss approach).
5. If these arrangements create manual meter-reading costs, please explain the fee schedule; this household is willing to pay reasonable fees (the Swiss and Californian approach).

Sources: see the links for each country in the original table; accessed October 9, 2026.

English translation of the Chinese original. Translated October 2026.