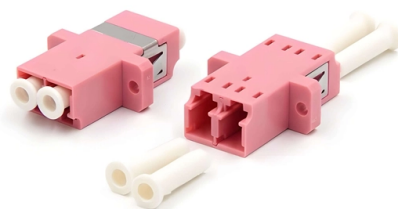


# New Zealand Low Voltage Switchgear 19-inch Price-Performance Ratio



## Overview

ABB's low voltage products are distributed through a network of electrical wholesalers throughout New Zealand, aimed principally at both domestic and commercial markets.

## Key Takeaways

The price-performance ratio of 19-inch low voltage switchgear in New Zealand depends on configuration, modularity, and features, with modular systems offering higher upfront costs but better long-term efficiency and safety. Key Factors Affecting Price-Performance

1. Configuration and Modularity Low voltage switchgear comes in fixed, withdrawable, and modular designs.

Fixed units are the most cost-effective initially, while modular or withdrawable systems, such as Eaton's xEnergy Main or ABB MNS series, provide maintenance flexibility, reduced downtime, and easier upgrades, which improves long-term performance despite higher upfront costs. Modular 19-inch systems allow for customized layouts and integration with smart monitoring systems, enhancing operational efficiency.

- 2.

**Compliance and Safety Features** Switchgear compliant with AS/NZS 61439 and IEC standards ensures reliability and safety. Features like arc-flash reduction systems (ARMS), active arc-fault protection (ARCON), and internal separation up to form 4b reduce failure risks and protect personnel, which adds value to the investment. Suppliers like TLJ Switchgear and Western Switchgear emphasize ISO-certified quality and safety management, which contributes to a higher price-performance ratio through reliability and reduced maintenance costs.

3. **Component Quality and Energy Efficiency** High-quality components, including premium breakers, copper busbars, and advanced insulation, improve durability and reduce operational losses. Integrated reactive power compensation and smart monitoring can enhance energy efficiency, particularly in industrial or commercial installations, which offsets higher initial costs.

4. **Supplier Expertise and Support** Local suppliers such as TLJ Switchgear, Excel Switchgear, and Western Switchgear offer custom design, manufacturing, and commissioning services, ensuring the switchgear meets specific load profiles and operational requirements. This tailored approach improves performance and reduces long-term costs, enhancing the overall price-performance ratio.

5. **Cost Considerations** Typical low voltage switchgear costs vary widely: basic panels start in the thousands of USD, modular systems can reach \$30,000+ per cell, and fully customized solutions may be higher. While 19-inch modular systems are more expensive upfront, their flexibility, safety, and energy efficiency often justify the investment for medium to large-scale projects.

## **Conclusion**

For New Zealand applications, the best price-performance ratio for 19-inch low voltage switchgear is achieved by balancing initial cost with modularity, safety, energy efficiency, and supplier support. Fixed units are cheaper but less flexible, while modular systems from reputable suppliers like Eaton, TLJ, Excel, or Western Switchgear provide long-term operational benefits that often outweigh higher upfront costs.

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