Services note
ABB solar inverter life cycle management

ABB solar inverter life cycle phases

Active	Classic	Limited	Obsolete
The inverter with complete life cycle services is available for purchase.	The inverter with complete life cycle services is available for power plant extensions.	Spare parts, maintenance and repair services are available as long as materials can be obtained.	ABB cannot guarantee availability of services for technical reasons or within reasonable cost.

Complete life cycle services

To ensure the availability of complete life cycle services, an inverter must be in the active or classic phase. An inverter can be kept in the active or classic phase by upgrading, retrofitting or replacing.

Limited life cycle services

Caution! An inverter entering the limited or obsolete phase has limited repair options. This may result in unpredictable downtime. To avoid this possibility, the inverter should be kept in the active or classic phase.
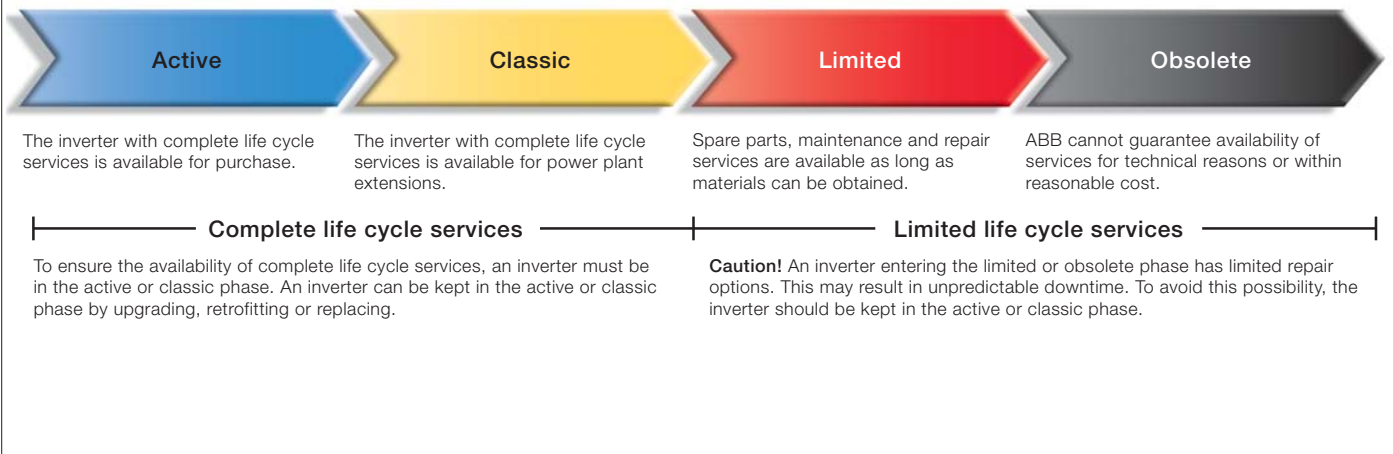
ABB follows a four-phase model for managing life cycles of its solar inverters. The aim is to enhance customer support and improve plant efficiency.

ABB has developed a solar inverter life cycle management model aimed at providing proactive services for maximizing availability and performance. This model not only provides optimum support to end users but also a smooth transition to a new solar inverter when the inverter has come to the end of its lifetime.

The model divides a product's life cycle into four phases: active, classic, limited and obsolete. Each phase has different implications for the end user in terms of services provided.

Benefits of life cycle management
Life cycle management maximizes the value of the inverter and its maintenance investments by:

– ensuring spare parts and ABB competence availability throughout the lifetime
– enabling efficient product support and maintenance for improved reliability
– adding functionality to the initial product by upgrading or retrofitting
– providing a smooth transition to new technology at the end of the product lifetime

Active phase
The active phase starts when the inverter is launched. In the active phase the end user benefits from different warranty options and other services such as training and technical support including inverter adjustment for optimum performance. Complete life cycle services from spare parts and preventive maintenance to retrofits and service contracts are also provided. The active phase ends when the volume production of the inverter ceases. ABB issues an announcement of the life cycle phase change.

Classic phase
ABB solar inverter users continue to benefit from complete life cycle services throughout the classic phase. The classic phase is closely aligned with ABB's research and development work to provide continuing support for solar inverters while developing future inverter generations. In the classic phase new inverter hardware and software development may be required to provide the maintenance techniques and upgrades needed to guarantee that the inverter continues to operate at its peak performance.

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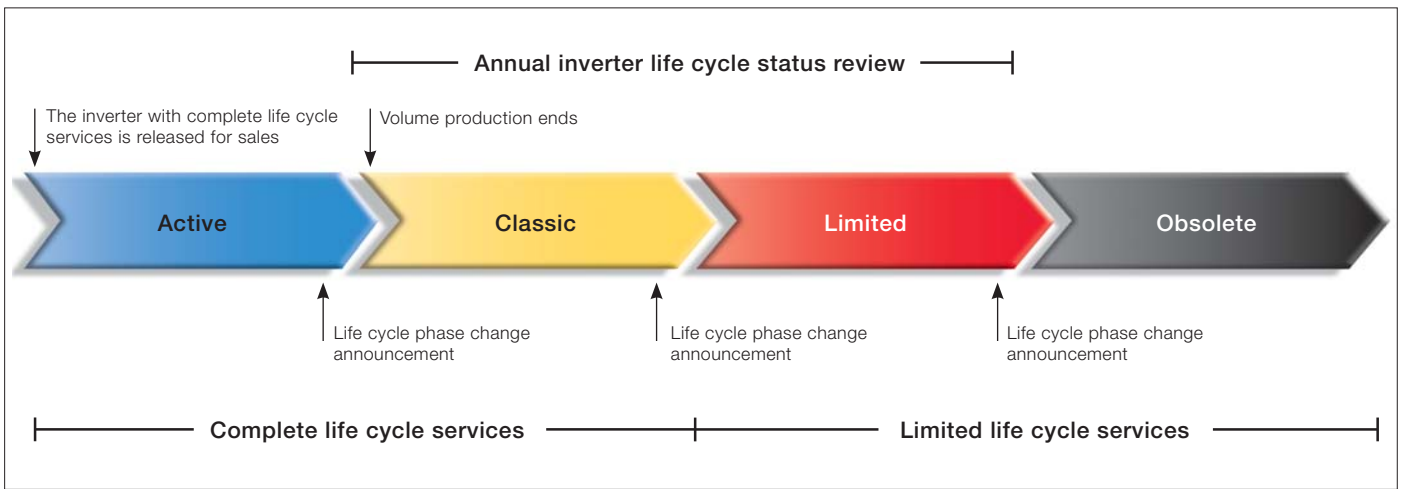
Even though ABB solar inverters are no longer marketed in the classic phase, inverter modules are available for purchase. Complete inverters and inverter modules for power plant extensions, spare parts and software upgrades are available.

The ABB solar inverter maintenance is straightforward. By following ABB's maintenance schedules, life cycle costs can usually be minimized. Maintenance schedules, which are available for every solar inverter, are based on ABB's four decades of experience in frequency converter technology. Solar inverter upgrades and retrofits improve performance and extend the inverter lifetime. Throughout the classic phase, ABB reviews the availability of services. Should there be any changes in the availability of services for the inverter, ABB issues a life cycle announcement. This way the end users are kept fully informed.

To ensure the availability of complete life cycle services, ABB recommends that an inverter is kept in the active or classic phase of the life cycle. The inverter can be kept in the active or classic phase by upgrading, retrofitting or replacing.

Limited phase

In the limited phase, services gradually become obsolete. Spare parts are available as long as components and materials can be obtained. In addition to the annual life cycle status reviews, ABB issues a life cycle phase change announcement, half a year prior the product becoming obsolete. This is the last opportunity to transfer to new technology before product services end.

Obsolete phase

The ABB solar inverter is transferred to the obsolete phase when it is no longer possible to provide services at reasonable cost, or when ABB can no longer support the product technically, or the old technology is not available.

For more information, contact your local ABB representative or visit:

www.abb.com/solar
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