












UNC Workgroup Report	At what stage is this document in the process?
<h1 data-bbox="132 320 727 412">UNC 0776S:</h1> <h2 data-bbox="132 450 1098 656">Revision of the Modification Panel Meeting Location Requirement in the Modification Rules</h2>	<div data-bbox="1209 309 1468 622"> <div>01 Modification</div> <div>02 Workgroup Report</div> <div>03 Draft Modification Report</div> <div>04 Final Modification Report</div> </div>
<p>Purpose of Modification:</p> <p>This Modification would remove the requirement for meetings of the UNC Modification Panel to take place in London.</p>	
<p>Next Steps:</p> <p>The Workgroup recommends that this modification should be subject to Self-Governance</p> <p>The Panel will consider this Workgroup Report on 21 October 2021. The Panel will consider the recommendations and determine the appropriate next steps.</p>	
<p>Impacted Parties:</p> <p>High:</p> <p>Low: UNC Modification Panel Members, Alternates, Observers and Invitees</p> <p>None:</p>	
<p>Impacted Codes:</p> <p>None</p>	

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Timetable		
Modification timetable:		Contact: Joint Office of Gas Transporters
Pre-Modification Discussed (Governance Workgroup)	04 August 2021	 enquiries@gasgovernance.co.uk
Date Modification Raised	05 August 2021	 0121 288 2107
New Modification to be considered by Panel	19 August 2021	Proposer: Phil Lucas National Grid NTS
First Workgroup Meeting	01 September 2021	 phil.lucas@nationalgrid.com
Workgroup Report to be presented to Panel	21 October 2021	 07825 592518
Draft Modification Report issued for consultation	21 October 2021	Transporter: National Grid NTS
Consultation Close-out for representations	11 November 2021	 as above
Final Modification Report available for Panel	12 November 2021	 as above
Modification Panel decision	18 November 2021	Systems Provider: Xoserve
		 UKLink@xoserve.com
		Other: Insert name
		 email address
		 telephone

1 Summary

What

The UNC Modification Rules currently require that meetings of the UNC Modification Panel take place in London unless the Panel determines otherwise in respect of any meeting. Such a determination would be made by Panel Majority.

This rule has been in place (and has remained unchanged) from the first incarnation of the British Gas TransCo Network Code (01 March 1996) and was subsequently carried forward into the first version of the Uniform Network Code (01 May 2005).

Why

The advent of more flexible working arrangements for individuals and a wider geographical spread of individuals' work locations means that the need for meetings of the UNC Modification Panel to take place in London (and by exception elsewhere) is an unnecessary constraint on the Panel Members and the Code Administrator of the UNC.

Removal of the existing constraints on the location of Modification Panel meetings will provide the Code Administrator with a greater level of flexibility in the arrangement of such meetings thereby optimising costs whilst maintaining the capability of the Modification Panel to fulfil its obligations under the Modification Rules.

How

It is proposed that the requirement for meetings of the UNC Modification Panel to take place in London is removed. Alternatively, it is proposed that meetings of the Modification Panel take place in the location in Great Britain specified by the Code Administrator unless the Modification Panel determines otherwise (i.e. that the meeting take place in a location other than that specified by the Code Administrator). Regarding communication of the meeting location, it is proposed that wherever practical, the Code Administrator provide a minimum notice period of 3 months.

2 Governance

Justification for Self-Governance

Application of Self-Governance procedures is sought because the change proposed is unlikely to have a material effect on the Uniform Network Code governance procedures (nor any of the other aspects described in the Self-Governance criteria). This is because the nature of the change is to merely allow a greater level of flexibility in the location of meetings of the Modification Panel.

Requested Next Steps

This Modification should:

- be considered a non-material change and subject to Self-Governance.
- be assessed by a Workgroup.

It is recommended that the Proposal is issued to the Governance Workgroup for consideration for a period of 2 months. A pre-Modification discussion took place at the Governance Workgroup on 4 August 2021.

3 Why Change?

The UNC Modification Rules Section 5.7.1 currently requires that meetings of the UNC Modification Panel take place in London unless the Panel determines otherwise in respect of any meeting. Such a determination would be made by Panel Majority as per Section 5.1.2(a) of the Modification Rules.

This rule has been in place (and has remained unchanged) from the first incarnation of the British Gas TransCo Network Code (01 March 1996) and was subsequently carried forward into the first version of the Uniform Network Code (01 May 2005).

It is understood that the existing constraint on the location of Modification Panel meetings reflected the work locations of the majority of the members of the UNC Modification Panel and other stakeholders in 1996 and the preference for face-to-face meetings, given the levels of video conferencing technology available at that time. However, the advent of more flexible working arrangements for individuals and the wider geographical spread of individuals' work locations means that the need for meetings of the UNC Modification Panel to take place in London (and by exception elsewhere) is an unnecessary constraint on the Code Administrator of the UNC.

Given this, removal of the existing constraints on the location of Modification Panel meetings will provide the Code Administrator with a greater level of flexibility in the arrangement of such meetings, thereby optimising costs whilst maintaining the capability of the Modification Panel to fulfil its obligations under the Modification Rules.

The inclusion of a minimum notice period for communication of the meeting location is proposed in order to enable parties to effectively plan their time and secure the most efficient travel arrangements. Requiring the Code Administrator to, wherever practical, provide this minimum period of notice recognises that in certain exceptional instances it may not be feasible to meet this minimum notice period requirement (for example sudden unavailability of a venue or the management of the governance of Urgent Proposals).

If this change is not made, the Code Administrator will continue to be obliged to make arrangements for meetings of the Modification Panel to take place in London.

If this change is not made, this may result in higher costs than necessary being incurred by the Code Administrator and individual Panel Members (and other stakeholders) compared to those incurred if more locational flexibility is introduced.

4 Code Specific Matters

Reference Documents

[Current UNC Modification Rules](#)

[UNC Version 1 \(May 2005\)](#) see document 01_10_MR.pdf

[British Gas TransCo Network Code Version 1 \(March 1996\)](#) see page 45

Knowledge/Skills

None.

5 Solution

It is proposed that the requirement for meetings of the UNC Modification Panel to take place in London is removed. Alternatively, it is proposed that meetings of the Modification Panel take place in Great Britain in the location specified by the Code Administrator unless the Modification Panel determines otherwise (i.e. that the meeting take place in a location other than that specified by the Code Administrator).

For the avoidance of doubt, a Modification Panel determination in this context shall be made by Panel Majority as per the Modification Rules Sections 2.1 and 5.1.2(a).

Regarding communication of the meeting location, it is proposed that wherever practical, the Code Administrator provides a minimum notice period of 3 months.

6 Impacts & Other Considerations

Does this Modification impact a Significant Code Review (SCR) or other significant industry change projects, if so, how?

No.

Consumer Impacts

Minor cost efficiency. Whilst greater efficiencies in the operation of industry governance process may be observed, this is unlikely to have a material impact on consumers. However, any minor cost efficiency may be passed on to consumers via Transporter price control arrangements in the event that code administration costs, over the longer term, are reduced.

What is the current consumer experience and what would the new consumer experience be?

Consumers' experience is not expected to be impacted by implementation of this change.

Impact of the change on Consumer Benefit Areas:

Area	Identified impact
Improved safety and reliability	None
<p>Lower bills than would otherwise be the case</p> <p>Whilst greater efficiencies in the operation of industry governance process may be observed, this is unlikely to have a material impact on consumers. However, any minor cost efficiency may be passed on to consumers via Transporter price control arrangements in the event that code administration costs, over the longer term, are reduced.</p>	Positive

Reduced environmental damage	Positive
Enabling members of the UNC Panel and other stakeholders to optimise travel and other arrangements whilst maintaining effective representation and participation in the business of the Modification Panel may lead to reduced Greenhouse Gas Emissions. Any such reduction is unlikely to be material.	
Improved quality of service	None
Benefits for society as a whole	None

Cross-Code Impacts

None.

EU Code Impacts

None.

Central Systems Impacts

None.

Workgroup Impact Assessment

Panel Questions

1. Proof of capability around communication technology for each location

Workgroup recognises that this is not a requirement of this Modification, and that technology can only be fully tested during a meeting. However, the workgroup did acknowledge that having technology that has been tested is important.

2. How will hybrid working be reflected in solution

The Joint Office will ensure at least 3 months' notice is provided, chosen locations will have been tested to ensure technology works with hybrid meetings (combination of in person and online). The Panel also have the right to veto a location if it is deemed not suitable.

A Workgroup representative requested that the Joint Office produce an assessment of locations and technology to assure Panel that meetings can be managed from other locations.

Criteria to include but not limited to: sound quality, connectivity, experience/engagement of attendees, visibility of attendees, effectiveness of voting etc.

Any location of any meeting will be assessed using the agreed criteria.

3. Impact of other workgroups

Workgroup agreed that there is currently no restriction in UNC around location of Workgroup meetings and this Modification does not intend to change this. However, the same criteria used to assess the effectiveness of Panel meetings should be expanded to Workgroup/Committee meetings.

The workgroup agrees that the legal text delivers the intent of the solution.

Rough Order of Magnitude (ROM) Assessment

None

7 Relevant Objectives

Impact of the Modification on the Transporters' Relevant Objectives:

Relevant Objective	Identified impact
a) Efficient and economic operation of the pipe-line system.	None
b) Coordinated, efficient and economic operation of (i) the combined pipe-line system, and/ or (ii) the pipe-line system of one or more other relevant gas transporters.	None
c) Efficient discharge of the licensee's obligations.	None
d) Securing of effective competition: (i) between relevant shippers; (ii) between relevant suppliers; and/or (iii) between DN operators (who have entered into transportation arrangements with other relevant gas transporters) and relevant shippers.	None
e) Provision of reasonable economic incentives for relevant suppliers to secure that the domestic customer supply security standards... are satisfied as respects the availability of gas to their domestic customers.	None
f) Promotion of efficiency in the implementation and administration of the Code.	Positive
g) Compliance with the Regulation and any relevant legally binding decisions of the European Commission and/or the Agency for the Co-operation of Energy Regulators.	None

Removal of the current constraint on the location of meetings of the Modification Panel better facilitates the objective of the promotion of efficiency in the implementation and administration of the Code by enhancing the ability of the UNC Code Administrator to optimise code administration costs.

Workgroup agrees with the above assessment of the relevant objectives.

8 Implementation

As Self-Governance procedures are proposed, implementation could be sixteen business days after a Modification Panel decision to implement, subject to no Appeal being raised.

9 Legal Text

Text Commentary

Reference	Explanation
GENERAL TERMS MODIFICATION RULES	-
Amendment to paragraph 5.7.1	Removes the requirement for meetings of the Modification Panel to take place in London. Establishes a requirement that the location of these meetings (limited to Great Britain) will be specified by the Code Administrator and introduces a requirement that it provide, where practical, no less than 3 months notice of this location.

Text

General Terms

Modification Rules

5 Meetings of the Modification Panel

5.7 Location and form of meetings

Amend paragraph 5.7.1 as follows:

Unless the Modification Panel shall in respect of any meeting of the Modification Panel otherwise determine, meetings of the Modification Panel will take place in ~~London~~ a location in Great Britain specified by the Code Administrator. The Code Administrator shall, wherever practical, provide not less than three months notice of the location of any meeting of the Modification Panel.

10 Recommendations

Workgroup's Recommendation to Panel

The Workgroup asks Panel to agree that:

- This Self-Governance Modification should proceed to consultation.