

**Draft Modification Report**  
**RG0252 Proposal 11: Appropriate use of the terms Surety and Security in UNC TPD**  
**Section V**  
**Modification Reference Number 0308**  
**Version 1.0**

This Draft Modification Report is made pursuant to Rule 9.1 of the Modification Rules and follows the format required under Rule 9.4.

**1 The Modification Proposal**

WWU raised Review Group 0252 “Review of Network Operator Credit Arrangements” in April 2009. This was convened to discuss the appropriateness of the existing credit management arrangements, taking into account the many credit related issues which had occurred since the publication of Ofgem’s “Best practice guidelines for gas and electricity network operator credit cover” (BPG) document.

This specific proposal better defines the terminology of security and surety so as to remove any ambiguity when credit issues are being considered.

The terms surety and security are used throughout TPD Section V, but are not always applied consistently. The table below illustrates what instrument of credit is surety or security. The necessary referencing has been incorporated into the revised legal text accompanying this modification proposal.

<b>Instrument of credit</b>	<b>Form</b>	<b>Form</b>
Letter of Credit	Surety	
Guarantee	Surety	
Deposit Deed		Security
Prepayment Agreement		Security

**Suggested Text**

**Uniform Network Code – Transportation Principal Document Section V**

**3.1.3**

(b) Subject to paragraph 3.1.3(c), where a Qualifying Company or Parent Company provides ~~security~~ surety in respect of a User in the form of a Guarantee (the “~~Security~~ Surety Provider”), then the Approved Credit Rating of such ~~Security~~ Surety Provider may be used in place of the User’s to calculate such User’s Unsecured Credit Limit in accordance with the table set out in paragraph 3.1.3(a).

(c) Where a ~~Security~~ Surety Provider provides ~~security~~ surety pursuant to paragraph 3.1.3(b) or paragraph 3.1.3(d) for more than one User, the aggregate ~~security~~ surety provided by the ~~Security~~ Surety Provider shall not exceed the maximum credit entitlement of the ~~Security~~ Surety Provider calculated in

accordance with the table set out in paragraph

3.1.3(a).

(d) A User may increase an Unsecured Credit Limit allocated pursuant to paragraph 3.1.3(a) or paragraph 3.1.4 by an incremental amount (the “Incremental Amount”) by providing surety ~~security~~ (in respect of the Incremental Amount) in the form of a Guarantee from a ~~Security~~ Surety Provider with an Approved Credit Rating subject to:

3.2.1 For the purposes of the Code:

(a) a **"Code Credit Limit"** is the sum of a User’s Unsecured Credit Limit and any security or surety provided by a User pursuant to paragraph 3.4, provided that such amount must be equal to or greater than the User’s Value at Risk;

3.2.10

(a) such amount as set out in the table below based upon the amount of additional surety or security demanded by the Transporter; and

Amount of additional <u>surety or</u> security required	Amount
Up to £999.99	£40
£1,000 to £9,999.99	£70
£10,000 or more	£100

(b) a daily charge equivalent to that percentage rate as is set out from time to time in the Late Payments of Commercial Debts (Interest) Act 1998 multiplied by the amount of additional surety or security demanded by the Transporter.

3.3.2 Without prejudice to paragraph V3.3.3, where a User fails to provide such additional surety or security as required in paragraph 3.3.1 (b) by the date specified in the notice pursuant to

3.3.1(b): until such time as the User’s Value at Risk is reduced to less than 100% of its Code Credit Limit; and

3.4 Surety or Security under Code

3.4.5 For the purposes of Code:

“**Deposit Deed**” shall mean an agreement that is Enforceable and in such form as provided to the User from time to time by the Transporter enabling the deposit of cash as ~~surety or security~~ or advance payments by a User;

“**Enforceable**” shall mean the Transporter (acting reasonably) is satisfied that the instrument of security or surety is legally enforceable and in this respect, where ~~security or surety~~ is provided by a company registered outside of England and Wales, the country of residence of such company must have a sovereign credit rating of at least A awarded by Moody’s Investors Services or such equivalent rating by Standard and Poor’s Corporation (where such ratings conflict, the lower of the two ratings will be used) and the User shall at its own

expense provides such legal opinion as the Transporter may reasonably require;

**2**

**User Pays**

**a) Classification of the Proposal as User Pays or not and justification for classification**

This Proposal is not classified as a User Pays Modification Proposal as it does not create or amend any User Pays services.

**b) Identification of Users, proposed split of the recovery between Gas Transporters and Users for User Pays costs and justification**

No User Pays charges applicable.

**c) Proposed charge(s) for application of Users Pays charges to Shippers**

No User Pays charges applicable to Shippers.

**d) Proposed charge for inclusion in ACS – to be completed upon receipt of cost estimate from xoserve**

No charges applicable for inclusion in ACS.

**3**

**Extent to which implementation of the proposed modification would better facilitate the relevant objectives**

*Standard Special Condition A11.1 (a): the efficient and economic operation of the pipe-line system to which this licence relates;*

Implementation would not be expected to better facilitate this relevant objective.

*Standard Special Condition A11.1 (b): so far as is consistent with subparagraph (a), the 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;*

Implementation would not be expected to better facilitate this relevant objective.

*Standard Special Condition A11.1 (c): so far as is consistent with subparagraphs (a) and (b), the efficient discharge of the licensee's obligations under this licence;*

Implementation would not be expected to better facilitate this relevant objective.

*Standard Special Condition A11.1 (d): so far as is consistent with subparagraphs (a) to (c) the 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;*

Implementation would not be expected to better facilitate this relevant objective.

*Standard Special Condition A11.1 (e): so far as is consistent with subparagraphs (a) to (d), the 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;*

Implementation would not be expected to better facilitate this relevant objective.

*Standard Special Condition A11.1 (f): so far as is consistent with subparagraphs (a) to (e), the promotion of efficiency in the implementation and administration of the network code and/or the uniform network code;*

Implementation would further the GT Licence 'Code relevant objective' of promoting efficiency in the implementation and administration of the network code and/or the uniform network code. The consistency of (correct) terminology being applied through this proposal will remove ambiguity when different credit instruments are being utilised.

**4 The implications of implementing the Modification Proposal on security of supply, operation of the Total System and industry fragmentation**

No implications on security of supply, operation of the Total System or industry fragmentation have been identified.

**5 The implications for Transporters and each Transporter of implementing the Modification Proposal, including:**

**a) Implications for operation of the System:**

There are no implications for operation of the System.

**b) Development and capital cost and operating cost implications:**

There are no cost implications.

**c) Extent to which it is appropriate to recover the costs, and proposal for the most appropriate way to recover the costs:**

Not applicable.

**d) Analysis of the consequences (if any) this proposal would have on price regulation:**

Not applicable.

**6 The consequence of implementing the Modification Proposal on the level of**

**contractual risk of each Transporter under the Code as modified by the Modification Proposal**

The contractual risk of each Transporter is unaltered.

- 7      The high level indication of the areas of the UK Link System likely to be affected, together with the development implications and other implications for the UK Link Systems and related computer systems of each Transporter and Users**

No implications have been identified.

- 8      The implications of implementing the Modification Proposal for Users, including administrative and operational costs and level of contractual risk**

*Administrative and operational implications (including impact upon manual processes and procedures)*

No implications have been identified.

*Development and capital cost and operating cost implications*

To be advised by Users.

*Consequence for the level of contractual risk of Users*

The level of risk is unaltered by this proposal.

- 9      The implications of implementing the Modification Proposal for Terminal Operators, Consumers, Connected System Operators, Suppliers, producers and, any Non Code Party**

No implications have been identified.

- 10     Consequences on the legislative and regulatory obligations and contractual relationships of each Transporter and each User and Non Code Party of implementing the Modification Proposal**

No consequences have been identified.

- 11     Analysis of any advantages or disadvantages of implementation of the Modification Proposal**

**Advantages**

Provides consistent and appropriate terminology within Section V3 and V4 of the UNC in respect of security and/or surety.

**Disadvantages**

No disadvantages have been identified.

**12 Summary of representations received (to the extent that the import of those representations are not reflected elsewhere in the Modification Report)**

*Written Representations are now sought in respect of this Draft Report.  
Consultation End Date: 30 July 2010*

**13 The extent to which the implementation is required to enable each Transporter to facilitate compliance with safety or other legislation**

Implementation is not required to enable each Transporter to facilitate compliance with safety or other legislation.

**14 The extent to which the implementation is required having regard to any proposed change in the methodology established under paragraph 5 of Condition A4 or the statement furnished by each Transporter under paragraph 1 of Condition 4 of the Transporter's Licence**

Implementation is not required having regard to any proposed change in the methodology established under paragraph 5 of Condition A4 or the statement furnished by each Transporter under paragraph 1 of Condition 4 of the Transporter's Licence.

**15 Programme for works required as a consequence of implementing the Modification Proposal**

No programme of works would be required as a consequence of implementing the Modification Proposal.

**16 Proposed implementation timetable (including timetable for any necessary information systems changes and detailing any potentially retrospective impacts)**

It is suggested that this Proposal be implemented on 1<sup>st</sup> October 2010 to coincide with the implementation of the other credit proposals being considered in this timeframe. Should this date not be achievable, then implementation could take place immediately following an Authority direction

**17 Implications of implementing this Modification Proposal upon existing Code Standards of Service**

No implications of implementing this Modification Proposal upon existing Code Standards of Service have been identified.

**18 Recommendation regarding implementation of this Modification Proposal and the number of votes of the Modification Panel**

**19 Transporter's Proposal**

This Modification Report contains the Transporter's proposal to modify the Code and the Transporter now seeks direction from the Gas and Electricity

Markets Authority in accordance with this report.

**20**            **Text**

**Representations are now sought in respect of this Draft Report and prior to the Transporters finalising the Report.**

For and on behalf of the Relevant Gas Transporters:

**Tim Davis**  
**Chief Executive, Joint Office of Gas Transporters**