

TRANSCO NETWORK CODE MODIFICATION PROPOSAL No. 0673
"Supply Metering Unbundling - Meter Information requirements in accordance with
the Review of Gas Metering Arrangements (RGMA)"
Version 1.0

Date: 09/12/2003

Proposed Implementation Date: 12/07/2004

Urgency: Non-Urgent

Justification

To ensure consistency with the industry wide programme to facilitate competition in supply metering, Transco intends to separate its metering and meter reading businesses from its transportation business and develop separate charges, accounts, systems and contracts. The scope and timing of these changes have been the subject of consultation by Ofgem and of discussion at various industry groups within the remit of the Review of Gas Metering Arrangements (RGMA) programme.

Whilst Transco's Gas Transporter's licence will continue to contain conditions relating to metering services until deregulation, it is proposed that these services will be provided by a separate business via new contracts, systems and processes. Changes to the Network Code are necessary to facilitate this requirement. The changes established in 'Nature of Proposal' have been identified by the Meter Asset/Work Unbundling and Standards of Service Unbundling sub-groups of the Supply Point & Billing Workstream.

Nature of Proposal

The Meter Asset/Work unbundling sub-group identified a series of key industry requirements for Meter Information which it is intended should be reflected within the Network Code. The following information details the principal requirements:

- Meter Information - Connection & Disconnection Notifications.

The Gas Act establishes that whenever works are carried out on a Supply Meter Installation (including installation, removal, exchange and repositioning of such equipment), meter asset related data (Meter Information) will be notified to Transco via one of two routes;

- i) by the Registered User; or
- ii) by the Meter Worker or a User (in the event that the supplier is unknown at the time of the works being carried out).

Transco is required to record all such information so provided in accordance with the conditions within the Gas Metering (Information on Connection and Disconnection) Regulations 1996.

In the event of Meter Information being received via the Meter Worker route, Transco would submit such data to the Registered User who would then be responsible for checking for data accuracy and resubmitting revised data to Transco.

In the event of Meter Information being received by Transco via the Meter Worker route and upon receipt of such Information the Registered User was unknown to Transco, such data would be stored by Transco and notified to the Proposing User at the point of the confirmation becoming effective (Supply Point Registration Date (D) minus seven Business Days). Transco would also forward any additional relevant data in its possession. The Proposing User would then check such data for accuracy and promptly provide the revised Meter Information to Transco.

A situation may arise whereby there may be a Proposing User and Registered User for a Supply Meter Point. In this event, Transco would submit Meter Information received via the Meter Worker route to both parties. It would then be the responsibility of the Registered User as at the time of Transco forwarding the notification to promptly provide the revised Meter Information to Transco.

- Meter Information - Provision.

The Registered User would be responsible for providing timely and accurate Meter Information to Transco to enable Transco to comply with its relevant Network Code obligations.

The Registered User would resolve any data inconsistencies with the relevant supplier and/or meter asset manager prior to submitting any Meter Information to Transco.

In the event of a Supply Point transfer of ownership, Transco would provide to the Proposing User on the seventh Business Day before the proposed Supply Point Registration Date, Meter Information as held on the Supply Point Register.

In the event that a Registered User became aware that the Meter Information held by Transco was incorrect, the Registered User would be responsible for submitting revised Meter Information to Transco. Where Transco became aware that the Meter Information held in the Supply Point Register was incorrect, other than when the Registered User has notified Transco of this, Transco would advise the Registered User, providing all relevant details. The Registered User would then be responsible for checking such data for accuracy and providing the revised Meter Information to Transco where necessary.

A Meter Information Notification would be accepted by Transco from the Proposing User with respect to a Current Supply Point upon the Supply Point Confirmation becoming effective. A Meter Information Notification would be accepted by Transco from the Proposing User with respect to a New Supply Point upon Supply Point Confirmation.

The Registered User or Proposing User would notify Transco of Meter Information via a Meter Information Notification in accordance with the requirements in the UK Link Manual.

1. Where a Meter Information Notification was submitted from the Registered User,
2. the revised Meter Information may impact on Transportation Charges, and
3. a Meter Reading was not provided,

Transco would determine a notional Meter Reading for the date at which the Meter Information Notification was processed (unless a date was provided within the Meter Information Notification). This would be utilised as the Meter Information Notification Meter Reading and the Opening Meter Reading (where required in accordance with section M3.8) and would be effective at the Supply Point Registration Date.

1. Where a Meter Information Notification was submitted by the Registered User contained a meter reading,
2. the revised Meter Information may impact on Transportation Charges, and
3. no Opening Meter Reading was provided in accordance with section M3.8, the Meter Reading provided within the Meter Information Notification would be utilised by Transco as the Opening Meter Reading and would be effective at the Supply Point Registration Date.

Upon receipt of a notification of a change to Meter Information from the Registered User, Transco would promptly revise the details held in the Supply Point Register as specified in the Meter Information Notification. Transco would ensure the Supply Point Register reflected the Meter Information as supplied by the Registered User.

- Meter Information - Additional Requirements

In addition to the Meter Information provided in accordance with Schedule 2B of the Gas Act pursuant to the conditions in The Gas Metering (Information on Connection and Disconnection) Regulations 1996, the Registered User may be required to submit additional data items relating to the Supply Meter, either in conjunction with or separate to a Schedule 2B notification, that are required by Transco to operate in accordance with its obligations. Such data items may include:-

- meter number of dials or digits
- converter number of dials (unconverted/converted)
- meter pulse value
- Gas Act Owner
- Meter Asset Manager
- Conversion Factors
- physical works on Converters where not performed in association with physical works on the Meter.

- Meter Information - General

The quality of relevant Meter Information is essential to ensuring the integrity of key Network Code processes.

Where Transco believed that a User was not undertaking its Network Code obligations for the calculation of consumption in conjunction with the validation of meter readings, it may require the User to produce evidence of its compliance together with supporting data.

In such a case the User would supply sufficient data to Transco to enable it to examine whether the User had met its obligations.

Where a User failed to comply with its requirements described above or where following such examination Transco believed that there was evidence that a User had not complied with its Network Code obligations, Transco would be entitled, dependant on the facts, to submit a report to the Regulator detailing its findings.

- Meter Information - Impacts on Service Standards

As a result of the change in responsibility for the provision of Meter Information, it is necessary to reflect the requirements within the service standards in both the Network Code and the ancillary documents - 'Network Code Reconciliation Suppression Guidelines' and 'GRE Invoice Query Incentive Scheme Methodology'. The following service standards have been identified by the Standards of Service Unbundling sub group as those impacted by the proposed provisions in respect of the provision of Meter Information:

- Suppressed Reconciliation
- GRE Invoice Incentives

- Suppressed Reconciliation

Where a User had provided Meter Information to Transco in accordance with the proposed provisions and a subsequent Reconciliation charge was suppressed as a result, then for the purposes of the service standard this would be a User Suppressed Reconciliation Value (USRV). This would not be subject to the existing Suppressed Reconciliation Value (SRV) rules, providing that Transco had not misrepresented this Meter Information.

- GRE Invoice Incentives

Where a User had provided Meter Information to Transco and a Gas Reconciliation Energy (GRE) charge relating to this was subsequently queried, it would be excluded from the regime for the purposes of the service standard. This is providing that Transco has not misrepresented such Meter Information.

Purpose of Proposal

The purpose of this Modification Proposal is to reflect within the Network Code the separation of Transco's transportation and supply metering activities. Such a measure is consistent with Transco's GT Licence Relevant Objective of securing effective competition between relevant shippers and between relevant suppliers.

Consequence of not making this change

The Network Code would not reflect the separation of Transco's gas transportation and supply metering activities

Area of Network Code Concerned

Principal Document Section M3.
Principal Document Section E8.1.1.
Principal Document Section S4.7.1(b).
Network Code Reconciliation Suppression Guidelines.
GRE Invoice Query Incentive Scheme Methodology.

Proposer's Representative

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Proposer

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Signature

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