

## European Standard on Gas Quality

The European Committee for Standardisation (CEN) published its gas quality standard EN16726 in December 2015. Agreement could not be reached on a harmonised range for Wobbe-Index but was for all other components including CO<sub>2</sub>, for which the .

CEN standard states:

“At network entry points and cross border points the maximum mole fraction of carbon dioxide shall be no more than 2.5%. However, where the gas can be demonstrated to not flow to installations sensitive to higher levels of carbon dioxide, e.g. underground storage systems, a higher limit of up to 4% may be applied.”

The standard's application to Member States is voluntary, although the European Commission had already stated its aspiration to see the standard implemented across Europe. To that end, the Commission requested that ENTSOG conduct an impact analysis and propose an amendment to the EU Interoperability Network Code to make its implementation legally binding.

ENTSOG's project to examine the impacts was conducted during 2016 and this CO<sub>2</sub> wording raised a number of issues for GB at that time. For example, it was not clear how the flexibility between 2.5% and 4% would be applied and managed over time, and, as the GB network contains underground storage facilities, it appeared that all GB entry points would need to conform to a 2.5% limit. Analysis by National Grid NTS showed that this would be expected to have a material negative impact on GB security of supply. This, together with a number of other concerns raised by EU market participants, resulted in the Commission announcing at the Madrid Forum in October 2016 that it did not propose to proceed with making the standard legally binding at this stage but would reconsider gas quality harmonisation again when further CEN work seeking to establish a harmonised Wobbe Index range reaches a conclusion, which is unlikely to be before 2020.

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