

UNC Draft Modification Report	At what stage is this document in the process?
<h1>UNC 0731S:</h1> <h2>Introduction of an Annual Modification Panel Report</h2>	<div style="display: flex; flex-direction: column; gap: 10px;"> <div style="border: 1px solid #ccc; border-radius: 5px; padding: 5px; display: flex; align-items: center; gap: 5px;"> 01 Modification </div> <div style="border: 1px solid #ccc; border-radius: 5px; padding: 5px; display: flex; align-items: center; gap: 5px;"> 02 Workgroup Report </div> <div style="border: 1px solid #ccc; border-radius: 5px; padding: 5px; display: flex; align-items: center; gap: 5px;"> 03 Draft Modification Report </div> <div style="border: 1px solid #ccc; border-radius: 5px; padding: 5px; display: flex; align-items: center; gap: 5px;"> 04 Final Modification Report </div> </div>
<p>Purpose of Modification:</p> <p>To facilitate continuous improvement and ensure the efficient and effective operation of the Modification Panel & Uniform Network Code Committee (UNCC), it is proposed to put in place a requirement for an Annual Report on such matters produced by the Independent Chair of the UNC Modification Panel.</p>	
	<p>This Draft Modification Report is issued for consultation responses at the request of the Panel. All parties are invited to consider whether they wish to submit views regarding this Self-Governance Modification.</p> <p>The close-out date for responses is 10 December 2020, which should be sent to enquiries@gasgovernance.co.uk. A response template, which you may wish to use, is at: https://www.gasgovernance.co.uk/0731</p> <p>The Panel will consider the responses and agree whether or not this Self-Governance Modification should be made.</p>
	<p>High Impact: None</p>
	<p>Medium Impact: All parties</p>
	<p>Low Impact: None</p>

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Timetable	
Modification timetable:	
Initial consideration by Workgroup	09 October 2020
Workgroup Report presented to Panel	19 November 2020
Draft Modification Report issued for consultation	19 November 2020
Consultation Close-out for representations	10 December 2020
Final Modification Report available for Panel (<i>at short notice</i>)	14 December 2020
Modification Panel decision	17 December 2020

 Any questions?

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1 Summary

What

The Modification Panel is the body constituted under the Uniform Network Code to oversee the Modification process as set out in the Uniform Network Code General Terms and Modification Rules.

With the role of an Independent Chair for the Modification Panel and UNCC there is an opportunity to leverage the knowledge and experience available, to facilitate continuous improvement and to ensure the efficient and effective operation of the Modification Panel and UNCC.

Why

The UNCC Modification Panel is the body constituted under the Uniform Network Code to oversee the Modification process as set out in the Uniform Network Code General Terms and Modification Rules.

The appointment of the Independent UNC Modification Panel Chair is set out in the Modification Rules including their current operating activities to manage meetings. The Independent UNC Modification Panel Chair nomination is approved by the Authority.

Both Transporters and Shippers provide a nomination to the interview panel.

Within the role of the Independent Chair for the Modification Panel and UNCC there is an opportunity to leverage the knowledge and experience available by the appointment of an independent Panel Chair, to facilitate continuous improvement and to ensure the efficient and effective operation of the Modification Panel and UNCC.

Except for a number of Authority driven Code Governance Reviews, there has been very little development of the UNC Modification Rules and associated processes to ensure the process is effective and efficient.

At times, Members have found the Modification Rules to be unclear or inflexible to meet changing environments where other industry codes may have not had similar issues.

Currently there is no standard reporting required by the Modification Rules on the operation of the Modification Panel and UNCC and therefore it is difficult for UNC parties to understand the effectiveness of the Panel,

It should be noted that the Code Administrators' Code of Practice, (CACoP), sets out the principles for an annual survey to compare Code Administrator performance, this does not include the performance of specific Industry Code Panels.

This Modification is seeking to implement a process to allow for the continuous improvement of the Modification process by the procurement of a report on the previous year's operation and identified issues.

How

The Proposal is to facilitate continuous improvement and the principle objective of this modification is to help to ensure the efficient and effective operation of the Modification Panel and UNCC.

This will be achieved by putting in place a requirement for an Annual Report to include recommendations for actions which would deliver against this objective.

The Annual Report would be produced by the Independent Chair of the UNC Modification Panel.

It is expected that the Independent Chair of the UNC Modification Panel would canvas the opinion of the Modification Panel & UNCC on matters arising before undertaking the annual exercise.

The UNC Modification Panel Independent Chair would be free to explore any other matters pertaining to the objective, including consideration of best practices in related and non-related industries.

The Joint Office is to provide all necessary support to the Independent Chair.

The Annual Report is to be provided annually.

The Annual Report should include recommendations for actions which would deliver improvements in line with the stated objective.

The Annual Report is to be provided to the Modification Panel and UNCC for consideration and to be published on the Joint Office Website.

2 Governance

This Modification should follow Self-Governance procedures as it is unlikely to have a material effect on the Uniform Network Code governance procedures or the Modification procedures; as it proposes the provision of a report which in itself does not change any operating conditions for UNC parties.

Requested Next Steps

This Modification should:

- Be treated as Self-Governance.
- Issued to Workgroup for assessment.

Following assessment by Workgroup, participants confirmed that the Modification should remain as Self-Governance.

3 Why Change?

The UNC Modification Panel is the body constituted under the Uniform Network Code to oversee the Modification process as set out in the Uniform Network Code General Terms and Modification Rules.

The appointment of the Independent UNC Modification Panel Chair is set out in the Modification Rules including their current operating activities to manage meetings. The Independent UNC Modification Panel Chair nomination is approved by the Authority.

Both Transporters and Shippers provide a nomination to the interview panel.

Within the role of the Independent Chair for the Modification Panel and UNCC there is an opportunity to leverage the knowledge and experience available by the appointment of an independent Panel Chair, to facilitate continuous improvement and to ensure the efficient and effective operation of the Modification Panel and UNCC.

Except for a number of Authority driven Code Governance Reviews, there has been very little development of the UNC Modification Rules and associated processes to ensure the process is effective and efficient.

At times, Members have found the Modification Rules to be unclear or inflexible to meet changing environments where other industry codes may have not had similar issues.

Currently there is no standard reporting required by the Modification Rules on the operation of the Modification Panel and UNCC and therefore it is difficult for UNC parties to understand the effectiveness of the Panel.

It should be noted that the Code Administrators Code of Practice sets out the principles for an annual survey to compare Code Administrator performance, this does not include the performance of specific Industry Code Panels.

This Modification is seeking to implement a process to allow for the continuous improvement of the Modification process by the procurement of a report on the previous year's operation and identified issues.

4 Code Specific Matters

Reference Documents

[UNC Modification Rules](#)

Knowledge/Skills

None required.

5 Solution

The Proposal is to facilitate a continuous improvement process and the **principle objective** of this Modification is to ***“help ensure the efficient and effective operation of the UNC Modification Panel, UNCC and associated processes and performance including MI”***.

This will be achieved by putting in place a requirement for an Annual Report on such matters and which, where relevant, will include recommendations for actions which would deliver against this objective.

Business Rules

- BR1. The Annual Report would be produced by the Independent Chair of the UNC Modification Panel.
For the avoidance of doubt, we would expect the first Annual Report to be produced as soon as reasonably practicable following the implementation of the modification.
- BR2. The Independent Chair to canvas the opinion of the UNC Modification Panel & UNCC on relevant matters arising before undertaking the annual exercise.
- BR3. The Independent Chair would be free to explore any other matters pertaining to the objective, including consideration of best practices in related and non-related industries.
- BR4. The Joint Office to provide all necessary secretariat support to the Independent Chair including all relevant processes and performance management information.
- BR5. The Report to be provided annually.
- BR6. The Annual Report should include recommendations for actions which would deliver improvements in line with the principle objective of this Modification.
- BR7. A draft Annual Report will be submitted to the UNC Modification Panel and UNCC for consideration.
- BR8. The Annual Report is to be provided to the UNC Modification Panel and UNCC and to be published on the Joint Office Website.

6 Impacts & Other Considerations

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

No associated impact on an SCR identified.

Consumer Impacts

No direct impacts identified. However, improvements in the operation of the Modification Panel and UNCC should have indirect benefits to consumers, particularly if this leads to the timescales to implement improvements.

Cross Code Impacts

It is anticipated that there may be consequential benefits to other industry Code Panels arising from the implementation of any recommendations due to benefits arising from the adoption of best practice.

EU Code Impacts

No EU Code impacts identified.

Impacts and other considerations continued

Workgroup participants discussed the purpose of the modification and the whether the solution, an Annual Report, would address the concerns. A workgroup participant challenged whether there were any other mechanisms that could address the issues / problems (e.g. raising a modification). There was consensus across the workgroup that raising new modifications could address some of the issues, but an annual report would have a wider scope reviewing policy, process, people and performance.

A workgroup participant asked whether the report would include any sort of metric reporting in order to assess the performance of the UNC Modification Panel. Workgroup consensus was that performance reporting and inclusion of appropriate Management Information was required and would help measure delivery v effort.

A question was asked about the audience the report was aimed at. The proposer suggested it was aimed at the wider industry and another workgroup participant agreed. A discussion around who would be responsible for responding to any issues raised within the report was had, with the workgroup recognising that there may be a range of people / parties who could be involved depending on the specific nature of the remediation required (e.g. new modification required, Authority intervention, process changes etc).

A workgroup participant, who is also the Independent Chair of the UNC Modification Panel, asked how independent the Chair would be, considering they were directly involved in the UNC Modification Panel process. A workgroup participant stated that they would be as independent as it could be without bringing in external consultants at significant additional cost. Workgroup consensus was that the Chair of the UNC Modification Panel would be sufficiently independent for this piece of work.

A workgroup participant asked how best practice could be incorporated and whether CACoP could be a forum for identifying best practice ways of working. It was pointed out that other CACoP members operated under different commercial arrangements and therefore maybe reluctant to share information. The Chair did point out that the Joint Office did attend the monthly CACoP meetings and therefore would be able to feedback any best practice ideas that did get discussed.

It was agreed that the workgroup was not required to provide the specific detail contained within the report. And there was consensus across the workgroup that the Independent Chair of the UNC Modification Panel had the

autonomy to prepare and produce the Annual Report based on the Business Rules outlined within the Modification, deciding what information would and would not be included.

Workgroup consensus was for the first annual report to be produced within the next few months and then annually towards the end of each calendar year. Workgroup recognised that this also aligned with the tenure period of the Chair, acknowledging that a newly appointed Chair should not be expected to write an annual report for a period they had not been in position for.

A brief discussion took place on whether the Annual Report would be published as a hard copy only, available only online or both. Workgroup agreed that it should be available online only.

Central Systems Impacts

None anticipated.

7 Relevant Objectives

Impact of the modification on the 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

Relevant Objective f)

The proposals in this Modification should create an environment of continuous improvement and adoption of industry best practice by Panel and UNCC which should lead to a furthering in the efficiency in the implementation and administration of the Code.

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

Workgroup confirmed that the legal text set out below meets the intent of the proposal documented in Section 5: Solution.

Legal text

MODIFICATION RULES

Amend paragraph 2.1 to add the following definition:

“Annual Modification Panel Report”: a report prepared annually by the Panel Chairperson to help ensure the efficient and effective operation of the Modification Panel, UNC Committee and associated processes and performance including management information.

Add new section 14 – Annual Modification Panel Report

Add new paragraphs 14.1 – 14.6:

- 14.1 Every year, the Panel Chairperson shall prepare and present to the Modification Panel and UNC Committee an Annual Modification Panel Report.
- 14.2 Before completing the Annual Modification Panel Report, the Panel Chairperson should seek the opinions of the Modification Panel and the UNC Committee on how to ensure the efficient and effective operation of the Modification Panel and UNC Committee.
- 14.3 The Annual Modification Panel Report should include recommendations as to how to improve the efficient and effective operation of the Modification Panel and UNC Committee.
- 14.4 The Code Administrator shall provide administrative support to the Panel Chairperson for the purposes of preparing the Annual Modification Panel Report, including providing access to all relevant processes and performance management information.
- 14.5 A draft Annual Modification Panel Report will be submitted to the Modification Panel and UNC Committee for consideration.
- 14.6 The Annual Modification Panel Report will be provided to the Modification Panel and UNC Committee and the Code Administrator will publish it on its website as soon as reasonably practicable following its completion every year.

UNIFORM NETWORK CODE – TRANSITION DOCUMENT

PART IV – MODIFICATION RULES

Add new section 8 – Annual Modification Panel Report

- 8.1 The Panel Chairperson shall complete the first Annual Modification Panel Report as soon as reasonably practicable following the coming into force of the requirement to prepare an Annual Modification Panel Report under modification 0731S.

Legal Text Explanatory Table:

Note: This table is based on the legal text for Modification 0731S published on the Joint Office website on 10 November 2020.

GENERAL – MODIFICATION RULES	Topic	Explanation
Addition to paragraph 2.1	Definitions	The proposed amendment introduces the definition of an Annual Modification Panel Report, which is a report to be prepared annually by the Panel Chairperson to help ensure the efficient and effective operation of the Modification Panel, UNC Committee and associated processes and performance including management information.
New paragraph 14.1	Annual Modification Panel Report	This new paragraph introduces a new requirement on the Panel Chairperson to prepare an Annual Modification Panel Report, as defined in paragraph 2.1.
New paragraph 14.2	Annual Modification Panel Report	This new paragraph requires the Panel Chairperson to seek the views and opinions of the Modification Panel and UNC Committee before completing the Annual Modification Panel Report.
New paragraph 14.3	Annual Modification Panel Report	This new paragraph requires the Panel Chairperson to include recommendations to improve the efficient and effective operation of the Modification Panel and UNC Committee in the Annual Modification Panel Report.
New paragraph 14.4	Annual Modification Panel Report	This new paragraph requires the Code Administrator to provide administrative assistance to the Panel Chairperson for the purpose of preparing the Annual Modification Panel Report.
New paragraph 14.5	Annual Modification Panel Report	This new paragraph requires a draft Annual Modification Panel Report to be submitted to the Modification Panel and UNC Committee for consideration.
New Paragraph 14.6	Annual Modification Panel Report	This new paragraph requires the Annual Modification Panel Report to be provided to the Modification Panel and UNC Committee and for the Code Administrator to publish it as soon as reasonably practicable following its completion every year.

UNC TRANSITION DOCUMENT – PART IV – MODIFICATION RULES	Topic	Explanation
New section 8 (and new paragraph 8.1) – Annual Modification Panel Report	Annual Modification Panel Report	This paragraph provides a transitional provision to require the Panel Chairperson to prepare the first Annual Modification Panel Report as soon as reasonably practicable following the implementation of modification 0731S.

10 Recommendations

Panel’s Recommendation to Interested Parties

The Panel have recommended that this report is issued to consultation and all parties should consider whether they wish to submit views regarding this Self-Governance Modification.