

Amending a Gas Vacant Site Process Guidance Document

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Introduction

This document sets out the circumstances whereby a Shipper may include a Supply Point in the Gas vacant process. Only Class 4 Non-Daily Metered (NDM) sites are eligible for a Supply Point vacant status to be applied.

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These are the circumstances in which a Shipper may designate a Supply Point as Vacant

1. Site is Live (and)
2. Site is in the Shippers Ownership (and)
3. Site is Product Class 4 (and)
 - a. Annually (or) Monthly Read (MRF) (and)
 - b. Small Supply Point (SSP) (or) Large Supply Point (LSP) (and)
 - c. Independent Gas Transporter (IGT) (or) Gas Transporter (GT) (and)
 - d. Standard Meter (DUMB) or Non-active AMR Meter or SMETS Meter with a Non-Active DCC Flag (and)
4. Site is Unoccupied (and)
 - a. Property is not currently being used as a dwelling
 - b. Property is not currently being used as a place of business
5. No Access to Site
 - a. ~~Meter-reader~~ **Shipper authorised representative** is unable to gain access to the property to read the meter*
 - b. Shipper is unable to contact the Customer for meter readings**
 - c. Customer has not provided meter readings

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*Shippers must be able to demonstrate ~~the meter reader~~ **a Shipper authorised representative** has attempted to visit and access the property to obtain meter reading(s). There must be two visits, at least 3 months apart but no more than 9 months apart, with the latest visit being within 3 months of requested entry to the Gas Vacant process.

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Noting that there must be no other information received or obtained that suggests anything other than a Vacant Status, otherwise the qualifying visits are void.

(and)

** Shipper must proactively make reasonable attempts to identify the owner of the property to obtain meter readings. The following could be seen as proactive attempts to identify the owner of the property to obtain meter readings:

- Checks to see whether the same problems in obtaining meter readings occur for Electricity (noting that this is only possible where the Supplier supplies both Gas and Electricity to the property); or
- ~~Reasonable~~ attempts have been made to contact such bodies as estate agents, letting agents, councils, the land registry etc to find out who the owner is. Where the owner has been identified, attempts have been made, and recorded, to contact the owner and obtain meter readings without success

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The Shipper would need to maintain records of the checks outlined above that have been carried out in their monitoring of Vacant sites.

Maintain Vacant Status

For a site to remain Vacant, the ~~Registered User~~ Shipper must be able to demonstrate the ~~meter~~ reader ~~Shipper authorised representative~~ or other recognised representative has attempted to visit the property to obtain meter readings every 6 months, from the date the Vacant Status was set. The Shipper must also continue to proactively make reasonable attempts to identify the owner of the property to obtain meter readings.

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