



NDM Sample Data Guidance and File Format Document

16.01.2025





1.0 Background

Uniform Network Code (UNC) allows Transporters to acquire Non-Daily Metered (NDM) sample data from Shippers and, following an impact assessment which was presented at a meeting on 17th November 2015, DESC members approved the future use of Shipper supplied NDM sample data, starting with the Spring 2016 analysis.

Following successful use of voluntary supplied data, UNC modification 0654 introduced an obligation (UNC Section H1.6) for the provision of regular NDM sample data from Shippers to the Central Data Services Provider (CDSP) with effect from 1st March 2019. This document provides guidance for Shippers in order to meet this obligation.

2.0 Guidance Notes

2.1 Criteria

Xoserve requires continuous daily gas consumption data for individual supply meter points that meet the following criteria:

- The supply meter point must exist on the UK Link system
- The supply meter point status must be Non-Daily Metered (i.e. Class 3 or 4)
- The supply meter point must be Live ("LI")
- They must be randomly selected, covering all Consumption Bands 01 to 08 (excluding Band 09 – sites with AQs greater than 58,600 MWh)
- As a guide, a target of 100 supply meter points per EUC (End User Category), per LDZ (Local Distribution Zone), per Shipper is suggested

2.2 Considerations

The analysis process requires continuous daily data for a 12-month period. If the period of 1st April to 31st March does not contain a full Easter Holiday period as defined by the EUC Demand Modelling rules, then it may be necessary to provide 13 months consumption data.

It is not possible to combine 2 supply meter point histories to create a single record. Therefore, once added to the sample files, a supply meter point should remain in the sample until either:

- It is lost from the Shipper's portfolio
- The meter is exchanged for a non-loggable model
- The meter is removed and/or meter point isolated



2.3 Assumptions

- Where consumption is zero, we shall assume these are genuine zero consumptions
- Where records are not provided for a day in the defined period, we shall assume these days should be treated as 'missing data'.

Note: Our validation does accept a small number of missing records within the defined period as we appreciate it is not always possible to generate a consumption record for every gas day.

2.4 File Submission Method and Frequency

- **Our preference is to receive the data file from Shippers monthly via email.**
Note: Alternative methods for sharing data may be available in future
- Emails should be titled "SM01: Sample Data" and should be emailed to the following box account:
xoserve.demand.estimation@xoserve.com
- It would also be useful to include contact details in case of queries (e.g. relating to file format and content, or on individual site's set-up or consumptions)
- Spring Modelling – By the 5th Business Day in April (09/04/2026), we require 12 months consumption for the period of **01/04/2025 – 01/04/2026**
- Autumn Modelling – By the 5th Business Day in October (07/10/2026), we require 12 months consumption for the period of **01/10/2025 – 01/10/2026**



3.0 File Format

3.1 File Name Construction

The file name must be constructed as follows:

SM01_SSC_yyyymmddvv.csv

Where:

VALUE	DESCRIPTION	DOM	LNG	VARIABLE(S)
SM01	Unique file identifier	T	4	'SM01'
SSC	The three letter shipper identifier	T	3	Shipper specific
yyyy	Year (relevant to the file date)	N	4	-
mm	Month (relevant to the file date)	N	2	'01' to '12'
dd	Day of the month (relevant to the file date)	N	2	'01' to '31'
vv	The in-day file version	N	2	Start at '01'
.csv	File extension	T	4	' .csv'

File name example:

- SM01_ABC_2026040101.CSV

3.2 File Content

The file must be made up of:

- Field Headings
- and
- Detail record(s)



3.3 Field Headings and Detail Records

The detail record(s) must be in the following specified format:

RECORD/FIELD NAME	OPT	DOM	LNG	DEC	DESCRIPTION
METER_POINT_REFERENCE_NUMBER	M	N	10	0	A unique numeric reference associated to the supply meter point
METER_READ_DATE	M	D	8	0	The date that the meter/converter read relates to in order to derive the volume (i.e. the date of the closing 5am read). For example, 'Meter_Read_Date' of '20240401' would relate to the Gas Day '31/03/2024'. FORMAT: YYYYMMDD
METER_SERIAL_NUMBER	M	T	14	0	The manufacturers meter serial number from which the meter read/consumption was taken
UNCORRECTED_VOLUME	M	N	12	2	The uncorrected metered volume calculated for the relevant gas day (in Cubic Metres or Cubic Feet)
CORRECTED_VOLUME	O	N	12	2	The corrector (converter) volume calculated for the relevant gas day (in Cubic Metres or Cubic Feet)
UNITS_OF_MEASURE	M	T	5	0	Indicator identifying the unit of measurement of the stated uncorrected / corrected volume. Allowable values: SCFH = Standard Cubic Feet per Hour SCMH = Standard Cubic Meters per Hour
MARKET_SECTOR_CODE	M	T	1	0	A code that specifies that the site is used for domestic or industrial and commercial purposes. Allowable values: D = Domestic I = Industrial
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