

UNC 0870:

Amendments to Wobbe Index & Calorific Value Lower Limits at NTS System Entry Points



Proposer: Phil Hobbins, NGT

Panel Date: 21 March 2024

Why change?



- Review of the gas quality specification within GS(M)R was conducted between 2016 and 2023. Gas Safety (Management) (Amendment) Regulations 2023 brings into law, from April 2025, a change to the lower Wobbe limit from 47.2 MJ/m³ to 46.5 MJ/m³
- This change allows but does not compel National Gas Transmission (NGT) to agree a reduced Wobbe Index lower limit with Delivery Facility Operators (DFOs) that deliver gas to the NTS
- To realise the identified benefits of this change in legislation, Network Entry Agreements need to be modified to permit wider specification gas to enter the NTS, for which the UNC requires consultation with Users as a pre-requisite
- NGT has engaged with all NTSs DFOs to establish who wishes to implement a lower Wobbe Index limit in their entry arrangements with NGT.
- 5 DFOs stated that they wished to and confirmed the limit for Wobbe (46.5 MJ/m³) together with their rationale for change.

Options considered that are not being progressed at this stage



Blanket modification for all DFOs

- No strong call for this by DFOs
- Several DFOs have stated that they are not currently interested in changing limits
- Those wishing to change at a later date are able to do so through the modification process

Do nothing

- GSMAR does not compel NGT to agree a reduction in the Wobbe Index lower limit.
- Several DFOs have indicated they wish to reduce the lower Wobbe Index limit.

Solution



- Modify the UNC to:
 - Enable NGT to execute contractual amendments with the 5 DFOs to gas quality parameters contained within the Network Entry Provisions that are in place in respect of NTS System Entry Points
 - Enable NGT to execute contractual amendments to gas quality parameters contained within the Network Entry Provisions and Network Exit Provisions that are in place with the Adjacent TSOs in respect of the Interconnection Points at Bacton (*where it is possible, if the modification is approved, that NGT could make gas available for offtake to the interconnectors that would breach the current lower limit values in their Interconnector Agreements*)

Recommended Steps



- The Proposer recommends that this modification should:
 - be considered as an Authority Direction.
 - be assessed by a Workgroup.

NGT proposes that Workgroup reports back to the September 2024 Panel to ensure potential issues and solutions have been worked through effectively prior to Panel's decision on whether the modification should be consulted upon.