

CODE MODIFICATION PROPOSAL No. 0017
"Amendments to the provisions governing 'failure' to obtain readings"
Version 1.0

Date: received 03/05/2005

Proposed Implementation Date: 01/08/2005

Urgency: Non-Urgent

Proposer's preferred route through modification procedures and if applicable, justification for Urgency

(see the criteria at http://www.ofgem.gov.uk/temp/ofgem/cache/cmsattach/2752_Urgency_Criteria.pdf)

This Modification Proposal has been developed within the Network Code Supply Point & Billing Workstream. General consensus on its objectives was forthcoming. 'Proceed to consultation' is therefore requested.

Nature and Purpose of Proposal (including consequence of non implementation)

With respect to using reasonable endeavours to obtain a Meter Reading (in the event that minimum 'cyclic' reading frequencies are not fulfilled), extend the permitted use of Relevant Transporter discretion where appropriate (in respect of undertaking steps to obtain a Meter Reading) to Annual Read Meters in addition to that available for Monthly Read Meters and incorporate provisions such that in the event that the Relevant Transporter has notified the Registered User that Meter Information is incorrect in accordance with Section M3.2.15, the Relevant Transporter will not initiate a Meter Reading earlier than 80 Business Days from the point at which the Relevant Transporter has notified the Registered User of the data anomaly.

Basis upon which the Proposer considers that it will better facilitate the achievement of the Relevant Objectives, specified in Standard Special Condition A11.1 & 2 of the Gas Transporters Licence

Transco has raised this Modification Proposal to allow the Relevant Transporter discretion to 'postpone' instigation of reasonable endeavours (and possible application of an associated charge to a User) to procure a read from an Annual Read Meter. Such discretion may apply where the Registered User is undertaking investigation in respect of a read previously procured pursuant to Section M3.6.1. Also, where the Relevant Transporter has previously procured such a read, to afford a User a four month 'window' to address a Meter Information related anomaly with respect to Annual and Monthly Read Meters.

This Proposal removes the potential for the levying of 'unnecessary' charges to Users associated with reading of Annual and Monthly Read Meters.

Transco believes that the measures identified within this Modification Proposal further the GT Licence 'code relevant objective' of facilitating the efficient and economic operation by the licensee of its pipe-line system.

Any further information (Optional), likely impact on systems, processes or procedures, Proposer's view on implementation timescales and suggested text

Where a User does not obtain 'cyclic' Meter Readings in compliance with the frequencies detailed within Sections M3.4 and M3.5 of the Uniform Network Code (UNC), and subsequently provides Valid Meter Readings to the Relevant Transporter in accordance with Section M3.3.4, the Relevant Transporter is obliged to use reasonable endeavours (where appropriate) to procure a Meter Reading (commonly termed a 'must read') from the relevant Meter. Users are currently subjected to a charge for the provision of this service.

Following the implementation of new data provision responsibilities following the introduction of the Review of Gas Metering Arrangements ('RGMA'), certain data anomalies require resolution and rectification action by the Registered User of the Supply Point (for example, the amendment of relevant Meter Information in accordance with Section M3.2).

Where a 'must read' is successfully obtained, in some instances the data returned is inconsistent with that contained within the Supply Point Register, hence the reading is rejected. In this event, the Relevant Transporter will 'refer' the anomaly to the Registered User in accordance with Section M3.2.15.

Each month, the Relevant Transporter is obliged to make an assessment of meters where read provision is not compliant with that detailed within Sections M3.4 and M3.5 of Network Code. Where a User has received such notification from the Relevant Transporter, it will be subject to an appropriate charge the following month (and each subsequent month where the data anomaly is not resolved) for the reading service provided by the Relevant Transporter.

The current wording of the Uniform Network Code Section M3.6.1(a) allows the Relevant Transporter to exercise its discretion (as may be the case where the User is investigating an 'asset' data anomaly) in respect of Monthly Read Meters in the use of reasonable endeavours to procure a meter reading for such meters. However, no such discretion is currently permitted in respect of Annual Read Meters. The Supply Point & Billing Workstream has identified that in the event that a meter asset query has been submitted to the Registered User, the Relevant Transporter should not initiate a further 'must read' request until a period of 4 months has elapsed. The Workstream determined that this would provide a reasonable opportunity for the query to be resolved and updated to the Supply Point Register.

Unless the relevant provisions are changed as described above, the current provisions of the UNC in respect of 'Failure to obtain readings' may subject Users to unnecessary additional charges.

No systems development work is required to facilitate implementation of this Modification Proposal. Minor changes to relevant processes and procedures operated by xoserve would be necessary.

Code Concerned, sections and paragraphs

UNC Transportation Principal Document Section M3.6

Proposer's Representative

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Proposer

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Signature

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