

Stage 04: Final Modification Report

0457S:

Extending the use of the UK Link Network (Information Exchange (IX)) to Meter Asset Provider (MAP) organisations

At what stage is this document in the process?



This Modification Proposal seeks to extend the use of the UK Link Network (Information Exchange (IX)) to Meter Asset Providers (MAPs) to enable more effective communication between Meter Asset Managers (MAMs) and MAPs.



Panel determined that this self-governance modification be implemented.



High Impact: -



Medium Impact: -



Low Impact: No impact to Gas Transporters, Shippers or Suppliers. Minor positive impact to Meter Asset Providers

0457S

Modification Report

21 November 2013

Version 2.0

Page 1 of 8

© 2014 all rights reserved

Contents

1	Summary
2	Why Change?
3	Solution
4	Relevant Objectives
5	Implementation
6	Legal Text
7	Consultation Responses
8	Panel Discussions
9	Recommendation

About this document:

This Final Modification Report will be presented to the Panel on 21 November 2013.

The Panel determined that this modification should be implemented.



Any questions?

Contact:
Code Administrator



enquiries@gasgovernance.co.uk



0121 288 2107

Proposer:
Chris Warner



chris.warner@nationalgrid.com



07778 150668

Licence Holder:
National Grid Gas
Distribution

Systems Provider:
Xoserve



commercial.enquiries@xoserve.com

Additional contacts:
Dave Addison



david.addison@xoserve.com



0121 623 2752

0457S

Modification Report

21 November 2013

Version 2.0

Page 2 of 8

© 2014 all rights reserved

1 Summary

Is this a Self-Governance Modification?

The Modification Panel determined that this is a self-governance modification.

Why Change?

Meter Asset Providers (MAPs) provide Supply Meters to Meter Asset Managers (MAMs) who in turn provide metering services (installation and removal) and maintenance services to Suppliers. When a MAM removes a meter the MAM needs to inform the MAP. Many MAMs have access to the Information Exchange (IX) network and extending the availability of IX access to MAPs would enable more efficient communications between MAMs and MAPs, thus enabling improved tracking of Supply Meters.

Solution

The solution is to extend the provisions of the UNC to permit the IX to be available to MAPs for the purposes only of enabling communications with Meter Asset Managers.

Relevant Objectives

This modification would have a positive impact on the efficient implementation of the Code.

Implementation

There are no implementation costs associated with this modification. There are no factors that drive a particular implementation date. In the event a MAP wished to take advantage of the IX services they would pay for the services they use (in the same way MAMs currently do).

As Self-Governance procedures are proposed, implementation could be sixteen business days after a Panel decision to implement (subject to no Appeal being raised).

2 Why Change?

MAPs provide Supply Meters to MAMs who in turn provide metering services (installation and removal) and maintenance services to Suppliers. When a MAM removes a meter the MAM needs to inform the MAP. Many MAMs have access to the IX and extending the availability of the IX access to MAPs would enable more efficient communications between MAMs and Meter Asset Providers, thus enabling improved tracking of Supply Meters.

3 Solution

The solution is to extend the provisions of the UNC to permit the IX to be available to MAPs for the purposes only of enabling communications with Meter Asset Managers.

User Pays

Classification of the modification as User Pays, or not, and the justification for such classification.

There are no services to UNC parties created by this Modification which is consequently not classified as User Pays.

Identification of Users of the service, the proposed split of the recovery between Gas Transporters and Users for User Pays costs and the justification for such view.

Not applicable.

Proposed charge(s) for application of User Pays charges to Shippers.

Not applicable.

Proposed charge for inclusion in the Agency Charging Statement (ACS) – to be completed upon receipt of a cost estimate from Xoserve.

Not applicable.

4 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

Implementation would allow MAPs to access UK Link systems via the IX network. This would help to ensure a more consistent flow of data between parties involved in the supply of gas – MAP, MAM, Shipper, Supplier. Implementation would therefore be expected to facilitate efficient implementation of the Code.

5 Implementation

This modification would permit access by a non-UNC party to the IX. There are no costs or other implications on Transporters or Users.

As self-governance procedures are proposed, implementation could be sixteen business days after a Modification Panel decision to implement.

0457S

Modification Report

21 November 2013

Version 2.0

Page 5 of 8

© 2014 all rights reserved

6 Legal Text

Text

The following Text has been prepared by National Grid Distribution at the Panel's request, and no issues were raised by the Workgroup regarding its content.

Transportation Principal Document

Section U (1 January 2013 version)

Amend paragraph 1.3.2 to read as follows:

1.3.2 The categories of persons referred to in paragraph 1.3.1 are as follows:

- (a) the Authority;
- (b) Meter Readers;
- (c) User Agents;
- (d) Delivery Facility Operators and Connected System Operators; ~~and~~
- (e) the Transporter Agency; and
- (f) Meter Asset Providers for the purposes only of enabling communications with Meter Asset Managers.

7 Consultation Responses

Representations were received from the following parties:

Company/Organisation Name	Support Implementation or not?
British Gas	Support
Community of Meter Asset Providers (CMAP)	Support
E.ON UK	Support
National Grid Distribution	Support
RWE npower	Support

Five representations were received, all of which unanimously supported implementation.

Summary Comments

CMAPs commented that, from its business perspective, this modification provides for an optional communications mechanism that would improve the communications between MAPs and MAMs and allow for better management of its meter asset portfolio. As a MAP it would incur the installation and ongoing rental charges of the IX service; any decision to use the IX service would be taken on a positive benefits case for each MAP.

E.ON observed that it was disappointing that the opportunity for MAPs to communicate directly with suppliers (should each party wish to agree to this) could not be part of the secure communication solution, as E.ON was seeing more and more MAPs needing to engage directly with suppliers than was envisaged when metering unbundled occurred.

RWE npower consider this modification will improve the overall accuracy of data held within the industry and allow for better communications between MAMS and MAPs and, in turn, will facilitate a better understanding of the tracking of supply meters.

8 Panel Discussions

The Panel Chair summarised that this enabling modification permits Meter Asset Providers (MAPs) to choose to utilise IX for the purpose of communicating with Meter Asset Managers (MAMs).

Members recognised that providing MAPs with the opportunity to use established secure information exchange mechanisms should assist MAPs when communicating with MAMs. Providing access to efficient and consistent communication routes could be expected to promote efficiency in the implementation and administration of the Code, and potentially lead to improved information in due course. Members therefore considered that implementation would be expected to further the Relevant Objectives.

Members then voted unanimously that self-governance Modification 0457S should be implemented.

9 Recommendation

Panel Recommendation

Having considered the Modification Report, the Panel determined:

- that proposed self-governance Modification 0457S should be made.