

UNC 0864:

Update of UNC Code Communication Methods



Proposer: Gavin Williams (National Gas Transmission)

Panel Date: 16.11.2023

Why change?



- Facsimile/fax is a Code Communication method within the UNC with 80 references throughout the UNC General, TPD, OAD and IGTAD documents
- **PSTN networks are being decommissioned** and will be switched-off nationally by December 2025. Fax machines and other devices which employ analogue PSTN will cease to work, resulting in fax obsolescence
- The Government has published guidance online to prepare for this eventuality. CNI are advised to consider how to ensure a smooth transition to digital alternatives to prevent undue disruption. This could include the replacement of devices with those compatible with new digital IP networks

Options



1) Replacement of Facsimile with Email in Code

This would involve replacing references of 'facsimile' within the UNC to 'email'

2) Replacement of Facsimile with Alternative Method in Code

This would involve replacing references of 'facsimile' within the UNC to an alternative method of communication (other than email)

3) BAU / Do Nothing

This would involve maintaining existing UNC arrangements regarding Code Communication*

**Post PSTN switch-off, UNC Code Communication and adopted industry-communication would be nonaligned*

Solution



1) Replacement of Facsimile with Email in Code

- ‘ Find and replace’ exercise: ‘facsimile’ to ‘email’
- Track-Change documents will demonstrate where legal text changes are proposed. Comparison tables summarising existing code alongside proposed amended text have also been produced
- The Modification will also provide an opportunity to standardise spelling of ‘email’ and ‘e-mail’ throughout the UNC due to existing discrepancies and interchangeable use

Recommended Steps



- The Proposer recommends that this modification should be:
 - Subject to Self-Governance
 - Workgroup assessment to develop the modification for 2-3 months