# Review of OAD Section G (Maintenance) Arrangements

**Scope Requirements for Workshop Review**

## Background

At the Offtake Arrangements Workgroup (OAW) on 30.01.24 Cadent presented a proposal for the review of the maintenance arrangements that are currently documented under Section G of the OAD framework.

The rationale for this this review was on the basis that the OAD maintenance requirements have not been modified since they were first implemented in 2005. Change is necessary to ensure that the maintenance arrangements are fit for purpose going forward, that they align with current working practices that already exist between operators, and also require the consistent application between parties for compliance effectiveness.

The key drivers for the proposed changes were identified as:

* The current arrangements do not support how operators, plan, schedule and deliver maintenance in line with industry and engineering governance requirements;
* Some existing arrangements create inefficient and non-value adding requirements for operators to comply with;
* It is unclear, unambiguous and inconsistent as to what maintenance must be notified between operators; and
* Clear delineation between maintenance requirement and OAD notification process is needed to ensure activities are reviewed appropriately;

An initial review of the Section G requirements was undertaken by the operators, as part of the work the 0646R Workgroup, back in September 2018. The key outcomes from this review were:

* The current process is triggered by the DNO who provides a maintenance plan to upstream/other operator to review. It was agreed in principle that National Gas should initiate the process rather than the DNO’s.
* The parties broadly agreed that the maintenance activities that required notification under the Section G could defined. These were outlined initially as:
  + Major Construction activities (including restriction of site access)
  + Long-frequency Major Maintenance (i.e. ILI, ME2, WBH’s)
  + Significant Impact
* Agreement was needed between the parties as to what maintenance activities required NRO’s and therefore cross network controller sign-off.
* A standard format should be adopted for all maintenance plan submissions.

The outcomes from the 2018 workshop have been incorporated into the later proposal as presented by Cadent in early 2024.

## Objective

As the arrangements have not been reviewed since 2005, the principal objective will be to review all the requirements currently stated within Section G of OAD, including Annex-G1 and Annex-G2, and recommend areas that require amendment, enhancement or even removal.

## Outcomes / Minimum Requirements

The outcome(s) will be a documented summary of recommended changes or approach for OAD Section G that have been agreed in principle between the network operators. This summary will act as the starting point for the subsequent drafting of any business rules that will be required to support a formal UNC MOD submission.

However, to ensure that workshop delivers value from the required engagement, the minimum requirements that need to be undertaken are proposed as:

* the review and agreement on the maintenance activities that need to be notified as part of an operator’s annual maintenance plan submission;
* the review and agreement on any necessary amendments to the “*Timetable for Maintenance Programming*” as documented in Annex-G2;
* the review and agreement the format of maintenance plan submissions as documented in Annex-G1

The outcomes will be presented back to the OAW in line with any timescales agreed via this group.

## Considerations

Any proposed changes need to take in consideration the following aspects:

* the alignment with NTS maintenance planning requirements under TPD Section L;
* the potential impact and linkages to other sections of the OAD framework e.g. the “Offtake Communications Document” etc
* alignment or impact with suite of process and procedures for SCO;
* any industry engineering compliance/standards requirements;
* individual network operator compliance requirements where these may differ from operators.

## Exclusions

Only Section G of the OAD framework will be covered by this review. Following an initial assessment the impact to other OAD sections is negligible. There may be minor impacts to any existing UNC OAD subsidiary documents or impacts to other section elsewhere in UNC however, these requirements are captured by the Considerations section above.

## Resources

To ensure that the arrangements are reviewed appropriately it is recommended that all network operators must attend the workshop.

Delegates representing each party must have a sufficient experience or understanding of the key maintenance activities undertaken by their organisation. This includes knowledge or experience of the compliance requirements associated with maintenance, the process that is followed, and the operational impacts that may or will arise from the coordination and execution of such activities.

OAD or other Commercial representation will be welcomed but will be optional.