

Decision – Annex L: Legal drafting of code modification
prioritisation procedure – Uniform Network Code (UNC)

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We have set out below the specific sections of the Uniform Network Code (UNC)^{1,2} that we are modifying using our transitional powers contained in schedule 12 to the Energy Act 2023. Deletions are shown in strike-through, and new text is double underlined. Text in red³ shows changes that we have made to the code text contained in the [November 2025 statutory consultation](#), which include changes to take into account stakeholder feedback to our consultation and changes to reflect the current published version of the UNC.⁴ For brevity, we have not reproduced entire sections of the code in this annex. Instead, we have included only the parts of the code that are changing, along with other parts we consider most relevant to understanding those changes.

Uniform Network Code⁵ ([Uniform Network Code](#))

UNIFORM NETWORK CODE

MODIFICATION RULES

6 MODIFICATION PROPOSALS

6.2 Content of Modification Proposal

6.2.1 Each Modification Proposal made pursuant to paragraphs 6.1.1 or 6.1.2 shall set out the information and be in the form specified in the Code of Practice and:

¹ The UNC has been designated as a ‘qualifying document’ by the Secretary of State as part of the [Designation Notice \(amended and consolidated\) under paragraphs 1\(1\)\(b\) and 1\(5\) of Schedule 12 to the Energy Act 2023 designating certain documents and central systems for the purposes of Schedule 12 to the Energy Act 2023](#)

² The prioritisation policy that we propose to introduce through this consultation relates to code processes before code manager appointment. We intend to keep the provisions under review, and if amendments are required in the future to account for the introduction of a code manager, a consultation will be carried out.

³ Where additional accessibility provisions are required, please contact industrycodes@ofgem.gov.uk

⁴ the UNC refers to the version as of 5 March 2026 against which these changes were checked.

⁵ [Uniform Network Code](#)

Decision – Annex L: Legal drafting of code modification prioritisation procedure –
Uniform Network Code (UNC)

- (a) in the case of a Modification Proposal which proposes a modification to a NTS Charging Methodology, shall state the Proposer's opinion why the Modification Proposal does not conflict with:
- (i) paragraphs 8, 9, 10 and 11 of Standard Condition 4B of the Transporter's Licence; or
 - (ii) paragraphs 2, 2A and 3 of Standard Special Condition A4 of the Transporter's Licence;
- (b) in the case of a Modification Proposal which proposes a modification to a DN Charging Methodology, shall state the Proposer's opinion why the Modification Proposal does not conflict with paragraphs 2, 2A and 3 of Standard Special Condition A4 of the Transporter's Licence;
- (c) shall state the Proposer's view as to
- (i) whether it should be a Self-Governance Modification Proposal and the Proposer's reasons for such a view;
 - (ii) shall state the Proposer's view as to whether, if the Proposer's view is that it should be a Self-Governance Modification, it satisfies the Fast Track Self-Governance Criteria and the Proposer's reasons for such a view;
- (d) shall where it is made pursuant to a direction of the Authority state that it is so made;
- (e) in the case of a Modification which proposes a timescale for the implementation of the Modification (for the purposes of enabling the Authority and any persons, including but not limited to Users, Transporters, Independent Gas Transporters, Third Party Participants, Non Code Parties and the ISOP to be aware of the potential benefits or constraints associated with such timing), except in the case where the Authority has directed a timetable in accordance with paragraph 12.5.2

Decision – Annex L: Legal drafting of code modification prioritisation procedure –
Uniform Network Code (UNC)

and/or 12.5.3, where only one Fixed Implementation Date may be included, shall include:

- (i) two or more Fixed Implementation Dates;
- (ii) a Proposed Authority Decision Date in respect of each Fixed Implementation Date, for the purposes of enabling the Modification to be implemented by the Fixed Implementation Date;
- (iii) a Backstop Lead Time;
- (iv) the reasons why it is proposing each date under paragraph (i), (ii) and (iii).

(f) shall be in writing and shall specify whether it relates to the Uniform Network Code or an Individual Network Code;

(g) shall set out in reasonable but not excessive detail the case for change and the solution proposed;

(h) shall set out on the basis upon which the Proposer considers that it would better facilitate the achievement of the Relevant Objectives;

(i) shall detail the sections and paragraphs of the Uniform Network Code or the Individual Network Code which are potentially impacted by the Modification Proposal;

(j) shall, if the Proposer considers that the Modification Proposal should be treated as an Urgent Modification Proposal, identify the Modification Proposal as such and indicate the Proposer's justification for such belief;

(k) shall, where it is made by a Transporter pursuant to Standard Special Condition A11(14), state it is so made;

(l) shall state the name of the Proposing User and contact details;

Decision – Annex L: Legal drafting of code modification prioritisation procedure –
Uniform Network Code (UNC)

(m) shall, without prejudice to the Modification Panel’s right of determination pursuant to paragraph 7.2, state the Proposer’s preference as to whether the Modification Proposal should;

(i) be subject to the Request Procedures;

(ii) proceed to Workgroup Assessment; or

(iii) proceed to Consultation; or

(iv) where paragraph 6.2.1(c)(ii) or 6.2.1(q) applies, be implemented;

(n) may state the Proposer’s opinion of the likely impact of the implementation of the Modification Proposal upon User’s computer systems and/or manual processes and procedures;

(o) may include the Proposer’s Suggested Text. This Suggested Text will be considered by the Transporters when preparing the text of the Modification pursuant to paragraph 9.6;

(p) where it is an Significant Code Review Modification Proposal made by the Authority:

(i) shall state that it is such and whether it is being made in the circumstances specified at paragraph 6.1.4; and

(ii) shall, where it is being made in such circumstances, include the legal text of the proposed Modification;

(q) shall state whether the Modification Proposal is a Cross-Code Change, and whether the Modification Proposal is the principal change proposal or a subsidiary change proposal (and where the Modification Proposal is a subsidiary change proposal, the Energy Code in respect of which the principal change proposal relates);

Decision – Annex L: Legal drafting of code modification prioritisation procedure –
Uniform Network Code (UNC)

(r) shall have regard to the Modification Proposal Guidelines Document which may be amended only by a determination of the Modification Panel in accordance with paragraph 5.1.2(a); ~~and~~

(s) may state, in relation to a Modification Proposal which relates to the performance assurance requirements in TPD Section V16, whether or not the Modification Proposal is supported by the Performance Assurance Committee; and.

(t) shall include an assessment by the Proposer of the Modification Proposal against the Prioritisation Criteria.

7.2 Discussion of Modification Proposals

7.2.1 Subject to paragraph 6.4 and paragraph 10, the Modification Panel shall discuss each new Modification Proposal at a meeting of the Modification Panel.

7.2.2 The Modification Panel shall make determinations under paragraphs 7.2.3(a), (b) and (d) having:

(a) discussed the Modification Proposal and, subject to paragraph 6.3.2;

(b) heard the presentation of the Proposer's representative;

(c) had an opportunity to ask the Proposer's representative questions in respect of the Modification Proposal and the presentation of the Proposer's representative;

(d) considered whether there are any persons from whom representations should, pursuant to paragraph 7.6, be invited;

(e) considered whether a Modification Proposal in respect of a NTS Charging Methodology conflicts with:

(i) paragraphs 8, 9, 10 and 11 of Standard Condition 4B of the Transporter's Licence; or

(ii) paragraphs 2, 2A and 3 of Standard Special Condition A4 of the Transporter's Licence;

Decision – Annex L: Legal drafting of code modification prioritisation procedure –
Uniform Network Code (UNC)

(f) considered whether a Modification Proposal in respect of a DN Charging Methodology conflicts with paragraphs 2, 2A and 3 of Standard Special Condition A4 of the Transporter's Licence; and

(g) determined whether it could be reasonably expected that the Modification Proposal would, if implemented, have a material impact having regard to:

(i) any guidance set out in the Code Administration Code of Practice as to what amounts to a material impact for the purposes of determining whether it is necessary to refer Modification Proposals to the Authority for determination; and

(ii) any statements made by the Proposer pursuant to paragraph 6.2.1(c) as to whether and why the Modification Proposal should be a Self-Governance Modification Proposal,

(h) where the Modification Proposal has been determined not to be an Urgent Modification Proposal, considered the Modification Proposal against the Prioritisation Criteria, giving due regard to the Proposer's assessment of the Modification Proposal against the Prioritisation Criteria, pursuant to paragraph 6.2.1 (t); or
or where it has received a referral pursuant to paragraph 9.6.3.

7.2.2A unless the Modification Proposal has been determined to be an Urgent Modification Proposal or to satisfy the Fast Track Self Governance Criteria, considered the Modification Proposal against the Prioritisation Criteria, giving due regard to the Proposer's assessment of the Modification Proposal against the Prioritisation Criteria, pursuant to paragraph 6.2.1 (t);

7.2.3 Subject to paragraphs 7.2.2, 7.2.8 and 7.2.11, the Modification Panel may, without prejudice to paragraph 7.2.4, determine that:

(a) a Modification Proposal:

Decision – Annex L: Legal drafting of code modification prioritisation procedure –
Uniform Network Code (UNC)

(i) either satisfies the Self-Governance Criteria or does not; and, if applicable

(ii) satisfies the Fast Track Self-Governance Criteria

For the avoidance of doubt, a Modification Panel determination under 7.2.3(a)(ii) must be unanimous. Additionally, the Modification Panel shall not determine a Prioritisation Category for Modification Proposals that have been determined to satisfy the Fast Track Self-Governance Criteria, and accordingly no Modification Proposal that has been determined to satisfy the Fast Track Self-Governance Criteria shall have a Prioritisation Category.

(b) a Modification Proposal:

(i) subject to paragraph 7.2.3(d), should proceed to Consultation in accordance with paragraph 7.3; or

(ii) should be referred to a Workgroup for Workgroup Assessment in accordance with paragraph 7.5 (and the Modification Panel may determine the Terms of Reference for such work (including terms as to the identity of any third parties to be consulted) and the date upon which it requires the Workgroup to submit its Workgroup Report);

(iii) should be deferred to a subsequent meeting of the Modification Panel for further discussion; or

(iv) be implemented, subject to unanimous determination under 7.2.3(a)(ii) that Fast Track Self-Governance Criteria are satisfied and subject to Panel determining unanimously that the Modification Proposal be implemented; or

(v) be referred back to the Proposer for further development.

(v) where the Modification Proposal has been determined not to be an Urgent Modification Proposal, has been accorded a relevant

Decision – Annex L: Legal drafting of code modification prioritisation procedure –
Uniform Network Code (UNC)

Prioritisation Category, assessed pursuant to paragraph 7.2.2 (h) as compared with other Modification Proposals' assessments pursuant to paragraph 7.2.2 (h); or
(vi) be referred back to the Proposer for further development.

(c) at any time before a Modification Proposal proceeds to Consultation in accordance with paragraph 7.3 the CDSP shall in accordance with a period determined by the Modification Panel, provide a rough order of magnitude assessment of the Modification Proposal; and

(d) the impact (if any) of the Modification proposed in a Modification Proposal on Greenhouse Gas Emissions is likely to be material (after considering any assessment by the Proposer under paragraph 6.2.6 of the quantifiable impact of the Modification proposed in a Modification Proposal on Greenhouse Gas Emissions) and shall have regard to such determination (if any) in determining whether the Modification Proposal should proceed to Consultation under paragraph 7.2.3(b)(i) (provided that where the Modification Panel determines the likely impact will be material and the Proposer provided no assessment in respect of such impact under paragraph 6.2.6 the Modification Proposal shall not proceed to Consultation).

(e) unless a Modification Proposal has been determined to be an Urgent Modification Proposal or to satisfy the Fast Track Self Governance Criteria, a Modification Proposal has a relevant Prioritisation Category, assessed pursuant to paragraph 7.2.2A as compared with other Modification Proposals' assessments pursuant to paragraph 7.2.2A;

7.2.12 Unless a Modification Proposal has been determined to be an Urgent Modification Proposal or to satisfy the Fast Track Self Governance Criteria, the Modification Panel shall determine the Modification Proposal to have a relevant Prioritisation Category, assessed pursuant to paragraph 7.2.2A as compared with other Modification Proposals' assessments pursuant to paragraph 7.2.2A; or

Decision – Annex L: Legal drafting of code modification prioritisation procedure –
Uniform Network Code (UNC)

9.3 Consultation - Final Modification Report

9.3.8 Where a Modification Report is received by the Authority pursuant to paragraph 9.2.2 or 9.3.4, the Authority, pursuant to Standard Special Condition A11, may direct that the Modification Report, including any legal text, should be amended and resubmitted and where it makes such a direction:

(a) the Secretary shall notify each Transporter, each User, each Independent Gas Transporter, each Member, each Third Party Participant, each Non-Code Party (if any), the ISOP and the CDSP that the Authority is of such opinion (and the Authority's reasons for making such direction);

(b) the Modification Panel shall discuss the Modification Report at the next meeting of the Modification Panel, shall instruct the Code Administrator to amend the Modification Report (including in respect of the legal text, the timetable, analysis or supporting information) in accordance with the direction of the Authority and decide on what steps to take, in accordance with paragraph 7.2 and shall send the Authority a revised Modification Report as soon as reasonably practicable (taking into account the Prioritisation Criteria and whether ~~complexity, importance and urgency~~ of the Modification Proposal has been determined to be an Urgent Modification, or, where the Modification Proposal has been determined to not be an Urgent Modification Proposal, its Prioritisation Category).

9.4 Content of Modification Report

9.4.1 Each Modification Report shall set out the information, and be in the form, specified in the Code of Practice (in the case of Modification Reports prepared pursuant to paragraph 9.2.2, to the extent reasonably practicable) and:

(a) shall in relation to a recommendation of the Modification Panel under paragraph 9.2.1(b) or 9.3.3(b), include details of the Modification Panel's

Decision – Annex L: Legal drafting of code modification prioritisation procedure –
Uniform Network Code (UNC)

reasoning for determining whether or not the Modification Proposal better facilitates achievement of the Relevant Objectives:

(b) state whether or not a determination has been made by the Modification Panel under paragraph 9.2.1(b) or 9.3.3(a) and the number of Voting Members in favour of, and the number of Voting Members present and not voting in favour of, the implementation of the Modification Proposal;

(c) where it relates to a Modification Proposal in respect of a NTS Charging Methodology, state the view of the Modification Panel as to whether the Modification Proposal conflicts with:

(i) with paragraphs 8, 9, 10 and 11 of Standard Condition 4B of the Transporter's Licence; or

(ii) paragraphs 1, 2A and 3 of Standard Special Condition A4 of the Transporter's Licence;

(d) where it relates to a Modification Proposal in respect of a DN Charging Methodology, shall state the view of the Modification Panel as to whether the Modification Proposal conflicts with paragraphs 2, 2A and 3 of Standard Special Condition A4 of the Transporter's Licence.

(e) where it relates to a Self-Governance Modification Proposal, state that fact and whether the Modification Panel or the Authority determined that such proposal satisfied the Self-Governance Criteria; or

(f) state whether the proposal is made in respect of a Significant Code Review by, or at the direction of, the Authority; and

(g) where it relates to a Modification Proposal other than a Self Governance Modification Proposal and where the Proposer has proposed a timescale for the implementation of the Modification in accordance with paragraph 6.2.1(e) (but in the case of a Modification Report made

Decision – Annex L: Legal drafting of code modification prioritisation procedure – Uniform Network Code (UNC)

pursuant to paragraph 9.2.2, only here the Modification Panel has determined such matters), shall include:

- (i) two or more Fixed Implementation Dates;
- (ii) a Proposed Authority Decision Date in respect of each Fixed Implementation Date, for the purposes of enabling the Modification to be implemented by the Fixed Implementation Date;
- (iii) a Backstop Lead Time; and
- (iv) the reasons why it is proposing each date under paragraph (i), (ii) and (iii); ~~and~~

(h) shall state whether the Modification Proposal is a Cross-Code Change, and whether the Modification Proposal is the principal change proposal or a subsidiary change proposal (and where the Modification Proposal is a subsidiary change proposal, the Energy Code in respect of which the principal change proposal relates) and.

(i) where it has been determined, shall detail a description of the determination of the ~~proposed Modification's~~ Modification Proposal's Prioritisation Category.

10 URGENT MODIFICATION PROPOSALS

10.1 Procedure

10.1.4 the Modification Panel shall not determine a Prioritisation Category for Urgent Modification Proposals and accordingly no Urgent Modification Proposal shall have a Prioritisation Category.

12.9 Terms of reference

12.9.1 The Terms of Reference for each Modification Proposal referred to a Workgroup shall:

- (a) detail the Modification Proposal;

Decision – Annex L: Legal drafting of code modification prioritisation procedure – Uniform Network Code (UNC)

- (i) detail the work to be undertaken by the Workgroup, to enable the Workgroup to prepare its report; and
 - (ii) specify any matters, in addition to those referred to in the Code of Practice, which the Workgroup, should address in its report;
- (b) detail other matters (if any) to be considered or reviewed by the Workgroup;
- (c) state whether the Workgroup, should consult with any other person for the purposes of its report, and if so, detail the extent to which and identify which person (or persons) it should consult with, but this shall not require the Code Administrator to engage or remunerate any person so consulted;
- (d) set a timetable in accordance with which the work of the Workgroup is to be done and its report prepared; ~~and~~
- (e) specify that the Workgroup, is to comment upon any legal text of the Modification, provided to the Workgroup pursuant to paragraph 9.6. and
- (f) where it has been determined, detail a description of the determination of the ~~proposed Modification's~~ Modification Proposal's Prioritisation Category.

12.9.2 Unless the Modification Panel shall otherwise determine, the timetable referred to in paragraph 12.9.1(d) shall consist of a period of up to six (6) months. Where the Modification Panel determines that such timetable should be extended so that it exceeds a period of six (6) months in aggregate, it shall notify the Authority and the timetable shall be so extended unless the Authority objects. Where the Authority objects to such extension, the Modification Panel shall make a determination under paragraph 7.2.3 in respect of the relevant Modification Proposal at the next meeting of the Modification Panel.

12.9.3 The Modification Panel may, from time to time, determine:

- (a) to change the Terms of Reference of any Workgroup; or

Decision – Annex L: Legal drafting of code modification prioritisation procedure –
Uniform Network Code (UNC)

(b) if the Terms of Reference of the relevant Workgroup so anticipate, that the Workgroup should undertake new or further work or consider new matters (whether or not related to any earlier work undertaken by that Workgroup).

12.10 NTS Charging Methodology Forum

The Transporters shall ensure the NTS Charging Methodology Forum meets on a regular basis, for which purpose the Transporters shall convene a meeting of such forum by notice to its representatives at least once every three (3) months unless there is no matter for the NTS Charging Methodology Forum to discuss.

12.11 DN Charging Methodology Forum

The Transporters shall ensure the DN Charging Methodology Forum meets on a regular basis, for which purpose the Transporters shall convene a meeting of such forum by notice to its representatives at least once every three (3) months unless there is no matter for the DN Charging Methodology Forum to discuss.

12.12 Interaction with DSC and CDSP

12.12.1 The Code Administrator, the Modification Panel and each Workgroup shall have the functions respectively assigned to them in connection with the DSC in the Change Management Procedures.

12.12.2 In connection with the Modification Procedures the CDSP and the DSC Change Committee shall have the functions respectively assigned to them these Modification Rules. Without limitation the CDSP shall participate in each Workgroup (unless authorised not to do so by the Modification Panel), and shall attend any meeting of the Modification Panel if requested to do so.

12.12.3 The CDSP shall at all times nominate one or more persons authorised on behalf of the CDSP to liaise with, and represent the CDSP in communicating with, the Code Administrator, Modification Panel and any Workgroup for the purposes of the Modification Procedures.

Decision – Annex L: Legal drafting of code modification prioritisation procedure –
Uniform Network Code (UNC)

12.12.4 Pursuant to the Modification Procedures the CDSP is entitled to make representations in respect of Modification Proposals but it is understood that the CDSP will usually make representations only in respect of a Modification to amend the DSC.

12.12.5 Where a Modification Proposal to amend the DSC is proposed to be treated as a Self-Governance Modification Proposal, if the CDSP considers that the Modification Proposal raises issues (including any change in the level of risk or liability of the CDSP) which merit consideration by the Authority, the CDSP may make representations to that effect for the purposes of the Authority's decision under paragraph 6.6.3.

12.13 Review of the Prioritisation Category of Modification Proposals

12.13.1 The Code Administrator shall schedule a bi-annual review of the Prioritisation Category of Modification Proposals as part of the UNC Panel agenda and, following the UNC Panel's determinations, adjust the relevant modification timetable for each Modification Proposal accordingly.
~~The Modification Panel shall review the Prioritisation Category of Modification Proposals on a bi-annual basis and adjust the relevant modification timetable for each Modification Proposal accordingly.~~

12.14 Modification Register

12.14.1 The Code Administrator shall prepare and publish an updated Modification Register on its Website, which shall include:

(a) whether each Modification Proposal has been determined to be an Urgent Modification Proposal, or, where a Modification Proposal ~~has been determined to be~~ not ~~be~~ an Urgent Modification Proposal ~~or does not satisfy the Fast Track Self Governance Criteria~~, its Prioritisation Category;
and

Decision – Annex L: Legal drafting of code modification prioritisation procedure –
Uniform Network Code (UNC)

(b) the reasons for the Modification Panel’s determinations where they have been made in regard to the Prioritisation Category of Modification Proposals; and

(c) where the Prioritisation Category of a Modification Proposal changes, this change should be reflected within the Modification Register alongside the reason for its change confirmation of the change alongside the reasons for the change.

12.15 Prioritisation Process Definitions

12.15.1 In addition to terms defined elsewhere in the UNC, the following terms and expressions have the following meanings in the Modification Rules document:

(a) “Prioritisation Criteria” has the meaning given to that term by the Authority Guidance on Code Modification Prioritisation.

(b) “Prioritisation Category” has the meaning given to that term by the Authority Guidance on Code Modification Prioritisation.

(c) Authority Guidance on Code Modification Prioritisation means the guidance published by the Authority from time to time on code modification prioritisation.