
Notice of decision on modifications to industry codes to implement a harmonised code modification prioritisation process

Publication date: 28 April 2026

To: all interested parties, including (but not limited to) all persons bound by a code (as such term is defined below) by virtue of being a party to it and all holders of a licence who are relevant licence holders for the purposes of paragraph 4(3)(b) of Schedule 12 to the Energy Act 2023.

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Energy Act 2023

Schedule 12, paragraphs 4(1), 4(5), 4(6) and 4(7)

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The Gas and Electricity Markets Authority (“the Authority”)¹ gave notice on 20 November 2025 (‘the notice’) that we proposed to modify the following industry codes (collectively referred to as ‘the codes’) pursuant to paragraph 4(1) of schedule 12 to the Energy Act 2023:

- Balancing and Settlement Code
- Connection and Use of System Code
- Distribution Code
- Distribution Connection and Use of System Agreement
- Grid Code
- Independent Gas Transporters’ Uniform Network Code
- Retail Energy Code
- Security and Quality of Supply Standard
- Smart Energy Code
- System Operator Transmission Owner Code (STC)
- Uniform Network Code (UNC)

A copy of the notice was published on our website and we stated that any representation to the modification proposals must be made on or before 12 January 2026.

2. The codes have been designated as qualifying documents by the Secretary of State as part of the designation notice² (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 2023.³

¹ The terms ‘the Authority’, ‘Ofgem’, ‘we’ and ‘our’ are used interchangeably in this document. Ofgem is the Office of the Authority.

² [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](#)

³ [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](#)

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3. We received 28 responses to the notice, which we carefully considered. We have placed all non-confidential responses on our website. Our response to these comments is set out in the decision document which accompanies this notice.

4. We have now decided to make the modifications to the codes. It is necessary to make a number of minor alterations to the modifications set out in the notice. These modifications are shown in their entirety in the attached annexes B-L. The reasons for any differences between the modifications set out in the notice and the modifications reflected in annexes B-L are to address feedback received in consultation responses and to prepare the policy for implementation. The details of the changes are explained in the accompanying decision document.

5. The effect of the modifications is to introduce a consistent code modification prioritisation process across the codes. We are making these modifications because we consider that a more harmonised code modification prioritisation process will support industry in dedicating time and resource to focusing on higher priority modifications, as well as facilitating the introduction of the strategic direction statement and the transition towards future code manager appointment. We consider it appropriate to exercise this modification power for the following purposes contained within paragraph 2(1) of schedule 12 of the Energy Act 2023:

- (a) for the purposes of or in connection with establishing the role of code manager in respect of a document which is expected to become a designated document; and
- (d) for the purposes of promoting the efficient governance of arrangements under one or more qualifying documents; and
- (e) for the purposes of harmonising the governance of particular qualifying documents or of qualifying documents in general.

Further detail on the reasons for our modifications relating to these purposes is contained in the accompanying decision document.⁴

6. Explanations of the modifications, the reasons for introducing them, and their effect are contained in the decision published alongside this notice and titled ‘Energy code reform – decision on statutory consultation on modifications to industry codes to implement the harmonised code modification prioritisation process’.⁵ We have also published ‘Annex A: Finalised Authority guidance on code modification prioritisation’, which sets out changes to the guidance since the previous statutory consultation publication. We have published the most up to date version of the guidance [separately](#). This guidance is aimed at supporting consistent policy implementation across codes. The full text of the modifications to the codes is set out in annexes B-L with text to be deleted shown with strikethrough and new text to be inserted shown with double underlining.

Alternatively, the decision and annexes A-L are available from information.rights@ofgem.gov.uk.

7. The published decision document also details how the Authority has taken account of any representations made in the consultation period and the reasons for any

⁴ [Establishing a harmonised prioritisation process in the Industry Codes: statutory consultation | Ofgem](#)

⁵ [Establishing a harmonised prioritisation process in the Industry Codes: statutory consultation | Ofgem](#)

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differences between the policy, modifications and guidance set out in the decision and the proposed policy, modifications and guidance.

8. The modifications, and guidance document, will take effect 31 days from the publication of this notice, which means that the modifications will take effect on 29 May 2026. Further detail on this is contained in the accompanying [decision](#).

9. This document is notice of the reasons for the decision to modify the codes set out below as required by paragraph 4 of Schedule 12 to the Energy Act 2023.

Yours sincerely,

Kate Lloyd

Head of Code Governance Reform, Industry Rules

Market Oversight & Enforcement