
STATUTORY INSTRUMENTS

2026 No. XXXX**HEAT NETWORKS****The Heat Networks (Applications for Authorisation) Regulations 2026***Made**[2nd December 2026]**Coming into force**[25th January 2027]*

The Gas and Electricity Markets Authority^(a) makes these Regulations in exercise of the power conferred by regulation 15 of the Heat Networks (Market Framework) (Great Britain) Regulations 2025^(b).

Citation, commencement and extent

1.—(1) These Regulations may be cited as the Heat Networks (Applications for Authorisation) Regulations 2026 and come into force on 25th January 2027.

(2) These Regulations extend to England and Wales and Scotland.

Interpretation

2. In these Regulations—

“the 2025 Regulations” means the Heat Networks (Market Framework) (Great Britain) Regulations 2025;

“application” means an application for authorisation in relation to a regulated activity^(c) under regulation 15 of the 2025 Regulations;

“the Authority” means the Gas and Electricity Markets Authority established by section 1 of the Utilities Act 2000^(d);

^(a) The Gas and Electricity Markets Authority was established by section 1(1) of the Utilities Act 2000 (c. 27).

^(b) SI 2025/269, amended by SI 2026/7 and 2026/10.

^(c) “regulated activity” is defined in regulation 2, as read with regulation 13, of the 2025 Regulations.

^(d) 2000, c. 27.

“non-enduring deemed authorisation” means an authorisation held pursuant to regulation 27(1) of the 2025 Regulations which ceases to have effect at the end of the initial period^(a) as provided in that regulation;

“transfer of authorisation” means the transfer of an existing authorisation from a transferring entity to a new entity under regulation 24 of the 2025 Regulations, but does not include a transfer described in regulation 24(2)^(b) of those Regulations; and

a reference to an application, including a declaration forming part of an application, being “signed” includes a reference to that application being signed in a manner satisfying the requirements in section 7 of the Electronic Communications Act 2000^(c).

Form of application

3.—(1) Subject to regulation 4, an application must—

- (a) provide the information set out in paragraph 1 of the Schedule;
- (b) attach such documentation as may be relied on by the applicant to support that information, in accordance with the Schedule;
- (c) include declarations as set out in the Schedule; and
- (d) be signed and dated by the applicant.

(2) An application relating to a transfer of authorisation must also meet the further requirements of paragraph 2 of the Schedule.

(3) In the case of a body corporate, where these Regulations provide for the signing of any part of an application, including any declaration, the signatory must be an authorised officer, or, as the case may be depending on the type of body corporate, an authorised member (in respect of a limited liability partnership), an authorised trustee (in respect of a registered charity or benevolent society or similar), or an authorised committee member (in respect of a co-operative or community benefit society); and that signatory must act in accordance with any relevant requirements of that body corporate.

Applicants registered pursuant to Authorisation Condition A4

4.—(1) This regulation applies to an applicant who is the holder of a non-enduring deemed authorisation.

(2) An applicant registered pursuant to Authorisation Condition A4 to carry out a regulated activity in relation to a relevant heat network need not submit an application meeting the requirements in regulation 3(1)(a) to (c) in relation to the regulated activity in respect of which it is so registered, but may instead

^(a) The initial period is provided for under regulation 26(1) of the 2025 Regulations and ends at the end of 26th January 2028.

^(b) Regulation 24(2) provides that a person who agrees to carry on a regulated activity in relation to a relevant heat network at the request of the Regulator is taken to have applied to do so for the purposes of regulation 24.

^(c) 2000, c. 7. Section 7 has been amended by regulation 1, Schedule 3, paragraph 1(2) & (3) of The Electronic Identification and Trust Services for Electronic Transactions Regulations 2016 (SI 2016/696).

submit evidence of the applicant's registration pursuant to Authorisation Condition A4 in relation to the regulated activity in respect of which the application is made.

(3) In this regulation, "Authorisation Condition A4" refers to condition 4 at section A of the authorisation conditions determined and notified by the Authority on 13th January 2026 pursuant to regulation 18 of the 2025 Regulations to have effect on 27th January 2026 ^(a).

Further information, etc

5.—(1) The Authority may in writing ask an applicant to provide such further information or documentation as the Authority considers material to the conferring of the authorisation sought, for the purposes of explaining, verifying or clarifying any information, documentation or declarations submitted as part of the application.

(2) When making its request, the Authority must stipulate a time frame for the response from the applicant.

(3) Information or documentation provided in response to a request under paragraph (1) must be submitted in the manner set out in regulation 6(1) or, as the case may be, regulation 6(2).

(4) Failure to respond to the Authority's request within the time frame stipulated may result in the Authority treating the application as incomplete and cancelling it.

Manner of application

6. (1) An application must be made in writing and, subject to paragraph (2), submitted to the Authority by uploading documentation and providing prescribed information and declarations via the electronic application pages on the Authority's website made available for this purpose.

(2) In exceptional cases, the Authority may agree to accept an application submitted by email, or, where the Authority agrees that submission by email or via the electronic application pages on the Authority's website is not practical, it may accept submission by post to the address provided for that purpose on the Authority's website.

(3) Provided the application requirements are met in respect of each regulated activity, an application may be made in respect of more than one regulated activity –

(a) carried on in relation to a single heat network, or

(b) carried on in relation to more than one heat network where those heat networks are physically connected.

[signature & seal block]

^(a) The term "authorisation condition" is defined in regulation 2 of the 2025 Regulations. The relevant Decision making the determination under regulation 18 of the 2025 Regulations, with the notice annexed, can be found on the Ofgem website at: <https://www.ofgem.gov.uk/sites/default/files/2026-01/Heat-networks-regulation-authorisation-conditions-decision.pdf>. The terms of the Authorisation Condition ("A04") can also be found on the Ofgem website at the "Heat Network – Publications" pages under "General Authorisation Conditions" at Section A.

SCHEDULE

Regulations 3 and 4

Application information and documentation

1.(1) The following information is required to be submitted, together with any documentation the applicant relies on which explains, verifies or clarifies that information—

- (a) the applicant's name, legal personality, address (which, for a registered company, must be its registered address) and other contact details;
- (b) where the applicant is a body corporate, the name, address and contact details of the officer or other person submitting the application in the name of the body corporate, and the authority under which that person acts;
- (c) where the applicant submits an application on behalf of an unincorporated body, information about that unincorporated body, its type, name, membership and purposes, and the capacity in which the applicant acts for that unincorporated body;
- (d) the name and address and other contact details of the applicant's regulatory contact, if any;
- (e) by reference to section 216(1) and (2) of the Energy Act 2023^(a), the nature of the heat network to which the application relates;
- (f) the regulated activity for which the authorisation is sought;
- (g) the heat network at which the activity is sought to be carried on, and its geographical location (such as the address or addresses) where the heat network operates;
- (h) where an application is made in respect of more than one heat network as mentioned in regulation 6(3)(b), information about the physical connection or connections between those heat networks;
- (i) the identity of any person other than the applicant who for the purposes of regulation 13(3) and (4) of the 2025 Regulations operates any other part of the heat network in respect of which the application is made, identifying the part of that heat network which that person operates;
- (j) details of any other authorisation the applicant holds in relation to a relevant heat network, including any account reference which has been provided by Ofgem; and
- (k) the date on which the applicant intends to commence the regulated activity.

(2) In this paragraph, "regulatory contact" means the person the applicant nominates, in the event the authorisation is conferred, to receive and respond to communications from the Authority on the applicant's behalf.

^(a) 2023, c. 52.

Applications relating to a transfer of authorisation

2. In respect of an application for a transfer of authorisation, the following information and evidence must also be provided—

- (a) the identity of the transferring entity;
- (b) the identity of the new entity;
- (c) the nature of the regulated activity subject of the transfer;
- (d) the reason for the transfer;
- (e) evidence in writing of the transferring entity's having consented to the transfer of the regulated activity to the new entity; and
- (f) the date of the proposed transfer and evidence of what steps are being taken by the new entity, and where known, by the transferring entity, to ensure continuity of supply during and after the transition on terms that are the same as or as similar as possible to the terms in place immediately before the transfer.

Declarations

3. (1) Declarations must be provided by the applicant that—

- (a) in the case of a body corporate, the officer or other person submitting the application in the name of the body corporate, is authorised to do so, and to make the declarations required under these Regulations accordingly;
- (b) the applicant has read and understood the Ofgem Application Guidance published under regulation 12 of the 2025 Regulations^(a);
- (c) to the best of the knowledge and belief of the applicant, all details and information provided in the application are true and complete and all documentation relied on is authentic and complete;
- (d) the applicant understands that it is a criminal offence to knowingly or recklessly make a false or misleading statement as part of an application.

(2) A further declaration must be provided by the applicant to the effect that the applicant has read, understood and can comply with the authorisation conditions that will apply in relation to the applicant's regulated activity if authorisation is conferred.

^(a) This Guidance is available on the Ofgem website on the [Heat Network] pages.

EXPLANATORY NOTE

(This note is not part of the Regulations)

These Regulations prescribe the form in which an application for authorisation in relation to a relevant heat network in England and Wales, and Scotland, including an application for the transfer of a heat network authorisation, is to be submitted to Ofgem, together with the prescribed information that must be provided and the manner in which applications are to be submitted.

The enabling powers for these Regulations are found in The Heat Networks (Market Framework) (Great Britain) Regulations 2025, which were made under Part 8 of and Schedule 18 to the Energy Act 2023. The 2025 Regulations define at regulation 2 a number of terms used in these Regulations.

There are specific requirements for applications for the transfer of a heat network authorisation from one entity to another. Transfers of authorisations under regulation 24 of the 2025 Regulations made at the request of the Authority are not subject to the requirements prescribed by these Regulations. There are reduced requirements in the Regulations for existing holders of certain deemed heat network authorisations who have registered pursuant to Authorisation Condition A4, determined by the Authority under regulation 18 of the 2025 Regulations in relation to the operation of heat networks.

The 2025 Regulations contain offence provisions that apply to applications for which provision is made under these Regulations: regulation 62 of the 2025 Regulations creates offences in relation to the provision of false information, and statements that are false or misleading in a material way. A person guilty of such an offence is liable to a fine on summary conviction in England and Wales, or in Scotland, to a fine not exceeding the statutory maximum; or on conviction on indictment, to a fine. Guidance has been published by Ofgem pursuant to regulation 12 of the 2025 Regulations to assist applicants in the submission of their applications.

No impact assessment has been undertaken in relation to these Regulations. A full impact assessment of the effect of the 2025 Regulations on the costs of business, the voluntary sector and the public sector was prepared for the purposes of making those Regulations, and it is available at www.legislation.gov.uk. Hard copies of that impact assessment can be obtained from the Heat Networks Policy team, Department for Energy Security and Net Zero, 55 Whitehall, London SW1A 2HP.