

Consultation

Heat networks regulation: authorisation application arrangements

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From 27 January 2027, new regulated heat network activity must be authorised by Ofgem. Persons seeking to undertake operation or supply on a heat network will be required to apply to Ofgem for authorisation before commencing the regulated activity.

We are consulting on interim authorisation application arrangements. Applicants will be required to submit some high-level information to Ofgem before they commence a regulated activity, and they will then be required to register with Ofgem within 3 months of commencing the activity.

This consultation seeks feedback from stakeholders on our proposed Authorisation Application Regulations. It includes proposed modifications to authorisation condition A04: Registration which requires authorised persons to register their heat networks with us.

Our proposals also include modification to authorisation condition A05: Nominated Operator. This will enable continuation of existing requirements for heat networks where there is more than one entity undertaking the regulated activity of operation on different physical parts of the same heat network, to agree and identify a single point of contact for regulatory engagement.

We are also consulting on proposed amendments to our Registration Guidance to reflect our proposals and to provide further clarification of existing guidance, improve clarity and consistency, and update drafting where appropriate.

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Executive summary

[Regulation 14](#) of the [Heat Networks \(Market Framework\) \(Great Britain\) Regulations 2025](#) (the 2025 regulations) makes it an offence to carry on the regulated activities of operating or supplying on a relevant heat network without being authorised.

Under the 2025 regulations, regulated activity that is commenced on or before 26 January 2027 is automatically authorised (deemed authorisation). Persons seeking authorisation to carry on a regulated activity of operating or supplying on a relevant heat network after this date must apply to Ofgem for authorisation.

Our proposed approach

Heat networks that started operating or supplying on or before 26 January 2027 have been deemed authorised through the legislation and are required to comply with the full suite of [general authorisation conditions](#) for heat networks. This includes an obligation to register with Ofgem, to enable us to gather details about their heat networks and activities and develop a fuller understanding of the sector and the consumer experience.

Under these proposals, applicants will be required to submit some high-level information to Ofgem before they commence a regulated activity, and they will then be required to register with Ofgem within 3 months of commencing the activity.

We intend for this to be an interim arrangement, ahead of bringing forward further application requirements to provide assurance of an authorised person's ability to meet authorisation conditions and protect consumers. We will consult on further proposals in future, informed by our experience of registration and early learning from regulating this sector.

Reasons for this approach

Under the heat network market framework, the consumer protection regime has been developed in parallel with the Department for Energy Security and Net Zero (DESNZ) developing the technical standards regime, the Heat Network Technical Assurance Scheme (HNTAS). This is intended to provide assurance that heat networks are built and operating to a set of standards that underpin key consumer outcomes on efficiency and reliability, as well as metering standards. Demonstration of engagement and certification through the technical standards regime was expected to be part of the arrangements that new heat networks would begin to evidence when applying to Ofgem for authorisation.

Following a consultation earlier this year, DESNZ is now taking time to respond to extensive feedback from the sector about the proposed approach to technical

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standards. We have decided to decouple the authorisation application arrangements from HNTAS and will consult on a regime based on consumer protection requirements, that can be delivered on a standalone basis. To avoid a regulatory gap, we are bringing forward these interim proposals until we can consult on an enhanced set of application requirements for new heat networks.

What our proposals mean in practice

- If you want to start operating or supplying on a heat network from 27 January 2027 you will need to apply to us for authorisation before beginning the activity
- You can apply via our website
- Within 3 months of beginning to operate or supply on a heat network you must register with us via the heat networks digital service
- There is no change to the existing obligations that apply if you are operating or supplying on a heat network before 27 January 2027.

Implementing these interim measures

The 2025 regulations require Ofgem to have in place application regulations for heat network authorisation. At Appendix 2 to this consultation, we include draft Heat Network Authorisation Application Regulations (draft regulations) that set out the information an application must contain and the manner of application. We do not currently propose to require a fee as part of an application, but we will keep this under review.

Non-enduring deemed authorisation

Under the 2025 regulations, regulated activity that is commenced during the period beginning 1 April 2025 and ending 26 January 2027 are deemed authorised, on a non-enduring basis, until 26 January 2028. In our [2025 Heat Networks Authorisation and Regulatory Oversight decision](#) (2025 decision), we confirmed our intention to confer authorisation for heat networks with non-enduring deemed authorisation based on information provided through registration. This is intended to enable regulated activity on affected heat networks to continue after 26 January 2028 without interruption. We have included provisions in the draft regulations to give effect to this approach and will engage with affected authorised persons following confirmation of these proposals and the process for obtaining authorisation under these arrangements.

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Changes to authorisation condition A04: Registration (AC A04) and A05: Nominated Operator (AC A05)

We are also consulting on proposals to modify authorisation condition A04:

Registration (AC A04) to require heat network operators and suppliers authorised by us to complete registration through our digital service within 3 months of commencing the regulated activity. Requiring registration will mean we receive information about their heat networks and arrangements. It also supports our effective regulatory oversight by giving visibility of the sector and helping us to gather baseline information for data monitoring. Appendix 3 to this consultation includes our proposed modification to authorisation condition A04: Registration to implement this obligation.

Alongside this we are proposing to modify authorisation condition A05: Nominated Operator (AC A05) to continue the existing arrangements in circumstances where there is more than one entity undertaking the regulated activity of operation on different physical parts of a relevant heat network.

We are also consulting on changes to our Registration Guidance to reflect the proposed authorisation application process and to provide further clarification of existing guidance topics. These proposed amendments are set out in Appendix 4 to this consultation.

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1. Introduction

This section provides background to our draft Heat Network Authorisation Application Regulations and proposed modification of authorisation condition A04: Registration and A05: Nominated Operator.

Purpose of this consultation

The Energy Act 2023 named Ofgem as the regulator for heat networks. The [Heat Networks \(Market Framework\) \(Great Britain\) Regulations 2025](#) (the 2025 regulations) make it an offence to carry on the regulated activities of operating or supplying on a heat network without being authorised.

In January 2026, we published our [decision on the heat networks authorisation conditions](#). The [general authorisation conditions for heat networks](#) apply to all authorised persons and form part of the wider regulatory framework designed to protect consumers and support effective regulatory oversight of the sector.

During the first part of the initial period (beginning 1 April 2025 and ending on 26 January 2027), operating or supplying on a heat network is deemed authorised under the 2025 regulations. From 27 January 2027, persons intending to begin operating or supplying on a heat network must first apply and be authorised by Ofgem.

The 2025 regulations require that Ofgem must have in place application regulations that allow a person to apply for authorisation to carry on a regulated activity. Our draft Heat Network Authorisation Application Regulations (draft regulations) are included at Appendix 2 and set out the application process.

In our [2025 Heat Networks Authorisation and Regulatory Oversight decision](#) (2025 decision), we set out our intention to broadly proceed with our proposals for authorisation application, requiring an applicant to submit evidence to demonstrate suitability and readiness to meet the authorisation conditions. We also signalled our intention to consult further prior to implementation of an authorisation framework. We are adopting a two-stage process to ensure we have arrangements in place from 27 January 2027, while consulting at a later stage on more developed requirements informed by our learning from registration and the early days of regulating the sector.

Authorisation condition A04: Registration (AC A04) requires authorised persons to register their heat networks with us. In doing this, an authorised person must inform us about each regulated activity it carries on. An authorised person must also provide information on, for example, their financial status, ownership and organisational structure. The proposed amendment to this authorisation condition extends the

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registration requirement to persons who receive authorisation by application to Ofgem from 27 January 2027.

Authorisation condition A05: Nominated Operator (AC A05) applies to heat networks where more than one entity is undertaking the regulated activity of operation on different physical parts of a relevant heat network. Authorised operators on these heat networks are required to agree and identify a single point of contact for regulatory engagement, the ‘nominated operator’. The proposed amendment to this authorisation condition will enable the continuation of this requirement for heat networks that are authorised by Ofgem.

We are consulting on:

- our draft regulations that set out how an applicant should apply to Ofgem for authorisation and the information they must provide
- our approach to non-enduring deemed authorisations, for regulated activity commenced between 1 April 2025 and 26 January 2027
- modifying AC A04 to require heat network operators and suppliers authorised by Ofgem to register with us within 3 months of beginning the regulated activity
- modifying AC A05 to continue existing requirements to agree and identify a nominated operator where more than one entity is undertaking the regulated activity of operation on different physical parts of a relevant heat network
- amendments to our existing Registration guidance to reflect our proposed application process, amendments to AC A04 and AC A05, and to provide further clarification of existing guidance topics.

Context and related publications

- [Heat networks regulation: authorisation and regulatory oversight decision](#)
- [Heat networks regulation: authorisation conditions decision](#)
- [Heat networks regulation: registration guidance](#)

Impact assessment

The Department for Energy Security and Net Zero (DESNZ) previously considered the impacts of introducing a heat networks authorisation regime in the [August 2023 impact assessment](#) and [November 2024 update](#), published alongside the November 2024 Ofgem-DESNZ joint consultation on implementing consumer protections in heat networks regulation.

Those assessments anticipated a light-touch authorisation process under which new heat network operators and suppliers would provide information to Ofgem and become subject to ongoing regulatory requirements.

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Our proposals retain this broad approach and do not introduce a substantive assessment of an applicant's suitability. Further information will continue to be collected through registration and the ongoing regulatory requirements applying to authorised persons.

We consider that the previous estimate of the administrative burden associated with an application remains a reasonable assessment of the likely burden under our proposals.

We have also considered whether the proposed application process materially affects the benefits identified in the previous assessments. The application process is one element of the wider authorisation regime. Applicants would become subject to the authorisation conditions and ongoing regulatory oversight in the same way as other authorised persons. We therefore consider that the proposed application arrangements do not materially alter the overall assessment of the costs, benefits and impacts of the heat networks authorisation regime.

For these reasons, we consider that the August 2023 impact assessment and November 2024 update remain appropriate assessments of the costs, benefits and impacts associated with the proposals in this consultation. Accordingly, we have not prepared a separate impact assessment.

Consultation stages

This consultation will remain open until 2 November 2026. We will consider responses before deciding whether to proceed with the proposals. Subject to the outcome of the consultation, we intend to publish a decision on the proposals.

The consultation process is expected to follow the stages below:

Stage 1 Consultation open: 5 October 2026

Stage 2 Consultation closes (awaiting decision). Deadline for responses: 2 November 2026

Stage 3 Responses reviewed and published: (TBC)

Stage 4 Consultation outcome (decision or policy statement) (before end January 2027)

How to respond

We want to hear from anyone interested in this consultation. Please send your response to the Heat Networks team via email to heatnetworksregulation@ofgem.gov.uk

We have asked for your feedback in each of the questions throughout this document. Please respond to each one as fully as you can.

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We will publish non-confidential responses on our website.

Your response, data, and confidentiality

You can ask us to keep your response, or parts of your response, confidential. We will respect this, subject to obligations to disclose information. For example, under the Freedom of Information Act 2000, the Environmental Information Regulations 2004, statutory directions, court orders, government regulations, or where you give us explicit permission to disclose. If you do want us to keep your response confidential, please clearly mark this on your response and explain why.

If you wish us to keep part of your response confidential, please clearly mark those parts of your response that you do wish to be kept confidential and those that you do not wish to be kept confidential. Please put the confidential material in a separate appendix to your response. If necessary, we will contact you to discuss which parts of the information in your response should be kept confidential and which can be published. We might ask for reasons why.

If the information you give in your response contains personal data under the General Data Protection Regulation (Regulation (EU) 2016/679) as retained in domestic law following the United Kingdom's withdrawal from the European Union ("UK GDPR"), the Gas and Electricity Markets Authority will be the data controller for the purposes of GDPR. Ofgem uses the information in responses in performing its statutory functions and in accordance with section 105 of the Utilities Act 2000. Please refer to our Privacy Notice on consultations, see Appendix 1.

If you wish to respond confidentially, we will keep your response confidential, but we will publish the number, but not the names, of confidential responses we receive. We will not link responses to respondents if we publish a summary of responses, and we will evaluate each response on its own merits without undermining your right to confidentiality.

How to track the progress of a consultation

1. Find the web page for the call for input you would like to receive updates on.
2. Click 'Get emails about this page', enter your email address and click 'Submit'.
3. You will receive an email to notify you when it has changed status.

A consultation has three stages: 'Open', 'Closed (awaiting decision)', and 'Closed (with decision)'.

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2. Draft Authorisation Application Regulations

This section describes our proposed Authorisation Application Regulations for applying for a heat network authorisation and key stages in the application process.

- Q1. Do you agree our proposed draft Authorisation Application Regulations meet our policy intention? If no, please give reasons.
- Q2. Do you agree with our proposed information requirements for applicants? If no, please give reasons.
- Q3. Do you agree our proposed transitional provisions for heat networks with non-enduring authorisation achieve our policy intent? If no, please give reasons.
- Q4. Do you agree with our proposed approach to transfer of authorisation. If no, please give reasons

Context

- 2.1 The Heat Network (Market Framework) Regulations 2025 (the 2025 regulations) require Ofgem to prescribe in a statutory instrument one or more of the following:
- the form in which an application for a heat network authorisation must be submitted
 - information that must be contained in any application and supporting documents
 - the manner in which an application must be submitted
 - a fee, if any, to accompany an application.
- 2.2 At Appendix 2 we include draft Authorisation Application Regulations (draft regulations) that set out the manner of application and the information that must be included in the application. We do not propose, currently, to require a fee as part of an application, but will keep this under review.
- 2.3 Our draft regulations also propose an approach to authorise those heat networks that commenced operating or supplying on a heat network between 1 April 2025 and 26 January 2027 and have non-enduring deemed authorisation under the regulations.

Submitting an authorisation application to Ofgem

- 2.4 It is for a potential applicant to consider whether they are going to be carrying on a heat network regulated activity and if they should apply for authorisation. Exemptions to the requirement to hold an authorisation are set out in the 2025 regulations.

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- 2.5 We recommend that stakeholders read this section of our consultation alongside our proposed draft regulations, amendments to the authorisation conditions and amendments to the Registration Guidance that we are also asking for views on as part of this consultation.
- 2.6 To apply to Ofgem for a conferral of heat network authorisation, we propose that an applicant must complete an application form available on our website.
- 2.7 Below we set out our proposals on the information that should be included in an authorisation application.

Applicant details

- 2.8 We propose to require a range of contact details from an applicant and the person submitting the application. These include an email address, telephone number and postal address for both the applicant (the person seeking to be authorised), and any other contact details that should be used if authorisation is conferred.
- 2.9 We propose that the person submitting an application must confirm by declaration they are the most senior person with responsibility for the heat network's operations and regulatory compliance.
- 2.10 An applicant would be required to set out the type of regulated activity it is applying for authorisation to carry on (operating or supplying heat on a heat network, or both).
- 2.11 In circumstances where an applicant is part of an organisation that has previously registered with Ofgem (as they already operate or supply on a heat network) we will require them to provide their organisation account number to us.

Heat network information

- 2.12 We propose to require information about the heat network itself, for example whether it is a communal or district heat network. We would also require information on the name of a heat network and its geographical location.
- 2.13 We propose, where relevant, to require information about any other person operating or intending to operate a different part of the heat network, so that we can understand the operational arrangements for the network and identify the parts operated by each entity.
- 2.14 A requirement to provide a date when the applicant expects to commence a regulated activity is also proposed.

Consultation Heat networks regulation: authorisation application arrangements**Declaration**

2.15 When submitting an application to Ofgem, we propose that the applicant submitting the application is required to confirm that:

- they have the authority to make the application
- they have read and understood the current Ofgem Application Guidance
- to the best of their knowledge and belief all the details provided in the application are true and complete
- they understand it is a criminal offence to knowingly or recklessly make a false or misleading statement as part of their application

2.16 The applicant must also confirm they have read, understood and can comply with the authorisation conditions if authorisation is conferred. This declaration about ongoing compliance must be made by the applicant. In the case of a body corporate signing, an authorised officer or equivalent (depending on the type of body corporate) must do so.

2.17 The information requirements and declaration we propose should ensure the applicant is satisfied that the correct person is submitting the application and that they have confirmed that the applicant can comply with relevant authorisation conditions. It would allow us to maintain records for applicants including those who are part of an organisation that already carries on regulated activity. It would also facilitate us publishing information as required by regulation 12 of the 2025 regulations.¹ At section 3, we set out our proposal to modify authorisation condition A04: Registration. By requiring a commencement date for the regulated activity from an applicant, we would be able to track compliance with our proposed obligation to register with Ofgem.

Applications for transfer of authorisation

2.18 The authorisation transfer process applies if an existing authorised person wishes to transfer its authorisation to a different entity. An authorisation can only be transferred if Ofgem determines that the holder of the existing authorisation has consented to the transfer of the existing authorisation.

2.19 When applying for a transfer we are proposing that the applicant (the new entity) provides us with additional information:

¹ Regulation 12(4): The Regulator must publish a list of authorised persons with, for each – (a) the regulated activities carried on by the authorised person; and (b) the geographical location of the relevant heat network in relation to which the regulated activities are carried on by the authorised person.

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- the identity of the transferring entity (holder of the existing authorisation)
- the reason for the transfer
- the regulated activity for which authorisation is proposed to be transferred
- the date the proposed transfer is intended to happen
- relevant Ofgem registration organisation account details for the authorisation that would be transferred

2.20 In addition to this we will also require evidence that the transferring entity has consented to the transfer.

2.21 Further, we propose to require information about the steps being taken by the applicant to ensure continuity of supply on terms that are the same as or as similar as possible to the terms in place immediately before the transfer. This is so we can consider their reasonableness. So far as known by the new entity, we will also ask for information about similar steps being taken by the transferring entity.

2.22 The evidence required should be provided in writing to us.

Transitional Provisions for non-enduring deemed authorisation

2.23 Regulated activity commenced prior to 1 April 2025 has enduring deemed authorisation under the 2025 regulations and the authorised persons for these heat networks do not need to apply for authorisation to continue carrying out regulated activity.

2.24 However, commencing operating or supplying on a heat network between 1 April 2025 and 26 January 2027 is deemed authorised under the regulations until 26 January 2028, when it lapses. As deemed authorisation for this group is not enduring, if wanting to continue the activity after 27 January 2028, it would require an application for authorisation for this activity before 26 January 2028.

2.25 In our Authorisation and Regulatory Oversight decision we said we intend to proceed with our proposals to confer authorisation for heat networks with non-enduring deemed authorisation based on information provided through registration.

2.26 In our draft regulations we propose that heat networks with non-enduring deemed authorisation that are registered with us will be able to obtain authorisation on the basis of information they have submitted via registration. We intend that this process will not involve any additional assessment, so regulated activity on affected heat networks can continue after 26 January 2028 without interruption.

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- 2.27 We will engage with affected authorised persons following confirmation of these proposals and the process for obtaining authorisation under these arrangements.

3. Proposed amendments to the Ofgem Registration Guidance

This section explains our proposed amendments to the Ofgem Registration Guidance to take account of our draft Authorisation Application Regulations. The proposed amendments include the process that we expect an application for authorisation would follow.

Q5. Do you agree with our proposed amendments to the guidance? If no, please give reasons.

Context

- 3.1 Our proposal is to amend our existing Registration Guidance to include our process for authorisation application. We consider this approach allows applicants to access guidance on the scope of the authorisation framework alongside information on the arrangements for application and registration. This will be supported by information on our website to support users through the registration process.
- 3.2 To do this we are proposing to rename our Registration Guidance to become Authorisation Application and Registration Guidance and have created a new section 3 called 'Authorisation Application'.
- 3.3 We have also proposed a number of improvements and clarifications to existing guidance topics, and, where appropriate, updates to drafting.
- 3.4 We recommend reviewing this section alongside Appendix 4, our proposed amendments to our Registration Guidance.

Preparing to submit an application

- 3.5 Our proposed guidance encourages applicants to apply for authorisation when they have a credible timescale to commence the regulated activity and are ready to comply with relevant authorisation conditions. As part of their application, we propose applicants are required to tell us when they expect to commence a regulated activity.
- 3.6 Our proposed guidance highlights that applicants should consider our discretion to revoke an authorisation that has been granted if the regulated activity is not commenced within 1 year after the date the authorisation comes into force.

Consultation Heat networks regulation: authorisation application arrangements**Submitting an application**

- 3.7 Our proposal is that applicants should submit required application information to us using a form available on our website. Applicants will be required to respond to our questions and provide declarations.
- 3.8 Our proposed guidance sets out a timeline for applications to be acknowledged and explains how applicants can contact Ofgem should the content of their application change while it is being considered. We intend to acknowledge receipt of an application within 1 working day of submission.
- 3.9 When submitting an application, applicants are reminded that providing incorrect or false information or statements is an offence and may result in criminal proceedings.

Application Process

- 3.10 We propose that only a person that is appropriately authorised (by the applicant) at the applicant can submit an application to us. This must be the most senior person at the applicant with responsibility for the heat network's operations and regulatory compliance.
- 3.11 When we receive an application, we will check that it is complete. Applicants will be told whether an application is complete within 10 working days of us acknowledging receipt.
- 3.12 Where we confirm the application is complete, it is also our intention to notify an applicant that we have processed the application and conferred authorisation.
- 3.13 If we do not notify an applicant that authorisation is conferred once we have determined it is complete, we will allow a further 3 days to process the application, unless we pause this time period to engage further with the applicant.
- 3.14 An application is incomplete when information is missing or appears to include errors. The application will remain as incomplete until the information or clarification requested has been provided.
- 3.15 If the applicant does not provide the requested information or clarification within the specified timeframe the application may be cancelled.
- 3.16 Tacit authorisation refers to situations where an authorisation is automatically granted because Ofgem did not make a decision within this 3-day time period.
- 3.17 We propose tacit authorisation would apply to applications to operate or supply on a heat network. This would mean, if an applicant does not receive notification that authorisation has been conferred, 3 working days after we confirm their

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application is complete, they would be deemed authorised, unless we have told them the time period has been stopped for their application.

Granting and refusing an authorisation application

- 3.18 An authorisation may be conferred if an applicant successfully provides the information required in our form and provides relevant declarations.
- 3.19 We are required by the 2025 regulations to publish the regulated activities carried on by the authorised person and the geographical location of the relevant heat network. We will publish this information on our electronic public register which will be updated from time to time.
- 3.20 There are circumstances in which we may decide to refuse an authorisation application. We have set out the proposed process we will follow in our updates to our Registration guidance.

Information requirements

- 3.21 To assist future applicants, we have included in our proposed amendments a description of the information an applicant will be required to provide to us. These information requirements are summarised in section 2 under ‘Applicant details’, ‘Heat network information’ and ‘Declaration’, and reflected in the proposed guidance amendments at Appendix 4.
- 3.22 We have also set out the additional information we would expect to be submitted as part of an application for transfer of authorisation.
- 3.23 Given the potential impact on consumers of a transfer of authorisation, we do not propose to have a time period to process these types of applications but will aim to do so as quickly as possible within a reasonable time period.

Other changes

- 3.24 We have proposed amendments to be clear when the arrangements in AC 05: Nominated Operator should be in place. This applies in the circumstances described at regulation 13(4)(b) of the 2025 regulations where there is more than one entity undertaking the regulated activity of operation on different physical parts of a relevant heat network.
- 3.25 We are also proposing to update the guidance to improve clarity and explanation of existing guidance topics. We will also make updates for consistency with information available on our website.
- 3.26 We have made a number of updates to ensure links are correct and to reflect documents published after version 1 of our Registration guidance.

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4. Proposed modification to Authorisation Conditions

This section sets out our proposed modification to:

- Authorisation Condition A04: Registration (AC A04)
- Authorisation Condition A05: Nominated Operator (AC A05)

our reasons for this change, and the effects of the proposed modification.

Q6. Do you agree with our proposed modification of AC A04?

Q7. Do you agree with our proposed modification of AC A05?

Context

- 4.1 Authorisation Condition A04: Registration (AC A04) requires authorised persons to register with us. In doing this, an authorised person must inform us about each regulated activity it carries on. The authorised person must also provide information on, for example, their relevant heat networks and financial status, ownership and organisational structure.
- 4.2 AC A05: Nominated Operator applies where more than one entity is undertaking the regulated activity of operation on different physical parts of a relevant heat network² and clarifies the responsibilities for nominating an operator to act as the main regulatory contact and share information and notifications.
- 4.3 At Appendix 3 we have published our statutory notice of consultation to modify AC A04 and AC A05.

Reason for our proposed modification

- 4.4 We are proposing to modify AC A04 to require heat network operators and suppliers that are conferred authorisation on or after 27 January 2027 to complete registration through our digital service within 3 months of beginning to carry on a regulated activity. Doing this will mean we receive information about their heat networks and arrangements and will provide us with essential details and set a baseline for data monitoring.
- 4.5 We are also proposing to correct a typographical error. Existing paragraph 4.1 refers to paragraph 4.4 which does not exist. Our proposal is to change the reference from 4.4 to 4.3.

² In accordance with 13(4)(b) of the 2025 regulations.

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- 4.6 Modifications to AC A05 are also proposed. The authorisation condition requires, where more than one entity is undertaking the regulated activity of operation on different physical parts of a relevant heat network, that operators use reasonable endeavours to agree which of them is to act as the contact point with Ofgem, on behalf of the other operators for the network. Our proposals would extend this obligation to operators that are authorised by application to Ofgem.

Effect of the proposed modification

- 4.7 The effect of our proposed modification to AC A04 is to create an obligation on persons conferred authorisation by Ofgem on or after 27 January 2027 to register with us within 3 months of beginning to carry on a regulated activity.
- 4.8 The proposed modifications would also correct a typographical error.
- 4.9 For AC A05 our proposed modifications would extend the obligation to use reasonable endeavours to agree a nominated operator to those persons conferred authorisation by Ofgem on or after 27 January 2027.
- 4.10 If we decide to go ahead with these modifications, we intend they would come into effect on 25 January 2027.

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Send us your feedback

4.11 We believe that consultation is at the heart of good policy development. We are keen to receive your comments about this consultation. We would also like to get your answers to these questions:

- Do you have any comments about the quality of this document?
- Do you have any comments about its tone and content?
- Was it easy to read and understand? Or could it have been better written?
- Are its conclusions balanced?
- Did it make reasoned recommendations?
- Do you have any further comments?

Please send your feedback to stakeholders@ofgem.gov.uk.

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Appendix 1. Privacy policy

Personal data

The following explains your rights and gives you the information you are entitled to under the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR).

Note that this section only refers to your personal data (your name address and anything that could be used to identify you personally) not the content of your response to the consultation.

1. The identity of the controller and contact details of our Data Protection Officer

The Gas and Electricity Markets Authority is the controller, (for ease of reference, “Ofgem”). The Data Protection Officer can be contacted at dpo@ofgem.gov.uk

2. Why we are collecting your personal data

Your personal data is being collected as an essential part of the consultation process, so that we can contact you regarding your response and for statistical purposes. We may also use it to contact you about related matters.

3. Our legal basis for processing your personal data

As a public authority, the GDPR makes provision for Ofgem to process personal data as necessary for the effective performance of a task carried out in the public interest. i.e. a consultation.

4. With whom we will be sharing your personal data

We will publish non-confidential responses on our website, but we will not include personal data.

5. For how long we will keep your personal data, or criteria used to determine the retention period.

Your personal data will be held until 6 months after the authorisation condition modification has come into affect, or 6 months after the decision is taken not to modify the authorisation conditions.

6. Your rights

The data we are collecting is your personal data, and you have considerable say over what happens to it. You have the right to:

- know how we use your personal data
- access your personal data
- have personal data corrected if it is inaccurate or incomplete

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- ask us to delete personal data when we no longer need it
- ask us to restrict how we process your data
- get your data from us and re-use it across other services
- object to certain ways we use your data
- be safeguarded against risks where decisions based on your data are taken entirely automatically
- tell us if we can share your information with 3rd parties
- tell us your preferred frequency, content and format of our communications with you
- to lodge a complaint with the independent Information Commissioner (ICO) if you think we are not handling your data fairly or in accordance with the law. You can contact the ICO at <https://ico.org.uk/> or telephone 0303 123 1113.

7. Your personal data will not be sent overseas.

8. Your personal data will not be used for any automated decision making.

9. Your personal data will be stored in a secure government IT system.

10. More information For more information on how Ofgem processes your data, view our [Ofgem privacy policy](#).