

The background of the slide is a blue-tinted photograph of electrical components, including a power outlet and a meter, with a bright light flare in the center. The text is overlaid on this background.

SUPPLY LICENCE REVIEW – METERING

12 April 2006

Overview #1

Consideration of:

- **SLC 7 (electricity) Duty to Offer Terms for Meter Provision**
- **SLC 7A (gas) Code of Practice for meter reading**
- **SLC17A (gas) Adjustment of charges where meter has registered erroneously**
- **SLC18 (electricity) Licensee's apparatus on customer's side of meter**
- **SLC24 (electricity) Code of Practice on procedures with respect to site access**
- **SLC 24 (gas) Arrangements in respect of powers of entry**
- **SLC24A (gas) Authorisation of officers**
- **SLC 24B (gas) Exercise of powers of entry**
- **SLC 34 (gas) metering arrangements for domestic customers**

Duty to Offer Terms for Meter Provision#1

Legal Framework

Electricity

- SLC 7(1): where owner of the meter, the supplier shall enter into agreement for provision of relevant metering equipment (sale, hire, lease)
- SLC 7(6) provides that the licensee must not enter into any agreement in relation to the provision of metering equipment which is intended or is likely to restrict, distort or prevent competition in the supply of electricity.

Duty to Offer Terms for Meter Provision#2

Considerations:

Ofgem's view:

- Principles should be retained. The condition should be simplified through redrafting
- Impact – supply/metering competition/innovation etc?

Code of Practice for Meter Reading#1

Legal Framework

Gas

- Gas Act 1986, Schedule 2B (2)(1): take supply through a meter of a type appropriate for registering quantity of gas supplied
- Gas Act 1986, Schedule 2B (4)(2): the register of the meter shall be the prima facie evidence of the quantity of gas supplied

Code of practice for Meter Reading#2

Legal Framework (con)

Gas

- SLC 7A(2): supplier to confirm to Authority whether it intends to comply with meter reading CoP
- SLC 7A (3) applies to non-domestic premises only. If a meter is fitted to a new connection, and the person making the connection is not an approved meter installer the licensee must use its reasonable endeavours to secure that within the specified period an approved meter installer inspects the connection.

Code of Practice for Meter Reading#3

Considerations

Ofgem's view

- is that the guidance notes currently produced are not appropriate and that these notes merely reiterate what has already become good practice within the industry.
- In electricity, although data collectors need to be accredited, there are no similar licence conditions for electricity meter readers.
- Impact – supply/metering competition/innovation etc?

Meter Registering Erroneously#1

Legal Framework

Gas

- SLC17A - where this licence conditions applies, if a meter is found to be over or under registering the charges shall be adjusted accordingly
- SLC17 (4) – requires that in respect of a secondary sub-deduct premises the licensee shall ensure the obligations of the Gas Act are met via an appropriate contract.

Meter Registering Erroneously#2

Considerations:

Ofgem's view

- The principles of this condition should be retained. consumer protection.
- There is not a similar obligation in electricity.
- Impact – supply/metering competition/innovation etc?

Licensee's apparatus on the Consumer's side of the meter

Legal Framework

Electricity

- This condition sets the maximum power that may be consumed by a second meter that has been installed to ascertain or regulate the amount of electricity consumed.

Licensee's apparatus on the Consumer's side of the meter

Considerations

- Is this condition still required?

Site Access/Powers of Entry#1

Legal Framework

Gas

–SLC 24(1) requires the licensee to prepare, in respect of both domestic and non-domestic premises, a statement of its proposed arrangements in relation to its authorised officers for the purposes of SLC 24A. This statement must be submitted to the Authority for its approval.

Electricity

–SLC 24(1) requires the licensee to prepare a Code of Practice setting out the principles and procedures the licensee will follow in respect of any person acting on its behalf who requires access to customers' premises. The Licensee must submit this Code of Practice to the Authority for its approval.

Site Access/Powers of Entry#2

Considerations

Ofgem's views

- the principles of both conditions should be retained.
- Code approval could be removed
- Impact?

Authorisation of Officers

Legal Framework

Gas

- SLC 24A (1) provides that the arrangements referred to in SLC 24(1) must provide for the taking of all reasonable steps for securing compliance with the relevant provisions of Schedule 2B to the Gas Act and with the Rights of Entry (Gas and Electricity Boards) Act 1954;

Exercise of Powers of Entry

Legal Framework

Gas

- SLC 24B(1) requires the supplier to use its “reasonable endeavours” to avoid “undue disturbance” to owners or occupiers of premises as a result of visits being made to their premises by authorised officers of different licence holders.

Authorisation and Exercise of Powers

Considerations

Ofgem's view

- there is scope for simplification of both SLC24(A) and SLC 24(B) through redrafting and /or
- SLC 24(B) duplicates the provisions of the Gas Act which provides additional scope for this obligation to be removed.

Metering arrangements for domestic customers (gas)#1

Legal Framework

Gas

- Gas Act 1986, Schedule 2B (2)(1): take supply through a meter of a type appropriate for registering quantity of gas supplied
- SLC 34(2): provide, by a MAM, a (domestic) meter upon request - various mechanisms available

Metering arrangements for domestic customers (gas)#2

Considerations

Ofgem's view

- this obligation should be retained.