

Standard Condition B6. Restriction on Activity and Financial Ring Fencing

1. Save as provided by paragraphs 3 and 4, the licensee shall not conduct any business or carry on any activity other than the transmission business.
2. The licensee shall not without the prior written consent of the Authority hold or acquire shares or other investments of any kind except:
 - (a) shares or other investments in a body corporate the sole activity of which is to carry on business for a permitted purpose;
 - (b) shares or other investments in a body corporate which is a subsidiary of the licensee and incorporated by it solely for the purpose of raising finance for the transmission business; or
 - (c) investments acquired in the usual and ordinary course of the licensee's treasury management operations, subject to the licensee maintaining in force, in relation to those operations, a system of internal controls which complies with best corporate governance practice as required (or, in the absence of any such requirement, recommended) by the UK listing authority (or a successor body) from time to time for listed companies in the United Kingdom.
3. Subject to the provisions of paragraph 2, nothing in this condition shall prevent:
 - (a) any affiliate in which the licensee does not hold shares or other investments from conducting any business or carrying on any activity;
 - (b) the licensee from holding shares as, or performing the supervisory or management functions of, an investor in respect of any body corporate in which it holds an interest consistent with the provisions of this licence;
 - (c) the licensee from performing the supervisory or management functions of a holding company in respect of any subsidiary; or
 - (d) the licensee from carrying on any business or conducting any activity to which the Authority has given its consent in writing.

4. Nothing in this condition shall prevent the licensee or an affiliate or related undertaking of the licensee in which the licensee holds shares or other investments (a “relevant associate”) from conducting de minimis business as defined in this paragraph so long as the limitations specified in this paragraph are complied with:

(a) For the purpose of this paragraph, “de minimis business” means any business or activity carried on by the licensee or a relevant associate or relevant associates other than:

(i) transmission business; and

(ii) any other business activity to which the Authority has given its consent in writing in accordance with paragraph 3(d).

(b) The licensee or a relevant associate may carry on de minimis business provided that neither of the following limitations is exceeded, namely:

(i) the aggregate turnover of all the de minimis business carried on by the licensee and the equity share of the aggregate turnover of all the de minimis business carried on by all its relevant associates does not in any period of twelve months commencing on 1 April of any year exceed 2.5 per cent of the aggregate turnover of the transmission business, as shown by the most recent audited regulatory accounts of the licensee produced under paragraph 3(b) of standard condition B1 (Regulatory Accounts); and

(ii) the aggregate amount (determined in accordance with sub-paragraph (d) below) of all investments made by the licensee in de minimis business, carried on by the licensee and all relevant associates, does not at any time after the date at which this condition takes effect in the transmission licence of the licensee exceed 2.5 per cent of the sum of the share capital in issue, the share premium and the consolidated reserves (including retained earnings) of the licensee as shown by the most recent audited regulatory accounts of the licensee produced under paragraph 3(b) of standard condition B1 (Regulatory Accounts) then available.

- (c) For the purpose of sub-paragraph (b) above, “investment” means any form of financial support or assistance given by or on behalf of the licensee for the de minimis business whether on a temporary or permanent basis and including (without limiting the generality of the foregoing) any commitment to provide any such support or assistance in the future.

- (d) At any relevant time, the amount of an investment shall be the sum of:
 - (i) the value at which such investment was included in the audited historical cost balance sheet of the licensee as at its latest accounting reference date to have occurred prior to the date this condition comes into effect in the transmission licence of the licensee (or, where the investment was not so included, zero);
 - (ii) the aggregate gross amount of all expenditure (whether of a capital or revenue nature) howsoever incurred by the licensee in respect of such investment in all completed accounting reference periods since such accounting reference date; and
 - (iii) all commitments and liabilities (whether actual or contingent) of the licensee relating to such investment outstanding at the end of the most recently completed accounting reference period, less the sum of the aggregate gross amount of all income (whether of a capital or revenue nature) howsoever received by the licensee in respect of such investment in all completed accounting reference periods since the accounting reference date referred to in sub-paragraph (d)(i).

5 For the purposes of paragraph 4, “equity share”, in relation to any shareholding, means the nominal value of the equity shares held by the licensee in a relevant associate, as a percentage of the nominal value of the entire issued equity share capital of that relevant associate.

