

Modification proposal:	Distribution Code: DCRP/MP/19/08 Modifications to The Distribution Code and EREC G99 – Minor Corrections and Housekeeping Modifications.		
Decision:	The Authority ¹ has decided to approve ² this modification		
Target audience:	Distribution licensees, Distribution Code Review Panel, distribution network users and other interested parties		
Date of publication:	20 th February 2020	Implementation date:	9th March 2020

Background

Distribution Code modification GC0102/DCRP 'Implementation of the EU Network Code – Requirement for Generators'³ (GC0102/DCRP) was approved by us on 15 May 2018. GC0102/DCRP ensures that the Great Britain (GB) Distribution Code is consistent with the relevant European Network Code (Requirement for Generators ("the European Network Code")).⁴ That has been achieved, primarily, by the inclusion of two new Annex 1 documents in Distribution Code⁵; "G98: Requirements for the connection of Fully Type Tested Micro-generators (up to and including 16 A per phase) in parallel with public Low Voltage Distribution Networks on or after 27 April 2019 " (G98)⁶; and "G99: Requirements for the connection of generation equipment in parallel with public distribution networks on or after 27 April 2019 (G99)"⁷.

G99 came into force on 27 April 2019. To support its implementation, the Energy Networks Association (ENA) has been running a Distributed Energy Resources Technical Forum (DER TF). The DER TF allows stakeholders to discuss the technical requirements and drafting contained in G99. As a result of those discussions five updates have been made to G99 since May 2018 in order to effect stakeholders' views.

Distribution Code: DCRP/MP/19/08 Modifications to The Distribution Code and EREC G99 – Minor Corrections and Housekeeping Modifications ("the modification proposal") collates changes to G99 made by stakeholders through the DER TF. The modification proposal makes a further series of minor clarifications and corrections to G99.

The modification proposal

The modification proposal resolves minor inconsistencies in requirements in G99 and provides additional clarity for its users. It addresses issues across three areas:

- Minor changes to clauses that effect a limited number of stakeholders, specifically owners of landfill gas generation equipment,
- minor defects in original drafting, and

¹ References to the "Authority", "Ofgem", "we" and "our" are used interchangeably in this document. The Authority refers to GEMA, the Gas and Electricity Markets Authority. The Office of Gas and Electricity Markets (Ofgem) supports GEMA in its day to day work. This decision is made by or on behalf of GEMA.

² This document is notice of the reasons for this decision as required by section 49A of the Electricity Act 1989.

³ <https://www.ofgem.gov.uk/publications-and-updates/distribution-code-gc0102dcrp-implementation-eu-network-code-requirement-generators>

⁴ <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=CELEX%3A32016R0631>

⁵ <http://www.dcode.org.uk/annexes/>

⁶ <http://www.energynetworks.org/electricity/engineering/distributed-generation/engineering-recommendation-g83.html>

⁷ <http://www.energynetworks.org/electricity/engineering/distributed-generation/engineering-recommendation-g59.html>

- minor typographical errors etc.

Details of the specific changes proposed to G99 can be found in the Final Modification Report (FMR) submitted to the Authority by the Distribution Code Review Panel (DCRP) on 29th November 2019⁸. The proposed changes clarify requirements and correct a number of minor defects and typographical errors found in labelling and internal references in G99.

The modification proposal was subject to consultation with stakeholders between 12 September 2019 and 4 October 2019. Five responses were received. As a result of those responses changes to G99 were made. The changes consist of further minor typographical corrections to G99 and have been incorporated into the modification proposal.

Distribution Code Review Panel (DCRP)⁹ comments and licensee recommendation

At the DCRP meeting on 10 October 2019, the Panel agreed that the modification proposal should be submitted to the Authority for approval. The DCRP consider that objectives (a), (b), and (c) are better facilitated by the modification proposal and that it has a neutral impact on objective (d). The modification proposal was also recommended for approval by the Distribution Network Operators (DNOs).

Our decision

We have considered the issues raised by the modification proposal and addressed in the FMR. We have also had regard to the responses to the consultation which were included in the FMR. We have concluded that:

- implementation of the modification proposal will better facilitate the achievement of the applicable objectives of the Distribution Code,¹⁰ and
- approving the modification proposal is consistent with our principal objective and statutory duties.¹¹

Reasons for our decision

We consider that the modification proposal will better facilitate Distribution Code objectives a, b and c, and that it will have a neutral impact on objective (d).

(a) permit the development, maintenance, and operation of an efficient, co-ordinated, and economical system for the distribution of electricity

⁸ Distribution Code proposals, final reports and representations can be viewed at:

<http://www.dcode.org.uk/areas-of-work/> and <http://www.dcode.org.uk/consultations/>

⁹ The DCRP is established in accordance with SLC 21 of the Electricity Distribution Licence.

¹⁰ As set out in Standard Condition SLC 21.4 of the Electricity Distribution Licence available at:

<https://epr.ofgem.gov.uk/Content/Documents/Electricity%20Distribution%20Consolidated%20Standard%20Licence%20Conditions%20-%20Current%20Version.pdf>

¹¹ The Authority's statutory duties are wider than matters which the Panel and licensees must take into consideration and are largely provided for in statute, principally in this case the Electricity Act 1989.

The proposed changes to G99 will clarify its technical requirements. That will reduce uncertainty for users of the Distribution Code and assist them to apply the Distribution Code consistently.

(b) facilitate competition in the generation and supply of electricity

The clarifications to G99 will make it easier for new users of the Distribution Code to demonstrate compliance with Distribution Code requirements.

(c) efficiently discharge the obligations imposed upon distribution licensees by the distribution licences and comply with the Regulation and any relevant legally binding decision of the European Commission and/or the Agency for the Co-operation of Energy Regulators

The changes to G99 will clarify and align its requirements with the European Network Code. That will make it easier for users of the Distribution Code to demonstrate compliance with the European Network Code.

Decision notice

In accordance with SLC 21.11 of the Electricity Distribution Licence, the Authority hereby directs that "Distribution Code: DCRP/MP/19/08 Modifications to The Distribution Code and EREC G99 – Minor Corrections and Housekeeping Modifications" is made.

Martin Queen
Principal Engineer

Signed on behalf of the Authority and authorised for that purpose