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Network Link Code Gas TSO

Valid from 12-05-2016 to present

Decision by the Dutch Authority for Consumers and Markets of April 21, 2016, reference ACM/DE/2016/202162 comprising the adoption of the provisions as referred to in article 12b of the Dutch Gas Act (Network Link Code Gas – TSO)

The Dutch Authority for Consumers and Market,
In view of article 12f, Paragraph 1 of the Dutch Gas Act,

Decision:

1. General provisions

1.1. Scope and definitions

1.1.1.

This Network Link Code Gas TSO contains the conditions relating to the way in which the network operator of the national grid and the distribution network operator allow the network link and the national grid to be, and continue to be, technically and operationally compatible, such that the distribution network is, and remains, safely connected to the national grid, and such that the gas in the system connection, pursuant to the Metering Code Gas TSO, can be measured and withdrawn from the national grid in a controlled manner. This Network Link Code Gas TSO aims to guarantee the safety, efficiency and reliability of the network link and the system connection and to spare the environment.

1.1.2.

Terms that are defined in the Dutch Gas Act or the Definitions Code Gas have the meaning defined in the Dutch Gas Act or Definitions Code Gas.

2. Network link

2.1.

Networks are linked on the basis of an agreement to be concluded between the network operator of the national grid and the distribution network operator. The network operator of the national grid and the distribution network operator set out additional arrangements concerning the network link and the system connection in this agreement. Arrangements about costs, for example, are included in this agreement unless otherwise explicitly provided for in this Network Link Code Gas TSO.

2.2.

The network operator of the national grid shall, for the purpose of effecting the network link, take measures with regard to the national grid, including the creation of a system connection.

2.3.

The distribution network operator shall, to the best of its ability, make every effort to prevent gas being taken off in such a way that the safety and/or efficiency and reliability of the national grid is, or could be, endangered. If this sort of situation should occur or is at risk of occurring, the distribution network operator is obliged to inform the network operator of the national grid as soon as possible prior to the occurrence of the situation and to follow the instructions given by the network operator of the national grid regarding this matter.

2.4.

The gas transfer point is the link between, on the one hand, the national grid and, on the other hand, the distribution network and lies (from the point of view of the national grid) one metre behind the sectional insulation, unless the network operator of the national grid and the relevant distribution network operator have agreed otherwise.

3. System connection

3.1. Supply pressure

3.1.1.

Without prejudice to the provisions of 6.1.4, gas shall be made available by the network operator of the national grid at a supply pressure of approximately eight bar (above atmospheric pressure). If it is not possible to provide the gas at a supply pressure of approximately eight bar (above atmospheric pressure), the network operator of the national grid and the distribution network operator shall agree a lower supply pressure.

3.1.2.

If the distribution network operator wishes to change the agreed lower supply pressure, it shall enter into consultations about this in good time with the network operator of the national grid. Based on data provided by the distribution network operator, the network operator of the national grid shall look into the possibility of implementing a different supply pressure. The distribution network operator's request shall not be refused on unreasonable grounds by the network operator of the national grid. However, the supply pressure shall not be higher than approximately eight bar (above atmospheric pressure). The network operator of the national grid and the distribution network operator may agree more detailed financial and operational conditions in connection with the amended supply pressure.

3.1.3.

In addition to this, there is the potential for agreeing a higher supply pressure than approximately eight bar (above atmospheric pressure), if and insofar as this is, in the opinion of the network operator of the national grid, possible for technical gas-transport-related reasons and this higher supply pressure is intended for gas applications for which a higher supply pressure than approximately eight bar (above atmospheric pressure) is required. The higher supply pressure shall be determined by the network operator of the national grid following consultations with the distribution network operator. The network operator of the national grid may attach more detailed financial and operational conditions to this agreement in connection with the higher supply pressure. If the network operator of the national grid anticipates that the agreed higher supply pressure can no longer be permanently maintained, the network operator of the national grid shall terminate the agreement made about the higher supply pressure subject to a notice period of eighteen months. After the notice period has expired, the

network operator of the national grid shall make the gas available again at a supply pressure of approximately eight bar (above atmospheric pressure), unless other agreements are made in this regard pursuant to 3.1.1.

3.1.4.

If the network operator of the national grid or the distribution network operator should determine that the gas at the gas transfer point has not been made available at the agreed supply pressure, the network operator of the national grid and the distribution network operator shall inform each other thereof as soon as possible.

3.2. Gas quality

3.2.1.

The gas quality at the gas transfer point shall meet the following conditions:

Gas quality	Minimal	Maximum	Unit
Wobbe index (*)	43,46	44,41	MJ/m ³ (n)
Oxygen content	-	0,5	mol%
Anorganically bound sulphur in H ₂ S (**)	-	5	mg/m ³ (n)
Alkylthiols S-content (**)	-	10	mg/m ³ (n)
Total sulphur content (**)	-	45	mg/m ³ (n)
The gas is provided technically free from liquid substance or matter.			

* Excluding the measuring and regulating inaccuracy of the blending stations.

** Before the gas has been odorised.

3.2.2.

Part of the gas quality shall also include making gas available in an odorised state, unless agreed otherwise. The gas is deemed to be sufficiently odorised if at least 10 mg/m³(n) THT is present in the gas at the gas transfer point.

3.2.3.

If the network operator of the national grid or the distribution network operator should determine that the gas at the gas transfer point does not meet the gas quality requirements, the network operator of the national grid and the distribution network operator shall inform each other thereof as soon as possible.

3.3. Capacity

3.3.1.

The contractual capacity of the system connection and/or the system connection configuration, being the maximum quantity of gas made available per hour, shall be mutually determined by the network

operator of the national grid and the distribution network operator on the basis of data supplied by the distribution network operator.

3.3.2.

If the distribution network operator seeks a change to the capacity determined pursuant to 3.3.1, it shall enter into consultations about this in good time with the network operator of the national grid. Based on data provided by the distribution network operator, among other things, the network operator of the national grid shall look into the possibility of achieving the desired capacity. The distribution network operator's request shall not be refused on unreasonable grounds by the network operator of the national grid. The network operator of the national grid and the distribution network operator may agree more detailed financial and operational conditions in connection with the amended capacity.

3.3.3.

Exceeding the determined capacity is only permitted if this is the direct consequence of work as described in 6.1.2 and/or 6.1.4. If the distribution network operator exceeds the capacity, this may lead to capacity not being supplied or not being supplied at the agreed supply pressure. Moreover, each capacity overshoot is considered to be the type of situation as referred to in article 2.3 and the distribution network operator is obliged to inform the network operator of the national grid as soon as reasonably possible prior to the occurrence of the situation and to follow the instructions given by the network operator of the national grid regarding this matter. In such situations, the network operator of the national grid may demand that the determined capacity is adapted (to reality) and may agree more detailed financial and operational conditions in connection with the amended capacity with the distribution network operator.

3.4. Management

3.4.1.

The system connection shall be maintained, relocated, adapted or removed by or on the instructions of the network operator of the national grid. 'Maintaining' means, among other things, inspecting, repairing, testing and replacing the system connection. The distribution network operator is not permitted to perform actions (or instruct others to perform actions) affecting the system connection without the express permission of the network operator of the national grid.

3.4.2.

Only those individuals authorised by the network operator of the national grid are competent to set up, adjust or repair (or similar) the system connection equipment.

3.4.3.

In the event of a disaster (or imminent disaster), the relevant distribution network operator shall make immediate contact with the network operator of the national grid and shall follow the instructions of the network operator of the national grid with regard to using the network link.

4. System connection location

4.1.

Measuring and control equipment shall be located in a building or part of a building made available by the distribution network operator. Maintenance, cleaning and adaptation of this building and the land where the system connection is situated shall be carried out by the distribution network operator in accordance with the requirements set by the network operator of the national grid. All items applied into, on or to the building by the distribution network operator – including hoists and lighting –

irrespective of whether these items were applied on the instructions of or at the request of the network operator of the national grid, apart from the system connection itself, shall form part of the building.

4.2.

Costs relating to the construction and maintenance of appropriate electrical facilities, which comply with the relevant applicable safety standards, as well as to the use of electricity and water for the purpose of the building and the measuring and control equipment located therein, are payable by the distribution network operator.

4.3.

[No longer applicable]

4.4.

In order to guarantee that work is performed safely, the distribution network operator shall only carry out work on the building in consultation with the network operator of the national grid.

5. Measuring and regulating

5.1.

System connection measurements are taken by the network operator of the national grid pursuant to the Metering Code Gas TSO.

5.2.

If the distribution network operator wants more system connection measurements than provided for in the Metering Code Gas TSO, the network operator of the national grid shall, if and insofar as this is reasonably possible, comply with this request. The network operator of the national grid and the distribution network operator may agree more detailed financial and operational conditions in connection with the additional measurements.

5.3.

Minimum measuring capacity, i.e. the capacity at which the lower limit of the measuring range of the measuring and control equipment is reached, is laid down on the basis of data supplied by the distribution network operator to the network operator of the national grid. If the distribution network operator seeks a change to the minimum measuring capacity laid down, it shall enter into consultations about this in good time with the network operator of the national grid. Based on data provided by the distribution network operator, the network operator of the national grid shall look into the possibility of achieving the desired minimum measuring capacity. An amended minimum measuring capacity shall be laid down by the network operator of the national grid and the distribution network operator. The network operator of the national grid and the distribution network operator may agree more detailed financial and operational conditions in connection with the amended minimum measuring capacity.

5.4.

The distribution network operator shall, to the best of its ability, make every effort to ensure that the quantity of gas taken off will not, structurally and/or systematically, come to be within the capacity range between nil and the minimum measuring capacity and shall take such measures in order to guarantee that the measuring and control equipment is used properly. If this type of capacity undershoot situation occurs or may occur, the distribution network operator is obliged to inform the network operator of the national grid as soon as possible prior to the occurrence of the situation and to follow the instructions given by the network operator of the national grid regarding this matter.

Moreover, the distribution network operator is obliged, if and insofar as it falls below, structurally and/or systematically, the agreed minimum measuring capacity, to enter into consultations with the network operator of the national grid about a lower minimum measuring capacity. Based on data provided by the relevant distribution network operator, the network operator of the national grid shall look into the possibility of achieving a lower minimum measuring capacity. An amended minimum measuring capacity shall be laid down by the network operator of the national grid and the distribution network operator. The network operator of the national grid may agree more detailed financial conditions with the distribution network operator in connection with the amended minimum measuring capacity.

5.5.

If the distribution network operator has well-founded reasons for believing that the measuring and control equipment is not functioning correctly or is showing a deviation, the network operator of the national grid shall check the measuring and control equipment and, if necessary, take action (adjust the equipment) pursuant to the provisions of the Metering Code Gas TSO. The costs relating to this are payable by the network operator of the national grid, unless any confirmed inaccuracy does not exceed the permitted deviations, as defined in the Metering Code Gas - TSO, in which case the costs are payable by the distribution network operator.

5.6.

If it is found that the measuring and control equipment is not functioning accurately, but it is not possible to determine when the equipment started to give inaccurate readings, the date at which it started to give inaccurate readings is deemed to be halfway between the date on which the inaccurate readings were detected and the date when the measuring and control equipment was last checked and all parties were in agreement. The date on which it was established that the equipment was malfunctioning is deemed to be the date on which the check was performed which showed, pursuant to 5.5, that it was malfunctioning. The error made by the measuring and control equipment during the period between the date on which it started malfunctioning, or was deemed to have started malfunctioning, and the date on which the meter was functioning properly again, shall be estimated by the network operator of the national grid in consultation with the distribution network operator. The error shall not be expressed as hourly corrections but as one total volume correction. However correction shall only take place in respect of a maximum period of three hundred and sixty five days prior to the date on which the malfunctioning was established, plus the number of days between the date on which the malfunctioning was established and the date on which the meter was functioning properly again.

6. Cooperation

6.1. Work

6.1.1.

The network operator of the national grid and the distribution network operator shall, at all times, exchange sufficient information and take sufficient measures, so that the work performed on bringing the network link, the national grid and/or distribution network (or parts thereof) into or out of operation and/or the telecommunication provisions in connection with this work, are coordinated such that any disruption to the normal gas service is kept to a minimum.

6.1.2.

Where reasonably necessary in connection with the safety, efficiency and reliability of the national grid and distribution network, the network operator of the national grid and the distribution network

operator shall, for work performed on the network link, distribution network or the national grid requiring, for a specific period, a certain gas offtake or gas offtake pattern at the system connection, work with each other and with other network users to achieve this type of gas offtake or gas offtake pattern during this period.

6.1.3.

Work to be performed on and inspections of the system connection by the network operator of the national grid shall, insofar as reasonably possible, be performed during office hours, in consultation with, and in compliance with the safety policy of, the distribution network operator. The distribution network operator is responsible for ensuring that the individuals to be appointed by the network operator of the national grid shall, at all times, have access to the building and the system connection in order to carry out work and perform inspections, and that the building and the system connection are always easily accessible.

6.1.4.

If the network operator of the national grid is intending to carry out work on the system connection, not being in connection with cases of disruption or disaster, which could lead to interruption to, increase in or decrease in the availability of gas or to changes in the conditions under which the gas is made available, this work shall not be carried out before consultations with the distribution network operator have taken place regarding the date and duration of the interruption and/or increase or decrease of the availability of the gas or changes in the conditions under which the gas is made available. When planning and performing this work, the network operator of the national grid shall take account, as far as is reasonably possible, of the interests of the distribution network operator.

6.1.5.

The network operator of the national grid and the distribution network operator shall, where necessary, inform relevant third parties in advance and in good time of work to be performed to the network link and/or the system connection which could lead to the interruption to, increase in or decrease in the availability of gas. The network operator of the national grid and the distribution network operator shall take account of the interests of third parties insofar as this is reasonably possible.

6.1.6.

If a disaster or disruption is a threat to the network link and/or to the smooth functioning of the national grid, the network operator of the national grid may perform the necessary work immediately and without prior consultation with the distribution network operator or with third parties. In these circumstances, the network operator of the national grid and the distribution network operator shall, as far as is reasonably possible, maintain contact with each other and work together to resolve the disaster or disruption or the consequences thereof.

6.1.7.

The network operator of the national grid is authorised, without giving prior notice to the distribution network operator and/or the shipper(s) concerned, to close the system connection if this is required due to direct danger to individuals.

6.1.8.

The network operator of the national grid and the distribution network operator shall not cause any hindrance or loss to each other either through the gas transportation networks under their management or in any other way. The distribution network operator shall not use the system connection for earthing electrical installations, appliances, lightning conductors or the like, or for any other purpose than is expressly permitted under this Network Link Code Gas TSO. The distribution

network operator shall not break, or allow another individual to break, seals attached to the system connection by or on account of the network operator of the national grid.

6.2. Communication

6.2.1.

The network operator of the national grid and the distribution network operator shall, when operating the system connection, give priority to the safety, efficiency and reliability of the national grid and distribution network. The network operator of the national grid and the distribution network operator shall cooperate fully with each other when applying and implementing the provisions of this Network Link Code Gas – TSO and when checking that they are being observed. The network operator of the national grid and the distribution network operator are, in particular, obliged to inform each other as soon as possible of any information, occurrences or changes in circumstances or in the actual situation, which are (or may be) significant for the implementation of this Network Link Code Gas - TSO, including observed or presumed loss, defect or irregularities (or risk thereof) to the network link, the system connection, the building and/or any other devices, including any broken seals.

6.2.2.

The network operator of the national grid and the distribution network operator shall, in order to comply with the situations described in 6.2.1, among other things, be accessible twenty four hours per day and every day of the year by telephone or by any other agreed system of communication. All relevant address and communication details shall be recorded. If these details change, the network operator of the national grid and the distribution network operator shall send each other written notification, to their recorded addresses, of the changes no later than ten working days prior to the change in the details.

6.2.3.

The network operator of the national grid and the distribution network operator shall make sufficient effort to ensure that they hold (or continue to hold) the necessary permits and to inform (or continue to inform) each other of the contents of those permits and the conditions under which they have been issued.

6.3. Continuity

6.3.1.

The distribution network operator shall, at the request of the network operator of the national grid, provide information annually about the anticipated capacity requirements for each network link for the next four years. If the network operator of the national grid should so request, the distribution network operator shall provide the network operator of the national grid, with more detailed (background) information relating to the information it has supplied. The distribution network operator is responsible for ensuring that the statements it has supplied have been put together carefully and provide as good an estimate as possible of future capacity requirements. The network operator of the national grid and the distribution network operator shall base the capacity to be agreed in particular on the information supplied by the distribution network operator.

7. Final provisions

7.1.

The Dutch network code "Network Link Code Gas - TSO", as established by the Decision of 21 November 2006 and subsequently amended several times, is withdrawn.

7.2.

This Decision enters into force with effect from the day after the date of issue of the Dutch Government Gazette in which it has been published.

7.3.

This Decision is cited as: Network Link Code Gas TSO.

This Decision and its explanatory notes shall be published in the Dutch Government Gazette.

The Hague, April 21, 2016

On behalf of the Dutch Authority for Consumers and Markets,

F.J.H. Don
board member