

Joint Office of Gas Transporters

Uniform Network Code:

***The Uniform Network Code (UNC)** forms the basis of the legal and commercial arrangements for the transportation and supply of natural gas in Great Britain. It is a contract between Gas Transporters, who own the gas pipeline infrastructure, and Shippers whose gas is transported plus other clearly defined parties.*

The Code sets out the commercial rights and responsibilities of all providers and users of the gas transportation system giving all parties equal access to transportation services. In doing so, it creates a level playing field which facilitates a safe and competitive gas industry ultimately benefiting British gas consumers.

The Code itself is a living document in the sense that over the last two decades it has been subject to multiple changes agreed by the gas industry and government regulator, Ofgem. The change or modification process ensures the gas regime in Great Britain adapts to the changing commercial climate and is managed by the Joint Office of Gas Transporters.

The UNC is subdivided into four main sections:

- *General (defining terms, modification rules etc.)*
- *Transportation Principal Document (TPD)*
- *Offtake Arrangements Document (OAD)*
- *European Interconnection Document (EID)*

***The General Terms** clarify, among other things, key terms used throughout the Code; setting out the main responsibilities of different parties, protocols for secure and accurate data exchange and procedures for dispute resolution etc.*

***The Transportation Principal Document** is, as its title says, the major document governing Britain's gas transportation system. It contains the more detailed rules underpinning the efficient and safe operation of gas network. It sets out the rights and responsibilities for capacity management, gas balancing, storage, forecasting, maintenance planning and charging thereby ensuring that the commercial and physical regime operates fairly and transparently for all participants. The provisions set out in the Transportation Principal Document support the stability and growth of the British gas market.*

***The Offtake Arrangements Document** sets out the provisions between different gas network owners in relation to the connections between their systems. Different parts of*

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Britain's gas transportation system have different owners and the Offtake Arrangements Document sets out the rights and responsibilities of the owners of these connected networks. It contains the rights and obligations of different parties in respect to such things as maintenance, safety provision, gas quality, measurement of flows etc.

The European Interconnection Document governs the operational and commercial arrangements for the connection points at which Great Britain's gas network links with European gas systems. The interconnectors are key sub-sea pipelines connecting Great Britain's gas systems with those in Holland, Belgium and the island of Ireland. Among other things the document sets out the provisions for capacity allocation, gas flow nominations, balancing, and the management of gas flows across interconnectors, ensuring alignment with European regulations. The document facilitates cross-border gas trade, enhancing security of supply, and ensures that the UK's gas system remains integrated with the wider European gas market.