

Final Modification Report No.21

Update to the Gas Quality Specification

14th March 2025

The Transporter has prepared this Final Modification Report No.21 in accordance with section A8 of the Code Modification Rules.

A Description of the nature and purpose of the modification

This proposal is being made to update references in the NI Network Gas Transmission Code to the specification for gas entering the network, to align with the most up to date legislative position including exemptions issued by the Northern Ireland Health and Safety Executive (HSE NI).

B How the modification better facilitates the relevant objective

The Relevant Objective (condition 2.4 of the Transporter Licences) will be better facilitated by the NI Network Gas Transmission Code as a result of the proposed changes. This change will support the economic and efficient operation of the network by ensuring that the NI Network Gas Transmission Code is maintained to be as accurate and up to date as possible, and by facilitating the possibility of a wider specification of gas entering the NI Network in future.

C The clauses of the NI Network Gas Transmission Code that require amendment

This proposal will amend Appendix 3 of the NI Network Gas Transmission Code, as set out in section I below.

D Impact on the networks of the Designated Pipeline Operators, Adjacent Transporters and/or relevant agreements in respect of the NI Network:

The Transporter has considered the impacts the modification may have and concluded as follows:

Operation of the networks of the Designated Pipeline Operators (DPOs)

No Impact. The HSE NI exemption and the equivalent legislative changes in Great Britain are based on the assessment of the Health & Safety Executive in Great Britain that the wider gas specification is safe to be used in transmission pipelines.

Adjacent Transporters

The Proposed Modification will align the gas specification for Northern Ireland with that of Great Britain. Agreements with Adjacent Transporters refer to the NI Network Gas Transmission Code for the gas entry specification.

Relevant NI Agreements

Relevant NI Agreements between the NI Transmission System Operators refer to the NI Network Gas Transmission Code for the gas entry specification.

E Third Party Representations

No responses were received to the consultation on the Initial Modification Report

F Transporters Recommendation and relevant Justification Factors

The Transporter recommends that this Proposed Modification should be implemented, for the following reasons:

- Failure to update the NI Network Gas Transmission Code could hypothetically lead to non-compliance if gas is supplied outside of the Gas Specification.
- Without these changes, it may be necessary to seek approval from the Northern Ireland Network Emergency Coordinator (NINEC) to allow emergency specification gas, depending on the Wobbe Number of gas imported from Great Britain.
- The modification aligns the NI Network Gas Transmission Code with the gas specification used in Great Britain, from where nearly 100% of Northern Ireland's gas is sourced.
- The changes ensure that the NI Network Gas Transmission Code reflects the most up to date specification approved by HSE NI, with effect from the 6th April 2025.
- The updates to Appendix 3 provide clarity and transparency for Shippers.

G Amendments to the legal text in the Initial Modification Report

No amendments are proposed to the legal text contained in the Initial Modification Report.

H The date proposed for implementation

The Transporter proposes that these arrangements should come into effect from the 6th April 2025, or if later, the date of approval of this Proposed Modification by the Authority.

I Proposed Code Text

Amend Appendix 3 to read as follows:

APPENDIX 3

GAS SPECIFICATION

The content and characteristics of gas to be entered or offtaken from the NI Network shall be in accordance with Schedule 3 of the Gas Safety (Management) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 1997 (as may be amended, supplemented or replaced from time to time) and the current requirements are shown below for information.

Content or Characteristic	Value
Hydrogen sulphide (H ₂ S) content	≤5 mg/m ³
Total sulphur content (including H ₂ S)	≤50 mg/m ³
Hydrogen content	≤0.1% (molar)
Oxygen content	≤0.2% (molar)
Impurities	shall not contain solid or liquid material which may interfere with the integrity or operation of pipes or any gas appliance (within the meaning of regulation 2(1) of the 1997 Regulations) which a consumer could reasonably be expected to operate
Hydrocarbon Dewpoint and Water Dewpoint	shall be at such levels that they do not interfere with the integrity or operation of pipes or any gas appliance (within the meaning of regulation 2(1) of the 1997 Regulations) which a consumer could reasonably be expected to operate
Wobbe Number (WN)	(i) ≤51.41 MJ/m ³ , and (ii) ≥ 47.20 MJ/m³ <u>lower limit amended by Certificate of Exemption No.2 of 2025 (see Exemption Table 2 below)</u>
Incomplete Combustion Factor (ICF)	≤0.48 <u>removed by Certificate of Exemption No.1 of 2023 and replaced with a relative density measure (see Exemption Table 1 below)</u>
Sooting Index (SI)	≤0.60 <u>removed by Certificate of Exemption No.1 of 2023 and replaced with a relative density measure (see Exemption Table 1 below)</u>

Source: Gas Safety (Management) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 1997, Schedule 3, Part I

Exemption Table 1

<u>Relative Density</u>	<u>≤ 0.7</u>
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Exemption Table 2

<u>Wobbe Number (WN) Lower Limit</u>	<u>≥ 46.5 MJ/m³</u>
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