

Onshore Wider Circuit Expansion Factors

- 14.15.70 Base onshore expansion factors are calculated by deriving individual expansion constants for the various types of circuit, following the same principles used to calculate the 400kV overhead line expansion constant. The factors are then derived by dividing the calculated expansion constant by the 400kV overhead line expansion constant. The factors will be fixed for each respective price control period.
- 14.15.71 In calculating the onshore underground cable factors, the forecast costs are weighted equally between urban and rural installation, and direct burial has been assumed. The operating costs for cable are aligned with those for overhead line. An allowance for overhead costs has also been included in the calculations.
- 14.15.72 The 132kV onshore circuit expansion factor is applied on a TO basis. This is to reflect the regional variation of plans to rebuild circuits at a lower voltage capacity to 400kV. The 132kV cable and line factor is calculated on the proportion of 132kV circuits likely to be uprated to 400kV. The 132kV expansion factor is then calculated by weighting the 132kV cable and overhead line costs with the relevant 400kV expansion factor, based on the proportion of 132kV circuitry to be uprated to 400kV. For example, in the TO areas of National Grid and Scottish Power where there are no plans to uprate any 132kV circuits, the full cable and overhead line costs of 132kV circuit are reflected in the 132kV expansion factor calculation.
- 14.15.73 The 275kV onshore circuit expansion factor is applied on a GB basis and includes a weighting of 83% of the relevant 400kV cable and overhead line factor. This is to reflect the averaged proportion of circuits across all three Transmission Licensees which are likely to be uprated from 275kV to 400kV across GB within a price control period.
- 14.15.74 The 400kV onshore circuit expansion factor is applied on a GB basis and reflects the full costs for 400kV cable and overhead lines.
- 14.15.75 AC sub-sea cable and HVDC circuit expansion factors are calculated on a case by case basis using actual project costs (Specific Circuit Expansion Factors).
- 14.15.76 ~~For Calculation of HVDC circuit expansion factors, and AC sub-sea circuit expansion factors, shall include only: both~~ the cost of the converters (where applicable); and ~~and~~ the cost of the cable; and a percentage of the total overhead project costs, defined as the combined costs of the cables and converters (as relevant) divided by the total capital cost of the project are included in the calculation.