

Governance of the Electrical Standards

4 March 2015

Introduction

This note has been drafted to discharge action 3919 raised at the January 2015 Grid Code Review Panel. The Panel asked for an explanation of the governance of the Electrical Standards in the Grid Code, and where responsibility for them lies.

The Electrical Standards

The Electrical Standards are the standards listed in the Annex to the General Conditions¹. Currently there are four categories of Electrical Standard:

- a) “Electrical Standards applicable in England and Wales”;
- b) “Specifications for electronic data communications facilities with reference to EDT and EDL facilities”;
- c) “Scottish Electrical Standards for SPT’s Transmission System”; and
- d) “Scottish Electrical Standards for SHETL’s Transmissions System”.

The Electrical Standards cover a range of topics and are generally used to capture the requirements which need to be met at the interface between a Transmissions User’s equipment and a Transmission Licensee’s equipment. Some of the Electrical Standards documents provided further information on that individual document’s scope.

Changing an Electrical Standard

The governance of the Electrical Standards is set out in the Grid Code General Conditions in GC11.

Who can change them?

Any User can activate the “Electrical Standards Procedure” to raise a change to, delete or add an Electrical Standard.

NGET can activate the Electrical Standards procedure for the standards in category a) and b) above. The Transmission Licensees for the networks in Scotland can activate the procedure for the standards in category c) and d).

The procedure does not set any requirements for updates or reviews. Document owners would be expected to raise the need for changes as and when a change to their own standards necessitated a modification.

How do you change them?

The Ordinary and Urgent Electrical Standards Procedure are explained in GC.11.3 and GC.11.4.

¹ The current issue of the General Conditions is on the web page: <http://www2.nationalgrid.com/uk/industry-information/electricity-codes/grid-code/the-grid-code/>. The direct link is: <http://www2.nationalgrid.com/WorkArea/DownloadAsset.aspx?id=39214>.

Following notification of a wish to change an Electrical Standard to the Grid Code Review Panel Secretary, in accordance with GC.11.2 b), the Secretary will forward the proposal to Panel members. Panel members then have 20 business days to raise any objections. If no objections are raised, the change is adopted and the Annex to the General Conditions is modified accordingly.

If there are any objections, or if the notifier requests it, the proposal is included in the agenda for the next Panel meeting. If there is a broad consensus at the Panel meeting, the proposal is adopted without the need to refer the proposal to the Authority. If there is not a broad consensus, a workgroup may be formed followed by a consultation. Again, if there is a broad consensus in response to the consultation, the change is made as proposed. If not, the matter is referred to the Authority for decision.

The “Urgent” procedure allows for changes to be adopted more quickly, but only with approval from Ofgem (the Authority).