

# iGT | UNC

## iGT UNC Modification Proposal

<b>Date</b>	22/1/08
<b>Urgency</b>	Non-urgent
<b>Reference</b>	iGT013V
<b>Status</b>	For Consultation
<b>Title</b>	Inspection Notification File Format and Response File
<b>Proposer</b>	Marie Clark - ScottishPower Energy Management Limited
<b>iGT UNC / Pipeline Operator</b>	iGT UNC
<b>Modification Proposal Dates</b>	<i>Circulation: 18/01/2008</i> <i>Response: 08/02/2008</i> <i>Circulation of DMR: 29/02/2008</i> <i>Response to DMR: 25/03/2008</i> <i>DFMR Published: 15/04/2008</i> <i>DFMR Presented to Panel: 16/04/2008</i> <i>FMR sent to authority: 23/04/2008</i>

**Urgency**  
Non-urgent

### Background

In October 2003, a document "Operator Meter Reading (Cyclical Reads Only) & Meter Inspection File Formats" was produced following work undertaken by the Gas Forum Operator Workgroup recommending for Operator purposes that Users adopt the unbundled meter reading file formats for transmitting meter reads and inspection notifications to Operators. In addition, Operators would adopt unbundled meter read responses files. Representatives of Operators and Users actively engaged in the development of this document and the resulting recommended approach.

Details of the unbundled Meter Inspection file formats are noted below:

RT_N44_METER_INSPECTION_DATE
RT_N45_METER_INSPECTION_RESPONSE
RT_S72_REJECTION_DETAIL

A copy of the above file formats is attached for information. In addition, a working example of each file with populated data can be provided as supplementary information if required.

### Variation

A variation was raised by the proposer on 15<sup>th</sup> January. The variation seeks to add further clarity by specifying the header, trailer and file naming convention of the file formats. No other changes have been made to the Modification.

## Standard Header and Trailer

As recommended within the “Operator Meter Reading (Cyclical Reads Only) & Meter Inspection File Formats” it is proposed that a Header and Trailer is used for all files sent between Operators and Users. A copy of the header and trailer file formats is attached (HD\_A00\_Standard\_Header and TR\_Z99\_Standard\_Trailer).

## File Naming Convention

The organisation sending the file should always use their 3-character organisation ID as set out in SPAA MDD. Also it should be for the relevant organisation within the group, for example, Users must use the reference organisation ID for the User licence that is responsible for the supply point.

The generation number must always be sequential, per file type and per recipient. For example, User sends file, generation number xxxx(x).file type. The next file of the same type for the same recipient must therefore be sequential.

## The Proposal

At present inspection notifications are provided to Operators utilising a modified version of the N44 file format. Confirmation of receipt and acceptance of these notifications are not presently received by the Proposer from all Operators. At present response files are received from only one Operator. The lack of governance regarding the formal notification of acceptance/rejection causes a number of difficulties for Users.

Users have no certainty that meter inspection notifications are being accurately recorded in Operator systems. When a Change of Supply takes place the Registering User may not be provided with the last meter inspection date by the Operator. This may result in the failure of the Meter Inspection taking place in line with statutory requirements.

This Modification seeks to mandate the use of the unbundled meter reading file formats for the submission by Users of Meter Inspections and for the acknowledgement of acceptance/rejection by Operators within prescribed timescales.

## Suggested timescale for implementation

6 months from notice of implementation being received from the Authority.

## How will the proposal operate?

Users will be mandated to use unbundled meter reading file formats for the submission of Meter Inspections to Operators. Operators will be required to respond acknowledging acceptance/rejection within 2 Business Days of receipt using the required unbundled meter reading file format.

## Facilitation of the relevant objectives

The Proposer believes that implementation of this Modification will further the following code relevant objectives:

Standard Condition 9 (d): so far as is consistent with sub-paragraphs (a) to (c) the securing of effective competition:

- (i) between relevant Users;
- (ii) between relevant suppliers;

Standard Condition 9 (f): so far as is consistent with sub-paragraphs (a) to (e), the promotion of efficiency in the implementation and administration of the network code and/or the uniform network code;

The use of the unbundled meter reading file formats for the submission of meter inspections by Users and for the acknowledgement of acceptance/rejection by the Operators will increase certainty for all Parties. The benefits for Operators will be that they will receive meter inspection information from Users within a consistent format. This will minimise the resources and costs required in managing the input of this information into Pipeline Operator systems. The Proposer believes that mandating the use of the Unbundled Meter Reading file formats will increase the opportunity by Users to inform Operators of meter inspection dates and allow this data to be provided in a manner consistent with that provided to other Gas Transporters. Users will have confidence that the information provided has been accepted and thereafter recorded by Operators. Meter Inspection information will be available to Operators to send to Registering Users within the Change of Supply process.

For Users, receipt of a response file acknowledging acceptance/rejection of meter inspection will allow them to appropriately target resources at Meter Points where data is inaccurate and has subsequently been rejected by Operators

**Section(s) of the Code Concerned**

Section E

**Proposed Legal Text**

Completed forms should be returned to the Operator UNC Representative, Gemserv Ltd at [Operator-UNC@gemserv.com](mailto:Operator-UNC@gemserv.com) or faxed to 020 7090 1001