

BORD GAIS EIREANN



INTERIM METERING AND DATA SERVICES For Eligible Customers under Market Opening 2002 & 2003

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Contents

1.	Introduction	Pg. 3
2.	Customer Eligibility	Pg. 4
3.	Role and Structure of the Interim GPRO	Pg. 4
3.1	Set up & Operate a Register of Eligible Customers	Pg. 5
3.2	Establishment and Management of Meter & Supply Points	Pg. 5
3.3	Maintain a Register of Gas Points and Supply Points	Pg. 5
3.4	Change of Shipper/Supplier	Pg. 6
3.5	Maintaining and Provision of required Data Relationships	Pg. 6
3.6	Daily Meter Operations	Pg. 7
3.7	Provision of GPRN Data	Pg. 8
3.8	Provision of Information to the CER	Pg. 8
3.9	Information Contact Point	Pg. 8
4.	Conclusion	Pg. 9

1. Introduction

The Energy (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act of 1995 provided for voluntary Third Party Access (“TPA”) in Ireland for sites with an annual consumption in excess of 25 million cubic metres per annum. This provision has since been made mandatory with the implementation of EU Gas Directive 98/30/EC by a Ministerial Directive dated 22 August 2000.

TPA Market operational requirements, including metering and data services are provided by the Transmission Transporter via the Gas Transportation Management System (GTMS). This application enables the Transporter to manage the transportation business under the commercial framework of the Code of Operations and Standard Transportation Agreements.

The system in place today features a web interface between the Transporter and Shipper(s)¹ enabling nominations, balancing, allocations, capacity transfers, customer switching and other aspects of the Code to be managed to an hourly resolution in a real time, interactive environment.

The Gas (Interim) (Regulation) Act, 2002 extended arrangements for Third Party Access, by lowering the threshold for eligibility to final customers using not less than an annual amount of 2 million standard cubic metres at a single meter installation (Market 2002). And, to persons who operate a gas fired generating station, irrespective of its annual consumption level.

Subsequently, Mr. Dermot Ahern TD, Minister for Communications, Marine and Natural Resources, signed a Statutory Instrument which further reduced the threshold for market opening to 500,000 standard cubic metres (scm) per annum. This reduction in threshold will become effective on January 1st 2003 (Market 2003).

These initiatives brings the percentage of the natural gas market open to competition to 85% of the total market, and 75% of the Industrial and Commercial Market.

Bord Gáis, in the interest of facilitating competition and communication in the newly liberalised gas supply market, has established in agreement with the CER, an administrative service to support the market. This service is known internally to Bord Gáis as the Gas Point Registration Operation (Interim GPRO).

The structure and functions of the Interim GPRO are designed to be fit for purpose, at a minimum cost for the noted levels of market opening. It is envisaged that the GPRO will evolve as required to cater for and in step with future market developments.

This paper proposes the business processes to be operated by the interim GPRO and the nature of the service that it is intended to provide for market openings 2002 and 2003.

¹ Shipper – any person having an entitlement by way of a contract with the Transporter to ship Natural Gas through the Bord Gáis system or any part thereof for offtake at an Exit Point. This activity requires a Natural Gas Licence under the Gas (Interim) (Regulation) Act, 2002.

2. Customer Eligibility

Customer eligibility criteria for Market 2002 is as outlined in the Gas Eligibility Criteria document, developed by Bord Gais in agreement with the CER. The document was published by the CER on their web-site on 24 July 2002

For Market 2003 opening, the volume criteria of 2million standard cubic meters in the above Gas Eligibility Criteria document will be replaced by the new threshold figure of 0.5million standard cubic meters. All other rules will remain the same.

The Market 2003 eligible Gas Points will be assessed initially using historical annual consumption data contained within the Bord Gais Meter Reading history system as at 30th September 2002.

Interim Third Party Access (TPA) arrangements for Newly Eligible Customers will be operated as defined in CER document (CER/02/185) issued on 29th October 2002. These arrangements will be managed utilising the GTMS and based upon business rules already defined by the Code of Operations and Standard Transportation Agreement.

3. Role and Structure of the Interim GPRO

The Interim GPRO Role

The Interim GPRO is a ring-fenced entity within the Distribution Business Unit of Bord Gais, which aims to provide a secure and confidential market support service to participants in the Irish Gas Market, regarding Third Party Access and the change of Shipper/Supplier.

The Interim GPRO will operate in respect of the TPA Eligible Natural Gas Customers i.e. with a minimum of 0.5million scm of natural gas consumption per year at a single meter installation, or have Gas Fired Generators.

Meters must have Daily Metering (DM) equipment fitted in order to access the TPA transportation service.

The main roles and responsibilities of the Interim GPRO in the provision of metering and data services are as follows:

- Set up and operate a register of eligible customer sites
- Establishment and management of Gas Points² and Supply Points³
- Maintain a register of Gas Points and Supply Points
- Facilitate change of Shipper/Supplier⁴ (COS)

² Gas Point – a metered point at which gas may be off-taken from the Distribution or Transmission Systems

³ Supply Point – Distribution or Transmission System site off-take comprising of one or more Gas Points used for registration purposes

⁴ Supplier – the holder of a Natural Gas Licence consistent with natural gas supply. Supply being defined here as the delivery or sale of natural gas to an End User. This party may or may not have the necessary contract in place with the Transporter to ship natural gas.

- Metering operations
- Provision of metering and other data to valid requests

These roles and responsibilities are outlined further below.

3.1 Set up and Operate a Register of Eligible Customers

The Interim GPRO will compile a register of all customers and their related gas meters eligible for TPA, in accordance with the relevant legislation and eligibility criteria. This register will be updated periodically in accordance with the Gas Eligibility Criteria and forwarded to the CER.

The CER has undertaken to communicate notice of eligibility to newly eligible customers notifying them of their eligibility and rights under the relevant legislation

3.2 Establishment and Management of Meter and Supply Points

All meters currently installed by Bord Gais are allocated a unique reference number the 'Meter Number'. Which, in the case of Industrial and Commercial meters, is the manufacturer's meter serial number. In addition, the Distribution Business Unit of Bord Gais operates a numbering system, in respect of Distribution System connections. Each Gas Point on the system has a unique Gas Point Registration Number (GPRN) allocated to it.

Market Players will have responsibilities in relation to the maintenance of data associated with Gas Points and Supply Points.

For example; the Interim GPRO, in order to carry out its functions and to provide services to market players, needs to be informed within specific time criteria and rules regarding the following activities: -

- By Bord Gais Distribution and Transmission of the initial installation or disconnection of a gas service, the allocation of a GPRN number and also the notification of a meter installation, upgrade or removal.
- By Shippers/Suppliers, of a change of Supplier at a gas point, change of tenant and any other relevant change to the data held.

3.3 Maintain a Register of Gas Points and Supply Points

The Interim GPRO will maintain a register of all Eligible Gas Points from Bord Gáis' Distribution and Transmission data and data received from licensed Shippers/Suppliers. Data will include: -

- GPRN (Gas Point Registration Number)
- Customer address details
- Shipper Supplier status & history
- Gasmeter point status & history
- Meter details, location
- Meter histories
- Meter readings & usage

Contact/Access details
Distribution Zone
Daily CV
Gas Point and Supply Point Capacities

3.4 Change of Shipper/Supplier (COS)

Eligible Customers/Persons have the right to avail of Third Party Access to the transportation system, and thereby have the ability to change their Shipper/Supplier.

The Interim GPRO shall perform a number of services in relation to the “Interim Change of Supplier by Shipper” (COS) process as described in the paper on this subject issued by the CER dated 29th October 2002 (see CER’s website).

Upon the introduction of the Interim Distribution Code of Operations (interim ‘DCOP’) – the COS procedures for the effected Supply Points will be set out in the Supply Point Administration (SPA) section of the interim DCOP. The current COS procedures (as set out in the ‘Interim Change of Supplier by Shipper process for Market 2002’ paper issued on 29th October), where an STA under the Transmission Code of Operations TCOP is required, will continue to be operated for Transmission Exit Points.

For additional information refer to:

- Interim Change of Supplier by Shippers Process Market 2002
- Transmission Code Of Operations
- Standard Transportation Agreement (STA)
- Distribution Code of Operations
- DCOP Supply Point Administration Guide.

Which are available on the Bord Gais and/or CER web sites.

3.5 Maintaining and Provision of required Data Relationships

Based on the input of data from Bord Gais Distribution, Transmission and all licensed Shipper/Suppliers, there are relationships of data to be maintained such as: -

- Gas Points to Distribution, Transmission, Shipper, Supplier, Customers
- Gas Meters to Gas Points, Gas Points to Supply Points, locations, Customers
- Meter Readings to Meters, Shippers, Suppliers and Customers.

There is also a need to provide relevant information to Shippers/Suppliers as required such as: -

- Meter Readings, Consumptions, CV Values, Change of Meter Details, etc.

Process and Procedures are being developed by the Interim GPRO to ensure the data relationships are maintained.

3.6 Daily Meter Operations

a) Market 2002 Eligible Customers

The Market 2002 eligible customers, consists of sites connected to the Transmission or Distribution gas networks with annual consumptions at a single meter of >2mscm or using Gas Fired Power Generation

For Transmission connected eligible customers (who will have individual Standard Transportation Agreements in place) for Market 2002 opening and on an ongoing basis, it is proposed that the GTMS will continue to provide the necessary data services and metering information to Shippers.

Prior to the implementation of the Interim Distribution Code of Operations (DCOP) eligible Gas Points requiring a TPA transportation service will be treated as if they were Transmission Connected. Transmission telemetry (giving one-hour data resolution) will be installed and they will be managed under the Transmission Code of Operations (TCOP). This cost effective proposal, agreed with the CER, facilitates TPA as per the Gas (Interim) (Regulation) Act, 2002. These arrangements will remain in place until the Interim DCOP is introduced and operational arrangements are implemented for Distribution Supply Points.

b) Metering

All Transmission connected Customers using >5mscm of gas at a single meter installation will have a Daily Meter fitted by 1st March 2003.

All eligible Distribution Zone Customers with an annual consumption between 5mscm and 2mscm of gas at a single meter installation currently have Daily Metering (DM) equipment fitted to their Meter. Also, there is a programme to fit Daily Metering equipment to Distribution connected Gas Points using more than 5mscm per annum, to be completed by July 2003.

For eligible customers under 2mscm per annum (i.e. customers with Gas Fired Generation), Daily Metering equipment will be installed when a request TPA transportation services is received.

The Interim GPRO will have access to the GTMS system to assist in the management of enquiries and processes relating to the performance of its functions It is anticipated that on a day to day basis the GTMS operators will liaise with the Shipper/Suppliers.

c) Market 2003 Eligible Customers

For Customers who become newly eligible in 2003, i.e. customers' with a single meter installation annual Gas consumption >0.5mscm and <2.0mscm, a programme is being prepared to fit Daily Meter equipment to these meters. Bord Gáis Distribution Unit will give priority to Gas Points in the installation programme, where a TPA transportation service has been requested.

For Distribution Zone Customers after the implementation of the Interim DCOP, the metered data of the Gas Point will be collected on the Distribution Scada System. This information will be made electronically available to the relevant Shippers. The relevant Shippers will be able to access this information for their relevant meter points from the Bord Gais IT system.

For Transmission connected customers they will operate under the TCOP and GTMS.

3.7 Provision of GPRN Data

The Interim GPRO will provide available Gas Point data including historical consumption data, to licensed Shippers/Suppliers, customers (or their agents e.g. energy consultants) upon receipt of an authorised Customer/End User signed request.

The Interim GPRO shall provide available consumption data from Bord Gais' Meter Reading history system, for a minimum period of 12 months, within 5 (five) Business Days.

If a request is made to supply historical consumption data not contained in the Interim GPRO's standard data set, an administrative charge may apply and the delivery time may be extended.

Going forward, Shippers/Suppliers will have access to all relevant data relating to their own customers.

3.8 Provision of information to the CER

The Interim GPRO will endeavour to provide all relevant information to the CER as requested to do so, to assist the CER with the performance of its duties and functions as directed by the Gas Interim Regulation Act 2002.

3.9 Information Contact point

The Interim GPRO will act as an information contact point for Eligible Customer, Shippers and Suppliers with regards to: -

- Eligibility
- Historical Information
- Process and Procedures
- Change of Supplier by Shipper process
- Supply Point Administration
- Updates of Gas Point information
- Meter Reading and Consumption Queries
- The Interim DCOP and STA's
- TCOP and GTMS information with regards to Distribution connected Customers.

The interim GPRO will operate between 09.00 and 17.00 on normal Business days.

Contact can be made with the Interim GPRO by phone on 1 850 427261, by fax at 01 602 1138 and on e-mail at igpro@bge.ie, or by post to:

Bord Gáis GPRO
B2 Arena Road
Sandyford Business Park
Dublin 18

Bord Gáis intends to update its website with relevant information on the Interim GPRO, Market Opening, Third Party Access, Change of Supplier procedures and supporting electronic documentation. Bord Gáis' web site (www.bge.ie) also contains information with regards to Transportation Services and Code of Operations as operated by the Bord Gais' Transmission Business Unit.

4. Conclusion

As previously stated, this document is the outline of interim GPRO operation for the 2002 and 2003 gas market openings, in relation to Eligible Customers. It is expected that these operations will be further defined and refined in the light of discussions and ongoing thought processes for the further proposed market openings for all Industrial and Commercial and then all Residential Customers.

This document demonstrates Bord Gais' commitment to facilitate the liberalisation of the gas market. The approach taken has been a pragmatic one with the objective of facilitating competition. The structure and functions of the interim GPRO are designed to be fit for purpose at minimum cost for the levels of market opening noted.