

**Subject**            **Responses following submissions –  
Determinations by the Industry Body (Gas Industry Co) under the Gas  
(Switching Arrangements) Rules 2008, Version 1.2**

**Date**                **20 February 2009**

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### **Introduction and purpose**

The Gas (Switching Arrangements) Rules 2008 (the “Switching Rules”) set out arrangements for the timely and efficient switching of gas customers from one retailer to another. A key element in the arrangements is the establishment of a central gas registry of ICP-based information relevant to consumer switching. The registry is operated by the registry operator (Jade).

The Switching Rules require the industry body (Gas Industry Co) to determine and publish certain information required for the full implementation of the Switching Rules and of the gas registry in particular. In some cases, the information required must be developed in consultation with the industry.

In accordance with section 2 of the determinations, a number of proposed amendments to version 1.1 of the determinations were provided to registry participants initially via email on 26 January 2009 and posted to the Gas Industry Co website for consultation. As the proposed changes were minor in nature and scope, the consultation period was limited to two weeks. Formal and email submissions were received from four registry participants:

- Contact Energy (email);
- Genesis Energy (email);
- Mighty River Power (formal); and
- Vector (formal).

This paper describes the differences between the previous and current version of the determinations, as well as the rationale for the changes made.

## **Process for making changes to the determinations (section 2)**

After go-live of the registry (expected to be 1 March 2009), it is expected that these determinations will be updated less frequently, particularly if such updates would require significant changes to the registry system. Provisions have been added to the determinations for changes to registry participant information, consumption profiles and gas gates as these may change from time to time and up-to-date information is available via the registry.

## **ICP Identifier (section 4)**

To reduce the risk of electricity ICPs being erroneously created in the gas registry, the system will validate all ICPs on creation to ensure that only ICPs containing one of the distributor codes in the determinations will be accepted. Validation is not enforced by individual distributors to accommodate situations in which network ownership has changed hands (ICPs do not need to be 're-numbered' as every distributor may create ICPs with any of the determined codes). A typographical error in the checksum algorithm has also been corrected (bit 2<sup>12</sup> was incorrectly printed as bit 212).

## **Report access restrictions and requirements (section 5); bounds on information access via online searches (section 6)**

For the avoidance of doubt, information access principles have been clarified for both online ICP searches and registry FTP reports. When searching online for a specific ICP, participants may provide approximate meter identifiers or street names and a list of matching ICPs will be returned (para 6.3). In contrast, participants must provide exact ICP or meter identifiers when requesting reports; this is intended to reduce the potential for misuse of the registry for 'data mining' purposes.

Provisions for the publication of monthly summary registry statistics on the Gas Industry Co website have also been added (para 5.8), consistent with the GPS objective of ensuring that 'good information is publicly available on the performance and present state of the gas sector'.

## **Codes for registry participants (section 7)**

Participants with the dual roles of distributors and TSOs under the Switching Rules and Gas (Downstream Reconciliation) Rules 2008 have been noted as such for clarity. These participants may also be meter owners for ICPs directly connected to the transmission system, so these roles have also been added.

## **Gas Gate Codes (section 8 and attachment 1)**

As a result of the ongoing identification and classification of gas gates by the allocation agent under the Gas (Downstream Reconciliation) Rules 2008, a number of gas gates have been added, renamed or removed. These changes are summarised in the following table:

Nature of Change	Code	Name
Gas gate added	STR00501	Stratford 3
Gas gate name changed	FLB15601	Flat Bush
Gas gate name changed	PAH23101	Pauatahanui 2 (Horsefield)
Gas gate removed	KAP09612	Kapuni (GTP)
Gas gate removed	TRP02002	Te Rapa

### **Connection status codes and valid combinations with ICP status (section 11)**

Two connection status codes have been added for the ICP status of Inactive-Transitional. These historical connection status codes apply to certain ICPs that were inactivated before the GANZ Gas Industry Disconnection and Reconnection Protocol (GIP001) was established. These codes may only be used by Contact Energy for the purposes of data migration prior to the registry go-live date.

### **Load shedding categories and codes (section 12)**

Since the publication of the last version of the determinations, the Gas Governance (Critical Contingency Management) Regulations 2008 have been promulgated. References to the draft regulations and the definitions of load shedding categories have been updated accordingly.

### **Switching codes (section 16)**

At the registry operations workshop held on 20 January 2009, retailers discussed typical use scenarios for GAN acceptance codes and GNW request reason codes; the agreed 'explanation of use' for each code has been added to these determinations. An 'AD' acceptance code has also been added to allow retailers to communicate that advanced metering equipment is installed at an ICP being switched as special meter readings may be required.

### **Format and content of monthly compliance reports (section 17 and attachment 2)**

The breach reporting timeframes for GAW and GAC messages have been extended from two to five business days in accordance with the *Gas (Switching Arrangements) Rules 2008 (Exemption: Retailer Switch Notice Response Timeframes) Notice 2009*. In addition, the breach type codes appearing on these reports for each breach type have been added for clarity.