

# NEC Assurance Exercise Participation Requirements



## Terminal Operators including LNG Importation Terminals

### Participation Requirements

Gas terminals connected directly to the NTS and those which export into an NTS connected terminal require communication at various stages of a Network Gas Supply Emergency (NGSE). Terminals will be asked to populate the Gas Availability Status (GAS) Report via the North Sea Transition Authority's (NSTA) GAS Portal. Terminals may be directed to flow available gas and may be asked if they have available any Gas Safety (Management) Regulations Schedule 3 Part 2 gas (emergency specification). The following process will be tested during an annual NEC Assurance Exercise.

### Start of Exercise

Terminals will be alerted to the commencement of the exercise via established communication channels. The start message will be complemented by a short situation report to inform participants the background to the scripted unfolding events. The communication will be prefixed with:

#### “NEC ASSURANCE EXERCISE – START OF EXERCISE”

At any stage of the response, the National Gas Network Emergency Management Team (NEMT) may request Terminal Operators' assessment of their maximum potential production deliverability available to the National Transmission System (NTS) for the next 48 hours. This will be sourced through the activation of the GAS Portal by the NSTA, requested by the NEMT. Terminal Operators are requested to complete the questions in the portal within 30 minutes of receiving a request. The information contained will provide the NEMT key situational awareness to form their response strategy.

*Note: Data provided in the GAS Report and Situation Reports (Sitrep) for the exercise should be based upon actual on the day data rather than any pre-determined exercise data.*

### Stage 1

The exercise scenario will require the NEMT to request the Network Emergency Coordinator (NEC) to declare a Gas Deficit Emergency in response to high demand and a range of supply issues. The NEMT will alert the industry to the declaration of a Network Gas Supply Emergency (NGSE) at Stage 1 by issuing a completed [NEC Declaration Form](#), via established communication channels.

The NEMT will monitor communication channels to assure successful delivery of the declaration message. Any errors or fail messages will be followed up to assure the correct contact details are on file.

Upon receiving notification of the declaration of an NGSE, the Terminal recipient must brief all relevant personnel as to the existence and nature of the emergency. It is also the Terminal's responsibility to inform their Shipper/Agent or commercial trading desk of gas flow amendment to support NEC instructions. For the purposes of the exercise, it is recommended

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that this process be conducted, though it is important to pre-fix all messages of this nature with the words **'For Exercise'** and confirm all recipients understand the message is for exercise purposes and no further action is required.

At this stage, terminals should alert the NEMT to any GS(M)R Schedule 3 Part 2 specification gas (emergency specification) they have available. A risk assessment will be conducted by the NEMT to determine if the emergency specification gas could form part of the response strategy. If it is suitable to admit the emergency specification gas, the terminal will be contacted, and the notional admission of the gas controlled.

### Stage 2

As the response to the exercise scenario progresses, it is assessed that the direction to flow additional gas will be a key part of the NEMT's strategy to re-balance the NTS. The NEMT will request the NEC declare Stage 2 of an NGSE to access this option. The [NEC Declaration Form](#) will be updated to inform industry that Stage 2 has been declared. The receipt of the updated declaration form will alert Terminal Operators to prepare for the potential for Flow Directions to be issued.

The NEMT will be briefed on the flow direction strategy and asked to commence the process of contacting Terminals to direct additional flows into the NTS. Terminal Operators will be telephoned via the contact details stored on the NEMTs contact database. A verbal instruction will be given to supply an amount of gas up to the maximum stated delivery capability, as provided via the GAS Portal. The telephone call will be followed up by a written instruction in the form of a [Terminal/LNG Flow Direction Notification Form](#), but it is the verbal instruction to which the Terminal must comply as per GS(M)R.

**This instruction is for exercise only and flows should not actually be amended as part of the exercise.**

### Stage 3

During Stage 3, the NEMT will maintain contact with Terminal Operators requesting periodic updates to the GAS Portal and may issue revised Flow Directions.

### Stage 4

The timeframe of the exercise will not allow the NEMT to progress as far as Stage 4 (Restoration). If Stage 4 is declared, the NEMT will contact Terminal Operators to advise them to return to their nominated flows and to revoke permissions to flow GS(M)R Schedule 3 Part 2 gas.

**NOTE: Business as usual operational communications with the GNCC should be maintained throughout the course of the exercise.**

### Contact

Should you have any queries or require further information regarding any aspect of an NEC Assurance Exercise, please visit the National Gas Emergency Information [website](#) or get in

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touch with the National Gas Emergency and Incident Framework Team using the contact details provided below:

Email: [gasops.emergencyplanning@nationalgas.com](mailto:gasops.emergencyplanning@nationalgas.com)