

Suggested Improvements to the Registry – for consideration by the RAPT

The Gas Registry has been operational since March 2009. As with all new arrangements, once there has been time to observe how they operate, refinements are often desirable. In the time the Registry has been operational; feedback has been received from registry participants on areas that have caused ambiguity or inaccuracies for their operational teams. This work will address all concerns that have been received by Gas Industry Co, and focus on a series of minor to moderate changes to improve the switching and registry system. These changes will include additions and amendments to the information held in the Registry, as well as changes to the way that information is managed.

Gas Industry Co has spent some time collating industry concerns and suggestions for improvement of the switching process. All the points listed below have been flagged to Gas Industry Co during this time; and in this way, are not necessarily endorsed as desired changes, nor does Gas Industry Co expect all changes to be actioned. **All points below are open for discussion.**

1. New Registry Fields

The purpose of adding these proposed fields generally fits into one of two categories:

- To avoid errors in the conversion of meter readings; and
- To improve information flow and accuracy between registry participants.

a. Core metering fields:

- i. Meter pressure
- ii. Meter reading digits
- iii. Register multiplier

b. Other metering fields:

- iv. Logger: identifier, reading digits
- v. Corrector: identifier, reading digits, content code
- vi. Logger register multiplier
- vii. Corrector register multiplier
- viii. Meter pressure max/min
- ix. Meter type (make/model)
- x. TOU flag

c. Network fields:

- xi. Network pressure max/min
- xii. GPS coordinates/ long-lat coordinates
- xiii. Reduction of the number of location codes

d. Impact on output files on retailer systems (e.g. LIS): Gas Industry Co is aware that, by adding extra fields, subsequent changes to output files may affect validation processes in retailer systems; this impact will be considered during the consultation and any subsequent transition processes.

2. Switching process

- a. GTN discrepancy handling: Moving a lot of the information that is already held in a GTN into the registry database creates the question of what to do with any discrepancies between these two sets of data. Two suggestions to deal with this issue have been:
 - i. Replace fields in the outgoing GTN with registry populated data automatically; or
 - ii. Flag inconsistent fields in the outgoing GTN
- b. Switching timeframes: Switching timeframes differ between electricity and gas switching. In order to assist dual fuel switches, the gas switching timeframes could be aligned.
- c. Back-dating standard switches (misuse of SM): In some cases, a switch notice for a standard switch is delayed until past the requested switch date. It has been noted that these switches are sometimes then processed as move switches in order to back date the switch date, and therefore avoid a rule breach being flagged. The consideration here is if there is a strong enough argument to allow the back-dating of standard switches.

3. ICP lifecycle

- a. Allow meter owner to input meter information before uplift: Meter owners cannot currently access a new ICP to enter metering information until the retailer claims a contract with the customer, this is often inconsistent with the physical process that occurs.
- b. Allow edits to ICP parameters during switch: Currently, during a switch all ICP data is locked in the registry.

4. Audit provisions

Include audit provisions on registry participants in the Switching Rules (similar to the provisions in the Gas (Downstream Reconciliation) Rules 2008).

5. Changes to interfaces

- a. Participant access to/use of the Data Hub on the Electricity Registry: This would allow gas registry participants access to the equivalent information exchange functionality to electricity registry users
- b. SFTP: Jade Software is looking at moving the file transfer protocol (FTP) to a secure service (SFTP)
- c. Extended web browser timeout
- d. Improved browser compatibility

6. Changes to current metering fields

- a. Registry to map all physical gas gates to notional delivery points
- b. Status code for credit disconnections: Various participants have expressed the desire for a status code for credit disconnections to assist in switches and site visits. There may be a legal issue with this.

7. Side issues

- a. Insolvent retailers: The Insolvent Retailers Working Group has been discussing possible changes to the Switching Rules to facilitate a more efficient process for when a retailer becomes insolvent. The rules would cover the below:
 - i. A data provision allowing the GIC to request data on a retailer's customer base (when a retailer goes insolvent and/or ceases trading); and
 - ii. A provision allowing the GIC to manage / redistribute customers that have not been on-sold through the liquidation process to appropriate retailers (using a specified methodology).

This issue is raised for your information only. Changes to the rules recommended by the Insolvent Retailers Working Group will most likely be included in the Recommendation to the Minister that comes out of this work.

- b. Critical contingency management: Curtailment bands have changed as a result of the amendments to the Gas Governance (Critical Contingency Management) Regulations 2008 that take effect on 1 March 2014. This requires a subsequent change to codes in the registry in order to map all ICPs to these new bands.