

## **Notice of Urgent Exemption (DR20-01: COVID-19 Lockdown) under the Gas (Downstream Reconciliation) Rules 2008**

Pursuant to rules 19 and 20 of the Gas (Downstream Reconciliation) Rules 2008, Gas Industry Company Limited (Gas Industry Co), as the industry body appointed pursuant to s43ZL of the Gas Act 1992, gives the following notice.

### **Title and commencement**

1. This notice is the Urgent Exemption (DR20-01: COVID-19 Lockdown) Notice 2020.
2. This notice comes into force on 7 April 2020.

### **Interpretation**

3. In this notice, Rules means the Gas (Downstream Reconciliation) Rules 2008 made by the Minister of Energy under section 43F, 43Q and 43S of the Gas Act 1992 by notice published in the New Zealand Gazette, as may be amended from time to time.
4. Any term that is defined in the Rules and used, but not defined, in this notice has the same meaning as in the Rules.

### **Exemption for metering interrogation**

5. An urgent exemption is granted to retailers from the application of rules 28.1, 28.3, 29.4 and 29.5 of the Rules.
6. This exemption only applies if a retailer's compliance with the above rules is prevented by Level 4 of New Zealand's 4-Level COVID-19 Alert System (i.e. the rules continue to apply if compliance with the rules is not prevented by Level 4 of New Zealand's 4-Level COVID-19 Alert System).

### **Exemption for calculating and submitting daily metered energy quantities**

7. An urgent exemption is granted to retailers from the application of rule 31.1 of the Rules.
8. This exemption is subject to the following terms and conditions:
  - (a) This exemption only applies if a retailer's compliance with rule 31.1 is prevented by Level 4 of New Zealand's 4-Level COVID-19 Alert System (i.e. rule 31.1 continues to apply if compliance with rule 31.1 is not prevented by Level 4 of New Zealand's 4-Level COVID-19 Alert System).
  - (b) To enable the allocation agent to perform an initial allocation for each consumption period at each allocated gas gate, every retailer must provide, in respect of the consumer installations at an allocated gas gate in allocation groups 1 and 2 for which it is the responsible retailer, consumption information to the allocation agent by 1200 hours on the 4th business day of the month that immediately follows the consumption period to which the information relates.

- (c) Retailers must ensure that the consumption information provided to the allocation agent in accordance with paragraph (b) uses the best information available to the retailer at the time that the consumption information is provided from:
- (i) historical consumption data;
  - (ii) downstream consumer production figures;
  - (iii) downstream consumer observed demand;
  - (iv) downstream consumer forecasted demand.
- (d) If a retailer provides information to the allocation agent under paragraph (b) and (c), the retailer must advise the allocation agent of the fact that it is an estimate.

### Reasons for granting the exemption

9. During Level 4 of New Zealand's 4-Level COVID-19 Alert System, retailers are unable to meet their normal meter reading requirements. Retailers are prevented from downloading daily data from TOU meters with no telemetry and from obtaining register readings for non-TOU meters.
10. There is an allowance for exceptional circumstances preventing meter reads but this only applies to the requirement to read every non-TOU meter at least once in a 12-month period.
11. The definition of daily metered energy quantities in the Rules allows for estimation where metering equipment is faulty but doesn't cover a situation where the TOU meter is unable to be interrogated.

### Expiry

12. An urgent exemption must state an expiry date, which must be a date that reasonably enables Gas Industry Co to consult with the persons specified in rule 20.2.3 about the exemption.
13. As soon as practicable after consulting, Gas Industry Co must determine whether to revoke, replace, or amend the exemption.
14. The exemptions in this notice expire on 29 May 2020.



DATED at Wellington this 7<sup>th</sup> day of April 2020.

For and on behalf of Gas Industry Company Limited:

ANDREW KNIGHT, Chief Executive.