

Joint Office

of Gas Transporters

Operated by **Encodar** Limited

IGT | UNC

Modification Prioritisation

(uniform adoption across the UNC and IGT UNC)

Summary

Ofgem has confirmed its decision to exercise powers under the Energy Act 2023 to introduce Modification Prioritisation, following a Statutory Consultation.

This will take effect from 29 May 2026.

- No Change to Urgent Process
- No change to Fast Track Self Governance
- Applies to Self Governance and Authority Modifications
- High should be by exception not the norm
- Panel determines the prioritisation category:
 - High Priority
 - Standard Priority

Prioritisation Categories

Standard Priority:

Modifications are expected to follow a standard modification timeline. Development may be paused, for example, if the modification is dependent on the outcome of another modification.

High Priority:

These modifications require faster development and resolution than the standard timeline. High Priority could include a modification that has not been deemed urgent under existing code urgency processes but still requires development and implementation within a specific timeframe.

Please note there is no change to the Urgent Modification Process

Priority Criteria

1 Alignment with the Strategic Direction Statement (SDS)

Able to demonstrate a link to the delivery of government policies and developments relating to the energy sector as set out in the SDS

2 Complexity

Level of industry resource, knowledge and/or time required to progress the modification through to implementation

3 Importance

Perceived value, criticality and risk to industry, consumers, and/or other stakeholders of the implementation of the modification

End to End Process

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1. New Modification Submission

Proposer submits using updated template, including justification against prioritisation criteria

2. Initial Assessment

Code Admin acts as critical friend:

- Validates proposer rationale
- Prepares recommended priority category

3. Panel Determination

- Panel discuss recommendation
- Vote to determine Standard or High priority
- Panel reasoning for their determination is documented
- Panel review and re-determine at DMR and FMR stages

4. Ongoing Review

- Panel re-assessment if Workgroup deem something has changed, which requires a review of the priority or
- Bi-annual review

Scoring Mechanism

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Prioritisation Criteria	High Impact
<u>Strongly aligns with the Strategic Direction Statement</u> The Modification strongly supports key government energy policy actions that require immediate progress and aligns with SDS priorities under the Act Now category.	Yes/No
<u>Complexity</u> The Modification is highly complex, with a fast approaching deadline, significant implementation challenges, and a requirement for extensive stakeholder engagement.	Yes/No
<u>Importance</u> The Modification addresses a high-risk or critical issue, making timely action important for stakeholders as it is anticipated to deliver substantial benefits and value.	Yes/No
<u>Priority Category</u> (To be considered High priority all 3 Criteria must be High Impact.)	High/Standard

Recommended Approach for High Priority Modifications

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1. First item on Workgroup agendas
2. Will appear on day 1 of any 2 day Workgroup meetings where applicable (e.g. The UNC Distribution and Transmission often have 2 day meetings)
3. Additional meetings will be scheduled during the month, if required.

PLEASE NOTE:

The process will ensure that Modifications requiring higher priority receive it
This is not about deprioritising standard Modifications

What will be changing

- IGT UNC Modification Template – priority assessment added to *Section 2: Governance*.
- [Ofgem's Guidance on Code Modification Prioritisation](#) - published alongside Ofgem guidance for Urgent Modifications.
- Modification Register – updated to include a new column identifying the Priority Category.
- Modification's Web Page – change details summary
- Workgroup Report, Draft Modification Report and Final Modification Report Templates
- Panel's Determination Record

Relevant codes				
Multiyear Strategy Objective	Policy area	Time Horizon	IGT-UNC	UNC
5.2: Establish and implement mechanisms to realise the Centralised Strategic Network Plan	Centralised Strategic Network Plan development	Act now	Yes	Yes
5.3: Establish Regional Energy Strategic Planners	Regional Energy Strategic Plan development	Act now	Yes	Yes
7.1: Recover the cost of the existing gas network	Recovery of cost for existing network	Think & plan	Yes	Yes
7.2: Prepare for repurposing and decommissioning of the gas grid	Gas transporters, disconnections, hydrogen blending and biomethane	Act now Think & plan	Yes	Yes
8.3: Develop and implement new economic regulatory framework for hydrogen pipelines	Funding hydrogen infrastructure – the Gas Shipper Obligation	Act now	Yes	Yes
10.1 Pursue security of supply	Emergency Contacts	Act now		Yes
10.4 Build resilience to extreme climate events and long-term climate change	Climate resilience standards	Think & plan		Yes
11.2: Reform energy code governance to enable faster, more strategically aligned rule changes across the sector	Bring forward the benefits of code reform	All	Yes	Yes
11.2: Reform energy code governance to enable faster, more strategically aligned rule changes across the sector	Implement Ofgem's new strategic functions and transition to code manager arrangements – phase 2 Consolidate codes	Act now	Yes	Yes
11.2: Reform energy code governance to enable faster, more strategically aligned rule changes across the sector	Net zero code objective	Listen & wait	Yes	Yes
12.2: Introduce low-regrets near-term reforms to support system efficiency	Cost Allocation Recovery Review	Think & plan	Yes	Yes
14.1: Set governance and standards to digitise system data and improve data sharing 14.2: Enable innovation across the sector	Digitalisation	Act now Think & plan	Yes	Yes
Adaptability for Innovation	Regulatory flexibility for innovation	Act now	Yes	Yes

Retrospective assessment

(applied to current IGT UNC mods)

Reference	Title	Proposer	Date Raised	Live/Closed	Urgency	Self-Governance Status	Status	Next Process	Next Process Date	Suggested Priority
IGT181	Revision of Virtual Last Resort User and Contingent Procurement of Supplier Demand Event Triggers	ES Pipelines Limited	18/02/2026	Live	Non-urgent	Standard	Panel	Completion of Workgroup report	12/03/2026	Standard
IGT180	CDSP Obligations required for the introduction of the Gas Shipper Obligation	BUUK	15/01/2026	Live	Non-urgent	Authority Decision	Allocated to Workgroup	Completion of Workgroup report	12/06/2026	Standard
CSL01	Exclusion of Standalone Networks from IGT UNC	CNG Services Limited (CSL)	15/01/2026	Live	Non-urgent	Authority Decision	Consultation	Panel Decision	29/05/2026	Standard
IGT176	Changes to IGT UNC to enable UNC0887 'Facilitating Bi-Directional Connections Between IGT Pipelines and the NTS'	CNG Services Limited (CSL)	19/03/2025	Live	Non-urgent	Authority Decision	Approved	Implementation	TBC	N/A
IGT174	Update of IGT UNC Code Communication Methods	BUUK	21/11/2024	Live	Non-urgent	Self-Governance	Approved	Implementation	TBC	N/A

Prioritisation will not be applied to Review Requests

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Useful links to Ofgem Webpages

[Preliminary Draft Second Strategic Direction Statement 2025 2026](#)

[Preliminary Second Strategic Direction Statement Webpage](#)

[Establishing a harmonised prioritisation process in the Industry Codes: statutory consultation](#)

[Code Modification Prioritisation – Ofgem Guidance](#)