

**ENERGY**

**MACHINE-READABLE CODES**

**MODIFICATIONS TO THE STANDARD CONDITIONS OF GAS SUPPLY LICENCES  
(MACHINE-READABLE CODES No. 1 of 2015)**

Presented to Parliament pursuant to The Energy Act 2013



## ENERGY

### MACHINE-READABLE CODES

#### MODIFICATIONS TO THE STANDARD CONDITIONS OF GAS SUPPLY LICENCES (MACHINE-READABLE CODES No. 1 of 2015)

The Secretary of State makes the following licence modifications in exercise of the powers conferred by section 139(2)(d) and 139(5)(d) of the Energy Act 2013 (“the Act”).

The Secretary of State has consulted the holders of any licence being modified, the Gas and Electricity Markets Authority and such other persons as the Secretary of State considered appropriate in accordance with section 140(1) of the Act.

A draft of these licence modifications has been laid before Parliament in accordance with section 140(3) of the Act. Neither House of Parliament resolved, within the 40-day period referred to in section 140(4) of the Act, that the Secretary of State should not make the licence modifications.

#### Modifications

- 1 Standard Conditions 1 and 31A of the standard conditions of supply licences granted, or treated as granted, under section 7A(1) of the Gas Act 1986 is, with effect from 30 June 2015, modified as follows.
- 2 In condition 1.2, insert the following definitions in the relevant places—

**“Optical Label** means a two-dimensional optical machine-readable image or code containing data embedded within such image or code in an Open Standard Format, which can be scanned, accessed and automatically processed with a Relevant Device.”;

**“Open Standard Format** means a format or software whose design principles (or “standard”):

- (a) are fully published and publicly available free of charge;
- (b) may be implemented, modified and adapted free of charge (including without the need for payment in respect of any rights essential to implementation of the standard, or necessary for interfacing with other implementations which have adopted that same standard); and
- (c) otherwise adheres to the definition of “open standard” provided within the Cabinet Office’s guidance entitled

“Open Standards principles” as updated on 27 September 2013.<sup>1</sup>”

<b>“Relevant Device</b>	means a portable electronic device with an inbuilt digital camera and that is capable of: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>(a) accessing and operating the Internet;</li><li>(b) scanning, accessing and loading data items from an optical machine-readable image or code; and</li><li>(c) automatically processing data items embedded within such an image or code with the use of a web-based or other software program.”;</li></ul>
<b>“Relevant Data Items</b>	means the Relevant Data Items for Gas and the Relevant Data Items for Electricity.”;
<b>“Relevant Data Items for Electricity</b>	has the meaning given to that term in Standard Condition 1 of Electricity Supply Licences.”;
<b>“Relevant Data Items for Gas</b>	means the following information items: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>a) the Domestic Customer’s postcode;</li><li>b) the brand name the licensee uses to refer to the relevant supplier, followed by the registered company name of the licensee in round brackets;</li><li>c) the Domestic Customer’s Exact Tariff Name;</li><li>d) the Exact Payment Method which applies to the Domestic Customer;</li><li>e) the Meter Point Reference Number of the Domestic Customer’s Gas Meter;</li><li>f) the Domestic Customer’s Annual Consumption Details in kilowatt hours; in the case of gas Tariffs with Time of Use Rates, the Annual Consumption Details should be shown as split between quantities of gas consumed at each applicable rate by means of a forward slash</li></ul>

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<sup>1</sup> <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/open-standards-principles/open-standards-principles>

(""); and

- g) the start and end date of the annual period relating to the Domestic Customer's Annual Consumption Details given at (f) above in the form "DDMMYYYY-DDMMYYYY".";

**"Specified Sequence**

means the following fields in the following order, in each case separated by a 'comma' delimiter:

- i. Relevant Data Item for Gas (a) (Domestic Customer's postcode);
- ii. Relevant Data Item for Electricity (b) (brand name and registered company name of the licensee) followed by Relevant Data Item for Gas (b) (brand name and registered company name of the licensee) separated by a forward slash ("");
- iii. Relevant Data Item for Electricity (c) (exact tariff name for electricity);
- iv. Relevant Data Item for Gas (c) (Domestic Customer's Exact Tariff Name for gas);
- v. Relevant Data Item for Electricity (d) (exact payment method for electricity supply);
- vi. Relevant Data Item for Gas (d) (Exact Payment Method for gas supply);
- vii. Relevant Data Item for Electricity (e) (meter point administration number);
- viii. Relevant Data Item for Gas (e) (Meter Point Reference Number);
- ix. Relevant Data Item for Electricity (f) (annual consumption details for electricity supply);
- x. Relevant Data Item for Gas (f) (Annual Consumption Details for gas supply); and
- xi. Relevant Data Item for Electricity (g) (start and end date for Annual Consumption Details), followed by

Relevant Data Item for Gas (g) (start and end date for Annual Consumption Details) separated by a forward slash (“/”).

Where the Domestic Customer is supplied with gas only, or where the licensee uses a separate Optical Label for the Relevant Data Items for Electricity, any data item referred to at (ii), (iii), (v), (vii), (ix) and (xi) above, which are Relevant Data Items for Electricity shall be included as blank fields (in the case of (ii) and (xi) they should be included as blank components of fields).”

**3** In condition 31A.2,—

**3.1** insert a new sub-paragraph (l) as follows:

“(l) a clearly visible, Optical Label containing each of the Relevant Data Items for Gas in such a manner that, when scanned with a Relevant Device (in conjunction with a separate software program or otherwise), the Relevant Data Items for Gas are loaded on to the Relevant Device in accordance with the Specified Sequence without any requirement for the Domestic Customer to input further information into the Device; where the Domestic Customer is supplied with electricity and gas under a Dual Fuel Account, the licensee may use a single Optical Label containing the Relevant Data Items for Gas and the Relevant Data Items for Electricity in accordance with the Specified Sequence; data items other than Relevant Data Items may be included in the Optical Label provided they do not interfere with the Specified Sequence or with the ability of a Relevant Device to scan, access or load any of the Relevant Data Items in accordance with this provision.”

**3.2** insert a new paragraph 31A.3A as follows:

“The requirement in sub-paragraph 31A.2(l) does not apply:

(a) to licensees who supply gas to fewer than 50,000 Domestic Customers or such other number as may from time to time be directed by the Authority;

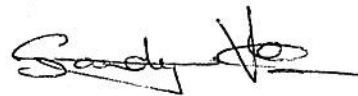
(b) in respect of final Bills; or

(c) in respect of Bills or statements of account that include Charges for the Supply of Gas corresponding to more than one Meter Point Reference Number.”

**4** In sub-paragraph (x) of condition 31A.9, replace the words “optical machine-readable label” with “Optical Label” and after the words “Additional Information” insert as follows:

“; any Optical Label placed on the Annual Statement must contain each of the Relevant Data Items for Gas in such a manner that, when scanned with a Relevant Device (in conjunction with

a separate software program or otherwise), the Relevant Data Items for Gas are loaded on to the Relevant Device in accordance with the Specified Sequence without any requirement for the Domestic Customer to input further information into the Device; where the Domestic Customer is supplied with electricity and gas under a Dual Fuel Account the licensee may use a single Optical Label containing the Relevant Data Items for Gas and the Relevant Data Items for Electricity in accordance with the Specified Sequence; data items other than Relevant Data Items may be included in the Optical Label provided they do not interfere with the Specified Sequence or with the ability of a Relevant Device to scan, access and load any of the Relevant Data Items in accordance with this provision”.



Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State  
Department of Energy and Climate Change

2<sup>ND</sup> March 2015

