



UK Government

February 2026 Update:

**Heat Network (Metering and Billing) Regulations
2014 (as amended in 2015, 2020 and 2026)**

Official Guidance

SUMMARY

1. Background
2. Summary of changes
3. Core concepts in the regulations & guidance
4. Regulatory requirements
5. Regulation 3 (Duty to Notify) (Revoked)
6. Regulation 4 (Duty to Install Meters) (Partially Revoked)
7. Regulation 5 (Requirements Relating to Meters)
8. Regulation 6 (Duty to install heat cost allocators, thermostatic radiator valves and hot water meters) (Revoked)
9. Regulation 7 (Replacement of existing meters)
10. Regulation 8 (On-going obligations in relation to meters and heat cost allocators) (Partially Revoked)
11. Regulation 9 (Billing) (Revoked)
12. Transitional arrangements
13. Glossary
14. Appendix A – ‘Cascading Responsibilities’
15. Appendix B – Building classes (Amended)

How to use this guidance

This guidance is intended to provide instruction to heat suppliers on how to properly respond to recent legislative updates that came into force in January 2026. Previous detailed guidance on HNMBR compliance that can be accessed [here](#).

Heat suppliers in Northern Ireland using this guidance should understand their building classification and obligation under HNMBR to carry out a cost-effectiveness assessment and determine whether there is an obligation to install metering. Guidance on building classifications can be accessed [here](#): [Regulations: heat networks \(metering and billing\) - GOV.UK](#)

1. Background

- 1.1 The purpose of the Heat Network (Metering and Billing) Regulations 2014 is to drive energy efficiency and reduce carbon emissions from heating. Transparency of consumption helps consumers control energy usage. The installation of metering devices and billing based on consumption can therefore help decrease energy use, reduce consumer bills, and result in associated carbon emission savings.
- 1.2 The purpose of this Guidance is to help heat suppliers comply with the Regulations, by explaining the regulatory requirements and providing examples of compliance to various provisions.
- 1.3 This Guidance replaces the previous Scope Guidance (initially published on 30 January 2015 and subsequently updated in 2019) and Frequently Asked Questions (initially published on 4 February 2015 and updated in 2019). The aim of this document is to produce comprehensive guidance that merges the previous guidance documents with changes brought in by November 2020 amendments.
- 1.4 This Guidance was produced by the Department for Energy Security and Net Zero (DESNZ).

2. Summary of Changes

- 2.1 In October 2025, The Heat Networks (Market Framework) (Great Britain) (Amendment) Regulations 2026 were laid before Parliament and came into force on the 27th January 2026.
- 2.2 This instrument introduced the partial revocation of Heat Network (Metering & Billing) Regulations 2014 to avoid a duplication of obligations on network operators.

2.3 Regulations revoked in full include Regulation 3 ‘Duty to notify’ and Regulation 9 ‘Billing’.

2.4 Regulation 4 (Duty to install meters) partially revoked from 27 January 2026 to remove the requirement for heat networks to complete a cost-effectiveness assessment. Regulation 6 (Duty to install heat cost allocators, thermostatic radiator valves and hot water meters) has also been revoked. This is to avoid a situation where equipment may be installed in heat meters that are not considered acceptable under the upcoming Heat Network Technical Assurance Scheme, which is currently being consulted on and will eventually replace.

2.5 Other regulations within HNMB Regulations remain in place. It is expected that they will be further amended or revoked in subsequent legislation required to deliver Heat Network Technical Standards.

Existing heat networks

2.6 Networks that were operational in January 2026 and have previously undertaken a cost-effectiveness assessment to determine meter-installation obligations continue to have an obligation to install meters where a determination has been made under Regulation 4 (“Duty to install meter”).

2.7 Meters must be maintained where they are already on present on networks supplying heating, cooling, and hot water to customers.

2.8 Regulation 3 (“Duty to notify”) and Regulation 9 and Schedule 2 (billing and billing information) is no longer required. Regulation 6 (duty to install Heat Cost Allocators, Hot Water Meters and Thermostatic Radiator Valves) was revoked. This disallows the use of Heat Cost Allocators (HCAs) as devices that can be used to achieve compliance.

New build heat networks

2.9 For new networks, in buildings that would come under the “viable” building classification, the obligations under Regulation 4 “Duty to install” meters remain. Regulation 3 (Duty to notify), Regulation 9 and Schedule 2 (billing and billing information) were replaced by Ofgem authorisation conditions on information disclosure and bill transparency. Please find further information on authorisation conditions here: [Heat networks regulation: authorisation conditions | Ofgem](#)

Networks in Northern Ireland

2.10 Heat Network (Metering and Billing) Regulations 2014 obligations remain effective in Northern Ireland.

3. Core concepts of the regulations & guidance

3.1 The Heat Network (Metering and Billing) Regulations 2014 implemented the heat network specific requirements of Articles 9-11 and 13 of the Energy Efficiency Directive (2012/27/EU). The Regulations came into force in December 2014 and were subsequently amended in 2015 and 2020.

3.2 The amended Regulations are from this point onwards referred to as 'the Regulations'.

Scope of the Legislation

3.3 The Regulations cover district and communal heat networks (as defined in Regulation 2) in England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland. This includes residential, commercial, industrial, public sector and other networks.

3.4 The Heat Network (Market Framework) (Great Britain) (Amendment) Regulations 2026 applies to heat networks in England, Scotland and Wales.

3.5 For the purposes of this Guidance, reference to heat and heating also means cooling and the supply of hot water.

Scope of the Guidance

3.6 This Guidance is not intended to provide complete legal advice on the interpretation of the Regulations. It is non-statutory guidance produced to help heat suppliers navigate through the requirements of the Regulations, by providing further explanations and examples of how compliance can be achieved.

4. Regulatory requirements

4.1 The subsequent chapters look at each of the regulatory requirements in detail and provides instructions and advice on how to comply with them.

4.2 Regulations that still or partially apply in Great Britain include:

- Regulation 4 (Duty to Install Meters) (Partially Revoked)
- Regulation 5 (Requirements Relating to Meters)
- Regulation 7 (Replacement of existing meters)
- Regulation 8 (On-going obligations in relation to meters and heat cost allocators) (Partially Revoked)

4.3 In Northern Ireland all regulations under HNMB Regulations still apply.

5. Regulation 3 (Duty to Notify)

5.1 Regulation 3 places a requirement on a heat supplier to submit a notification for each network they operate to the Administrator and Enforcement Authority.

5.2 From January 2026, this requirement was revoked in its entirety for both existing (operational) and new build (at design, installation, or commissioning stages) heat networks in England, Wales and Scotland. This is to align with The Heat Networks (Market Framework) (Great Britain) (Amendment) Regulations 2026, which introduced the Heat Network Regulator, Ofgem, and responsibility for heat suppliers to register and inform operational performance to the Regulator.

5.3 For heat networks in Northern Ireland, Regulation 3 (Duty to notify) remain in force, requiring heat suppliers based in Northern Ireland to submit a notification for each network they operate.

5.4 Where in force, the notification must include the following information:

- The location of the heat network that the heat suppliers operate;
- The total per calendar year of each of the following:
 - The total heating capacity installed on the network
 - The total heat generated by the technology on the network
 - The total heat supplied to final customers on the network;
- The number and class of each building supplied by the network;
- The number of buildings in each building class supplied by the network;
- The number of meters or heat cost allocators installed in any buildings supplied by the network;
- The number of final customers supplied by the network;
- The name and address of the heat supplier;
- The results of any analysis carried out in accordance with Schedule 1 of the Regulations to determine the technical feasibility and cost-effectiveness of installing meters or heat cost allocator, and details of those metering devices if the installation is required (the cost-effectiveness assessment tool is available at OPSS Heat Network compliance website);
- The expected frequency and content of billing information provided by the heat supplier to final customers supplied by the network;
- Any other information that is reasonably required by Administrator and Enforcement Authority for the purpose of determining if the heat supplier has complied with the duties in the Regulations.

5.5 Heat suppliers must provide the above information on the day or before the heat network becomes operational.

5.6 Following this initial notification, the heat supplier must submit an updated notification within four years of the date of the previous notification. This is an ongoing requirement. For example, if the initial notification was submitted in 2016, the renotifications are due in 2020, then 2024 and so forth.

5.7 The change of a heat supplier does not alter the period in which the heat supplier must renotify the network. It is best practice to inform Administrator and Enforcement Authority of the change as soon as possible so we can update our records. This can be done via email at:

HN.Meters@energysecurity.gov.uk

5.8 Where any of the buildings in a heat network fall in the open class, the heat supplier must complete the assessment on whether it is technically feasible and cost-effective to install metering devices and submit the results of analysis carried out in accordance with Schedule 1 of the Regulations.

5.9 The approved format for the notification and the cost-effectiveness assessment tool is available on GOV.UK.

5.10 Detailed user guides for the notification template and the cost-effectiveness assessment tool are also available alongside the notification template and the tool. The suppliers are strongly encouraged to consult the user guides as they fill in the templates, as this will ensure that the supplied information is of good quality and in the correct format. The link to the user guide is also provided on the Gov.uk/guidance/heat-networks website referred to in the previous paragraph.

6. Regulation 4 (Duty to Install Meters)

6.1 Regulation 4 explains the circumstances in which heat suppliers need to install heat meters on networks they operate.

6.2 There are different requirements related to meters which measure the heating, cooling and/or hot water at a building level and those that measure heating, cooling and/or hot water consumption by a final customer. Regulations 4(1) and 4(2) refer to the building level meters, which measure the supply of heat to a building. The remainder of Regulation 4 refers to final customer meters.

6.3 From January 2026, this regulation was partially revoked. A heat network with buildings in the open class where a cost-effectiveness assessment determined that it was not cost effective to install meters and is no longer required to repeat that assessment within 4 years of the assessment being carried out.

6.4 Heat networks with buildings under the viable class, or buildings in the open class where a previous cost-effectiveness assessment has determined that it would be cost effective to install heat meters, are still required to comply with Regulation 4.

6.5 For heat suppliers with modern buildings what fall within the viable classification, the requirement to install heat meters remains, until further announcements are made under technical standard consultation.

6.6 In Northern Ireland, the requirement to carry out the cost-effectiveness assessment and install meters if that network (existing or new build) if the result of that assessment determines that metering should be installed.

For detailed information on how the regulations are applied and the different building classifications, please access the original guidance here: [Heat Network \(Metering and Billing\) Regulations 2014: Guidance](#)

7. Regulation 5 (Requirements Relating to Meters)

7.1 This Regulation remains in effect across England, Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland after January 2026 until amended or revoked by future regulations.

7.2 Regulation 5 sets out requirements relating to the meter accuracy. It states that meters must accurately measure, memorise and display the consumption of heating, cooling or hot water by each final customer

7.3 This requirement applies to all installed meters on any heat network that falls within the scope of the Regulations. This includes, meters installed prior to the Regulations first coming into force in 2014.

The full list of requirements to meet compliance can be accessed here: [Heat Network \(Metering and Billing\) Regulations 2014: Guidance](#)

8. Regulation 6 (Duty to install heat cost allocators, thermostatic radiator valves and hot water meters).

8.1 Regulation 6 (duty to install Heat Cost Allocators, Hot Water Meters and Thermostatic Radiator Valves) was revoked. This disallows the use of Heat Cost Allocators (HCAs) as devices that can be used to achieve compliance on both new and existing heat networks.

8.2 This regulation remains in place in Northern Ireland. Heat Suppliers are able to choose whether to align with forthcoming heat network technical standards in England, Wales and Scotland by opting to install metering in place of HCAs, where they would otherwise still be permitted as compliant devices under this regulation.

The full list of requirements to meet compliance can be accessed here: [Heat Network \(Metering and Billing\) Regulations 2014: Guidance](#)

9. Regulation 7 (Replacement of existing meters)

9.1 Regulation 7 remains in effect across England, Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland after January 2026 until amended or revoked by future regulations.

9.2 Regulation 7 requires the heat suppliers ensure that replacement meters accurately measure, memorise and display the consumption of heating, cooling or hot water by a final customer.

9.3 For meter accuracy requirements and how they can be met, please refer to paragraphs 7.5 to 7.11 (Chapter 7 on Regulation 5, meter accuracy sub-heading) of this Guidance.

9.4 Replacing meters is expected to be generally possible. However, in cases where it would be technically impossible or the estimated cost would be unreasonable, this must be evidenced.

The full list of requirements to meet compliance can be accessed here: [Heat Network \(Metering and Billing\) Regulations 2014: Guidance](#)

10. Regulation 8 (On-going obligations in relation to meters and heat cost allocators).

10.1 Regulation 8 partially revoked. From 27th January 2026, Heat Cost Allocators (HCAs) were disallowed as devices that can be used to achieve compliance. Obligations to install heat meters remain in effect across England, Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland after January 2026 until amended or revoked by future regulations.

10.2 In accordance with the Regulations, heat suppliers must ensure that any installed meters are:

- continuously operating correctly; and
- properly maintained and periodically checked for errors.

- 10.3 To ensure that the meters are properly maintained, heat suppliers should refer to their manufacturers' documentation and comply with maintenance requirements therein, including re-calibration of meters.
- 10.4 Heat suppliers should also periodically visit sites and visually check meters, remotely monitor usage and address any anomalies, conduct periodic checks against warranties and specifications and similar.
- 10.5 Heat suppliers need to keep evidence of maintenance activities, which includes, but is not limited to, invoices, receipts, inspection logs, and testing or re-calibration certificates and reports, and must produce them if requested by DESNZ or Ofgem (Administrator and Enforcement Authorities).
- 10.6 Administrator and Enforcement Authority strongly advises that any re-calibration or testing activities be carried out by a manufacturer of the relevant meter, or by an organisation accredited by the United Kingdom Accreditation Service (UKAS).

The full list of requirements to meet compliance can be accessed here: [Heat Network \(Metering and Billing\) Regulations 2014: Guidance](#)

11. Regulation 9 (Billing).

- 11.1 Regulation 9 (Billing) and Schedule 2 (Billing information) was revoked in full in England, Wales and Scotland. They were replaced by Ofgem authorisation conditions on information disclosure and bill transparency on 27th January 2026.
- 11.2 Regulation 9 (Billing) and Schedule 2 (Billing information) remains in place in Northern Ireland. Heat suppliers in Northern Ireland are required to maintain compliance with billing requirements when supplying final customers on the networks they operate. In Northern Ireland, Regulation 9 continues to apply where meters or HCAs are installed on a network.

The full list of requirements to meet compliance can be accessed here: [Heat Network \(Metering and Billing\) Regulations 2014: Guidance](#)