

Open Letter to Key Stakeholders Procuring and Connecting Generation, Demand or HVDC Equipment to the GB Electricity Transmission and Distribution Systems

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Dear Industry Colleagues

European Network Codes Requirements

If you will be connecting new equipment to the GB electricity Transmission or Distribution system from 2019 onwards, you will most likely be affected by the new requirements from the three European Connection Codes: Requirements for Generators (RFG), HVDC and Demand Connection Code (DCC). This letter highlights the timescales and scope of the European Connection Codes, how existing connections could be affected and explains what you need to do.

Applicability

You will be affected by these Codes if you:

- Connect to the electricity network (on Transmission or Distribution system) after Date of Compliance*; and
- Have not concluded a signed final and binding contract by Date of National Implementation* for main plant items and submitted evidence of this to the relevant system operator before Date of National Implementation + 6 months*.

*For specific dates please refer to the table below.

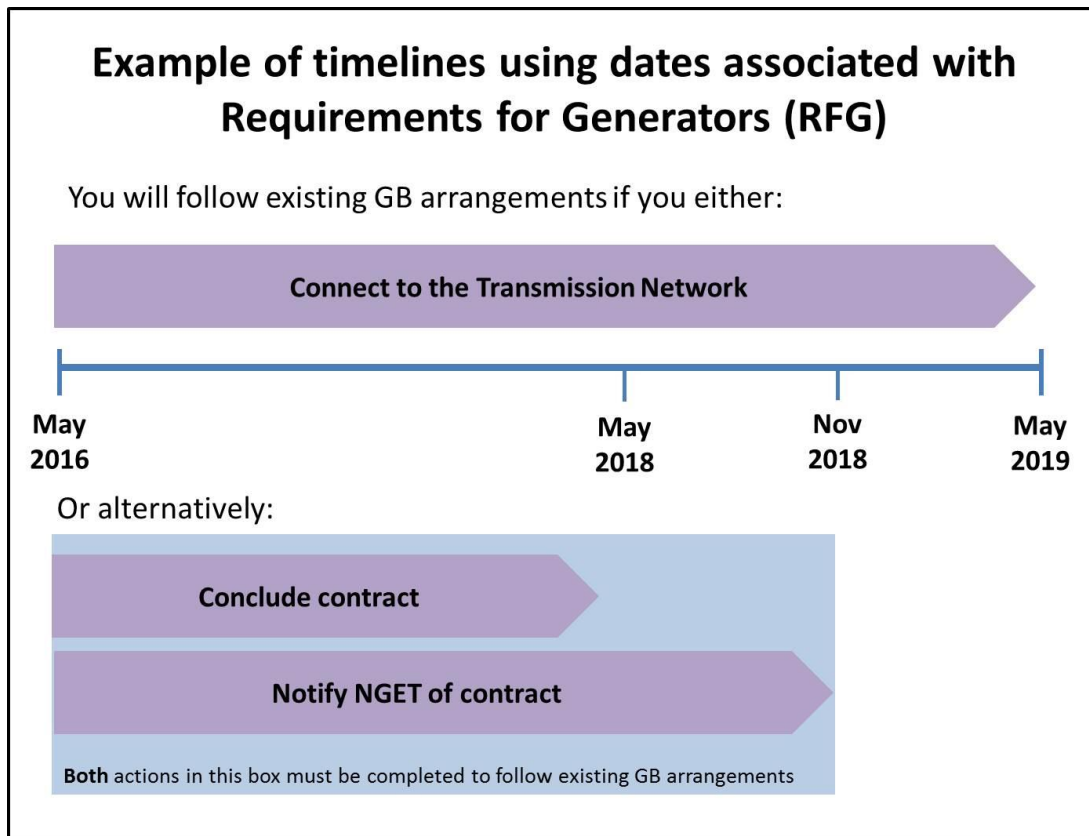
For example, in the case of a generator, the 'main plant' would be defined as one or more of the principle items of equipment required to convert the primary source of energy into electricity such as the alternator or the generator transformer, and which once ordered will determine the ability of plant to meet technical requirements.

Please also note that if the criteria above does not apply to you but you significantly modify equipment, you may also be required to comply with the EU Connection Codes. Any proposed modifications must be discussed with the relevant system operator in advance.

For instructions on how to evidence your contract to the relevant system operator please refer to the sections below.

Network Code	Applies to which Users?	Entry Into Force Date	Date of National Implementation	Date of Compliance
Requirements for Generators	Generators	17 May 2016	17 May 2018	17 May 2019
HVDC	High Voltage Transmission connection, e.g. interconnector or DC-connected Power Park Module.	29 September 2016	29 September 2018	29 September 2019
Demand Connection	Demand connection or any demand equipment that could provide Demand Side Response.	7 September 2016	7 September 2018	7 September 2019

The timeline below uses RFG as an example to illustrate what Generators connecting to the Transmission System would need to do to follow existing GB arrangements.



Connecting to the Transmission System after Date of Compliance – the notification process

If you will be connecting to the Transmission System after the Date of Compliance and wish to continue following existing GB arrangements (as opposed to those set out in the European Connection Codes), you must notify National Grid of your signed contract no later than November 2018 (for generators) or March 2019 (for HVDC or Demand connections). As noted above, the contract must have been concluded at least six months prior to this.

The notification should be provided to your assigned Customer Contracts Manager (CCM) or to transmissionconnections@nationalgrid.com and an acknowledgement of receipt will be provided.

You need to include the following as a minimum:

- (i) The contract title for the main generator plant.
- (ii) Evidence of the date of signature of the contract for the main generator plant.
- (iii) The date of entry into force for the contract for the main generator plant.
- (iv) The technical specification applicable to the contract for the main generator plant.

We will acknowledge receipt and contact you if we require more information.

If you have provided the correct information within the deadlines described above you will not be affected by the European Connection Codes unless you significantly modify your equipment in the future.

Connecting to a Distribution network after Date of Compliance – the notification process

Please contact your relevant distribution network operator for further information as soon as possible.

Please note that the deadlines will be the same as those for connecting to the Transmission System but the process of notification may be different.

Which Codes you will need to follow and how you can get involved with Implementation of the ECCs

The European Connection Codes are part of the wider European Network Codes being implemented throughout Europe and take precedence over GB legislation. Work is in progress to align the European obligations with their GB counterparts so the new requirements are described in the current GB Codes (e.g. Grid Code, Connection and Use of System Code etc.) and where there were conflicts, the European requirements have replaced the existing GB requirements.

This means that you will still only need to consult with the GB Codes in future as the EU requirements will have been included into these.

There are a number of industry workgroups currently working to incorporate the European Connection Codes into the Grid Code via the modification process. Please refer to the appendix section for the modifications that correspond to this work – we welcome comments to the consultations for these. Should you have any questions regarding what process to follow or how this affects your contract, please email transmissionconnections@nationalgrid.com.

Should you have any questions regarding the specifics of the Connection Codes, please email europeancodes.electricity@nationalgrid.com.

Yours sincerely



Julian Leslie
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Further Information and Appendix

The European Third Energy Package, which became European law in March 2011, is a key step forward in developing a more harmonised European energy market for gas and electricity. While achieving this, it will also seek to facilitate the integration of renewable energy sources, to maintain system security and to enhance competition.

As part of delivering these objectives, the European Commission have approved a number of European network codes for electricity. Three of these deal with grid connections placing updated technical requirements on equipment being connected to the system. These codes are: [Requirements for Generators \(RfG\)](#); [Demand Connection Code \(DCC\)](#); and [High Voltage Direct Current \(HVDC\)](#). Modifications have been raised to the GB Distribution Code and Grid Code to implement these new requirements and provide transparency for Users.

National Grid have set-up an industry forum, the Joint European Stakeholder Group (JESG), to provide a means for stakeholders to find out more about the network codes and associated European matters. This meets every month, generally in London:

<http://www2.nationalgrid.com/UK/Industry-information/Electricity-codes/European-network-code/Joint-European-Stakeholder-Group/>

In addition, GB implementation of the connection codes is being progressed by the following industry workgroups and we urge you to respond to these consultations:

The scope and applicability of the requirements of the Connection Codes

<http://www2.nationalgrid.com/UK/Industry-information/Electricity-codes/Grid-code/Modifications/GC0100/>

Technical requirements in HVDC and RfG

<http://www2.nationalgrid.com/UK/Industry-information/Electricity-codes/Grid-code/Modifications/GC0101/>

The system management requirements in RfG and HVDC as well as compliance requirements in RfG, DCC and HVDC.

<http://www2.nationalgrid.com/UK/Industry-information/Electricity-codes/Grid-code/Modifications/GC0102/>

Technical Requirements in Demand Connection Code (DCC)

<http://www2.nationalgrid.com/UK/Industry-information/Electricity-codes/Grid-code/Modifications/GC0104/>