

Modification proposal:	Distribution Code DCRP/MP/21/01 – Minor technical modifications to ERECs G98 and G99 within the existing Distribution Code documentation		
Decision:	The Authority ¹ has decided to approve ² this modification		
Target audience:	Distribution licensees, Distribution Code Review Panel, distribution network users and other interested parties		
Date of publication:	27 August 2021	Implementation date:	1 September 2021

Background

Engineering Recommendation G98 (EREC G98)³ and Engineering Recommendation G99 (EREC G99)⁴ were created on the 23 July 2018 as Annex 1 documents of the Distribution Code.⁵ They set out the requirements of connections to the Great Britain distribution network at different voltage levels. These documents are reviewed at regular intervals and modified where necessary to ensure up-to-date and accurate compliance with both network and device requirements.

Since the last minor technical modification⁶ to the Distribution Code and its Annex 1 documents, opportunities have been identified by stakeholders to increase clarity surrounding the connection and compliance requirements. On 22 July 2021, the Distribution Code Review Panel (DCRP) in line with stakeholders' requests and industry requirements, submitted to the Authority, a recommendation for minor technical modifications to EREC G98, EREC G99 and the Distribution Code.

¹ References to the "Authority", "Ofgem", "we" and "our" are used interchangeably in this document. The Authority refers to GEMA, the Gas and Electricity Markets Authority. The Office of Gas and Electricity Markets (Ofgem) supports GEMA in its day to day work. This decision is made by or on behalf of GEMA.

² This document is notice of the reasons for this decision as required by section 49A of the Electricity Act 1989.

³ [https://www.energynetworks.org/assets/images/Resource%20library/ENA_EREC_G98_Issue_1_Amendment_4_\(2019\).pdf](https://www.energynetworks.org/assets/images/Resource%20library/ENA_EREC_G98_Issue_1_Amendment_4_(2019).pdf)

⁴ [https://www.energynetworks.org/assets/images/Resource%20library/ENA_EREC_G99_Issue_1_Amendment_6_\(2020\).pdf](https://www.energynetworks.org/assets/images/Resource%20library/ENA_EREC_G99_Issue_1_Amendment_6_(2020).pdf)

⁵ http://www.dcode.org.uk/assets/uploads/DCode_v45_20200612.pdf

⁶ Details of all amendments to the Distribution code and its annex 1 documents since publication can be found in the current version of each of document.

The modification proposal

The changes proposed by DCRP/MP/21/01⁷ include a number of updates, corrections, clarifications and additions which together, are referred to as minor technical modifications. These increase clarity surrounding the connection and compliance requirements. This modification proposal addresses issues across five main areas:

- Addition of new definitions including a new list of energy sources and energy conversion technologies.
- Inclusion of new sections and footnotes such as a new section for earthing and new requirements for rapid re-synchronisation and dynamic system monitoring.
- A new requirement for all equipment within the scope of EREC G98 and EREC G99 to comply with “Energy Networks Association (ENA) and Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy (BEIS) Distributed Energy Resources (DER) – Cyber Security Connection Guidance” where applicable and the PAS 1879 “Energy smart appliances – Demand side response operation – Code of practice”.
- Clarification to existing requirements including removal of references to withdrawn EN50438 standard from EREC G98 and reinstatement of requirements that had previously been removed.
- Small editorial changes to texts, figures and tables.

Details of the specific proposed changes to the documents can be found in the Final Report submitted by the DCRP on 22 July 2021. The issues addressed by the proposed changes were highlighted through feedback, and items raised through the Distributed Energy Resources Technical Forum.

This modification proposal was subject to a consultation between 19 February 2021 and 19 March 2021. Nine responses to the consultation were received including one response from a Distribution Network Operator (DNO). Seven respondents were supportive while two respondents were partly supportive of the proposed changes. Feedback received included various suggestions for minor editorial changes from a majority of respondents, concerns around cyber security and comments on type testing and power factor tests. All of the consultation responses were considered by the DCRP. We have equally considered the

⁷ Distribution Code proposals, final reports and representations can be viewed at: <http://www.dcode.org.uk/areas-of-work/> and <http://www.dcode.org.uk/consultations/>

concerns raised in the consultation responses and are satisfied that they have been appropriately addressed by the DCRP.

Distribution Code Review Panel (DCRP)⁸ comments and licensee recommendation

At the DCRP Panel meeting on 3 June 2021, the Panel agreed that the modification proposal should be submitted to the Authority for approval. The DCRP consider that objectives (a), (b), and (d) are better facilitated by the modifications and that it has a neutral impact on objective (c).

Our decision

We have considered the issues raised by the modification proposal and in the Final Report dated 22 July 2021. We have considered and taken into account the responses to the consultation on the modification proposal which are included in the Final Report.⁹ We have concluded that:

- implementation of the modification proposal will better facilitate the achievement of the applicable objectives of the Distribution Code;¹⁰ and
- approving the modification is consistent with our principal objective and statutory duties.¹¹

Reasons for our decision

We consider this modification proposal will better facilitate Distribution Code objectives (a), (b) and (d) and has a neutral impact on the other applicable objectives.

⁸ The DCRP is established in accordance with SLC 21 of the Electricity Distribution Licence.

⁹ Distribution Code proposals, final reports and representations can be viewed at: <http://www.dcode.org.uk/areas-of-work/> and <http://www.dcode.org.uk/consultations/>

¹⁰ As set out in Standard Condition SLC 21.4 of the Electricity Distribution Licence available at: <https://epr.ofgem.gov.uk/Content/Documents/Electricity%20Distribution%20Consolidated%20Standard%20Licence%20Conditions%20-%20Current%20Version.pdf>

¹¹ The Authority's statutory duties are wider than matters which the Panel and licensees must take into consideration and are largely provided for in statute, principally in this case the Electricity Act 1989.

(a) permit the development, maintenance, and operation of an efficient, co-ordinated, and economical system for the distribution of electricity

The proposed changes reduce uncertainty and ambiguity by aligning definitions in the Distribution Code and EREC G98 with their use in EREC G99 and clarifying requirements, such that all stakeholders are subject to fair and transparent standards.

(b) facilitate competition in the generation and supply of electricity

Additional text and clarifications makes the requirements easier for connected generation to demonstrate compliance by aligning the characteristics and performance requirements of connected generation.

(d) promote efficiency in the implementation and administration of the Distribution Code.

By replacing references to a now withdrawn standard with full details of requirements, this modification proposal makes the Distribution Code easier for stakeholders to implement and administer.

Decision notice

In accordance with SLC 21.11 of the Electricity Distribution Licence, the Authority hereby directs that the modification to the Distribution Code set out in the Final Report to the Authority of 22 July 2021 be made.

Niall McDonald
Principal Engineer

Signed on behalf of the Authority and authorised for that purpose