

## Establishment of a Safety Standing Group

### Introduction & Background

1. Due to the fact that each Transmission Owner (TO) is not a Party to the CUSC and is not therefore required to comply with the Grid Code, the STC is used to reflect certain Grid Code obligations necessary for the efficient operation of the GB Transmission System onto the TOs. A number of these provisions are safety related and are recognised through the STC by obliging the TOs to adhere to the provisions of Operating Code (OC) 8B of the Grid Code.
2. OC8 of the Grid Code specifies the standard procedures to be used for the co-ordination, establishment and maintenance of necessary safety precautions when work is to be carried out on or near the GB Transmission System, or a User's System.

The section is split into two parts:

- OC8A – Safety Co-ordination in England and Wales (Appendix 1)
  - OC8B – Safety Co-ordination in Scotland (Appendix 2)
3. The above split has been made, as important regional differences exist concerning safety processes and procedures. These have occurred over time as NGC and each TO has responsibility for safety matters on their own part of the GB Transmission System. This remains the case post-BETTA.
  4. Moving forward, though differences in approach exist it will be important for each Party to work closely together when considering any changes to their own Safety processes. It is possible that through these discussions improvements to the manner in which each Transmission Licensee meets its safety obligations could be applied across all Transmission Licensees. Any benefits therefore would be shared across the entire GB Transmission System rather than just for Users in England and Wales or Scotland as the case may be.

### Establishment of Safety Standing Group

5. In light of the above it is proposed that a Safety Standing Group (SSG), similar in nature to that of Joint Planning Committee (JPC) and other Operational Liaison Groups should be established by the STC Parties. Such a Standing Group would
  - have appropriate membership from NGC, SHETL and SPTL, representatives who are experts in the field of safety.
  - provide a forum and/or focal point to discuss safety matters between STC Parties
  - reduce/limit the divergence between OC8A and OC8B
  - facilitate interaction between Scottish TOs and NGC on safety
  - provide periodical updates to the STC Committee
6. The SSG would also ensure that any changes to OC8 of the Grid Code were reflected in the STC and/or STCPs as appropriate. In addition, the SSG may present a suitable forum in which the STC Parties may discuss current proposed modifications to OC8 of the Grid Code.
7. It may also be the case that through this group STC Parties could discuss and highlight any necessary Grid Code Amendments to OC8. NGC may then be able to subsequently take forward such amendment proposals through the Grid Code Review Panel.

### Recommendation

8. The STC Committee is invited to:
  - STC Committee to AGREE to the establishment of Safety Standing Group
    - Terms of Reference to be written up and AGREED between STC Parties