

Modification proposal:	System Operator (“SO”) – Transmission Owner (“TO”) Code (“STC”) CM088 – Fault Ride Through Definition		
Decision:	The Authority ¹ directs this modification be made ²		
Target audience:	National Grid ESO, Parties to the STC, bidders and prospective bidders to the offshore tender process and other interested parties		
Date of publication:	9 June 2023	Implementation date:	23 June 2023

Background

Grid Code modification GC0141, approved by Ofgem on 12 December 2022 addressed concerns raised by BEIS³ and Ofgem following the 9th August 2019 power outage⁴. This included a change to the wording in the Connection Conditions (CC) and European Connection Conditions (ECC) sections of the Grid Code in respect of Fault Ride Through, to ensure the requirements apply during and after a fault.

The modification proposal

This modification proposal seeks to ensure consistency between the Grid Code and the STC with respect to Offshore Transmission System’s which are originally bound by the Grid Code, but then migrates to an Offshore Transmission Owner (OFTO), bound by STC Section K.

It proposes to amend Section K, Annex 1 of the STC to reflect the Fault Ride Through definition changes made to Section 6.3.15 of the Connections Conditions of the Grid Code for pre-European Offshore Transmission Licensees. We note that no such change is needed for Annex 2 of Section K of the STC which covers post European Offshore Transmission Licensees as it references the Grid Code ECC’s in respect of Fault Ride Through.

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 The Department for Business, Energy & Industrial Strategy (BEIS) existed until 2023 when it was split to form the Department for Business and Trade (DBT), the Department for Energy Security and Net Zero (DESNZ) and the Department for Science, Innovation and Technology (DSIT);

⁴ Our decision can be found on our website, here; <https://www.ofgem.gov.uk/publications/gc0141-authority-decision>

A Code Administrator Consultation was issued on the 1 February 2023 and closed on 22 February 2023, receiving one response, which was from the Proposer and was supportive of the change.

STC Modification Panel⁵ recommendation

The STC Modification Panel considered the draft Final Modification Report (FMR) at its meeting on 29 March 2023. The Panel recommended unanimously that the CM088 proposed solution is implemented. Overall, the Panel considered the CM088 proposed solution better facilitates STC Objectives a, b, d and e, and had a neutral impact on all other objectives.

Our decision

We have considered the issues raised by the proposal and the FMR. We have considered and taken into account the responses of the STC Parties included in the FMR. We have concluded that:

- implementation of the modification proposal will better facilitate the achievement of the applicable STC objectives;⁶ and
- directing that the modification be made is consistent with our principal objective and statutory duties.⁷

Reasons for our decision

We consider this modification proposal will better facilitate STC objectives a, b, d and e, and has a neutral impact on the other applicable objectives.

(a) efficient discharge of the obligations imposed upon transmission licensees by transmission licences and the Act;

⁵ The STC Modification Panel is established and constituted from time to time pursuant to and in accordance with section B6 of the STC.

⁶ The Applicable STC Objectives are set out in Standard Licence Condition B12 (3) (a) to (f) of the Transmission Licence.

⁷ The Authority's statutory duties are wider than matters that the Panel must take into consideration and are detailed mainly in the Electricity Act 1989 as amended.

The proposal aligns the Fault Ride Through requirements in the STC for Offshore Transmission Systems with those within the Grid Code, thereby aligning the applicable requirements pre and post migration to an OFTO. We therefore consider the proposal better facilitates this STC Objective.

(b) development, maintenance and operation of an efficient, economical and co-ordinated system of electricity transmission;

As above, the proposal ensures consistency with the technical requirements applicable to OFTO assets across their lifetime. We therefore consider the proposal to better facilitate this STC Objective.

(d) protection of the security and quality of supply and safe operation of the national electricity transmission system insofar as it relates to interactions between transmission licensees;

System security is dependent on ensuring plant compliance. The proposal ensures the Grid Code Fault Ride Through change, clarifying that the requirements apply during and after a fault, implemented via GC0141, is made to Section K, Annex 1 of the STC. We therefore consider the proposal to better facilitate this STC Objective.

(e) promotion of good industry practice and efficiency in the implementation and administration of the arrangements described in the STC;

The proposal ensures the clarity in Fault Ride Through requirements provided via Grid Code modification GC0141 is reflected within the STC. We therefore consider the proposal to better facilitate this STC Objective.

Decision notice

In accordance with Standard Condition B12 of the Electricity Transmission Licence, the Authority hereby directs that modification proposal CM088: '*Fault Ride Through Definition*' be made.

Martin Queen

Head of Engineering Systems & Policy – Analysis & Assurance

Signed on behalf of the Authority and authorised for that purpose