

Annex 1

to

Regional Coordination System for Gas

as

a common network operation tool to ensure coordination of
network operation in emergency conditions

Incidents Classification Scale

1. Overview

Art. 8 (3) (a) of Regulation n°715/2009 stipulates that ENTSOG “shall adopt common network operation tools to ensure coordination of network operation in normal and emergency conditions, including a common incidents classification scale...”

This document presents the incidents classification scale as part of the Regional Coordination System for Gas (a common network operation tool to ensure coordination of network operation in emergency conditions) and describes procedures how to use it. The incidents classification scale is used by all ReCo Teams members.

Depending on the type of incidents or crisis level declared in Members States, TSOs have agreed on how to inform each other. In general, information will be provided by the TSO responsible for the system in which the incident or crisis level has occurred.

This document refers to cooperation and exchange of information between TSOs in case of an incident with regional impact.

Using a five-degree scale (1 to 5), which lists criteria and thresholds for action, each TSO will have to act accordingly. Each TSO is required to inform the relevant ReCo Team if the causes or consequences of incidents are covered by the criteria and are within the threshold range.

This document is without prejudice to further obligations of TSOs mentioned in Regulation (EU) 2015/703 establishing a network code on interoperability and data exchange rules, provisions of valid interconnection agreements, REMIT obligations (e.g. UMMs), national rules as well as emergency plans and preventive action plans for a relevant Member State and the related Risk Group(s).

2. Incidents Classification Scale

The incidents classification scale specifies 5 levels of severity corresponding to events or situations of growing seriousness.

Each criterion “factually” describes an event or a situation. Only events or situations with significant impact are classified.

Level 1 local incidents with no regional impact (see 3.1.)

Level 2 potential risks, warnings (see 3.2.)

Level 3 incidents with significant effects (see 3.3.)

Level 4 incidents reflecting or leading to the emergency crisis level (see 3.4.)

Level 5 incidents when the application of solidarity measures is requested (see 3.5)

2.1. Level 1 for incidents with no regional impact

2.1.1. Description.

- **Level 1** is assigned to local or national-impact events with low effect on reliability and on the gas market. Incidents in **Level 1** are below any crisis level and can be handled by one TSO (or by group of TSOs using swap options), or by adjacent TSOs within 2 balancing zones (or between two Member States) without impact on other balancing zones, or by a national adjacent infrastructure operator (SSO, LSO, production, etc).
- No crisis level declared in any Member State.
- Regional cooperation is not needed.

2.1.2. Action regarding ReCo System for Gas

- No requirement to inform the ReCo Team(s).
- No requirement for the ReCo Team Meeting.

2.2. Level 2 for potential risks (incidents, events, etc), warnings

2.2.1. Description.

Level 2 is assigned to potential events in the future and inability to execute data exchange:

- Potential significant disruption of the flow in the next hours/days with a significant impact on demand/supply situation in a balancing zone(s).
- Potential significant loss of firm capacity in the next hours/days with significant impact on demand/supply situation in a balancing zone(s).
- Upcoming cold spell (once in 20 years and/or considered in assessments aligned with the Regulation 2017/1938).
- Inability to execute data exchange with adjacent TSOs or network users, auction offices, and gas hubs for more than 6 hours.
- Cyber-attack (here and after: an attempt with malicious intent to gain access to network and information systems) with significant risks for the performance of TSOs' dispatching activities and operational tasks (including, but not limited to, controlling gas flows, data exchange with network users and/or adjacent TSOs) and such potential risks for other TSOs.
- Other potential risks for the gas flow and firm capacity at IPs which other TSOs should be informed of (e.g., gas quality issues) with a

significant impact on demand/supply situation in a balancing zone(s).

- Any situation that might be followed by relevant restrictions, lockdowns, and potential risks for TSO staff or business continuity (e.g. pandemic, etc)
- Early warning crisis level declared in a Member State.

Beyond the scope: Planned activities or information about events without significant impact on the security of gas supply provided by other communication channels.

2.2.2. Actions of the affected TSO(s) or facilitators regarding the ReCo System for Gas

- To the extent allowed by their crisis management procedure and/or internal rules, the affected TSO directly informs the ReCo Team(s) Members via e-mail:
 - information about the incident level
 - existing or possible consequences of the incident
 - short description of the situation
 - other useful information
- The affected TSO(s) is not required to arrange the ReCo Team meeting.
- Facilitators of ReCo Team(s) may arrange the meeting if there is high demand for information by other TSOs (several calls/emails from TSOs about the incident).

2.3. Level 3 for incidents with significant effects

2.3.1. Description

Level 3 is assigned to events with a significant effect on gas transmission operation and reliability as well as on the gas market:

- Incident causing gas flow disruptions with significant impact on demand/supply situation in a balancing zone(s).
- Incident causing firm capacity loss with significant impact on demand/supply situation in a balancing zone(s).
- Disruption of gas production and/or storage facility and/or LNG facility leading to gas flow changes via IPs with adjacent TSOs (including import points) or LSOs with a significant impact on demand/supply situation in a balancing zone(s).
- Lack of capacity at entry points (including production, storage, LNG, etc) to cover the high demand.
- Events impacting business continuity (e.g. pandemic situation with intense impact on a country or region effecting TSO business).

- Alert crisis level declared in a Member State.
- Cyber-attack causing gas flow disruptions with significant impact on demand/supply situation in a balancing zone(s).

2.3.2. Actions of the affected TSO(s) or facilitators regarding the ReCo System for Gas

- To the extent allowed by their crisis management procedure and/or internal rules, the affected TSO directly informs the ReCo Team(s) Members via e-mail:
 - information about the incident level according to the ICS
 - existing or possible consequences of the incident
 - short description of the situation
 - other useful information

or

- The affected TSO calls the facilitator and asks to set up the ReCo Team meeting if regional coordination and cooperation are needed.
- ReCo Team(s) Facilitators may also call the meeting if there is high demand for information (several calls/emails from TSOs about the incident).

2.4. Level 4 for incidents reflecting the emergency crisis level

2.4.1. Description

Level 4 is assigned to emergency crisis level conditions in a Member State:

- Market cannot cover the demand. Deficit of gas supply.
- Non-Market-based demand side measures are taken (e.g., flow curtailment to consumers).
- Non-Market-based supply side measures are taken (e.g. usage of storage or LNG).
- Regional cooperation and coordination are needed.
- Emergency crisis level declared in a Member State.

2.4.2. Actions for the affected TSO(s) regarding the ReCo System for Gas

- To the extent allowed by their crisis management procedure and/or internal rules, the affected TSO directly informs the ReCo Team(s) Members via e-mail:
 - information about the incident level according to the ICS
 - existing or possible consequences of the incident

- short description of the situation
- other useful information

or

- The affected TSO calls the facilitator and asks to set up the ReCo Team meeting if regional coordination and cooperation are needed.
- ReCo Team(s) Facilitators may also call the meeting if there is high demand for information (several calls/emails from TSOs about the incident).

2.5. Level 5 for incidents when the application of solidarity measures is requested.

2.5.1. Description

- Level 5 is assigned to conditions when a Member State requests the application of the solidarity measures.

2.5.2. Actions for the affected TSO(s) regarding the ReCo System for Gas

- The affected TSO calls the facilitator and asks to set up the ReCo Team Meeting.
- TSOs have to execute the agreed measures to apply solidarity in accordance with provisions of the Regulation 2017/1938 and the technical, legal and financial arrangements regarding applying solidarity.

3. Incident Analysis

Each time a new incident occurs, requiring the involvement of a ReCo Team Meeting, it is important to review the situation and actions of players, and learn from the case. Therefore, ENTSOG, together with the ReCo Team(s) members, will carry out a retrospective and detailed analysis after each event. Based on the analysis results, ENTSOG and the TSOs will make improvements to this Annex and to the ReCo System for Gas (as a CNOT for emergency conditions). ENTSOG and the TSOs might also recommend improving the coordination and cooperation with other parties (producers, gas storage operators, LNG system operators, etc) and stakeholders (the Gas Coordination Group, the European Commission, the Competent Authorities of MS).