

Public

Order of action clarifications – Actions for Negative Margin

Context

The Order of Action is as agreed by NESO Executive Leadership Team to provide a clear direction for external customers on the actions the ENCC will take to manage margins. In the past, a Winter order of actions has been circulated focusing on positive margins, but as ENCC is encountering lower demands due to the rise in embedded generation, it is prudent to publish the actions which will be taken to manage negative margins and create additional foot room.

The ‘negative margin order of action’ is prepared in advance of Summer 2025 and supplements the Winter order of actions (positive margin actions) and is summarised in the tables below:

Everyday Actions	Order	Comments
Reconfigure Transmission Network: Change substation running arrangements, Tap Quad Boosters, and enhanced ratings	Normal operating practice – no cost	Changing daily operating conditions can result in different network configurations.
Review and refine negative reserve requirement on system conditions	#1 based on Cost	Changing system conditions can relieve requirements for negative reserve or increase requirements. This can change at any time as the conditions change.
All deliverable Bid action on all available Balancing Mechanism (BM) participants	#1 based on Cost	Scheduled from Day Ahead, action taken in real time.
Sell energy to continental Europe on Interconnectors	#1 based on Cost	Scheduled from Day Ahead, action taken from Day Ahead to 4hrs ahead of time by NESO Traders.
Activate Super Stable Export Limit (SEL) service	#1 based on Cost	On specific plant with available contracts. Notice period required in line with contract position but scheduled from Day Ahead.
System Operator (SO)-SO trade in cost order	#1 based on Cost	SO to SO trade with other SO in our interconnected neighbours. Discussions can commence at Day Ahead.
Utilise storage assets	#1 based on Cost	To increase transmission system demand, eg pump storage and batteries

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Enhanced Actions (If everyday actions are insufficient)	Order	Comments
Recall Transmission Owner (TO) assets from outage	#2	Anytime through to control room timescales, depending on ERTS (Emergency Return to Service) time.
Net Transfer Capacity (NTC) restrictions	#3	Required to ensure interconnectors flows remain within operation security limits. Used as a last resort after all commercial actions and system optimisations have been taken. Can be used for margin extremes when an interconnector flow can result in an NRAPM.
Use of Emergency Assistance (EA) from other SO	#4	Enacted close to real-time. Only applicable if capacity is available on interconnectors. EA can be withdrawn at any time.

Emergency Actions (If enhanced actions are insufficient)	Order	Comments
Emergency Instruction to other SO	#5	Only applicable if this does not cause negative margin issues in the interconnected countries.
Emergency Instruction to DNOs and Non-BMUs to take off Distributed Energy Resources (DERs)	#6	As per GC0147, OC6.7.1 and OC6B, each Network Operator will make arrangements that will enable disconnection or reduction on output of Customers on its User System under emergency conditions irrespective of frequency within 30 minutes. It must be possible to apply the embedded generation reduction to individual or specific groups of GSP(s), as determined by NESO. The Embedded Generation shall be grouped in to blocks of 50MW each, which shall be known as disconnection blocks.
Emergency Instruction to BMUs	#7	As per BC2.9.4 EI to exporting BM Units for De-Synchronising on the basis of Bid-Offer Data Submitted. Including Nuclear units.

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Notices issued at any time as required	Comment
Negative Reserve Active Power Margin (NRAPM)	Notice to market that plant may be requested to turn down generation to maintain negative margins, so a response would be expected. Likely to be issued at Day Ahead.