Public

Frequently Asked Questions

This document contains FAQs on the relaxed Balancing Mechanism (BM) operational metering requirements announced for Consumer Energy Resources on the 14 March 2026.

Details of the operational metering changes are outlined in our Briefing Note.

Q: What random number generation approach does NESO recommend that participants use for randomising meter data sampling?

A: NESO accepts any random number generator or alternative methods to achieve randomness in the times at which sub-assets send metering signals.

NESO highlights the importance of not basing the sampling time for the assets on non-random characteristics such as geographic location or GSP group.

Q: Will existing BMUs that contain aggregated assets connected at ≤415V be able to retrospectively change the type of metering requirements they use within the Single Markets Platform?

A: Yes, users will be able to select the new standards within the Single Markets Platform for their existing BMUs. This change has not yet been made to the Single Markets Platform and is scheduled for release in 2026.

Q: What is meant by "as per applicable UK regulation" in the context of the sub-asset accuracy requirement?

A: NESO recognises that UK regulations require manufacturers of Consumer Energy Resources (CERs) to use embedded meters that are accurate to within 10%. For example, the EV Smart Charge Point Regulations 2021 set this 10% accuracy requirement for EV charge points.

NESO's modelling showed that when several CERs are aggregated to reach the Balancing Mechanism's 1 MW minimum unit size threshold, the individual meter errors cancel each other out. As a result, the overall accuracy of the aggregated metering signal is within 1%. Because of this,

NESO concluded that it does not need to set a separate accuracy requirement for each individual sub-asset.

Q: How are the individual sub-asset 30 second readings translated into the aggregated 1 second feed?

A: Each sub-asset sends a reading to the aggregator every 30 seconds. The aggregator then combines all the latest readings it has, updating the aggregated signal every second. This means that as soon as a new sub-asset reading arrives, it's quickly reflected in the overall aggregated feed that NESO receives.

Q: How long can a sub-assets meter reading be used in the aggregate feed?

A: Each sub-asset meter reading must update every 30 seconds, and the reading can be used in the aggregated feed until the next reading is received (up to 30 seconds later). If a new sub-asset reading is not received within 30 seconds of the previous, please see the guidance on communication failure in the Operational Metering Architecture for non – Transmission connected BM Participants document.

Q: What is the latency compensation formula?

A: If a provider cannot meet the 5 second latency requirement, NESO may allow a provider to use a longer latency. However, if a longer latency is used, the provider will be required to increase their sub-asset refresh rate to compensate for the additional error caused by the longer latency. The exact refresh rate and latency requirement would be agreed bilaterally based on individual circumstances.