Public

System Access Reform: Industry code modifications GSR035 and GSR036 - SQSS

Information for you

The Security and Quality of Supply Standard (SQSS) set the rules for how the National Electricity Transmission System (NETS) is planned and operated. It ensures the system remains secure, reliable and efficient under different operating conditions.

NESO and the SQSS Panel review and update these rules through "modifications" when industry practice, system needs or policy suggest changes.

System Access Reform is working on two modifications in particular – GSR035 and GSR036. This document provides information about both modifications as individual modifications as well as what they give us when applied together.

Read the latest progress on these modifications here, and access the GSR 036 (approval) authority decision on the Ofgem website.

If you have any questions, please contact us.

SAR Programme Team

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GSR035 – System Access Reform: Enabling beneficial outages without compromising security

About GSR035

GSR035 reviews parts of the operational criteria in the SQSS, proposing to make it easier to carry out beneficial system outages such as maintenance, construction and reinforcement - while still maintaining system security.

Why it is needed

Under current rules, some outages are constrained or delayed because the operational criteria assumes that certain low-probability, low-impact risks must always be fully secured. This can slow down network build and efficient system access.

What the proposed modification could deliver:

- **More efficient access to the network** by adjusting how very low-probability, low-impact events are treated.
- **The option to have a controlled and limited relaxation of operational requirements** in certain situations, allowing outages to proceed without meaningfully increasing risk.
- **Faster delivery of transmission upgrades and maintenance** to support investment, capacity delivery and net-zero-aligned infrastructure rollout.
- **No compromise on system security** as the relaxation only applies under tightly defined conditions.

Who it affects

A wide variety of energy industry stakeholders are affected including Transmission Owners (TOs), NESO, DNOs, OFTOs, Interconnectors, Generators, and Directly Connected Customers (DCCs).

GSR036 – System Access Reform: Review of Voltage Limits

UPDATE: Ofgem approved GSR 036 on 2 October 2026, more information available here.

About GSR036

GSR036 reviews the voltage limits used in operational timescales in the SQSS and explores where flexibility could be permitted without reducing system security.

Why it is needed

Existing voltage limits were set when the system was more predictable. With increasing renewable generation, power flows and voltages are more dynamic. Allowing carefully assessed flexibility can unlock more operational headroom and reduce unnecessary constraints.

What the proposed modification could deliver:

- **Updated, evidence-based voltage limit rules** that better reflect the modern, variable system.
- **Potential flexibility in voltage ranges** where this can be demonstrated to be safe.
- **Improved efficiency and fewer operational constraints**, supporting access for new transmission work, maintenance, and low-carbon connections.
- **Consistency with system access reform**, helping reduce delays in delivering nationally important projects.

Who it affects

Energy industry stakeholders affected include TOs, NESO, DNOs, OFTOs, Interconnectors, Generators and Directly Connected Customers.



What both modifications achieve together

Both modifications working in tandem will mean:

1. Faster, more efficient system access

Unnecessary barriers to scheduling outages needed for network upgrade, reinforcement, and maintenance will be removed.

2. Maintained or improved system security

Both modifications only allow flexibility where analysis shows risk is low and controllable.

3. Better alignment with the evolving electricity system

The modifications modernise SQSS criteria to reflect the shift to renewables, more dynamic system conditions and increasing demand (e.g. data centres, electrification).

4. Support for national strategic priorities

They help accelerate grid build and reduce bottlenecks in the context of wider system access reforms referenced by Government and Ofgem.