

National Electricity Transmission System Security and Quality of Supply Standard (“SQSS”) GSR037 – Formatting and Housekeeping

Decision:	The Authority ¹ approves ² the proposed changes to the National Electricity Transmission System Security and Quality of Supply Standards (SQSS)
Target audience:	National Electricity System Operator (NESO), the SQSS Panel, SQSS users, and other interested parties
Date of publication:	18 September 2026
Implementation date:	10 business days after the Authority decision

Background

The Security and Quality of Supply Standard (SQSS) sets out the criteria and methodology for planning and operating the National Electricity Transmission System (NETS). The SQSS Panel is responsible for keeping the SQSS under review and submitting any proposed changes to us for a decision.

The SQSS currently contains formatting inconsistencies, structural issues and referencing errors which have been identified by NESO and industry stakeholders. NESO’s Final Modification Report (FMR)³ states that these issues make the SQSS difficult for users to

¹ References to the “Authority”, “Ofgem”, “us”, “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 See link to the FMR: [GSR037 Formatting and Housekeeping | National Energy System Operator](#)

navigate and interpret, and can make it harder to develop and implement other code modifications efficiently.

The modification proposal

GSR037 is a housekeeping modification intended to make the SQSS clearer, more consistent and easier to use. The FMR describes the expected impact as low on Transmission Owners, Offshore Transmission Owners (OFTOs), Distribution Network Operators (DNOs), NESO and the Authority.

GSR037 was raised by NESO on 5 February 2026. It proposes an updated SQSS document that improves clarity, accessibility and ease of use for stakeholders. The changes include restructuring the definitions section into a table, renumbering Section J so that its layout aligns with the rest of the SQSS, applying consistent formatting across the document, and correcting editorial or referencing issues identified through the Code Administrator Consultation.

The Proposer identified a positive impact against the SQSS Applicable Objective (a) and a neutral impact against the other objectives, citing the benefits to parties in understanding their respective responsibilities within the SQSS.

Code Administrator Consultation

The Code Administrator Consultation was issued on 19 May 2026 and closed on 19 June 2026. The Code Administrator received four non-confidential responses, no confidential responses and no late responses. Respondents considered that the proposal better facilitates the SQSS Applicable Objectives by improving readability, consistency, usability and clarity. All respondents supported the proposed implementation approach. No

substantive issues were identified, although several minor formatting and drafting corrections were suggested and incorporated into the proposal.

SQSS Panel⁴ recommendation

The SQSS Panel met on 28 July 2026. The Panel unanimously recommended that the Proposer's solution be implemented. Seven Panel members voted that the Original proposal should be implemented. Six Panel members recorded that the Original proposal better facilitates SQSS Objective (a) and has a neutral impact on SQSS Objectives (b), (c) and (d).⁵ One Panel member recorded a neutral impact against all four SQSS Applicable Objectives but still supported implementation because the proposal improves readability, comprehension and understanding of the SQSS.

Following the SQSS Panel recommendation, a number of minor typographical and drafting amendments were made to the legal text. The Authority is satisfied that these amendments were editorial in nature and did not materially affect the scope, intent or effect of the proposal. The final legal text submitted to the Authority reflected these amendments, and the Authority's decision to approve GSR037 was made on the basis of that final amended legal text.

Our decision

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

⁴ The SQSS Panel is established and constituted from time to time pursuant to and in accordance with Appendix J, paragraph J.2.5 of the [SQSS Code Documents | National Energy System Operator](#).

⁵ The SQSS Objectives are set out in Appendix J, paragraph J.3.1 of the [SQSS Code Documents | National Energy System Operator](#).

- implementation of the modification proposal will better facilitate the achievement of the applicable SQSS Objective (a) and have a neutral impact on the other SQSS Applicable Objectives
- approving the modification is consistent with our principal objective and statutory duties⁶

Reasons for our decision

We consider that GSR037 better facilitates SQSS Objective (a) and has a neutral impact on the other SQSS Applicable Objectives.

(a) *facilitate the planning, development, and maintenance of an efficient, coordinated, and economical system of electricity transmission, and the operation of that system in an efficient, economic, and coordinated manner*

We agree with the Panel and consultation respondents that GSR037 better facilitates SQSS Objective (a). The modification improves the SQSS by making it clearer, more consistent and easier to navigate. The FMR records that the change should help parties review their responsibilities within the SQSS. Consultation responses also stated that better readability and consistency reduce the risk of parties misinterpreting obligations. We agree that the improved readability and consistency supports more efficient, coordinated and economical use of the SQSS as a planning and operational standard.

Decision notice

In accordance with Standard Condition E7 of Annex E - Electricity System Operator Licence Conditions⁷ and the National Electricity Transmission System Security and Quality of Supply

⁶ 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.

⁷ Link to Electricity System Operator Licence here: [annex-e-electricity-system-operator-licence-conditions.pdf](https://www.ofgem.gov.uk/annex-e-electricity-system-operator-licence-conditions.pdf)

Standard⁸ as in force at the relevant time, the Authority hereby directs that modification proposal GSR037: 'Formatting and Housekeeping' be made.

Shilen Shah

Head of Strategic Planning, Codes and Standards

Signed on behalf of the Authority and authorised for that purpose

⁸ Link to SQSS: [SQSS Code Documents | National Energy System Operator](#)