

CBP on Harmonisation of Natural Gas Quality

Gas Quality Harmonisation Working Group

Explanatory notes for the CBP 2005-001/02
(revision of CBP 2005-001/01)

Table of contents

Table of contents	2
1 Foreword	3
2 About the CBP	4
3 The proposed update of the CBP	5
4 Clarification	6

1 Foreword

The purpose of this note is to provide background to the proposed updated and complementary terms of the previous version of CBP.

Furthermore the opportunity is taken to provide some clarification regarding the use of the CBP parameters and associated values.

2 About the CBP

This Common Business Practice (CBP) recommends natural gas quality specifications to streamline interoperability at cross border points in Europe and describes the recommended gas quality parameters, parameter ranges and the implementation plan.

The CBP is limited to cross border and EU entry points, including the exit of LNG import terminals, for high calorific gas without added odorants, and excluding areas of production and isolated systems where production, transportation and utilisation are combined.”

Safety and technical implications of the CBP values/ranges and the optimum manner to implement these will have to be assessed for and by each individual country. However, implementation of each parameter and associated range needs to be simultaneous at all cross border points.

Specific legislative issues and implementation times for legal change need to be addressed by the relevant governments. EASEE-gas recommends that the member states legislative bodies consult with the relevant industry representatives to investigate such required legislative changes.

The respective parties on a case-by-case basis should address contractual constraints with respect to the implementation of the various parameters and related values. For the avoidance of doubt, it is the common understanding that this recommendation should not limit the parties' rights to agree on specifications outside the proposed ranges and continue their agreements on a bilateral basis.

3 The proposed update of the CBP

This CBP revision proposes three complementary updates to the original CBP which was approved in 2005.

- 1) The wording of the area to which the CBP is applicable as presented in the introduction of the CBP has been altered to provide clarity for LNG terminals. In the original text it was unclear whether LNG needed to adhere to the CBP parameter and ranges at the entry of the terminal or at the exit of the terminal. Completely in line with the intent of the CBP the wording has been clarified to ensure it is clear that the CBP is applicable on the exit of the LNG terminal.
- 2) The oxygen specification has been adjusted as result of the oxygen survey that has been conducted. The CBP in 2005 was issued with this item pending. The CBP was issued in the mean time to allow the industry to prepare for all the other parameters and associated value ranges. In meantime the results of the oxygen survey show very low oxygen readings on cross border points (less than 10 ppm). This justifies setting the limit at 10 ppm whereby it is noted that this limit should not jeopardise normal and prudent operation of UGS's existing in 2006 which use oxygen for desulphurisation.
- 3) On quality variation further work was carried out by large gas consuming industries representations and TSO's to investigate the possibilities with respect to quality variations. This has resulted in the proposal for the sharing of historical data by the TSO as described in section 5 of this revision.

4 Clarification

For the avoidance of doubt the CBP has been developed with the objective to reduce or eliminate any existing cross border gas quality barriers. It is the intention of this CBP that quality parameters and the associated values on existing cross borders, which are more stringent than the values parameters, and associated values mentioned the CBP are relaxed to match the CBP values.

If on cross border points the existing parameters and associated values are more relaxed than described in this CBP these values should not be narrowed to the range mentioned in the CBP solely on the account of the CBP i.e. there should be another good reason to change.