
DISTRIBUTION CODE

**For the electricity industry in
Northern Ireland**

DISTRIBUTION CODE

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INTRODUCTION

1. The **Distribution Code** is designed to permit the development, maintenance and operation of an efficient, co-ordinated and economical **Distribution System** and generally to facilitate competition in the generation and supply of electricity. It is conceived as a statement of what is optimal (particularly from a technical point of view) for all **Users** and **NIE** itself in relation to the planning and operation and use of the **Distribution System**. It is designed to avoid any undue discrimination between **Users** and categories of **Users**.

2. **Interim Nature of Distribution Code**
 - (a) This **Distribution Code**, in its **Interim** form, is intended to be migrated, either on a section by section basis, or in a single set of changes, into a full Distribution Code. Until that stages, the **Distribution Code** is to incorporate by reference part of the **Grid Code**, as provided for in the individual sections of the **Distribution Code**.
 - (b) **Users** connected to or using only the **Distribution System** will need to comply with the **Distribution Code**. Such **Users** will not be required to comply directly with the **Grid Code**: but they will be required to comply with the parts of the **Grid Code** wording referred to through this **Distribution Code** as it is amended by the **Distribution Code**.
 - (c) Some **Users** connected to the **Distribution System** (for example, **Generators** in relation to larger **Generating Units**) will also be required by the **TSO** to comply with the **Grid Code** itself.
 - (d) With the introduction of the full Distribution Code, all **Users** connected to or using the **Distribution System** will need to comply with the full **Distribution Code**, which reflects the **Interim Distribution Code**.
 - (e) The **Grid Code** will cover the relationship at the **Connection Point** with the **Distribution System** once the full **Distribution Code** has been developed.
 - (f) Further provisions on this are set out in the **T&D Licence** and in the **TSO Licence**. There are provisions in the **TIA** dealing with the liaison required between the **TSO** and **NIE** in relation to the **Distribution Code**, and which set out further details and processes as required by the **T&D Licence** and **TSO Licence**, and in due course the **Grid Code** will contain provisions dealing with the relationship between the **TSO** and **NIE** as indicated in (e) above. The relationship between **NIE** and the **TSO** is not covered in the **Interim Distribution Code**.
 - (g) **Users** may request reasonable clarification from **NIE** of the application of relevant wording from the **Grid Code** into the **Distribution Code**, and **NIE** will within a reasonable period provide such clarification.

3. The operating procedures and principles governing **NIE's** relationship with all **Users** of the **Distribution System**, be they **Generators, Suppliers** or **Customers** are set out in the **Distribution Code**. The **Distribution Code** specifies day-to-day procedures for both planning and operational purposes and covers both normal and exceptional circumstances.
4. The **Distribution Code** is divided into the following sections:-
 - (a) a **Planning Code** which provides generally for the supply of certain information by **Users** in order to enable **NIE** to undertake the planning and development of the **Distribution System**;
 - (b) **Connection Conditions** which specify the minimum technical design and certain operational criteria which must be complied with by **Users** connected to or seeking connection with the **Distribution System**;
 - (c) an **Operating Code** which is split into a number of sections and deals with:-
 - (i) **Demand** forecasting (**DOC1**);
 - (ii) the co-ordination of the **Outage** planning process in respect of **Generating Units** and **Power Station Equipment** and **Outages** of equipment on the **Distribution System** for construction, repair and maintenance (**DOC2**);
 - (iii) different methods of reducing **Demand** (**DOC4**);
 - (iv) the reporting of scheduled and planned actions and unexpected occurrences such a faults between **NIE** and **Users** (**DOC5**);
 - (v) the co-ordination, establishment and maintenance of **Isolation** and **Earthing** in order that work and/or testing can be carried out safely (**DOC6**);
 - (vi) certain aspects of contingency planning (**DOC7**);
 - (vii) the provision of written reports on occurrences such as faults in certain circumstances (**DOC8**);
 - (viii) the procedures for determining the number and nomenclature of **Plant** and **Apparatus** (**DOC9**);
 - (ix) the procedures for the establishment of **System Tests** (**DOC10**); and
 - (x) **Testing, Monitoring and Investigations** in relation to **User's Plant** and **Apparatus** (**DOC11**);
 - (d) a **Data Registration Code** which sets out a unified listing of all data required by **NIE** from **Users** and **Users** from **NIE**, under the **Distribution Code**; and
 - (e) **General Conditions** which are intended to ensure, so far as possible, that the various sections of the **Distribution Code** work together and work in practice and other provisions of a general nature.
 - (f) a **Metering Code** which is split into a number of sections and deals with:-
 - (i) the basic requirements for metering (**MC**);

- (ii) specific requirements of the interim metering scheme for generating tariff metering (**Sub-Code No 1**);
 - (iii) the specific requirements for the new metering scheme (**Sub-Codes No 2.1-2.4**);
 - (iv) the specific requirements for generation operational metering (**Sub-Code No 3**);
 - (v) procedures for the maintenance, testing, inspection and sealing of metering (**Agreed Procedures No 1 and No 2**);
 - (vi) reconciliation procedures for metering (**Agreed Procedures No 3 and No 4**);
 - (vii) procedures for estimating settlement values in lieu of normal data collection methods (**Agreed Procedures No 5 and No 6**);
 - (viii) communication protocols (**Agreed procedure No 7**); and
 - (ix) **New Connection Registration and Change of Supplier Retail Market Procedure.**
- (g) This **Introduction** is provided to **Users** and to prospective **Users** for information only and does not constitute part of the **Distribution Code**.

GLOSSARY AND DEFINITIONS (GD)

GD1. DEFINED TERMS & CONSTRUCTION OF REFERENCES

GD1.1 In the **Distribution Code**, the **Distribution System** related provisions of the Glossary and Definitions in the **Grid Code** shall apply to this **Distribution Code** as if set out herein in full, such that the relevant provisions shall be deemed to be part of this **Distribution Code**, save that (unless the context otherwise requires) all references therein to:

- (a) “the TSO” are references to “NIE”;
- (b) the “NI System” are references to the “Distribution System”; and
- (c) the “Grid Code” are references to the “Distribution Code”.

NIE and **Users** will implement and comply with this **Distribution Code** accordingly.

GD1.2 In addition, in the **Distribution Code**, the following words and expressions shall, unless the subject matter or the context otherwise requires or is inconsistent therewith, bear the following meanings:

Connection/Use of System Charges	NIE’s charges to Users for connection to and/or the Distribution System .
Demand Control	All or any of the methods of achieving a demand reduction as set out in DOC4.1.2(a) of the Distribution Code .
Distribution Code	The Distribution Code prepared pursuant to the T&D Licence , as from time to time revised in accordance with the T&D Licence that may incorporate, by reference, sections of the Grid Code .
Distribution Connection Conditions or DCC	The part of the Distribution Code which is identified as the Distribution Connection Conditions .
Distribution General Conditions or DGC	The part of the Distribution Code which is identified as the Distribution General Conditions .
Distribution Metering Code or DMC	The part of the Distribution Code which is identified as the Distribution Metering Code , incorporating the Main Code , each Sub-Code and each Agreed Procedure .
Distribution Operating Code or DOC	The part of the Distribution Code which is identified as the Distribution Operating Code .
Distribution Planning Code or DPC	The part of the Distribution Code which is identified as the Distribution Planning Code .

Distribution Code Review Panel	The panel with the functions set out in DGC5 of the Distribution Code .
NIE	Northern Ireland Electricity plc whose company number is NI026041 and whose registered office is at 120 Malone Road, Belfast BT9 5HT.
NIE Energy	NIE Energy Limited whose company number is NI027394 and whose registered office is at 120 Malone Road, Belfast BT9 5HT and its successors and permitted assigns.
T&D Licence	The licence granted to NIE under article 10(1)(b) of the Order .
TIA	The Transmission Interface Arrangements prepared by NIE and the TSO pursuant to the TSO's Licence and the T&D Licence .

DISTRIBUTION PLANNING CODE

DPC1 INTRODUCTION

DPC1.1 The **Distribution Planning Code** (the “**DPC**”) specifies the requirements for the supply of information by persons connected or seeking connection to, or using, the **Distribution System** in order to enable **NIE** to undertake the planning and development of the **Distribution System**. It also specifies the technical and design criteria and procedures to be applied by **NIE** in the planning and development of the **Distribution System** and to be taken account of by **NIE** and other persons connected or seeking connection to the **Distribution System** in the planning and development of their own **Plant** and **Systems**.

DPC1.2 A requirement for reinforcement or extension of the **Distribution System** may arise for a number of reasons including, but not limited to:-

- (a) a development on a **User’s System** connected to the **Distribution System**;
- (b) the introduction of a new, or a modification relating to an existing, **Connection Point** between a **User’s System** and the **Distribution System**;
- (c) transient or steady-state stability considerations;
- (d) the aggregate effect of **Customer** developments and/or transits utilising the **Distribution System**;
- (e) a change to the **Transmission System**;
- (f) the cumulative effect of any combination of the above.

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DPC1.3 Accordingly, the reinforcement or extension of the **Distribution System** may involve work:-

- (a) at the **Connection Point** between a **User’s System** and the **Distribution System**;
- (b) on distribution or transmission lines or substations or other facilities which join the **Connection Point** to the remainder of the **Distribution System**; and
- (c) at or between points on the **Distribution System** near to or remote from a **Connection Point**.

DPC1.4 Since **System** developments must be planned with sufficient lead time to allow any necessary consents to be obtained and any necessary detailed engineering design/construction work to be completed, the **DPC** and the relevant **Connection Agreement** and/or **Use of System Agreement** impose appropriate timescales on the exchange of information between **NIE** and **Users**, subject to all parties having regard, where appropriate, to the confidentiality of such information.

DPC2 OBJECTIVES

DPC2.1 The objectives of the **DPC** are to:-

- (a) provide for the supply of information required by **NIE** from **Users** in order for **NIE** to plan the development (including reinforcement and extension) of the **Distribution System**;
- (b) reflect the **Licence** requirements for the supply of information by **NIE** to **Users** in order to facilitate the identification and evaluation of opportunities for use of, or connection to, the **Distribution System**;
- (c) set out the requirements for the supply of information in respect of any proposed development on a **User's System** which may impact on the performance of the **Distribution System**; and
- (d) specify the technical and design criteria and procedures which will be applied by **NIE** in the planning and development of the **Distribution System** and which are to be taken into account by **Users** in the planning and development of their own **Systems**.

DPC3 SCOPE

DPC3.1 The **DPC** applies to **NIE** and to **Users**, which in the **DPC** means:-

- (a) **Generators**;
- (b) **Suppliers**;
- (c) **Customers** with **Demand** of 1MW and above; and
- (d) **Aggregators**

DPC3.2 Persons whose prospective activities would place them in any of the above categories of **User** will, either pursuant to a **Licence** or as a result of the application procedure for a **Connection Agreement** and/or **Use of System Agreement**, become bound by the **DPC** prior to their generating, supplying or consuming, as the case may be. And references to the various categories (or to the general category) of **User** should, therefore be taken as referring to them in that prospective role as well as to **Users** actually connected.

DPC4 PROCEDURE

The **Distribution System** related provisions of the Planning Code in the **Grid Code** (but not the Introduction, Objectives or Scope thereof) shall apply to this **Distribution Code** as if set out herein in full, such that the relevant provisions shall be deemed to be part of this **Distribution Code**, save that (unless the context otherwise requires) all references therein to:

- (a) "the TSO" are references to "NIE";
- (b) the "NI System" are references to the "Distribution System"; and
- (c) the "Grid Code" are references to the "Distribution Code".

NIE and **Users** will implement and comply with this **Distribution Code** accordingly.

DISTRIBUTION CONNECTION CONDITIONS

DCC1

INTRODUCTION

- (a) The **Distribution Connection Conditions** specify the technical, design and certain operational criteria which must be complied with by **Users** whose **Plant** and **Apparatus** is connected to, or who are seeking a connection to, the **Distribution System**.
- (b) They also set out the procedures by which **NIE** shall seek to ensure compliance with these criteria as a pre requisite to granting approval for the connection of a **User's Plant** and **Apparatus**.
- (c) **Users** are defined for the purpose of these **Distribution Connection Conditions** in **DCC3**.

DCC1.2

Procedures by which **NIE** and **Users** may conclude a **Connection Agreement** are reflected in the **Distribution Planning Code**. Each **Distribution Connection Agreement** shall require **Users** to comply with the terms of the **Distribution Code** and **NIE** will not grant approval to connect the **User's** installation to the **Distribution System** unless and until it is satisfied that the criteria laid down by the **Distribution Connection Conditions** have, subject to any derogations issued by the **Authority**, been met.

DCC1.3

The provisions of the **Distribution Connection Condition** shall apply to all connections to the **Distribution System**:-

- (a) existing on 31 March 1992; or
- (b) established or modified thereafter.

DCC2

OBJECTIVES

DCC2.1

The **Distribution Connection Conditions** are designed to ensure that:-

- (a) no new or modified connection will impose unacceptable effects on the **Distribution System**, on the **Transmission System** or on any **User System** nor will it be subject itself to unacceptable effects by its connection to the **Distribution System**; and
- (b) the basic rules for connection treat all **Users** of an equivalent category in a non-discriminatory fashion, in accordance with **NIE's** statutory and **Licence** obligations.

DCC3

SCOPE

DCC3.1

The **Distribution Connection Conditions** apply to **NIE** and to **Users** which, in the **Distribution Connection Conditions**, means:-

- (a) **Generators**;

- (b) **Large Demand Customers;** and
- (c) **Aggregators.**

DCC3.2 Persons whose prospective activities would place them in any of the above categories of **User** will, either pursuant to a **Licence** or as a result of the application procedures for a **Connection Agreement**, become bound by the **DCC** prior to their generating or consuming, as the case may be, and references to the various categories (or to the general category) of **User** should, therefore, be taken as referring to them in that prospective role as well as to **Users** actually connected.

DCC4 PROCEDURE

The **Distribution System** related provisions of the Connection Conditions in the **Grid Code** (but not the Introduction, Objectives or Scope thereof) shall apply to this **Distribution Code** as if set out herein in full, such that the relevant provisions shall be deemed to be part of this **Distribution Code**, save that (unless the context otherwise requires) all references therein to:

- (a) “the TSO” are references to “NIE”;
- (b) the “NI System” are references to the “Distribution System”; and
- (c) the “Grid Code” are references to the “Distribution Code”.

NIE and **Users** will implement and comply with this **Distribution Code** accordingly.

DISTRIBUTION OPERATING CODE NO. 1

DEMAND FORECASTING

DOC 1.1 INTRODUCTION

Distribution Operating Code No. 1 (“DOC1”) is concerned with **Demand** forecasting and specifies the procedures to be followed and the data to be supplied to **NIE** to enable **NIE** to forecast **Demand** on the **Distribution System** through the timescales ranging from 3 years in advance (namely part of the **Operational Planning Phase**) through to the **Control Phase** and into real time operation.

DOC 1.2 OBJECTIVE

The objectives of **DOC1** are to set out the requirement for **Users** to provide data to **NIE** to enable **NIE**, insofar as it is able to do so, to maintain the integrity of the **Distribution System**, and to specify those factors which **NIE** will take into account when conducting **Demand** forecasting.

DOC 1.3 SCOPE

DOC 1.3.1 **DOC1** applies to **NIE** and to **Users** which is this **DOC1** means:-

- (a) **Suppliers;**
- (b) **Generators;**
- (c) **Generator Aggregators;** and
- (d) **Demand Side Units.**

DOC 1.4 PROCEDURE

The **Distribution System** related provisions of Operating Code No.1, Demand Forecasting, in the **Grid Code** (but not the Introduction, Objectives or Scope thereof) shall apply to this **Distribution Code** as if set out herein in full, such that the relevant provisions shall be deemed to be part of this **Distribution Code**, save that:

(unless the context otherwise requires) all references therein to:

- (i) “the TSO” are references to “NIE”;
- (ii) the “NI System” are references to the “Distribution System”; and
- (iii) the “Grid Code” are references to the “Distribution Code”; and

NIE and **Users** will implement and comply with this **Distribution Code** accordingly.

**DISTRIBUTION OPERATING CODE NO. 2
OPERATIONAL PLANNING**

DOC2.1 INTRODUCTION

DOC 2.1.1 **Distribution Operational Planning** involves the coordination through various timescales of up to 3 years of outages of **Plant** and **Apparatus** which affect the operation of the **Distribution System**.

DOC 2.1.2 **DOC2** sets out the data required by **NIE** from **Generators** in order to conduct the **Operational Planning** process, and the procedures to be adopted by **NIE** in the planning and co-ordination of **Generating Unit Outages, Customer Equipment Outages** and **Distribution System Outages** in accordance with this **DOC2**.

DOC 2.1.3 In **DOC2**, “Year 0” means the current calendar year at any time, Year 1 means the next calendar year at any time, Year 2 means the calendar year after year 1, etc.

DOC 2.2 OBJECTIVE

DOC 2.2.1 The objective of **DOC2** is to ensure, as far as possible, that **NIE** co-ordinates, optimises and approves **Outages** of **Generating Units** taking into account **Distribution System Outages**, to minimise the number of effect of constraints on the **Distribution System**.

DOC 2.3 SCOPE

DOC 2.3.1 **DOC2** applies to **NIE**, and to **Users** which in this **OC2** means:-

- (a) **Generators**; and
- (b) **Large Demand Customers**.

DOC 2.4 PROCEDURE

The **Distribution System** related provisions of Operating Code No. 2, Operational Planning, in the **Grid Code** (but not the Introduction, Objectives or Scope thereof) shall apply to this **Distribution Code** as if set out herein in full, such that the relevant provisions shall be deemed to be part of this **Distribution Code**, save that (unless the context otherwise requires) all references therein to:

- (a) “the TSO” are references to “**NIE**”;
- (b) the “**NI System**” are references to the “**Distribution System**”; and
- (c) the “**Grid Code**” are references to the “**Distribution Code**”.

NIE and **Users** will implement and comply with this **Distribution Code** accordingly.

DISTRIBUTION OPERATING CODE NO. 3

Not used

**DISTRIBUTION OPERATING CODE NO. 4
DEMAND CONTROL**

DOC 4.1 INTRODUCTION

DOC 4.1.1 **Distribution Operating Code No. 4 (“DOC4”)** is concerned with the provisions made by **NIE** and procedures to be followed by **NIE** and **Users** to permit a reduction in **Demand** in the event that there are insufficient **Generating Plant, PD WFPSs, Independent Generating Plant** or transfers across any **External Interconnections** available to meet **Demand** in all or any part of the **Distribution System** and/or in the event of problems on the **Distribution System**, including, without limitation, in the event of both a steady state shortfall of generation and a transient shortfall of generation following a sudden loss of generation. **DOC4** also covers operating problems such as unacceptable voltage levels and thermal overloads and also the provision of information on any **Demand Control** arrangements by **Suppliers**, including **Demand Control** arrangements providing for the utilisation of controllable **Load** blocks on the **Distribution System** (for example, by radio teleswitching).

- DOC4.1.2 (a) **DOC4** deals with the following:
- (i) Customer Demand Management initiated by Suppliers;
 - (ii) **Customer Demand Management** initiated by **NIE** (such as that achieved by directing the timing of supply to a **Customer** in a manner and to the extent agreed for commercial purposes between the **Supplier** and its **Customer** and offered by a **Supplier** to **NIE** including that resulting from **Load Management Arrangements**);
 - (iii) **Customer Voltage Reduction** initiated by **NIE**;
 - (iv) **Planned Manual Disconnection** (such as **Rota Load Shedding**) and/or **Emergency Manual Disconnection** initiated by **NIE**;
 - (v) Protection of supply to any part of the **Distribution System** where system security is weak; and
 - (vi) Disconnection of Load blocks by operation of **Automatic Load Shedding Devices** to preserve overall **Distribution System** security,

where the term “Demand Control” is used to describe any or all of those methods of controlling **Demand**.

- (b) The type of **Demand Control** utilised by **NIE** in any particular case will depend upon the amount of time between **NIE** becoming aware of the need for implementing **Demand Control** and the time at which it needs to be implemented. In the event of a sudden and unexpected loss of generation and/or **Distribution System** problems, the requisite **Demand Control** will normally be achieved by means of **Automatic Load Shedding** but, occasionally, **Emergency Manual Disconnection** may additionally be required. The amount of time which **NIE** has in which to implement **Demand Control** will also determine whether **Customer Demand Management** will be implemented before voltage reduction. In all cases

when **Demand Control** is necessary, **NIE** will generally use **Demand Disconnection** as the last option.

DOC 4.1.3 **Load Shedding** shall not, so far as possible, be exercised in respect of **Protected Customers** and **Contract Customers**. **DOC4**, therefore, applies subject to this exclusion.

DOC 4.2 OBJECTIVE

The objective of **DOC4** is to detail the provisions required to enable **NIE** to achieve a reduction in **Demand** to avoid or relieve operating problems on all or any part of the **NIE System**. Subject to **DOC4.1.3**, **NIE** will utilise **Demand Control** in a manner which does not unduly discriminate against, or unduly prefer, any one or any group of **Customers**. **DOC4** requires that **NIE** be notified of any **Demand Control** arrangements entered into or utilised by **Users**.

DOC 4.3 SCOPE

DOC 4.3.1 **DOC4** applies to **NIE** and to **Users**, which in **DOC4** means:-

- (a) **Suppliers**; and
- (b) **Generators**.

DOC 4.4 PROCEDURE

The **Distribution System** related provisions of Operating Code No. 4, Demand Control, in the **Grid Code** (but not the Introduction, Objectives or Scope thereof) shall apply to this **Distribution Code** as if set out herein in full, such that the relevant provisions shall be deemed to be part of this **Distribution Code**, save that (unless the context otherwise requires) all references therein to:

- (a) “the TSO” are references to “**NIE**”;
- (b) the “**NI System**” are references to the “**Distribution System**”; and
- (c) the “**Grid Code**” are references to the “**Distribution Code**”.

NIE and **Users** will implement and comply with this **Distribution Code** accordingly.

**DISTRIBUTION OPERATING CODE NO. 5
OPERATIONAL LIAISON**

DOC 5.1 INTRODUCTION

DOC 5.1.2 **DOC5** sets out the requirements for the exchange of information in relation to **Operations** and/or **Events** on the **Distribution System** or a **User System** which have had (or may have had) or will have (or may have) an **Operational Effect**:-

- (i) on the **Distribution System** in the case of an **Operation** and/or **Event** occurring on a **User System**; and
- (ii) on a **User System** in the case of an **Operation** and/or **Event** occurring on the **Distribution System**;

where no specific requirement for liaison is specified in any other section of the **Distribution Code**. **DOC5** also sets out the procedure for issue of warnings in the event of a risk of serious and widespread disturbance of the whole, or part of, the **Distribution System**.

DOC 5.2 OBJECTIVE

The exchange of information is needed in order that the implications of the **Operation** and/or **Event** can be considered and the possible risks arising from it can be assessed and appropriate action taken by the relevant party in order to maintain the integrity of the **Distribution System** and the relevant **User Systems**. **DOC5** does not seek to deal with any actions arising from the exchange of information, but merely with that exchange.

DOC 5.3 SCOPE

DOC5 applies to **NIE** and to **Users**, which in this **DOC5** means:-

- (a) **Generators**; and
- (b) **Large Demand Customers**.

DOC 5.4 PROCEDURE

DOC5.4.1 The **Distribution System** related provisions of Operating Code No. 5, Operational Liaison, in the **Grid Code** (but not the Introduction, Objectives or Scope thereof) shall apply to this **Distribution Code** as if set out herein in full, such that the relevant provisions shall be deemed to be part of this **Distribution Code**, save that (unless the context otherwise requires) all references therein to:

- (a) “the TSO” are references to “NIE”;
- (b) the “NI System” are references to the “Distribution System”; and
- (b) (c) the “Grid Code” are references to the “Distribution Code”.

NIE and **Users** will implement and comply with this **Distribution Code** accordingly.

DOC 5.4.2

NIE may pass on any information it receives from a **User** under this **DOC5** to the **TSO** under the **Grid Code** or other arrangements which it has with the **TSO**.

**DISTRIBUTION OPERATING CODE NO. 6
SAFETY CO-ORDINATION**

DOC 6.1 INTRODUCTION

- DOC 6.1.1 (a) **Distribution Operating Code No. 6 (“DOC6”)** specifies the standard procedures which are to be followed by **NIE** and **Generators** for the co-ordination, establishment and maintenance of necessary **Safety Precautions** when work and/or testing (other than **System Tests**, which are covered in **DOC10** and the type of tests covered **DOC11**) is to be carried out on the **Distribution System** or a **Generator’s User System** and when, for this to be done safely, **Safety Precautions** are required on the other’s **System**.
- (b) The procedures to be followed by **NIE** and persons connected to the **Distribution System** other than **Generators** for the co-ordination, establishment and maintenance of **Safety Precautions** when work and/or testing (other than **System Tests**, which are covered by **DOC10** and the type of tests covered by **DOC11**) is to be carried out on the **Distribution System** or such person’s **User System** are not dealt with under this **DOC6**, but are to be agreed locally.
- (c) **NIE** may agree detailed site-specific operational procedures with **Generators** for the co-ordination, establishment and maintenance of **Safety Precautions** instead of the **RISSP** procedure detailed in this **DOC6**. Such operational procedures shall satisfy the requirements of paragraphs **DOC6.2**.

DOC 6.1.2 Where, by reason of the design of any **HV Apparatus** on which **Safety Precautions** are to be applied, it is not practicable to apply **Safety Precautions** on such **HV Apparatus**, the **Safety Precautions** shall be applied at the most appropriate point(s) on the **Generator’s Plant and Apparatus** (for example, at steam valves) to achieve **Safety From the System** on the **HV Apparatus** on which **Safety From the System** is to be achieved.

DOC 6.1.3 **DOC6** does not apply to a situation in which **Safety Precautions** need to be agreed solely between **Generators** or between **Generators** and other persons connected to the **Distribution System**.

DOC 6.1.4 **DOC6** does not seek to impose a particular set of **Safety Rules** on **NIE** and **Generators**, the **Safety Rules** to be adopted and used by **NIE** and each **Generator** shall be those chosen by each.

DOC 6.1.5 The procedures set out in this **DOC6** do not refer expressly to a situation in which both **NIE** and a **User** require the other to implement **Safety Precautions** at the same time. In such circumstances the relevant procedures of this **DOC6** should be applied twice, once with **NIE** acting as **Implementing Safety Co-ordinator** and once with the **User** acting in that role.

DOC 6.1.6 In this **DOC6** the following terms shall have the following meanings:-

- (a) “**HV Apparatus**” means **High Voltage** electrical circuits forming part of a **System** on which **Safety From The System** may be required or on which **Safety Precautions** may be applied to allow work and/or testing to be carried out on a **System**;

- (b) “**Isolation**” means the disconnection of **HV Apparatus** from the remainder of the **System** in which that **HV Apparatus** is situated by means either of an **Isolating Device(s)** in the isolating position or adequate physical separation or sufficient gap or the disablement (by means of switching or dismantling) of **Plant** and/or **Apparatus** so that electrical energy cannot pass from the **Apparatus** (or in the case of **Plant**, from the associated **Apparatus**) to the **HV Apparatus** other than by an **Isolating Device**;
- (c) “**Earthing**” means a way of providing a connection between conductors and earth by means of an **Earthing Device**.

DOC 6.2 OBJECTIVE

The objective of this **DOC6** is to achieve **Safety From the System** when work and/or testing on a **System** necessitates the provision of **Safety Precautions** on or relating to another **System** (on or relating to **HV Apparatus**) up to a **Connection Point**.

DOC 6.3 SCOPE

DOC6 applies to **NIE** and to **Generators**.

DOC 6.4 PROCEDURE

The **Distribution System** related provisions of Operating Code No. 6, Safety Coordination, in the **Grid Code** (but not the Introduction, Objectives or Scope thereof) shall apply to this **Distribution Code** as if set out herein in full, such that the relevant provisions shall be deemed to be part of this **Distribution Code**, save that (unless the context otherwise requires) all references therein to:

- (a) “the TSO” are references to “NIE”;
- (b) the “NI System” are references to the “Distribution System”; and
- (c) the “Grid Code” are references to the “Distribution Code”.

NIE and **Users** will implement and comply with this **Distribution Code** accordingly.

**DISTRIBUTION OPERATING CODE NO. 7
CONTINGENCY PLANNING**

DOC 7.1 INTRODUCTION

DOC7.1.1 **Distribution Operating Code No. 7 (“DOC7”)** covers the following:-

- (a) the implementation of recovery procedures in the event of a **Total Shutdown** or **Partial Shutdown**;
- (b) the **Re-Synchronisation** of parts of the **Total System** which have ceased to be **Synchronised** with each other where there is no **Total Shutdown** or **Partial Shutdown**;
- (c) the establishment of a communication route and arrangements between senior management representatives of **NIE** and **Users** involved in, or who may be involved in, actual or potential serious or widespread disruption to the **Total System** or a part of the **Total System** which requires, or may require urgent managerial response, day or night, but which does not fall within the provisions described in **DOC7.1.2**; and
- (d) the procedure to be followed when the **NIE Distribution Control Centre** is incapacitated for any reason.

DOC 7.1.2 It should be noted that, under Article 58 of the **Order**, the **Department** may give directions to the **TSO** and/or **NIE** and/or any **Generator** and/or any **Supplier** for the purpose of, “mitigating the effects of any civil emergency which may occur” (i.e. for the purposes of planning for dealing with a civil emergency); a civil emergency is defined in the **Order** as “any natural disaster or other emergency which, in the opinion of the **Department**, is or may be likely to disrupt electricity supplies”. Under the Energy Act 1976, the Secretary of State has powers to make orders and give directions controlling the production, supply, acquisition or use of electricity, where an Order in Council under Section 3 is in force declaring that there is an actual or imminent emergency affecting electricity supplies. In the event that any such directions are given or orders made under the Energy Act 1976, the provisions of the **Distribution Code** will be suspended insofar as they are inconsistent with them.

DOC 7.2 OBJECTIVE

The overall objectives of **DOC7** are:-

- (a) to achieve, as far as possible, assistance in the restoration of the **Total System** and to enable **Demand** once again to be satisfied in the shortest possible time, taking into account **Power Station** capabilities, transfers across any **External Interconnections** and the operational constraints of the **Distribution System** and **User Systems** connected to it;
- (b) to achieve assistance in the **Re-Synchronisation** of parts of the **Distribution System** which have ceased to be **Synchronised** with each other;
- (c) to ensure that communication routes and arrangements are available to enable senior management representatives of **NIE** and **Users**, who are authorised to make binding decisions on behalf of **NIE** or the relevant **User**,

as the case may be, to communicate with each other in the circumstances described in **DOC7.1.1(c)**; and

- (d) to ensure that the **Distribution System** can continue to operate in the event that the **NIE Control Centre** is incapacitated for any reason.

DOC 7.3 SCOPE

DOC7 applies to **NIE** and to **Users** which in this **DOC7** means:-

- (a) **Generators**; and
- (b) **Large Demand Customers**.

DOC 7.4 PROCEDURE

The **NI Distribution System** related provisions of Operating Code No. 7, Contingency Planning, in the **Grid Code** (but not the Introduction, Objectives or Scope thereof) shall apply to this **Distribution Code** as if set out herein in full, such that the relevant provisions shall be deemed to be part of this **Distribution Code**, save that (unless the context otherwise requires) all references therein to:

- (a) “the TSO” are references to “NIE”;
- (b) the “NI System” are references to the “Distribution System”; and
- (c) the “Grid Code” are references to the “Distribution Code”.

NIE and **Users** will implement and comply with this **Distribution Code** accordingly.

DOC 7.5 EMERGENCY INSTRUCTIONS

During a **Total Shutdown, Partial Shutdown** or **Re-Synchronisation** of or to the **Total System**:-

- (a) it may be necessary for the **TSO** to issue emergency instructions either directly or through **NIE** as **Distribution System Operator**;
- (b) **NIE** as **Distribution System Operator** will as soon as reasonably practicable inform **Users** which, in the opinion of **NIE** as **Distribution System Operator**, need to be informed that a **Total Shutdown** or, as the case may be a **Partial Shutdown** exists or that parts of the **Total System** have ceased to be **Synchronised**, and that the **TSO** intends to implement the **Black Start** procedure, and may issue **Emergency Instructions** either directly or through **NIE** as **Distribution System Operator**;
- (c) all **Users** are required to comply with emergency instructions whether issued by the **TSO** directly or by **NIE** as **Distribution System Operator**, unless in the case of a **Generator** they are outside Technical Parameters, or if such instructions could be disregarded under the **Grid Code** for those issued by the **TSO** with an equivalent rule applying to those issued by **NIE** as **Distribution System Operator**; and
- (d) each **User** agrees to comply with the **Fuel Security Code** insofar as applicable to it.

**DISTRIBUTION OPERATING CODE NO. 8
OPERATIONAL EVENT REPORTING AND INFORMATION SUPPLY**

DOC 8.1 INTRODUCTION

DOC8 sets out the requirements for reporting in writing and, where appropriate, more fully those **Significant Incidents** which initially were reported to **NIE** or a **Generator** orally under **DOC5**, and the requirements for the provisions to **NIE** of information to enable it to prepare analyses and assessments of policies in the **Distribution Code**.

DOC 8.2 OBJECTIVE

The objective of **DOC8** is to facilitate:-

- (i) The provision of more detailed information in writing of **Significant Incidents**;
- (ii) The provision of information aimed at enabling the **Distribution System** to be operated in accordance with the **Distribution Code**; and
- (iii) The assessment of the effectiveness of policies adopted in accordance with the **Distribution Code**.

DOC 8.3 SCOPE

DOC8 applies to **NIE** and to **Users**, which in this **DOC8** means:-

- (a) **Generators**; and
- (b) **Large Demand Customers**.

DOC 8.4 PROCEDURE

DOC 8.4.1 The **Distribution System** related provisions of Operating Code No. 8, Operational Event Reporting and Information Supply, in the **Grid Code** (but not the Introduction, Objectives or Scope thereof) shall apply to this **Distribution Code** as if set out herein in full, such that the relevant provisions shall be deemed to be part of this **Distribution Code** save that (unless the context otherwise requires) all references therein to:

- (a) “the TSO” are references to “NIE”;
- (b) the “NI System” are references to the “Distribution System”; and
- (c) the “Grid Code” are references to the “Distribution Code”.

NIE and **Users** will implement and comply with this **Distribution Code** accordingly.

DOC 8.4.2 **NIE** may pass on any information it receives from a **User** under this **DOC8** to the **TSO** under the **Grid Code** or under other arrangements which it has with the **TSO**.

**DISTRIBUTION OPERATING CODE NO. 9
NUMBERING AND NOMECLATURE OF PLANT AND APPARATUS AT CONNECTION
SITES**

DOC 9.1 INTRODUCTION

DOC 9.1.1 This **Operating Code** sets out the responsibilities and procedures for determining and notifying **NIE** and **Users** of the numbering and/or nomenclature of the other's **Plant** and/or **Apparatus** at **Connection Sites**. For clarification, nomenclature shall include the selection of **Substation** names.

DOC 9.1.2 The numbering and/or nomenclature of **Plant** and/or **Apparatus** is to be included in an **Ownership Diagram** prepared for each **Connection Site** as provided in the **CC**.

DOC 9.2 OBJECTIVES

The prime objective embodied in this **DOC9** is to ensure that at any **Connection Site** every item of **Plant** and/or **Apparatus** has numbering and/or nomenclature that, so far as possible, has been mutually agreed and that has been notified between the **NIE** and **Users** to ensure, so far as is reasonably practicable, the safe and effective operation of the **Distribution System** by minimising the risk of error in identifying **Plant** and/or **Apparatus**.

DOC 9.3 SCOPE

DOC9 applies to **NIE** and to **Users** which, in this **DOC9**, means:-

- (a) **Generators**; and
- (b) **Large Demand Customers**.

DOC 9.4 PROCEDURE

The **Distribution System** related provisions of Operating Code No. 9, Numbering and Nomenclature of Plant and Apparatus at Connection Sites, in the **Grid Code** (but not the Introduction, Objectives or Scope thereof) shall apply to this **Distribution Code** as if set out herein in full, such that the relevant provisions shall be deemed to be part of this **Distribution Code**, save that (unless the context otherwise requires) all references therein to:

- (a) "the TSO" are references to "NIE";
- (b) the "NI System" are references to the "Distribution System"; and
- (c) the "Grid Code" are references to the "Distribution Code".

NIE and **Users** will implement and comply with this **Distribution Code** accordingly.

**DISTRIBUTION OPERATING CODE NO. 10
SYSTEM TESTS**

DOC 10.1 INTRODUCTION

DOC 10.1.1 **Distribution Operating Code No. 10** (“**DOC10**”) relates to the following types of test (all of which are referred to as “**System Tests**”):-

- (a) tests to be carried out by a **User** or **NIE** which involve or may involve simulating conditions or the controlled application of irregular, unusual or extreme conditions on the **User’s System** or the **Distribution System** (as the case may be) which may have a material effect on those **Systems** and other **Users’ Systems**, beyond the **User’s System** or the **Distribution System** (as the case may be); and
- (b) **Commissioning/Acceptance Tests** or **Plant** and **Apparatus** to be carried out by a **User** or **NIE** which involve or may involve the application of irregular, unusual or extreme conditions and which may have a material effect on those **Systems** and other **Users’ Systems**, beyond the **User’s System** or the **Distribution System** (as the case may be).

DOC 10.2 **DOC10** only deals with the responsibilities and procedures for arranging and carrying out tests which have (or may have) a material effect on the **Systems** of both **NIE** and **Users**. Accordingly, where a test proposed by a **User** will not have a material effect on the **Distribution System** or where a test proposed by **NIE** will not have a material effect on a **User System**, such test will not fall within this **DOC10** and **DOC10** shall not apply to it.

DOC 10.1.3 **DOC10** does not cover **Commissioning/Acceptance Tests** of a **User’s Plant** and **Apparatus** which will have no material effect on the **Distribution System** beyond the **User’s System** and other **Users’ Systems**; such tests will be undertaken solely pursuant to **CC9** (as incorporated pursuant to **DCC4**). Neither does it cover the type of tests which are dealt with in **DOC11 (Testing, Monitoring and Investigation)**.

DOC 10.2 OBJECTIVE

The overall objectives of **DOC10** are:-

- (a) to ensure, so far as possible, that tests proposed to be carried out either by:
 - (i) a **User** which may have a material effect on the **Distribution System** or any part of the **Distribution System** and other **Users’ Systems** (in addition to that **User’s System**); or
 - (ii) **NIE** which may have a material effect on a **User’s System** or any part of a **User’s System** (in addition to the **Distribution System**);

do not threaten the safety of personnel or threaten to damage **Plant** and/or **Apparatus** and cause minimum detriment to **NIE** and **Users**; and

- (b) to set out the procedures to be followed for establishing and where appropriate reporting such tests and to set out guidelines for which tests need to be notified to **NIE** prior to the test being carried out.

DOC 10.3 SCOPE

DOC10 applies to **NIE** and to **Users** which, in the **DOC10**, means:-

- (a) **Generators**; and
- (b) **Customers**.

DOC 10.4 PROCEDURE

The **Distribution System** related provisions of Operating Code No. 10, System Tests, in the **Grid Code** (but not the Introduction, Objectives or Scope thereof) shall apply to this **Distribution Code** as if set out herein in full, such that the relevant provisions shall be deemed to be part of this **Distribution Code** save that (unless the context otherwise requires) all references therein to:

- (a) “the TSO” are references to “NIE”;
- (b) the “NI System” are references to the “Distribution System”; and
- (c) the “Grid Code” are references to the “Distribution Code”.

NIE and **Users** will implement and comply with this **Distribution Code** accordingly.

**DISTRIBUTION OPERATING CODE NO. 11
TESTING, MONITORING AND INVESTIGATION**

DOC 11.1 INTRODUCTION

Distribution Operating Code No. 11 (“**DOC11**”) specifies the procedures to be followed by **NIE** in carrying out:

- (a) Monitoring of the compliance of **Users** with the **Distribution Code**;
- (b) **Testing**:-
 - (i) in certain circumstances, (whether by means of a formal test or verification by inspection) to ascertain whether the **Design and Operating Requirements** are being complied with in respect of **User’s Equipment** (including that of **Large Demand Customers**); and
 - (ii) at the request of a **User**, in certain circumstances; and
- (c) **Investigations** in relation to equipment and operational procedures at **Power Stations** and other **User Sites**.

DOC 11.2 OBJECTIVES

The objectives of **DOC11** are to establish whether **Users** operate within their **Design and Operating Requirements** and whether **Large Demand Customers’** equipment complies with the **DCC**.

DOC 11.3 SCOPE

DOC11 applies to **NIE** and to **Users** which in this **DOC11** means:-

- (a) **Generators**;
- (b) **Large Demand Customers**; and
- (c) **Aggregators**.

DOC 11.4 PROCEDURE

The **Distribution System** related provisions of Operating Code No. 11, Testing, Monitoring and Investigations, in the **Grid Code** shall apply to this **Distribution Code** as if set out herein in full, such that the relevant provisions shall be deemed to be part of this **Distribution Code** save that (unless the context otherwise requires) all references therein to:

- (a) “the TSO” are references to “**NIE**”;
- (b) the “**NI System**” are references to the “**Distribution System**”; and
- (c) the “**Grid Code**” are references to the “**Distribution Code**”.

NIE and **Users** will implement and comply with this **Distribution Code** accordingly.

DISTRIBUTION DATA REGISTRATION CODE

DRC1 INTRODUCTION

DRC.1 The **Distribution Data Registration Code** (“**DDRC**”) presents a unified listing of all data required by **NIE** from **Users** and any **Users** from **NIE**, from time to time under the **Distribution Code**. The data which is specified in each section of the **Distribution Code** is collated here in the **DRC**. Where there is any inconsistency in the data requirements under any particular section of the **Distribution Code** and the **Distribution Data Registration Code**, the provisions of the particular section of the **Distribution Code** shall prevail.

DRC1.2 The **DDRC** identifies the section of the **Distribution Code** under which each item of data is required.

DRC1.3 The Code under which any item of data is required specifies procedures and timings for the supply of the data, for routine updating and for recording temporary or permanent changes to that data. All timetables for the provision of data area repeated in the **DDRC**.

DRC1.4 Various sections of the **Distribution Code** also specify information which the **Users** will receive from **NIE**. This information is summarised in a single schedule in the **DDRC** (Schedule 8).

DRC2 OBJECTIVE

The objective of the **DRC** is to:-

- (a) list and collate all the data to be provided by each category of **User** to **NIE** under the **Distribution Code**; and
- (b) list all the data to be provided by **NIE** to each category of **User** under the **Distribution Code**.

DRC 3 SCOPE

The **Users** to which the **DDRC** applies are:-

- (a) **Generators;**
- (b) **Suppliers;** and
- (c) **Large Demand Customers.**

DRC 4 PROCEDURE

The **Distribution System** related provisions of the Data Registration Code in the **Grid Code** (but not the Introduction, Objectives or Scope thereof) shall apply to this **Distribution Code** as if set out herein in full, such that the relevant provisions shall be deemed to be part of this **Distribution Code** save that (unless the context otherwise requires) all references therein to:

- (a) “the TSO” are references to “NIE”;

- (b) the “NI System” are references to the “Distribution System”; and
- (c) the “Grid Code” are references to the “Distribution Code”.

NIE and **Users** will implement and comply with this **Distribution Code** accordingly.

For the avoidance of doubt, Schedule 4 of the **DRC** shall be replaced by a blank Schedule, and references in Schedule 8 of the **DRC** to **SDC1** shall be removed.

DISTRIBUTION GENERAL CONDITIONS

DGC1 INTRODUCTION

The **Distribution General Conditions** contain provisions which are of general application to all sections of the **Distribution Code**.

DGG2 OBJECTIVE

The objective of the **Distribution General Conditions** is to ensure, to the extent possible, that the various sections of the **Distribution Code** work together and work in practice for the benefit of all **Users**.

DGC3 SCOPE

The **Distribution General Conditions** apply to **NIE** and to all **Users** which, in these **Distribution General Conditions**, means all persons other than **NIE** to whom any individual section of the **Distribution Code** applies.

DGC4 PROCEDURE

DGC4.1 Save in respect of GC6, the provisions of the **General Conditions** of the **Grid Code** shall apply to this **Distribution Code** as if set out herein in full, such that the relevant provisions shall be deemed to be part of this **Distribution Code**, save that (unless the context otherwise requires) all references therein to:

- (a) “the **TSO**” are references to “**NIE**”;
- (b) the “**NI System**” are references to the “**Distribution System**”; and
- (c) the “**Grid Code**” are references to the “**Distribution Code**”.

NIE and **Users** will implement and comply with this **Distribution Code** accordingly.

DGC5 THE DISTRIBUTION CODE REVIEW PANEL

DGC5.1 **NIE** shall establish and maintain the **Distribution Panel**, which shall be a standing body carrying out the functions referred to in DGC5.2.

DGC5.2 The **Distribution Panel** shall, in relation to the **Distribution Code**:

- (a) keep the **Distribution Code** and its workings under review;
- (b) review all suggestions for amendments to the **Distribution Code** which the **Authority** or any **User** may submit to **NIE** for consideration by the **Panel** from time to time;
- (c) determine recommendations for amendments to the **Distribution Code** which **NIE** or the **Panel** feels are necessary or desirable and the reasons for the recommendations;
- (d) issue guidance in relation to the **Distribution Code** and its implementation, performance and interpretation upon the reasonable request of any **User**; and

- (e) consider what changes are necessary to the **Distribution Code** arising out of any unforeseen circumstances referred to it by the **NIE** arising out of the provisions set out in **GC4** (as such provisions apply to the **Distribution Code**);

DGC5.3 The **Distribution Panel** shall consist of the following persons, each of which shall have the right to vote:

- (a) a Chairman appointed by **NIE**;
- (b) 4 persons representing **NIE** such persons representing one each of **NIE**'s meter operations, generation connections, load/distribution system owner and distribution operations;
- (c) 2 persons representing **Generators**;
- (d) 3 persons representing **Suppliers**;
- (e) a person representing **Aggregators**;
- (f) a person appointed by and representing the **Authority**,

each of whom shall be appointed pursuant to the rules issued pursuant to DGC5.5.

DGC5.4 The Chairman may invite the **TSO** to attend meetings of the **Distribution Panel**.

DGC5.5 The **Distribution Panel** shall establish and comply at all times with its own rules and procedures relating to the conduct of its business, which shall be approved by the **Authority**.

DGC5.6 **NIE** shall submit all proposed amendments to the **Distribution Code** (regardless of which party proposes such amendment) to the **Panel** for discussion prior to fulfilling any obligations under the **T&D Licence** in relation to wider consultation.

DISTRIBUTION METERING CODE

DMC1

INTRODUCTION

The **Distribution Metering Code** (“DMC”) sets out or refers to the requirements for **Metering** and **Generator Circuits** on the **Distribution System** in **Northern Ireland**. It covers:

- (a) the basic requirements for metering;
- (b) specific requirements of the interim metering scheme for a generating tariff metering (**Sub-Code No 1**);
- (c) the specific requirements for the new metering scheme (**Sub-Codes No 2.1-2.4**);
- (d) the specific requirements for generation operational metering (**Sub-Code No 3**);
- (e) procedures for the maintenance, testing, inspection and sealing of metering (**Agreed Procedures No 1 and No 2**);
- (f) reconciliation procedures for metering (**Agreed Procedures No 3 and No 4**);
- (g) procedures for estimating settlement values in lieu of normal data collection methods (**Agreed Procedures No 5 and No 6**);
- (h) communication protocols (**Agreed procedure No 7**); and
- (i) Second Tier Customer Registration (**Agreed Procedure No 8**).

DMC2

SCOPE

The **Distribution Metering Code** applies to **NIE** and to **Users** which, in the **Distribution Metering Code**, means:-

- (a) **Generators**;
- (b) **Suppliers**; and
- (c) **Customers**.

DMC3

PROCEDURE

The **Distribution System** related provisions of the **Metering Code**, **Sub-Code No1**, **Sub-Code No 2**, **Sub-Code No 3** and the **Agreed Procedures** (No 1 to No 7 inclusive) in the **Grid Code** (but not the Introduction and Scope thereof) shall apply to this **Distribution Code** as if set out herein in full, such that the relevant provisions shall be deemed to be part of this **Distribution Code**, save that (unless the context otherwise requires) all references therein to:

- (a) “the TSO” are references to “NIE”;
- (b) the “NI System” are references to the “Distribution System”; and
- (c) the “Grid Code” are references to the “Distribution Code”.

NIE and **Users** will implement and comply with this **Distribution Code** accordingly.