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);
specific requirements of the interim metering scheme for generating tariff metering (Sub-Code No 1);

the specific requirements for the new metering scheme (Sub-Codes No 2.1-2.4);

the specific requirements for generation operational metering (Sub-Code No 3);

procedures for the maintenance, testing, inspection and sealing of metering (Agreed Procedures No 1 and No 2);

reconciliation procedures for metering (Agreed Procedures No 3 and No 4);

procedures for estimating settlement values in lieu of normal data collection methods (Agreed Procedures No 5 and No 6);

communication protocols (Agreed procedure No 7); and

New Connection Registration and Change of Supplier Retail Market Procedure.

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:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Term</th>
<th>Meaning</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Connection/Use of System Charges</td>
<td>NIE’s charges to Users for connection to and/or the Distribution System.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Demand Control</td>
<td>All or any of the methods of achieving a demand reduction as set out in DOC4.1.2(a) of the Distribution Code.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Distribution Code</td>
<td>The Distribution Code prepared pursuant to the T&amp;D Licence, as from time to time revised in accordance with the T&amp;D Licence that may incorporate, by reference, sections of the Grid Code.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Distribution Connection Conditions or DCC</td>
<td>The part of the Distribution Code which is identified as the Distribution Connection Conditions.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Distribution General Conditions or DGC</td>
<td>The part of the Distribution Code which is identified as the Distribution General Conditions.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Distribution Metering Code or DMC</td>
<td>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.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Distribution Operating Code or DOC</td>
<td>The part of the Distribution Code which is identified as the Distribution Operating Code.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Distribution Planning Code or DPC</td>
<td>The part of the Distribution Code which is identified as the Distribution Planning Code.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Distribution Code Review Panel</strong></td>
<td>The panel with the functions set out in <strong>DGC5</strong> of the <strong>Distribution Code</strong>.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>-----------------------------------</td>
<td>--------------------------------------------------------------------------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>NIE</strong></td>
<td>Northern Ireland Electricity plc whose company number is NI026041 and whose registered office is at 120 Malone Road, Belfast BT9 5HT.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>NIE Energy</strong></td>
<td>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.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>T&amp;D Licence</strong></td>
<td>The licence granted to <strong>NIE</strong> under article 10(1)(b) of the <strong>Order</strong>.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>TIA</strong></td>
<td>The Transmission Interface Arrangements prepared by <strong>NIE</strong> and the <strong>TSO</strong> pursuant to the <strong>TSO’s Licence</strong> and the <strong>T&amp;D Licence</strong>.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
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.

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 1 MW 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 prerequisite 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.
DOC2.1 INTRODUCTION

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 Land 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.
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**.

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.

SCOPE

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

(a) **Generators**; and

(b) **Large Demand Customers**.

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 Co-ordination, 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**.

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DISTRIBUTION OPERATING CODE NO. 9
NUMBERING AND NOMICLATURE 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

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(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

DOC 10 applies to NIE and to Users which, in the DOC 10, 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.
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.

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.

SCOPE

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

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

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.

DRC3 SCOPE

The Users to which the DDRC applies are:-

(a) Generators;

(b) Suppliers; and

(c) Large Demand Customers.

DRC4 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”;

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(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
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.