Annual Quantity (AQ)

xoserve

An introduction to AQ and the calculations behind it.

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What is AQ?

Annual Quantity (AQ)

AQ is used for:

Gas Allocation

Site capacity

Invoicing

Annual Quantity, or AQ, tells us the amount of gas that a site is expected to use on average in one year, the average is calculated based on a view of seasonal normal weather. The AQ is also is used as a basis for gas allocation and charging.

Downstream processes which use the AQ

SOQ

Supply Offtake Quantity is the maximum amount of gas a site is contracted to use. It ensures that gas usage is managed, invoiced and planned correctly. For Class 3 and 4 Supply Meter Points the Supply Offtake Quantity (SOQ) represents the expected peak consumption in a day during extreme cold weather.

The SOQ is not needed to help understand expected site usage (for AQ purposes), but SOQ is a value which is calculated 'downstream' of the AQ.

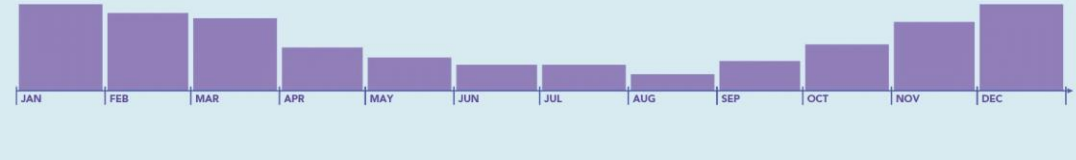
SOQ varies depending on the needs of the consumer, with maximum usage higher for industrial premises than a domestic site, for instance. For class 1 & 2 Supply Meter Points the SOQ represents the reserved daily capacity in the Network for a site. For class 3 & 4 Supply Meter Points the SOQ represents the amount of gas a site is forecasted to use on a daily basis.

How allocation can vary

A number of factors are used to derive gas allocation to ensure that the right quantity of gas is transported to the right sites at the right time. Gas usage can vary dramatically between seasons, depending on how it is used. For instance, where gas is used within manufacturing processes, a similar amount might be used all year round. Where gas is used primarily for heating purposes, usage will be much higher in the winter than in the summer. All of this information must be factored in when calculating AQ.

The CalculationProcess

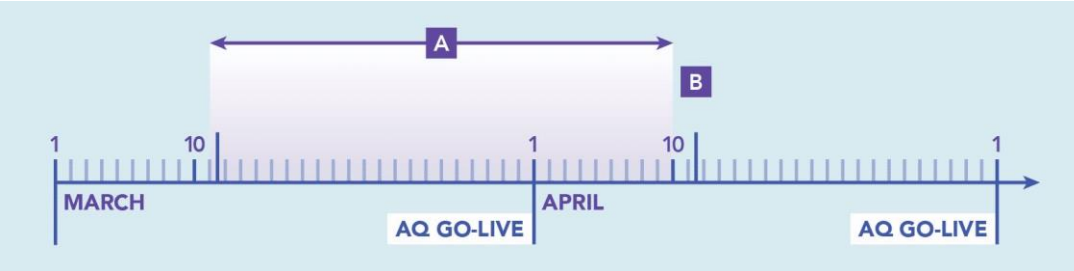
AQ Summary



Annual Quantity, or AQ, tells us the amount of gas that a site is expected to use in one year, and is used as a basis for gas allocation and charging.

Step 1

Annual Quantity



AQ is calculated on a rolling basis for invoicing each month.

For classes 3 and 4, a meter read can be received from the 11th of the previous month to the 10th of the current month (A), ahead of the AQ calculation being performed (B). For classes 1 and 2, the read window is from the 7th of the previous month to the 6th of the current month.

If the new value submitted is rejected, the previous valid value will be used to calculate AQ and a notification issued to the relevant Shipper via the UK Link system. If a qualifying read is not received within the relevant read window an attempt to calculate a new Rolling AQ is not made.

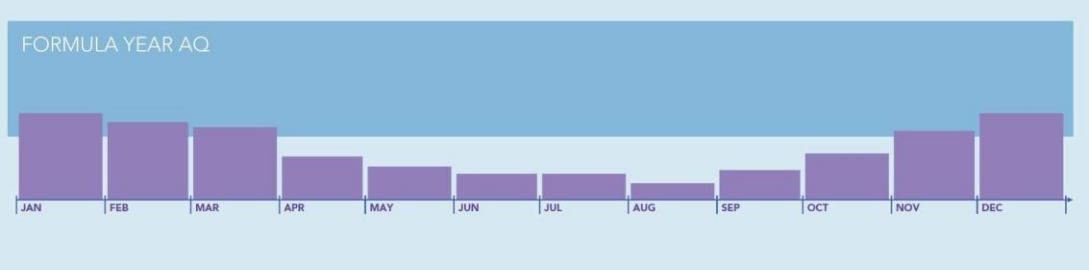
All AQ notifications are issued by M-5 (5 business days prior to the end of the month), so

that all relevant parties know which values will be used.

The largest sites are known as Daily Metered, which means that accurate meter readings are taken remotely each day and used within the AQ process. Meters are read less frequently for smaller sites, such as domestic premises.

Step 2

Formula Year

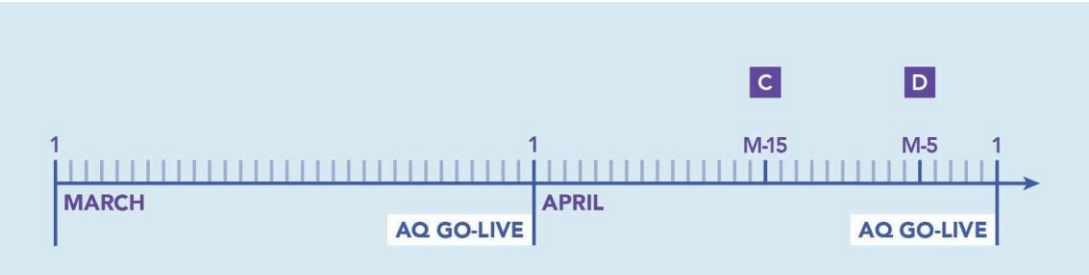


Because AQ is calculated on a rolling basis, it could be revised each month.

To provide some invoicing stability for class 3 and 4 meters, which are typically associated with smaller sites, a formula year AQ is used. The formula year AQ is a snapshot of the Rolling AQ on 1st December. This is then used for invoicing, applied from 1st April, unless a correction has been applied within that period.

Step 3

AQ Correction



A registered Shipper can request a change to AQ via the AQ Correction Process, where there is a change of business within a particular premises or a change to site activity, for instance.

A correction submission must be received by M–15 (business days with 'M' being the first of the next month) (C) and can be cancelled by M-8 (business days).

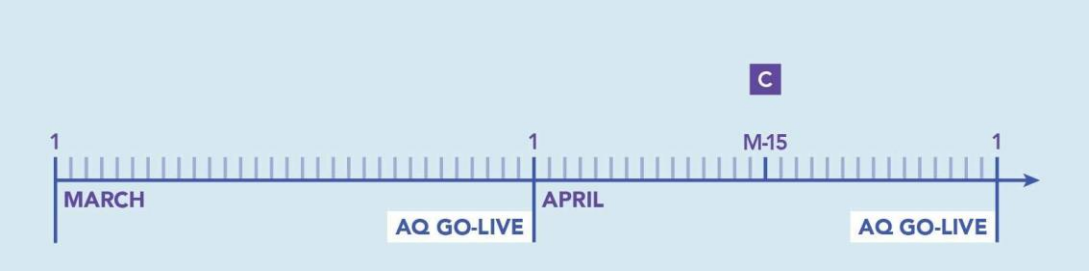
This request must be made via the UK Link system and the user will receive notification in the system as to whether that request has been accepted or rejected. Requests are submitted using a .AQI (C41) file through the Information Exchange (IX). They will also be notified of the AQ change 5 days before invoicing via the NRL file (D). This response is issued via the IX in the form of a .AQR (C43) file.

The new AQ value will apply from the first of the month following acceptance of that new value. If a correction submission is accepted after M–15, the new AQ/SOQ values will apply in two months' time i.e. values accepted on 16th April will be applied on 1st June.

The correction process changes both the Rolling and Formula Year AQ/SOQ. This is an exceptions process.

Step 4

Backstop Date



When an AQ has been corrected, a 'backstop date' is automatically created. This means that further AQ corrections can still be made, but the site is locked out of a new Rolling AQ calculation for nine months and no consumption prior to this date will be considered for any future Rolling AQ calculation.

For a full list of correction reasons, see below.

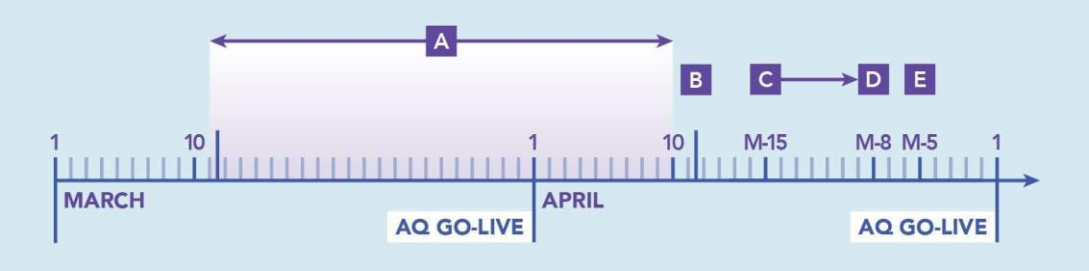
Step 5

Cancelling an AQ Correction

Where a correction has been requested but that request subsequently needs to be cancelled, this cancellation request must be submitted no later than 8 business days before the first day of the following month (M-8). Otherwise the new AQ value will be adopted. The cancellation request is performed using a .AQI (C42) file.

For a full list of file options, see below.

Summary



The revised value for the rolling AQ will be notified to shippers and transporters by five days before the end of the month and goes live on the 1st of the month.

AQ Correction Reasons and Associated Codes

1. Confirmed theft
   UNC code: G. 2.3.21(a)
2. Change in consumer plant
   UNC code: G. 2.3.21(b)
3. Commencement new business
   UNC code: G. 2.3.21(c)

4 Tolerance change
UNC code: G. 2.3.22

5 Winter consumption

AQ File Codes

.NRL file – AQ & WC Notifications

- **S91 Record** – Notification of Supply Point revision (outstanding offers)
- **T98 Record** – Notification of AQ fail to calculate reason
- **T04 Record** – Notification of Meter Point AQ revision
- **T50 Record** – Notification of Winter Consumption calculation
- **T97 Record** – AQ Impacts Information
- **T51 Record** – Notification of Winter Consumption fail to calculate reason

.AQI file – AQ Correction

- **C41 Record** – AQ Correction Request
- **C42 Record** – AQ Correction Cancellation
- **C43 Record** – AQ Correction Response
- **C45 Record** – AQ Correction Cancellation Response
- **U01 Record** – Unbundled Meter Read
  to be submitted when using AQ Correction reason four – Tolerance Change

.EUC file – Annual Notification of EUC Definitions

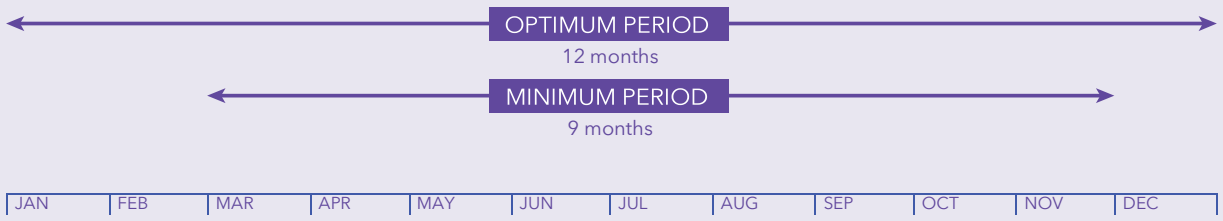
- **T67 Record** – Notification of new gas years EUC codes & descriptions

The Formulae

Annual Quantity (AQ)

To make sure that gas is correctly allocated to sites across the country, we must take into account a number of factors in AQ calculations.

It's important to use a large number of data points to derive as accurate a picture as possible, taking into account seasonality. That's why a 12 month view is considered optimum for calculating AQ, and 9 months is the absolute minimum period considered acceptable. The maximum period used is 36 months.



The formula for calculating AQ is outlined in the Uniform Network Code, Section H3.2.1.

For **Class 1 and 2** supply meter points this is represented by the AQMQ which is the sum of actual consumption representing a 12 month period ("AQ Metered Period").

> *The formula for meter classes 1 & 2 is:*
>
> **AQ = AQMQ** (where MQ is Metered Quantity).

For Class 3 and 4 supply meter points a similar calculation of an AQMQ is performed, although the tolerances/rules for defining the "AQ Metered Period" are different due to the lack of available meter readings to calculate actual consumption for a 12 month period. In addition to calculating the actual consumption (AQMQ) an adjustment is made which 'corrects' the consumption to represent what would have been used assuming seasonal normal weather conditions. This weather correction is achieved by a formula referred to as the Weather Adjusted Annual Load Profile (WAALP).

The WAALP formula which is defined as ***Σ(ALPx(1+(DAFxWCF))*** includes parameters which represent (i) the standard seasonal gas demand profile (ALP), (ii) the weather sensitivity factor (DAF) and (iii) the comparison of actual weather experienced on the day with the seasonal expectation of weather (WCF).

The application of the full AQ formula for Class 3 and 4 supply meter points ***AQMQ x 365/(Σ(ALPx(1+(DAFxWCF)))*** results in a value of expected gas consumption for a full 12 month period which has taken into account the weather experienced over the AQ Metered Period.

> The full AQ formula for Class 3 and 4 supply meter points:
>
> **AQ = AQMQ x 365/(Σ(ALPx(1+(DAFxWCF)))**
>
> *NB. There is a constraint on the 1+WCF*DAF term, where this is not allowed to go below 0.01 in order to avoid negative demands.*

The formula incorporates the parameters Annual Load Profile, Daily Adjustment Factor and a Weather Correction Factor, all required to provide us with a clear picture of typical consumption. The result of this formula enables us to 'normalise' the consumption levels across the country.

Supply Offtake Quantity (SOQ)

The SOQ formula is also outlined in the Uniform Network Code.

For **Meter Classes 1 & 2**, the SOQ value is set and maintained by the registered gas Shipper.

> For Meter classes 3 & 4, the formula is:
>
> **SOQ = AQ/365/Load Factor**

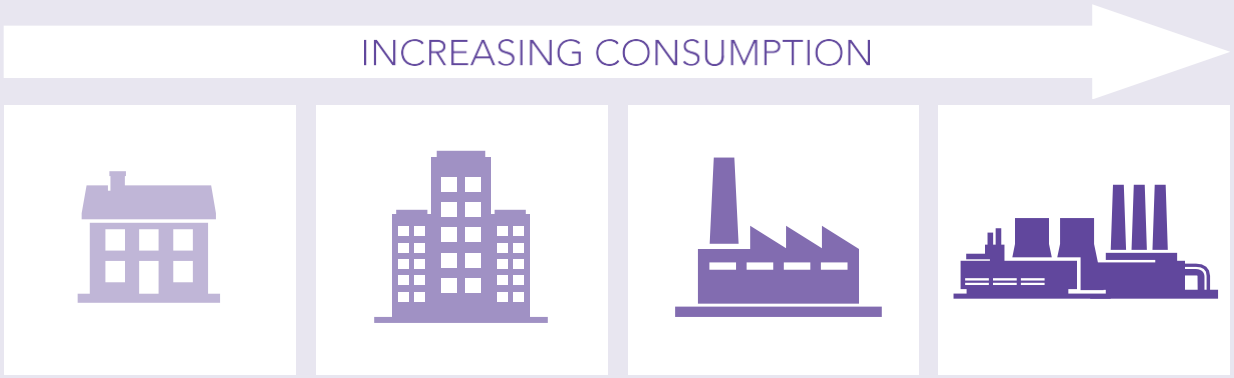
Peak Load Factor is determined by that site's **End User Category**, or **EUC**. As the name suggests, using an end user category enables us to learn more about that site's

consumption behaviour and allocate gas accordingly to ensure we are always meeting the requirements of that site.

The EUC is derived from geography (LDZ), consumption level (AQ), Winter consumptions vs AQ (WAR), the Market Sector Code and the Meter Type. The Winter Annual Ratio aspect of an EUC is only applicable for sites with a Rolling AQ above 293,000 kWh.

A new EUC is assigned in September each year for all Supply Meter Points and becomes effective from 1st October each year. This can be seen in UK Link.

AQ Impacts



Up to 293,000kWh

- 6 monthly or annually read

Above 293,000kWh

- Monthlv read
- Winter consumption calculation required
- Meter read tolerances

Above 732,000kWh

- Priority consumer status
- Emergency contact requirements
- Correction factor required
- Meter read tolerances applied; the Rolling AQ is used to validate Meter Read submissions

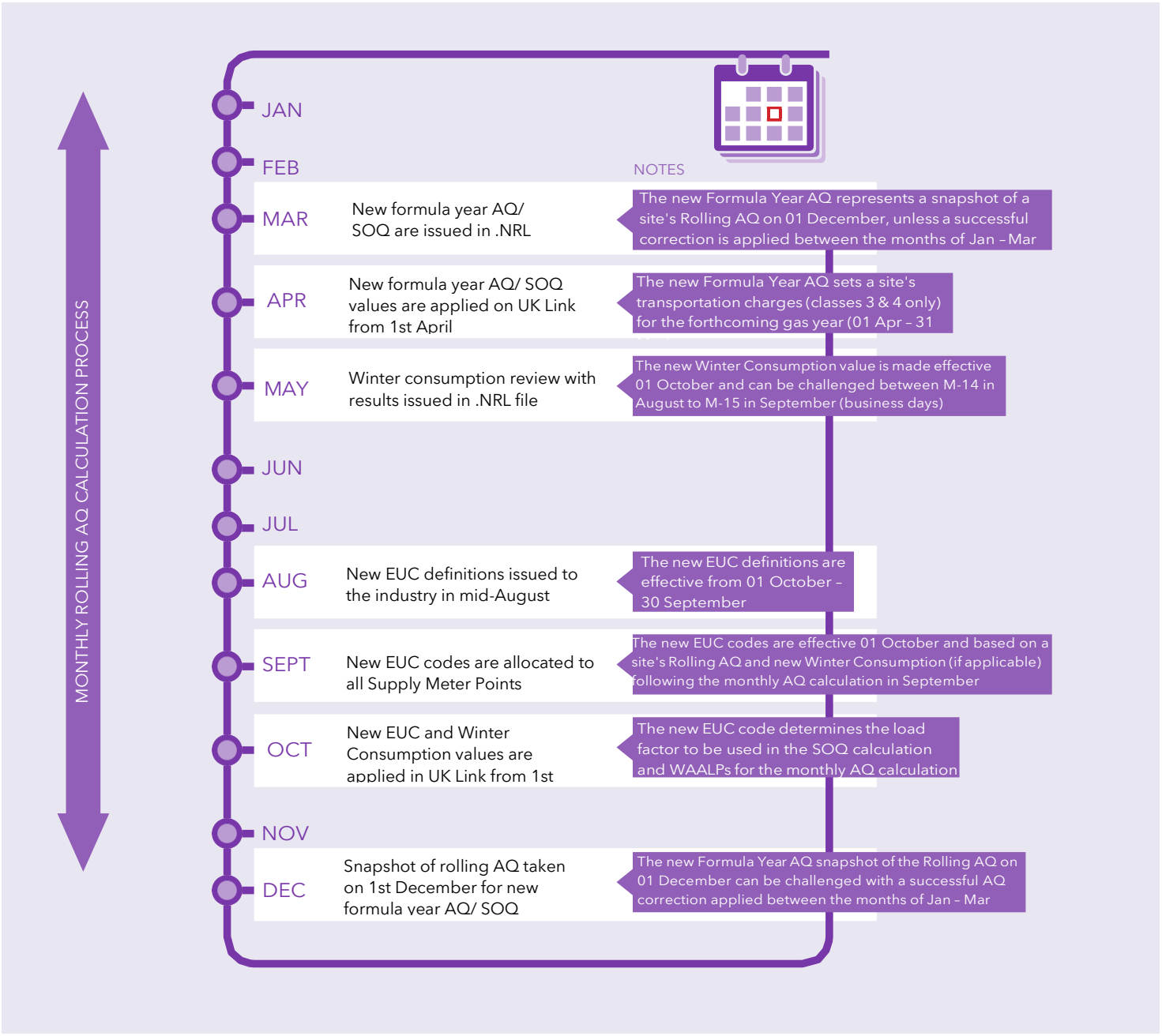
Above 58.6 million kWh

- Meter class one eligibility

Impacts by requirement

- **Meter Read Frequency** – a site should be monthly read when Rolling AQ is above 293,000 kWh
- **Priority Consumer Status** – requires a Rolling AQ above 732,000 kWh
- **Winter Consumption calculation** – requires a Rolling AQ above 293,000 kWh
- **Emergency Contact Requirements** – required when Rolling AQ is above 732,000 kWh
- **Correction Factor** – a site specific Correction Factor is required when Rolling AQ above 732,000 kWh
- **Class One eligibility** – a site should be changed to Meter class 1 if Rolling AQ is more than 58.6 million
- **Meter Read Tolerances** – the Rolling AQ is used to validate Meter Read submissions

Activity Calendar



New Sites

A manual process is available that allows Shippers to select a Formula Year and Rolling AQ to pre-register a new site.

The following AQ changes are permitted:

1. Large Supply Point (LSP) >73,200kWh to Small Supply Point (SSP) <73,200kWh
2. Large Supply Point >73,200kWh to Large Supply Point >73,200kWh
3. Small Supply Point <73,200kWh to Large Supply Point >73,200kWh

> **Small Supply Point <73,200kWh to Small Supply Point <73,200kWh is exempt**

If accepted, the new AQ will 'apply' the requested value as the new Formula Year and Rolling AQ and, where necessary, allocate a new End User Category (EUC).

To request a new AQ for an unregistered site, users should complete the New Site Registration proforma and send it to aqq.spa@xoserve.com

End User Categories (EUC)

End User Category codes enable us to group consumers with similar consumption characteristics. By profiling consumers, we can better determine gas requirements across the country and allocate with greater confidence.

Each year the EUC definitions are reviewed and new EUC gas demand profiles are produced by the Demand Estimation Team. Their recommendations are shared with the industry in June and July each year and are finalised by mid–August, formally assigned in September and are effective from 1st October.

The AQ and, if applicable, the Winter Consumption values, are used to derive the EUC to create as accurate a picture as possible.

These include:

- **Geography**
- **AQ – Annual Quantity (consumption level)**
- **Winter consumptions vs AQ (WAR)**
- **Market Sector Code**
- **Meter Type**

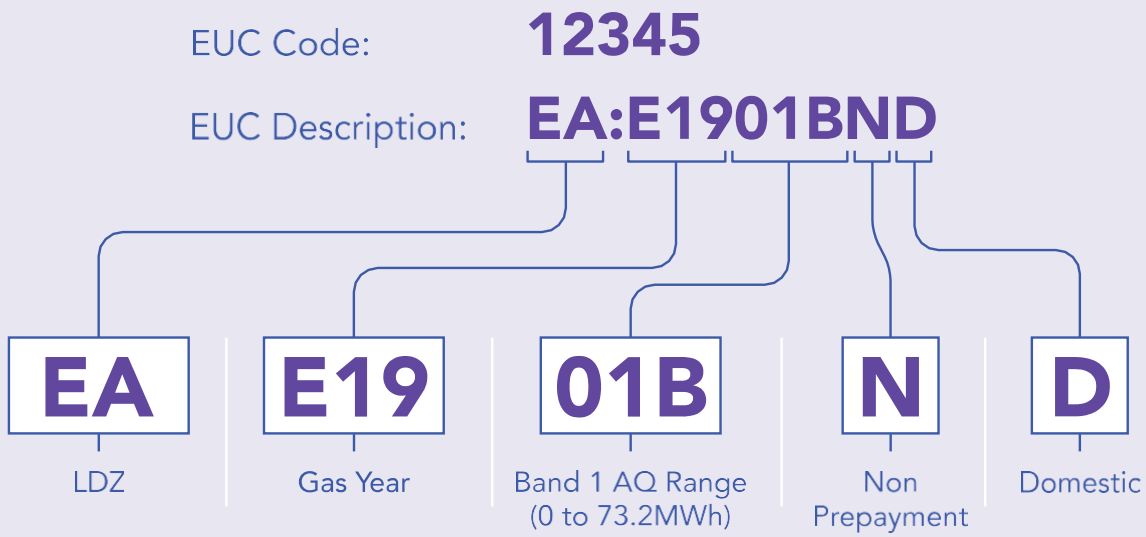
EUC is then used to denote the **Peak Load Factor** needed for SOQ calculation, as well as the **WAALP** used in AQ calculation.

Each LDZ has its own set of EUC codes. There are currently 39 EUC codes covering 9 distinct AQ band ranges.

EUC Band ranges 1 and 2 are each represented by four distinct EUC codes based on whether they are Domestic, Non Domestic, Prepayment and Non-Prepayment. EUC Band ranges 3 to 8 are each represented by five distinct EUC codes, four of which are based on Winter Annual Ratio and the remaining is a "bucket" EUC for those supply meter points which fail to calculate a valid Winter Consumption. EUC Band range 9 is required as a

temporary arrangement as any supply meter point in this AQ range should be Class 1 or 2.

Each five-digit EUC code represents an EUC description, which you can see in the example below:



From 1st October 2019, new EUC profiles have been introduced for EUC bands 1 & 2. The new profiles enable us to use more granular consumption profiles by splitting down the previous bands 1&2 into 4 sub-categories. The change was brought in under code XRN4665 and enables us to make NDM nominations and allocations more accurate, thereby reducing the levels of reconciliation. Example:

Old EUC Description:

- **LDZ:EYY01B**

New EUC Descriptions:

- **LDZ: EYY01BND** – Non-prepayment/ Domestic
- **LDZ: EYY01BPD** – Prepayment/ Domestic
- **LDZ: EYY01BNI** – Non-prepayment I&C
- **LDZ: EYY01BPI** – Prepayment I&C

Winter Consumption

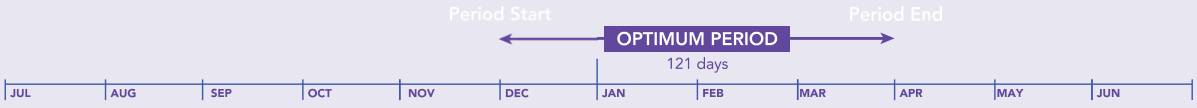
Winter consumption is the amount of gas that is consumed during the winter period, ideally consumption data from 1st December to 31st March.

A winter consumption review takes place each May, which covers all sites with a rolling AQ greater than 293,000kWh. New winter consumption values, along with fail to calculate reasons, are issued in the May release of .NRL files (T50 and T51 records).

The ratio of winter consumption versus rolling AQ is used to allocate a **Winter Annual Ratio (WAR)** banding, which is part of the **EUC** assignment.

Winter consumption calculation

In order to calculate Winter Consumption, we need a start read between 1st November and 31st December, and an end read between 1st March and 30th April. The optimum calculation period is 1st December to 31st March, which comes to 121 days.



If the full amount of data is not available for the optimum period, the Winter Consumption is prorated over the optimum period of 121 days.

The Winter Consumption calculation is:

Total energy between Start and End meter reads

The prorated calculation is:

Total energy / valid days x optimum days

Winter Consumption fail to calculate explanation table

Code	Reason	Explanation
WTC0026	Meter point isolated during winter period.	There is a period where the meter was isolated during the winter period, meaning that the WC would not be a true reflection of the site's consumption.
WTC0027	No reading found for winter start period.	There is no meter read available on UK Link during the months of November and December. Negative consumption during winter period.
WTC0028	Negative consumption during winter period.	Negative consumption is present in the winter period, meaning the WC derived will not be an accurate reflection of the site's consumption.
WTC0033	No useable readings found for winter start or end period.	There is no meter read available on UK Link during the months of November and December and then March and April.
WTC0040	Calculated WC is greater than AQ values, so WC has not been applied.	The calculated WC is greater than the current rolling AQ.
MPQ00029	Winter consumption not calculated due to the existence of a back-stop date.	The current back-stop date is within the last winter period.

Priority Consumers

Priority consumers are those that must be prioritised where there is a national gas emergency. They are a defined set of gas users, referenced in the Uniform Network Code, section Q1.7.1.

If a network declares a Stage 3 emergency requiring immediate load shedding, Category A and C users will be protected and not disconnected.

- **Category A** consumers must have a rolling AQ of 732,000kWh and hold a risk of loss of life if there is a disruption to gas supply, for example, a hospital or care home

- **Category C** consumers must have a rolling AQ of 732,000kWh and must be able to demonstrate that a disruption to gas supply could cause in excess of £50m damage to their plant

To apply for a site to be a Priority Consumer, the Priority Consumer proforma must be completed and sent to priorityconsumers.spa@xoserve.com

Reporting

Each week, Networks and IGTs receive a report detailing the Priority Consumers within their specific portfolio.

Shippers receive a report on Priority Consumers in their portfolio on a monthly basis. Where a site ceases to hold Priority Consumer status, the appropriate Shipper is notified via .NRL file, T97 record.

Where there is a transfer of ownership for a Priority Consumer site, the new Shipper is notified via a Transfer of Ownership file (S15).

Glossary

- **ALP – *Annual Load Profile*** is a parameter which provides an estimated view of how consumers typically use their gas during a year. This is used by a number of processes in the estimation of gas consumption. The ALP is calculated for every 'gas day', for each End User Category (EUC) and in each Local Distribution Zone (LDZ)

- **AQ – *Annual Quantity*** represents the expected levels of average gas consumption for each Supply Meter Point over a 12 month period. The AQ plays an important role of providing stability for the industry in its various calculations

- **AQR – *Annual Quantity Response*** is a response file to an 'AQI' submission: a request to consider an AQ Correction

- **Back Stop Date** – When an AQ has been corrected via the AQ Correction process, a 'backstop date' is automatically created. This means that no further corrections can be made to the AQ for that site for at least the following 9 months. No read/consumption prior to this date is considered for the Rolling AQ process

- **CDSP – *Central Data Service Provider*** – Xoserve is the CDSP for the gas Industry since taking up this role on April 1st, 2017

- **CWV – *Composite Weather Variable*** is designed to enable Xoserve to explain the relationship between the weather and gas consumption; it is a key building block for gas demand modelling and is one of the key parameters that Xoserve use to perform Demand Estimation activities for the gas industry. The CWV is calculated every day for each Local Distribution Zone (LDZ) using a combination of observed weather data from each LDZ and defined parameters which have been created following analysis of weather and gas consumption behaviour

- **DAF – *Daily Adjustment Factor*** is a variable that enables Xoserve to estimate how end consumer's gas usage reacts to changes in weather. The DAF is calculated for every 'gas day', for each End User Category (EUC)

and in each Local Distribution Zone (LDZ)

- **DESC – *Demand Estimation Sub-Committee*** – The DESC is responsible for the production of Gas Demand Profiles which support the delivery of critical processes to Britain's gas industry. The DESC is made up of both gas Shippers and Transporters. Its responsibilities are described in Section H of the Uniform Network Code (UNC)

- **EUC – *End User Category*** represents a homogeneous group of gas consumers who exhibit similar gas consumption characteristics and reactions to weather. Currently individual Supply Meter Points are assigned to EUCs based on a combination of their geography (LDZ), annual consumption (AQ), meter type (credit or prepayment), consumer type (domestic or nondomestic) and their winter consumption (winter:annual ratio)

- **Formula Year AQ (FYAQ)** – The Formula Year AQ sets a Supply Meter Point's Transportation charges for the forthcoming gas year. The Formula Year runs for a 12 month period beginning 1st April to 31st March in the following calendar year.

- **Meter Read Tolerance Validations** – All meter readings are validated based on a tolerance; in order for the read to be accepted it must fall within an acceptable range in reference to the AQ. Only readings within this tolerance range will be accepted

- **Meter classes** – There are four services for Supply Meter Points known as 'Class: classes (1–4) which determine how meter reads are submitted to Xoserve, processed and how they are used in downstream processes

- **NDM – *Non Daily Metered*** – A Non-Daily Metered site is required to provide meter readings on a non daily basis, e.g. monthly, quarterly or annually or batches of daily reads

- **NRL file** – A notification file to Shippers outlining AQ–related updates/changes/impacts for their portfolio

- **Offer Addendum** – Notification of a revision to an outstanding Offer following a Nomination submission for a meter point

- **PLF – *Peak Load Factor*** is used as a variable to help us understand how a gas consumer will react in the event of extreme cold weather. It enables the Distribution Networks to understand and plan for the Transportation capacity required when peak gas demand conditions are met. The PLF is calculated for each End User Category (EUC) and in each Local Distribution Zone (LDZ)

- **Priority consumers** – This refers to any consumer whose name appears on the list established (and from time to time amended) by the Transporter in accordance with Standard Special Condition A8(17) of the Transporter's License; and the relevant Supply Point is a "Priority Supply Point". In the event of restricted gas availability, these named consumers must be prioritised for supply

- **RGMA** – ***Review of Gas Metering Arrangements*** – The gas industry, through the Review of Gas Metering Arrangements (RGMA) project, has designed and baselined standard industry-wide processes and data flows to support the competitive gas metering market. Data flows between the various participants – Meter workers, Suppliers, Shippers, Transporters. Changes to asset data should be notified to Xoserve via RGMA files

- **SNCWV – *Seasonal Normal Composite Weather Variable*** represents a version of the CWV but using 'seasonal normal' weather. This is calculated using a combination of historic observed weather data and output from models calculated by Meteorological experts which take into account the impacts of Climate Change. The SNCWV parameter ultimately enable profiles to be represented at 'average' conditions which creates stability for the industry

- **SOQ – *Supply Offtake Quantity*** is the maximum amount of gas a site is contracted to use. It ensures that gas usage is managed, invoiced and planned correctly. For Class 3 and 4 Supply Meter Points the Supply Offtake Quantity (SOQ) represents the expected peak consumption in a day during extreme cold weather

- **SPA – *Supply Point Administration*** refers to the maintenance of records

of every consumer linked to the network. In particular, which Shipper(s) and Supplier supply the gas and the updates to a Supply Meter Point

- **Tolerance** – Meter reading submissions must fall within an acceptable range in reference to the AQ. Only readings within this tolerance range will be accepted

- **UK Link** – UK Link is the system which brings together key business processes and essential activities for the gas industry. It acts as an information conduit between Xoserve, as the Central Data Service Provider, and our customers

- **WAALP – *Weather Adjusted Annual Load Profile*** is used to 'weather correct' the actual consumption calculated between a pair of meter readings in order to derive an Annual Quantity (AQ). An AQ represents the expected annual consumption for a Supply Meter Point assuming seasonal normal weather conditions

- **WAR – *Winter Annual Ratio*** – The winter annual ratio is the consumption from December to March, divided by the AQ

- **WC – *Winter Consumption*** is calculated annually in May for all sites with a Rolling AQ above 293,000 kWh. The Winter Consumption calculation uses meter reads from the last winter period (November to April). The Winter Consumption is used to derive the WAR (Winter Annual Ratio), which is used as part of the EUC Code allocation process

- **WCF** – ***Weather Correction Factor*** is simply the difference between the CWV and the SNCWV. The WCF is calculated every day and is used as a means for ensuring the estimation of gas consumption takes into account the effects of observed weather on the day

AQ Correction Reasons and Associated Codes

1

Confirmed Theft

UNC code: G. 2.3.21(a)

Purpose – To apply a change to the Formula Year and Rolling AQ/SOQ following a confirmed theft of gas

Validations – An accepted TOG (Theft of Gas) contact in CMS (Contact Management System)

2

Change in Consumer Plant

UNC code: G. 2.3.21(b)

Purpose – To apply a change to the Formula Year and Rolling AQ/SOQ following a change in consumer plant resulting in a material change in the volume of gas consumed

Validations – None

3

Commencement of New Business

UNC code: 2.3.21(c)

Purpose – To apply a change to the Formula Year and Rolling AQ/SOQ following the commencement of new business

Validations – To be raised within three months of a Shipper/Suppliers confirmation effective date

4

Tolerance Change

UNC code: G. 2.3.22

Purpose – To apply an uplift to the Formula Year and Rolling AQ/SOQ to enable a valid Meter Read to be accepted/loaded onto UK Link

Validations – The Meter Read submission will fail 'MRE01027 - Reading breached the Upper Outer tolerance' validation

5

Winter Consumption

Purpose – To apply or change the current Winter Consumption value

Validations – The requested Winter Consumption value must be less than the current Rolling AQ

AQ & WC Failure / Rejection Codes & Reasons

- **AQI00001** – Insufficient consumption data to calculate an AQ value due to either an isolation, or a fault within the AQ calculation period
- **AQI00003** – Outstanding AQ correction request already exists
- **AQI00004** – Recently calculated AQ is not available
- **AQI00005** – Revised AQ value failed Market Breaker tolerance check
- **AQI00006** – The WC correction requested value for reason 5 has not been applied, because it's greater than the current and proposed AQ value
- **AQI00007** – Insufficient supporting information for AQ Correction request reason 2
- **AQI00008** – Failed to supply the Meter Reading date or Meter Reading where the AQ correction request reason is for option 4
- **AQI00009** – The Meter Reading supplied to support the AQ Correction request reason 4 is not outside the Meter Read tolerance
- **AQI00010** – The AQ Correction request reason 1 can only increase the AQ value
- **AQI00011** – The AQ Correction request reason 3 is outside of the 12 week / 3 month transfer window
- **AQI00012** – Meter Read Frequency (MRF) is not valid for WC Correction
- **AQI00013** – Requested AQ is less than the WC value
- **AQI00014** – Theft of Gas (TOG) request does not exist for the SMP
- **AQI00015** – Theft of Gas (TOG) contact is not resolved
- **AQI00016** – AQ Correction request not found for cancellation

- **AQI00018** – Requested AQ is not provided for the reason code
- **AQI00019** – Requested WC is not provided for Winter Consumption
- **AQI00020** – Invalid value provided in the request reason
- **AQI00021** – AQ/WC Correction cancellation request is received after the close out period
- **AQI00022** – AQ Correction cannot be cancelled for read tolerance
- **AQI00023** – AQ Correction rejected to due read validation failure
- **AQI00024** – Read rejected due to incorrect AQ Correction reason
- **AQI00025** – The Meter Reading supplied to support the AQ Correction Request Reason 4 has failed the Market Breaker validation against the new AQ provided
- **AQI00026** – AQ Correction rejected due to subsequent read present