

SUPPLY POINT TYPES

Different kinds of gas users have different supply point types, depending on the needs of the consumer.

A domestic consumer's needs are very different from that of a manufacturing business that uses gas in their processes, for instance, or to heat large volumes of space.



You might hear the terms **Small Supply Point (SSP)** or **Large Supply Point (LSP)**. SSPs all have an annual consumption (known as AQ) of less than 73,200kWh – equivalent to 2500 therms – which defines the site as domestic.

To help accommodate these differing user needs, supply point types are grouped into classes. The 'class' that a supply point is assigned to dictates things like the frequency of reconciliation and AQ reviews, with smaller consumers typically requiring far fewer reads.

There are four classes in total.

Class 4 supply points are read less frequently - monthly, half yearly or yearly - with reads submitted by Shippers using Unbundled Meter Read (UMR) files. These reads always feed reconciliation.



Class 3 meter reads are sent by Shippers using the Unbundled Batch Read (UBR) file format. Class 3 meters might be read daily, but those reads are batched and sent in bundles of weekly, fortnightly or monthly. These reads always feed reconciliation. The current read submission window for Class 3 is the 10th calendar day of Month+1. For MOD0700, cyclic reads for Class 3 supply meter points in EUC 01 will have to be submitted by Read Date (D) +10 calendar days to be considered valid.

Any Supply Meter Point (SMP) can be reclassified from a Class 4 to a Class 2, as chosen by the Shipper.

Whereas classes 2 – 4 all apply to sites whose annual consumption (known as AQ) is less than 58.6m kWh – equivalent to 2m therms – Class 1 sites are much larger, with an AQ over 58.6m kWh.

Class 2 meter reads are read and submitted daily, via a file provided by the Shippers. These reads are submitted into the UK Link system in a file format known as an Unbundled Daily Read (UDR) file.

For Class 1 and 2 meter points, reads which are received within closeout (GFD+5) are used for gas allocations, i.e. Gemini, and those received outside of closeout period are used for reconciliation.

Class 1 meters are remotely read daily. Reads are submitted by the Daily Metered Service Provider (DMSP) direct into the system via a DLC file. They are received daily on and for the relevant gas flow day, ensuring that we retain an accurate picture of usage for the UK's largest consuming sites.



Outside of the standardised meter classes, there are c.100 non-standard, or "unique" sites in the UK, connected to the National Transmission System.

Although they are only 100 sites, their combined consumption equates to over half the UK's gas throughput!

This occurs in very specific instances: Where there is a Shared Supply Meter Point (SSMP); NTS Shorthaul; LDZ Shorthaul; and Interconnectors.



The Optional Commodity tariff (also known as the "shorthaul charge") can be applied for by National Transmission System (NTS) users as an alternative to standard Transmission Owner (TO) and System Operator (SO) commodity charges. The shorthaul charge aims to reflect the costs of transporting gas over short distances. Charges are calculated by applying the distances from the Terminal or the National NTS Entry point.

In order to qualify for a Optional Commodity tariff associated with shorthaul transportation, sites must be located close to the appropriate entry point. For NTS shorthaul, the site must be located near to an Entry Point, or Terminal. For LDZ shorthaul, the site must be located close to the NTS pipeline.



In addition, there are other types of sites that connect to the NTS and are considered non-standard sites.

These are: Prime and sub; Twin stream; Liquefied Petroleum Gas (LPG) sites and Independent Gas Network (IGT) meter portfolios (CSEPs).

