



**E-CONTROL**

# **Gas Market Code**

## **Chapter 7**

### **Electronic exchange of billing information**

#### **Gas Market Rules**

---

Version 2.1

This document contains a non-binding English version of a text. It is provided for the reader's convenience only and in no way constitutes a legally binding document. E-Control assumes no liability or responsibility whatsoever for the accuracy, correctness or completeness of the text in this document or any parts thereof.

## Document history

Version	Release	Publication	Entry into force	Notes
1	0	20/09/2013	01/01/2014	First version
2	0	19/05/2015	This version will not enter into force.	New document version, update to version 03.00.0 of ebUtilities - Invoice documentation, compulsory electronic exchange of structured invoices for system charges
2	1	28/08/2015	01/01/2016	Entry into force postponed to 01/01/2016 and removal of part 6

---

# Contents

- 1. BASIC PRINCIPLES ..... 4
- 2. INFORMATION TRANSMISSION ..... 4
- 3. FORMAT ..... 5
  - 3.1 Current version ..... 5
  - 3.2 Amendments ..... 5
  - 3.3 Version control ..... 5
  - 3.4 XML schema ..... 5
  - 3.5 Product ID list ..... 5
- 4. TRANSMISSION PROCESS ..... 6
- 5. ANNEX ..... 6

---

## 1. Basic principles

The liberalised energy market gives system users the option of having their system operator (SO) send their bills for system charges to their energy supplier. This enables the supplier to issue combined bills which include not only the energy items but also the system charges. The efficiency principle requires that the information provided by the SO to the supplier comply with a predefined electronic format. This minimises the administrative effort involved at the supplier's and promotes automated processes for combined billing. Of course, the statutory rules for electronic billing must be observed.

If a system operator and a supplier exchange more than 100 bills per month, this must be done in a standardised electronic format that complies with this chapter of the gas market code. Once the 100 bills mark has been reached for the first time, the system operator can no longer send paper bills to the supplier. Below that mark, network operators may send paper bills unless the supplier requests in writing (s. point 4) that they be submitted electronically. Once the 100 bills mark is reached or once a supplier requests electronic submission, the respective system operator is given a period of up to four weeks to make the necessary adjustments to its processes.

The format chosen for the information transmission process involved builds on the international open standard eXtensible Markup Language (XML). This chapter of the Gas Market Code describes XML in basic terms. The currently applicable, agreed version of the XML schema, the pertaining documentation and the product ID list are always available from the E-Control website ([www.e-control.at](http://www.e-control.at)).

## 2. Information transmission

When the above conditions apply and compulsory electronic exchange of structured billing information is triggered, this applies for data relating to consumers that have chosen to have their system charges bills sent to their supplier.

Data exchange must comply with the state of the art, must be encrypted and secured,<sup>1</sup> and the data must lend itself to automated processing. All data exchange systems<sup>2</sup> must be fully

---

<sup>1</sup> The sender's identity must be authenticated.

---

compatible with those already in place, i.e. they must enable straightforward data exchange between the market participants.

### **3. Format**

#### **3.1 Current version**

The exchange of system charges information must follow the XML schema created by the Austrian electricity industry and agreed by E-Control in the currently applicable version, as published on the E-Control website.

#### **3.2 Amendments**

Once a new version has become effective (and after any transitory periods have expired), information transmission in the previous format is no longer admissible. This chapter of the Gas Market Code, the XML schema described herein, the documentation or the product ID list can only be amended as part of the larger amendment process for the Market Rules.

#### **3.3 Version control**

To ensure traceability and proper form of the transmitted files, the following version control convention applies:

- Changes of the second decimal place indicate error corrections.
- Changes of the third decimal place indicate that individual elements have been added or deleted.
- Changes of the units and tens indicate larger amendments.

#### **3.4 XML schema**

The currently applicable version of the XML schema agreed with the Natural Gas and District Heat Association, the pertaining documentation and the product ID list are always available from the E-Control website ([www.e-control.at](http://www.e-control.at)). These are the versions to be used.

#### **3.5 Product ID list**

The version of the product ID list to be used is that which is annexed to the German version of this document, i.e. that published on the website of E-Control at [www.e-control.at](http://www.e-control.at).

---

<sup>2</sup> For instance, the following information exchange systems may be used (as of 30/04/2015): EDA, ENERGYlink / self storage. There are service providers that offer full and compatible interfaces and links with these platforms.

#### **4. Transmission process**

If a system operator and a supplier exchange fewer than 100 bills a month but the supplier issues combined invoices to its customers and needs the system charges data in electronic format, it must request transmission of such information in the currently applicable version from the SO in writing, and the two must agree on a start date for electronic data transmission. The system operator is obliged to comply with the supplier's request. If the 100 bills mark is reached, the obligation to exchange system charges data electronically applies automatically.

Any and all agreements beyond the present document must be agreed bilaterally between SO and supplier and be laid down in their information exchange contract. Such bilateral agreements apply to all metering points of a supplier for which it receives billing information from the SO.

#### **5. Annex**

The current versions of all further specifications (the XML schema, the product ID list, the documentation etc.) are available from the E-Control website at <http://www.e-control.at/de/recht/marktregeln/sonstige-marktregeln-gas> (in German).