Title 4
Integrated market area balancing
Chapter 1
Principles

Section 18. (1) Integrated market area balancing covers all entries into and exits from the transmission and distribution networks pursuant to section 12 Gas Act 2011.

(2) Section 19 foresees that network users be organised in balance groups. Balance groups net all their members’ entries and exits in the market area against each other. Notwithstanding the last sentence in section 26 para. 4, all entries and exits in the market area shall be unequivocally marked as belonging to a network user.

(3) Balance responsible parties shall endeavour to maintain a neutral overall balance group position during the entire balancing period by using appropriate forecasts and taking adequate measures. Balance responsible parties are financially liable for their balance group(s) towards the single clearing entity.

(4) Market area balancing shall capture all of a balance group’ nominated and metered gas quantities, and shall be executed in energy units (kWh or MWh). The market area’s balancing (measurement) period is the gas day.

(5) The balance groups shall use the virtual trading point to trade and transfer gas between each other. Trading after the end of the balancing period is not admissible.

Chapter 2
Balance groups

Balance group membership

Section 19. (1) The market area and distribution area manager (MADAM) shall organise the balance groups and assign a unique ID to each balance responsible party and each balance group.
(2) Market participants’ membership of balance groups is established either by contracts with a balance responsible party (direct membership) or by contracts with suppliers that are balance group members (indirect membership). Indirect balance group members do not have any direct contractual relationship with the balance responsible party. While system users may be members of several balance groups, a metering point can only belong to one balance group. All balance groups and their direct members shall have access to the market area’s virtual trading point. Insofar as balance group members have one or more metering points, balance group membership is established through such metering points.

(3) If direct balance group members intend to
   1. conclude contracts with the single clearing entity to supply positive or negative balancing energy pursuant to section 29;
   2. make flow commitments towards a transmission system operator or the MADAM; or
   3. execute energy trades through an energy exchange or an energy exchange's clearing house, they shall inform their balance responsible party in due time of their intention. Balance group members may only make or accept offers for such contracts subject to the agreement of their balance responsible party. The balance responsible party may only withhold its agreement if there is reason to believe that a contract would jeopardise the fulfillment of tasks and obligations by the balance responsible party or the direct balance group member. Such reason shall be stated in writing.

(4) Direct balance group members shall support their balance responsible parties in fulfilling their tasks and obligations. This duty to support particularly applies to
   1. contributing to forecasting gas entries and exits, as well as submitting the necessary nominations to the balance responsible party;
   2. submitting the data that are a crucial prerequisite for the balance responsible party to fulfil the tasks and obligations listed in section 91 Gas Act 2011 to the extent necessary, subject to the provisions of the Datenschutzgesetz (Data Protection Act), FLG I no 165/1999;
   3. providing the data necessary for preparing the long-term plan and the network development plan.

Balance responsible parties

Section 20. (1) Where balance responsible parties represent balance group members in executing their tasks and obligations stated in section 91 Gas Act 2011, they act as indirect representatives. Direct representation only applies if such has been agreed in an individual case. Balance responsible parties shall provide the MADAM, the single clearing entity and the system operators with information about the identity and other data relating to its balance group members to the extent that this is necessary for them to be able to fulfil their tasks and obligations.

(2) Capacity entered into a balance group by balance group members shall be administered by the balance responsible party.

(3) The charges payable by balance group members to the single clearing entity pursuant to section 24, as well as the transaction costs of the operator of the virtual trading point payable to that entity based on the approved general terms and conditions pursuant to section 31 para. 3 Gas Act 2011 shall be paid by the balance responsible party on their behalf, and the balance responsible party shall charge them on to their balance group members in a cost-reflective way.

(4) How exactly these costs are passed on shall be agreed between each balance responsible party and its direct balance group members. All balance group members shall be treated in a non-discriminatory way.

(5) The balance responsible parties’ fee for their services shall be agreed between each balance responsible party and its direct balance group members.

Chapter 3
Commercial balancing

Allocation components

Section 21. (1) The single clearing entity shall clear each balance group separately. For this purpose, it shall use in its calculations the following allocation components, expressed as hourly time series per gas day:

1. allocated nominations at the market area’s cross-border interconnection points, including those at distribution level;
2. allocated nominations for entry into the market area from storage, and for exit from the market area into storage;
3. allocated nominations for entry from fossil gas production;
4. allocated nominations for the balance group’s net trades at the virtual trading point;
5. allocated entries from renewable gas production;
6. allocated exits to consumers.

(2) Quantities under para. 1 items 1 to 3 shall be allocated based on the balance responsible parties’ nominations for each hour, and any deviations of actually metered from nominated quantities shall be offset through operational balancing agreements (OBAs). At entry/exit points where no operational balancing agreements are in place, such deviations shall be borne by the system operators. The balance responsible parties shall work on the assumption that confirmed nominations equal allocations.

(3) Quantities under para. 1 item 4 shall be allocated based on the balance group’s net trades during each hour as submitted by the operator of the virtual trading point.

(4) Quantities under para. 1 item 5 shall be allocated based on the metered entries as submitted by the network operators. Where there is hourly metering, the single clearing entity shall adjust the quantities into equal allocations along the entire gas day.

(5) Concerning consumers with standard load profiles (SLP consumers), quantities under para. 1 item 6 shall be allocated as equal quantities along the entire gas day, based on the daily consumption calculated by distribution system operators, taking into account metered temperatures.

(6) Concerning consumers with load meters (LM consumers) and contracted capacities of up to 300,000 kWh/h per exit/metering point, quantities under para. 1 item 6 shall be allocated based on the exits metered by system operators. Where there is hourly metering, the single clearing entity shall adjust the quantities into equal allocations along the entire gas day. Notwithstanding this, the single clearing entity shall establish an orderly, transparent procedure by way of which balance responsible parties can request hourly allocations under this paragraph instead of adjusted allocations.

(7) Concerning LM consumers with contracted capacities of more than 300,000 kWh/h per exit/metering point, quantities under para. 1 item 6 shall be allocated based on the exits metered by system operators. The metered hourly quantities shall be used as allocations for the purpose of balancing.

**Daily imbalance price**

**Section 22.** (1) Balance responsible parties shall pay the daily imbalance price for their daily imbalance as calculated from the allocation components under section 21 para. 1 and in accordance with the procedure laid down in section 24.

(2) For positive daily imbalances, i.e. if a balance group is long, the marginal sell price applies. The marginal sell price is the lower of:
   1. the lowest price at which balancing energy for the gas day was sold under section 28 para. 2 item 1; and
   2. the CEGHIX reference price for the gas day minus a small adjustment of 3%.

(3) For negative daily imbalances, i.e. if a balance group is short, the marginal buy price applies. The marginal buy price is the higher of:
   1. the highest price at which balancing energy for the gas day was purchased under section 28 para. 2 item 1; and
   2. the CEGHIX reference price for the gas day plus a small adjustment of 3%.

(4) Imbalance prices shall be stated in cent/kWh and rounded away from zero to at least three decimal places.

**Within-day obligations**

**Section 23.** (1) In addition to the daily imbalance price under section 22, balance responsible parties shall be subject to within-day obligations (WDOs). They shall pay a WDO fee for their balance groups’ hourly imbalances. Within-day obligations only apply on days during which the MADAM had to purchase both positive and negative balancing energy.

(2) The WDO fee under para. 1 shall be based on the differences between a balance group’s entries and exits during each hour. As the gas day progresses, these shall be summed up into accrued hourly imbalances, which shall, for each hour, be compared with the group’s tolerances. The latter shall amount to 4% of the balance group’s allocated consumer exits for that day pursuant to section 21 para. 1 item 6.
(3) The WDO fee applies to the total accrued imbalances beyond the tolerance during a gas day.

(4) The WDO price shall correspond to the difference between the weighted average prices at which the MADAM purchased positive and negative balancing energy during that gas day and shall be at least zero. WDO prices shall be stated in cent/kWh and rounded away from zero to at least three decimal places.

(5) A balance group’s WDO fee is calculated by multiplying the WDO price according to para. 4 by its quantity according to para. 3. The single clearing entity shall ensure that the total WDO fees payable by all balance responsible parties for a gas day do not exceed the total costs for balancing energy that had to be purchased during that day.

(6) The MADAM and the single clearing entity shall evaluate the within-day obligation mechanism each year, paying particular attention to the relevant parameters, and shall submit a corresponding report to the regulatory authority.

**Clearing and settlement**

**Section 24.** (1) The single clearing entity shall publish a clearing calendar on its website and shall execute the first and second clearings in accordance with this calendar.

(2) The first clearing shall be executed each month, within three working days after the end of clearing for that month. Based on the first clearing, the balance responsible parties shall be settled for the following fees and charges:

1. the imbalance charge, i.e. the balance group’s daily imbalance quantity, resulting from the allocation components pursuant to section 21 para. 1, multiplied by the daily imbalance price for that gas day pursuant to section 22;
2. any WDO fee applicable pursuant to section 23 para. 5;
3. any neutrality charge for balancing applicable pursuant to section 25 para. 1.

(3) The second clearing shall be executed no later than 14 months after the first clearing under para. 2. The second clearing shall serve to correct the results of the first clearing based on any changes to the allocations under section 32 para. 9 item 8 that have resulted from meter readings of SLP consumers or from updates under section 32 para. 9 item 9 and that are relevant for clearing.

(4) The clearing fee pursuant to section 89 Gas Act 2011 shall be settled as part of the first clearing under para. 2. The clearing fee shall reflect a balance group’s total allocations for a gas day under section 21 para. 1. The clearing fee shall be subject to any corrections arising from para. 3.

(5) The single clearing entity shall have a risk management system for continually running due diligence checks, and it may require balance responsible parties to deposit appropriate and non-discriminatory amounts of collateral. It shall be possible to quickly re-calculate the necessary amounts of collateral if circumstances or risks change. Balance responsible parties shall have the option to deposit their collateral in the form of earmarked gas in storage.

(6) The single clearing entity shall lay down the procedures for billing, for payments and for the risk management under para. 5 in accordance with its approved general terms and conditions. The market participants shall be broadly consulted in drawing up these procedures.

**Neutrality of the single clearing entity**

**Section 25.** (1) For each market area, the neutrality charge for balancing pursuant to section 24 para. 2 item 3 shall ensure that the single clearing entity does not make any profits or losses from clearing under section 24 paras 2 and 3, from technical network balancing under section 26 and from balancing actions under section 28.

(2) For this purpose, the single clearing entity shall log all expenses and revenues arising from the transactions listed under para. 1 on a dedicated neutrality account in a transparent and easily understandable manner. Apart from an adequate liquidity reserve, the account’s position shall be kept as neutral as possible.

(3) Every three months, the single clearing entity shall check whether a neutrality charge is needed and if so, shall determine its amount in cent/kWh for the next quarter. The amount of the neutrality charge shall be published during the month before it applies.

(4) The neutrality charge for balancing under para. 1, payable by each balance group as part of the clearing under section 24, shall reflect its total allocations for a gas day under section 21 para. 1.
Technical network balancing

Section 26. (1) The distribution system operators shall ensure that the data to be submitted for technical network balancing under section 32 para. 9 item 11 cover all allocation components listed in the table in point III of annex 2. The market participants shall cooperate towards this end. The distribution system operators and the MADAM may agree that the tasks under paras 1 and 2 be exercised by the MADAM.

(2) In addition to the data under para. 1, the distribution system operators shall submit each day:
   1. the total exits to consumers in their network area, calculated using the weighted actual calorific value in the network area;
   2. swings in the operational balancing agreements, applying the “allocated as nominated” principle in line with the table in point III of annex 2, and calculated as the difference between the balance responsible parties’ allocated nominations pursuant to section 21 para 1 items 1 to 3 and the actual flows, derived using the actual calorific values;
   3. linepack swings, calculated as the difference between the gas in the system at the beginning and at the end of the day, derived using the weighted actual calorific value in the operator’s network area.

(3) For each system operator, the single clearing entity shall calculate the following daily clearing elements:
   1. the difference between the total exits to consumers in the network area as calculated with the weighted actual calorific value pursuant to para 2 item 1 and as calculated with the applicable default calorific value pursuant to point IV in annex 2;
   2. the gas unaccounted for, resulting from the allocation components pursuant to para. 1, taking into account the swings in OBAs under para. 2 item 2, the linepack swings under para 2 item 3, and any differences from the application of default vs actual calorific values under item 1.

(4) Each system operator shall establish a dedicated technical balance group for the purposes of technical network balancing. System operators shall nominate balance responsible parties for these balance groups. Technical balance groups may not contain metering points of consumers. The only exception to this rule are allocated exits to consumers that arise from system use without the metering point being part of a balance group, because such exits are part of the gas unaccounted for under para. 3 item 2.

(5) Balance responsible parties of technical balance groups under para. 4 above and of the single clearing entity’s technical balance group do not require a formal licence to carry out their activities. To establish the technical balance groups, system operators shall conclude contracts with the single clearing entity and the operator of the virtual trading point which shall contain provisions on the rights and obligations connected with each party’s tasks.

(6) Technical balance groups shall be cleared in line with section 24. Their clearing shall cover the elements listed under para 3 items 1 and 2. It shall be updated once the meters of SLP consumers have been read.

(7) The applicable price shall be the CEGHIX reference price for the gas day.

(8) Technical balance groups are exempt from paying the WDO fee under section 23, the neutrality charge for balancing under section 25, and the clearing fee under section 24 para. 5. The single clearing entity shall not conduct a due diligence under section 24 para. 6 for technical balance groups.

(9) Own consumption shall be covered by purchasing energy at market prices. System operators shall use the most accurate data available for notifying own consumption. Should meter reading not be economically feasible, this circumstance shall be proven towards the regulatory authority and a calculation methodology for determining own consumption shall be presented. Should construction works create the need for the system operators to empty and refill parts of their systems, the quantities required shall be determined accurately and be reflected in the nominations. In the extraordinary event that losses are caused by pipeline faults or leaks, they shall be estimated or calculated as accurately as possible.

(10) Technical network balancing at transmission level shall lie with the transmission system operators, without the single clearing entity being involved. Transmission system operators shall provide the single clearing entity and the distribution system operators with all data necessary for technical network balancing at distribution level in line with section 32 para. 5 item 4, in an appropriate format.
Chapter 4
Balancing actions

Linepack

Section 27. (1) Linepack shall be the primary means for balancing the systems in the market area. The interconnection agreements to be concluded under section 67 Gas Act 2011 and contractual agreements between the MADAM and transmission and distribution system operators shall ensure that linepack can be used efficiently.

(2) Based on the data submitted by transmission system operators under section 32 para. 5 item 2, the MADAM shall calculate the linepack available for the market area during each hour and shall liaise with the transmission system operators to define the upper and lower limits for market area linepack.

(3) The MADAM shall coordinate with the transmission system operators and then use the market area linepack to offset short-term pressure fluctuations and within-day swings in the market area until such time when the balancing energy it has purchased becomes available.

(4) The transmission system operators shall make the maximum possible quantities, injection and withdrawal rates of transmission-level linepack available to the MADAM while maintaining network integrity.

(6) The transmission system operators and the MADAM shall keep adequate records of how much linepack is used and under which circumstances this happens. The MADAM and the transmission system operators shall offset their net linepack use and the position of OBA accounts without delay, by way of reciprocal linepack use or by providing positive or negative balancing energy under section 28.

Balancing energy procurement

Section 28. (1) If the network cannot be fully balanced with linepack under section 27, the MADAM shall take the balancing actions listed in para. 2, on behalf and for account of the single clearing entity. For this purpose, the MADAM shall each hour project the market area position and shall calculate how much balancing energy will be necessary to prevent disturbances.

(2) The following balancing actions shall be taken, in order of priority:
   1. trade in standardised products on the gas exchange at the virtual trading point;
   2. procurement of standardised products from the merit or order list pursuant to section 29 para. 2 item 1;
   3. procurement of flexibility products from the merit order list pursuant to section 29 para. 2 item 2.

Should the first priority action present no offers for the period of time considered relevant by the MADAM or should the MADAM need locational or short-term products to prevent disturbances, it may take the second balancing action in the priority order, and so on.

Merit order list

Section 29. (1) The balancing energy providers on the merit order list must technically ensure that upon the MADAM accepting their offer, balancing energy is actually fed into the network or withdrawn from it to the extent, with the load, at the entry/exit point and with the lead time specified in their offer.

(2) Balancing energy providers shall make their positive or negative offers through the online platform provided by the single clearing entity. Offers shall state the ID assigned to the provider’s balance group by the MADAM, the hour(s) of the day, the lead time and the capacity for which the offer is made, the energy price offered and the entry/exit/metering point concerned. The offers shall state fixed prices. The offers shall differentiate between:
   1. offers for standard products made by each balancing energy provider with a lead time of 30 minutes, a minimum duration of one hour and a minimum size of one MWh/h;
   2. block offers made by each balancing energy provider with a lead time to be chosen by the provider and a minimum size of one MWh/h.
3. Offers shall be made by 16.00 hrs (gate closure) for the following gas day; on days before Saturdays, Sundays and statutory holidays, they shall be made for the time up to and including the next working day. After gate closure, the offers are binding on the providers and cannot be changed or withdrawn anymore. Under exceptional, reasoned circumstances, such as in the case of technical difficulties, of subsequent weekend days and holidays or of insufficient offers, the single clearing entity may postpone gate closure after having informed market participants.

4. Should the MADAM arrive at the opinion that the available balancing energy offers are insufficient, it shall inform the single clearing entity thereof without delay and state the reasons for its view.

5. The single clearing entity shall then reopen the market, set a new gate closure time and inform all balancing energy providers. Such information is an invitation to the balancing energy providers to make new offers in addition to those that have become binding in accordance with para. 3 above.

6. If requested so by the MADAM, the single clearing entity shall keep the market open for new offers around the clock. The single clearing entity shall inform the balancing energy providers of such continuous market opening in advance. In continuous market situations, the offers submitted shall be sent to the MADAM at times set and published by the single clearing entity. Offers submitted up to these times may not be changed or withdrawn afterwards.

7. The single clearing entity shall separate the offers under para. 2 item 1 into offers for positive and negative balancing energy and sort them by their energy price. Of two offers with the same price, the one for the larger quantity comes first. Of two offers with the same price and quantity, the one received earlier comes first. The single clearing entity shall assign a unique number to each offer.

8. The single clearing entity shall separate the offers under para. 2 item 2 into offers for positive and negative balancing energy and sort them by their energy price and lead time. Of two offers with the same price, the one with the shorter lead time comes first. Of two offers with the same price and lead time, the one for the larger quantity comes first. Of two offers with the same price, lead time and quantity, the one received earlier comes first. The single clearing entity shall assign a unique number to each offer.

9. The single clearing entity shall send the merit order list drawn up pursuant to paras 7 and 8 to the MADAM immediately after gate closure. The MADAM shall then accept the providers’ offers for positive or negative balancing energy as needed, following the order pursuant to section 28 para. 2 and the merit order list, where applicable. The MADAM may accept offers from the list for at least 1 MWh/h and up to the entire quantity on offer, in discrete steps of 1 MWh/h. For offers under para. 2 item 2, balancing energy providers may exclude the MADAM’s right to accept in discrete steps up to the entire quantity on offer.

10. Should massive congestion of the network or technical disturbances make it impossible for the MADAM to comply with the order of priority in section 28 para. 2, it may take the following balancing actions:
   1. Deviating from the sequence of the merit order list when accepting balancing energy offers;
   2. Accepting offers for positive and negative balancing energy at the same time if these can be executed at different locations.

11. If the MADAM deviates from the order of priority, as provided for in para 10, it shall inform the single clearing entity, the balancing energy providers that were skipped and the regulatory authority of its grounds and reasons for doing so within three working days. This information shall be published on the website of the single clearing entity without delay.

12. The MADAM accepts offers for the balancing energy needed on behalf and for account of the single clearing entity. The MADAM shall ensure that the balancing energy it has procured is actually taken up by the network or can be withdrawn. Acceptance of an offer establishes a contract between the single clearing entity and the provider. Offers shall be accepted in units of one full hour that start at the full hour; a lead time of 30 minutes applies for accepting offers under para. 2 item 1, while the selected lead time applies for offers under para. 2 item 2, for accepting temporal and locational offers at entry/exit points in the distribution area or at online-metered consumer facilities. If the MADAM accepts offers longer in advance and fails to cancel by e-mail when the lead time is reached, acceptance is binding.

13. Balancing energy offers are accepted by sending an e-mail to the balancing energy provider, to the e-mail address stated on the merit order list. The balancing energy provider must provide a phone number at which a person who is responsible for execution and authorised to enter into contracts can be contacted by the MADAM and the balance responsible party during the entire time of the submitted offer. Such person shall receive the e-mail with the acceptance message in copy at the same time.
(14) The balancing energy purchased by the MADAM shall be recorded in the balance group for balancing energy and in the provider’s balance group for the purpose of determining imbalance charges pursuant to section 87 para. 4 Gas Act 2011.

(15) Should there be insufficient or no balancing energy offers, the single clearing entity may introduce a market maker. The capacity to be reserved by the market maker shall be fixed by the MADAM. The introduction and management of a market maker shall comply with the general terms and conditions of the single clearing entity and be notified to the regulatory authority.

Qualification for participation in the merit order list

Section 30. (1) Balance group members that have registered as balancing energy providers for the merit order list in line with the prerequisites laid down in the general terms and conditions of the single clearing entity may offer balancing energy pursuant to section 28 para. 2 items 2 and 3, subject to the agreement of their balance responsible party in accordance with section 19 para. 3. The balance responsible party shall not withhold its agreement unless there are compelling reasons.

(2) If the balance group members that intend to participate in the merit order list pursuant to section 28 para. 2 item 3 are consumers with contracted capacities of more than 10,000 kWh/h, the balance responsible party shall conclude an agreement with them on how to handle and settle this participation.

(3) As part of the registration process, balance group members must prove that they have at their disposal appropriate flexibility potential such as available gas in storage, at market area entry/exit points or consumers with contracted capacities of more than 10,000 kWh/h whose consumption is metered online and whose data is transmitted to the MADAM online. Balancing energy providers shall inform the single clearing entity about the points at which they will offer balancing energy.

(4) The single clearing entity shall keep an up-to-date list of registered balancing energy providers and send it to the MADAM after each update.

(5) Balancing energy providers may start offering balancing energy in accordance with para. 1 only after they have been registered with the single clearing entity and once the MADAM has noted at which points balancing energy will be offered.

Curtailment of balance groups

Section 31. Should the balancing actions under section 28 be insufficient to safeguard network stability, the MADAM may change the nominations of balance groups that jeopardise the stability of the network by

1. imbalanced preliminary net positions projected for the end of the gas day under section 33 para. 2; or
2. imbalanced net positions at the end of the gas day that can be projected using the large consumer schedules pursuant to section 32 para 3 item 5.

Chapter 4

Information provision and transparency

Information and data exchange among market participants

Section 32. (1) Market participants shall fulfil their information provision obligations in a timely manner.

(2) Details about information flows and the relevant rights and obligations incumbent upon market participants shall be laid down as part of the gas market code pursuant to section 22 E-Control Act, as well as any market participants’ general terms and conditions provided for by these provisions. The formats and processes specified in section 35 shall be used.

(3) Balance responsible parties shall, without limitations, provide hourly time series with the following data for each of their balance groups:

1. the entry and exit nominations at each entry/exit point, to be sent to the transmission system operator, and at each distribution-level market area entry/exit point, to be sent to the MADAM;
2. the storage nominations, to be sent to the storage system operator;
3. the entry nominations from fossil gas production, to be sent to the producer;
4. the trade nominations, to be sent to the operator of the virtual trading point;
5. the large consumer schedules for consumers with contracted capacities of more than 50,000 kWh/h per entry/exit/metering point, to be sent to the MADAM. As these are primarily needed for system operation, one schedule per large consumer shall be submitted.

(4) Suppliers shall, without limitations, provide the following data:
1. the consumption forecast for their SLP consumers, taking into consideration para. 10 item 4;
2. the consumption forecast for their LM consumers, both as overall schedules and as hourly time series, to be sent to the balance responsible parties in due time.

(5) Transmission system operators shall, without limitations, provide the following data:
1. each balance group’s entry and exit allocations at each transmission-level entry/exit point, as hourly time series, to be sent to the single clearing entity and the MADAM;
2. the transmission linepack available for use in the market area during each hour pursuant to section 27, detailing the maximum hourly injection and withdrawal capacity and linepack quantity, to be sent to the MADAM;
3. all relevant daily capacity information at the market area’s entry/exit points, to be sent to the MADAM;
4. all information relevant for technical network balancing under section 26, in the granularity necessary, to be sent to the adjacent distribution system operators and, as far as necessary, to the single clearing entity;
5. the metered calorific values for each hour, to be sent to the MADAM continually and without delay, for the purposes of online simulation and interpretation of calorific values pursuant to para. 10 item 6;
6. for the injection of renewable gas at transmission level and for exits from the transmission network towards consumers, the transmission system operators shall be subject, mutatis mutandis, to the distribution system operators’ obligation to submit preliminary allocations pursuant to para. 9 item 3, to update allocations on a daily basis pursuant to para. 9 item 5, and to submit data relevant for clearing on a monthly basis pursuant to para. 9 item 7.

(6) Storage system operators shall, without limitations, provide the following data:
1. each balance group’s allocated storage entries and exits, as hourly time series, to be sent to the single clearing entity and the MADAM;
2. the total allocated storage entries and exits, as aggregated hourly time series, to be sent to the MADAM for storage sites connected at distribution level and to the transmission system operators for storage sites connected at transmission level;
3. the gas quantities injected and withdrawn each day, and the daily available capacity and working gas volume, to be sent to the MADAM;
4. together with the distribution system operator, the data relating to calorific values metered for storage entries and exits, for the purpose of online simulation and interpretation of calorific values pursuant to para. 10 item 6, in the necessary granularity, to be sent to the MADAM.

(7) Producers of fossil gas shall, without limitations, provide the following data:
1. each balance group’s allocated production quantities, as hourly time series, to be sent to the single clearing entity and the MADAM;
2. the total allocated production quantities at each production entry point, as aggregated hourly time series, to be sent to the MADAM;
3. together with the distribution system operator, the data relating to calorific values metered for entries from production, for the purpose of online simulation and interpretation of calorific values pursuant to para. 10 item 6, in the necessary granularity, to be sent to the MADAM.

(8) The operator of the virtual trading point shall, without limitations, send each balance group’s net allocated trade quantities at the virtual trading point, as hourly time series, to the MADAM.

(9) Distribution system operators shall, without limitations, provide the following data:
1. information about the standard load profiles assigned to the consumers in a balance group, to be sent to the group’s balance responsible party if it so requests;
2. the consumption forecasts for SLP consumers in accordance with section 36, to be drawn up and sent to the MADAM, or alternatively the necessary underlying data (consumption during the previous year relating to each supplier, standard load profile type and temperature zone, taking into
consideration any changes to the system access situation on a daily basis), to be sent to the MADAM so that it can draw up the SLP consumption forecasts itself;
3. the preliminary metered allocations of LM consumers and contracted capacities of more than 10,000 kWh/h, for the hours of the gas day so far, as hourly time series per metering point, indicating the supplier, to be sent each hour to the single clearing entity and the MADAM;
4. the preliminary metered allocations of LM consumers whose meters are read online, as hourly time series per metering point, indicating the supplier, to be sent without delay to the single clearing entity and the MADAM;
5. the updated allocations of LM consumers, aggregated into hourly time series per supplier, to be sent each day to the single clearing entity and the MADAM, and aggregated into hourly time series per system user, to be sent each day to the MADAM and the supplier. Such values shall also be submitted to consumers if they request so;
6. the updated calculated allocations of SLP consumers, aggregated into hourly time series per supplier, to be sent each day to the single clearing entity and the MADAM;
7. the metered allocations of LM consumers that are relevant for clearing under section 24 para. 2, including all allocations up to the end of clearing for a month, aggregated into hourly time series per supplier, to be sent each month to the single clearing entity and the MADAM, and aggregated into hourly time series per user, to be sent each month to the MADAM and the supplier. Such readings shall also be submitted to consumers if they request so;
8. the calculated allocations of SLP consumers that are relevant for clearing under section 24 para. 2, including all allocations up to the end of clearing for a month, aggregated into hourly time series per supplier, to be sent each month to the single clearing entity and the MADAM;
9. the corrections of allocations of SLP consumers that are relevant for clearing under section 24 para. 3, as listed in item 8, including all allocations up to the end of clearing for a month, aggregated into hourly time series per supplier, to be sent to the single clearing entity and the MADAM;
10. for the injection of renewable gas at distribution level, the distribution system operators shall be subject, mutatis mutandis, to the obligations for hourly submission of preliminary allocations pursuant to item 3, daily submission of updated allocations pursuant to item 5, and monthly submission of allocations that are relevant for clearing pursuant to item 7;
11. all information relevant for technical network balancing under section 26, in the granularity necessary, to be sent to the single clearing entity and, as far as necessary, adjacent distribution system operators;
12. all data necessary for the purpose of online simulation and interpretation of calorific values pursuant to para. 10 item 6, including in particular the calorific values metered in an operator’s distribution system, pressure and throughput, geometrical and hydraulic pipeline data, and the topology status, in the necessary granularity, to be sent to the MADAM;
13. the monthly calorific values that are relevant to clearing, for each calorific value area, to be sent each month to the MADAM.

(10) The MADAM shall, without limitations, provide the following data:
1. the balancing energy procured pursuant to section 28, to be sent without delay to the single clearing entity;
2. the list of registered balance groups and their balance responsible parties, to be sent each day to the single clearing entity;
3. each balance group’s entry and exit allocations at each distribution-level market area entry/exit point, as hourly time series, to be sent to the single clearing entity;
4. the SLP consumption forecasts pursuant to section 36, aggregated into hourly time series per supplier, to be sent to the balance responsible party and the supplier, and the SLP consumption forecasts and large consumer schedules, aggregated into total hourly time series, to be sent to the single clearing entity;
5. the preliminary calculated approximate allocations of LM consumers and contracted capacities of more than 10,000 kWh/h for the hours of the gas day so far, as hourly time series per supplier, to be sent to the single clearing entity;
6. the continuous online simulation of actual calorific values at grid level 1 pursuant to annex 1 to the Gas Act 2011, considering all available metered entries, exits, calorific values, pressure and throughput values, geometrical and hydraulic pipeline data, and the topology status, to be sent to
the distribution system operators, and a comparison of the results of such simulation with the reference values provided by the distribution system operators, including an interpretation of the results pursuant to point IV in annex 2, in the necessary granularity, to be sent to the distribution system operators.

(11) Information provision by the single clearing entity shall include, without limitations:
1. the standard load profiles, to be sent to the distribution system operators and the MADAM;
2. each balance group’s allocations and status, as hourly time series, to be sent each hour to the MADAM, which needs this information to be able to comply with its information obligations under sections 33 and 34. The single clearing entity and the MADAM shall coordinate and make this data provision as efficient and user-friendly as possible;
3. the imbalance prices pursuant to section 22, the WDO fee pursuant to section 23, and the amount of the neutrality charge for balancing and the position of the neutrality account pursuant to section 23, all for the previous gas day, to be sent each day to the MADAM;
4. the assignment of balance groups to suppliers, to be sent on a continuous basis to the MADAM, as far as this is necessary for automated assignment of supplier data to balance groups.

(12) Direct balance group members shall, without limitations, submit the data specified in section 19 para. 4 item 1.

**Balance group position**

**Section 33.** (1) The MADAM shall provide the balance responsible parties with information about their balance group’s position through a web-based platform. Synergies between this information provision obligation and the rules under section 34 shall be exploited to the greatest extent possible. The different quality of the data shall be clearly marked.

(2) Preliminary information about the balance groups’ projected position at the end of the gas day shall be made available each hour. It shall be based on:
1. the balance group’s allocated nominations pursuant to section 21 para. 1 items 1 to 4, which shall in turn be derived from the allocations pursuant to section 32 para. 5 item 1, para. 6 item 1, para. 7 item 1, para. 8, and para. 10 item 3;
2. the balance group’s entries from renewable gas production and exits towards consumers pursuant to section 21 para. 1 items 5 and 6, each based on preliminary allocations pursuant to section 32 para. 5 item 6 and para. 9 items 3, 4 and 10;
3. the balance group’s preliminary calculated approximate allocations of exits towards consumers pursuant to section 32 para. 10 item 5;
4. the balance group’s SLP consumption forecast pursuant to section 32 para. 10 item 4.

(3) The information about the balance group position for a gas day shall be updated on the basis of updated allocations and be made available on the following day. It shall be based on:
1. the balance group’s allocated nominations pursuant to para. 2 item 1;
2. the balance group’s entries from renewable gas production and exits towards consumers pursuant to section 21 para. 1 items 5 and 6, each based on updated allocations pursuant to section 32 para. 5 item 6 and para. 9 items 5, 6 and 10.

(4) Information about the balance group position on a gas day that is relevant for the first clearing pursuant to section 24 para. 2 shall be made available after the end of the month and once the relevant allocations are known. It shall be based on:
1. the balance group’s allocated nominations pursuant to para. 2 item 1;
2. the balance group’s entries from renewable gas production and exits towards consumers pursuant to section 21 para. 1 items 5 and 6, each based on updated allocations pursuant to section 32 para. 5 item 6 and para. 9 items 7, 8 and 10.

(5) Information about the balance group position on a particular gas day that is relevant for the second clearing pursuant to section 24 para. 3 shall be made available as indicated in the clearing calendar and once the readings for SLP consumers pursuant to section 32 para. 9 item 9 are known. All other pieces of information are the same as when they were provided in line with para. 4.

(6) In addition to publishing the information on the web-based platform pursuant to paras 1 to 5, the MADAM shall provide it to the balance responsible parties electronically, by way of an automated process, if they so request. Section 35 applies mutatis mutandis.
Market area position

**Section 34.** (1) The MADAM shall publish aggregated information about the market area position on a web-based platform. This shall include, without limitations:

1. the balancing energy quantities and the prices relevant for the balancing actions under section 28, to be published without delay;
2. the imbalance prices pursuant to section 22, the WDO fee pursuant to section 23, and the amount of the neutrality charge for balancing and the position of the neutrality account pursuant to section 25, to be published each day for the previous day;
3. the aggregated available linepack available for the market area, and the actual linepack as compared to the linepack limits defined by the MADAM pursuant to section 27, to be published each hour;
4. the market area position, as aggregate of the information pursuant to section 33 para. 2, to be published each hour;
5. the allocated consumption in the market area, separately for SLP consumers, for consumers with contracted capacities up to 300,000 kWh/h per exit/metering point, and for consumers with contracted capacities beyond 300,000 kWh/h per exit/metering point, to be published each day for the previous day. The published data shall be corrected once updated allocations or allocations used for clearing become available. In the case of allocations for SLP consumers, the difference between the allocations pursuant to section 32 para. 9 items 8 and 9 shall be published per system operator and per SLP type and for each day;
6. all relevant capacity information at market area entry/exit points pursuant to section 32 para. 5 items 3, to be published for the previous gas day;
7. the storage data pursuant to section 32 para. 6 item 3, to be published as aggregated data for the previous gas day;
8. the list of registered balance groups and their balance responsible parties;
9. the monthly calorific values that are used in clearing, for each calorific value area.

(2) In addition to publishing the data on the web-based platform pursuant to para. 1, the MADAM shall provide an interface that enables automated access to this data and its efficient processing using standard software.

**Formats for data exchange and nominations**

**Section 35.** (1) Data and nominations shall be recorded and transmitted using the format and channels laid down in the gas market code or in Regulation (EU) No 703/2015.

(2) In addition to the format listed in para. 1 and if agreed by the contract parties, information may be exchanged through a web-based platform.

(3) Nominations generally have hourly granularity and are exchanged between balance responsible parties and their contract partners with a lead time of at least one hour. As an exception from this rule, the lead time for renominations at transmission-level entry/exit points is two hours.

(4) The smallest unit for nominations between the market participants in the market area is 1 kWh. Nominations containing information in MWh may use no more than three decimal places; those containing information in kWh may contain no decimal places. Numbers shall be rounded away from zero.

(5) If corresponding nominations do not match, the lower value nominated shall apply (“lesser rule”).

(6) Where data are to be exchanged online, such exchange shall respect specifications to be agreed between the involved market participants.

**Standard load profiles**

**Section 36.** (1) The MADAM and the distribution system operators shall cooperate to draw up SLP consumption forecasts in line with section 32 para. 9 item 2. They shall use the standard load profiles submitted by the single clearing entity pursuant to section 32 para. 11 item 1 and adequate temperature forecasts.

(2) SLP consumption forecasts shall be submitted as hourly time series in line with section 32 para. 10 item 4 by 12:00 hrs for the following gas day.

(3) Recent temperature forecasts shall be used to update SLP consumption forecasts three times per gas day before 24:00 hrs, with the first such update taking place before 12:00 hrs on the gas day.