



E-CONTROL

Electricity/Gas Market Code

Chapter 5

**Technical documentation of business processes,
data formats and data exchange on**

www.eutilities.at

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Version 1.0

Document history

Version	Release	Publication	Commence- ment	Notes
1	0	19/12/2016	1/1/2017	First draft: Technical documentation of business processes, data formats and data exchange on www.ebutilities.at

Contents

- 1. DEFINITIONS 4
- 2. BASIC PRINCIPLES 5
- 3. SCOPE AND APPLICABILITY OF TECHNICAL DOCUMENTATION 5
- 4. DEVELOPMENT AND UPDATES OF TECHNICAL DOCUMENTATION 6
 - 4.1 Working group for technical documentation..... 6
 - 4.2 Market partner registration 6
 - 4.3 Proposals for changes 6
 - 4.4 Extent of changes and version control..... 6
 - 4.4.1 Minor changes..... 6
 - 4.4.2 Other changes..... 6
 - 4.4.3 Major changes..... 6
 - 4.5 Consultation 7
 - 4.5.1 Publication of the consultation document..... 7
 - 4.5.2 Discussion of replies..... 7
 - 4.6 Publication of a new version and transitional period 7

1. Definitions

- “Oesterreichs Energie” means the organisation representing the interests of the Austrian electricity industry;
- “VÖEW” means the association of Austrian power plants;
- “FGW” aka “Natural Gas and District Heat Association” means the statutory organisation representing the interests of all gas and heat supply companies that is part of the Austrian Federal Economic Chamber’s industrial production division;
- “ebUtilities” means the platform that Oesterreichs Energie and FGW have been using to publish technical documentation relating to business processes, data formats and data exchange; s. www.ebutilities.at;
- “business process” means a logical sequence of a finite number of individual actions (e.g. initiate, check, wait, decide, inform) executed by the involved market players to reach a defined operational objective;
- “data format” means the electronic format or structure of a message that is part of a business process, which is designed to enable automated processing of messages transmitted between the involved market players;
- “data exchange” means the process involving the identification of both sender and recipient of a message, its encryption, the recording of a transmission protocol, the secure transmission and the decryption of any message that is part of a business process;
- “technical documentation” means the descriptions of business processes, data formats and data exchange that lay down all details that are not explicitly fixed in the Market Code directly but that are needed to ensure the correct exchange of data between the market players;
- “market partners” means market players that have been assigned particular roles in energy industry business processes by virtue of acts, ordinances or chapters of the Market Rules (e.g. control area operator, market area manager, distribution system operator, transmission system operator, imbalance settlement responsible, clearing and settlement agent, balance responsible party, trader, supplier, distribution area manager, supplier of balancing services), the companies that render the related business processes, and these players’ representations;

2. Basic principles

A liberalised and fully functioning energy market must build on defined and standardised business processes. These processes might either arise from primary or secondary legislation that obliges market players to pass information back and forth between each other or serve the interest of automated information exchange and verification between market players in general. They include exchanging data relating to grid charges or to consumption, requesting and updating commercial and technical consumer information, requesting dynamic data, smart metering processes, restitution of grid charges in cases of customer default and supporting processes.

To ensure that all these processes can be handled smoothly,

- the processes themselves,
- the data formats involved, and
- the data transmission details

must be standardised and laid down in technical documentation.

The technical documentation itself must be continuously updated by the market partners themselves. In this, they must comply with the guidelines laid down in this document.

3. Scope and applicability of technical documentation

The technical documentation that Oesterreichs Energie, VÖEW and FGW publish on the website www.ebutilities.at, including the annexes, are binding if they have been drawn up in line with section 4 and if fulfilment of this condition itself is publicly documented on www.ebutilities.at.

Once a new version of a piece of technical documentation becomes applicable, adhering to the business process, data format or data exchange as described in the previous version is no longer admissible; the only exceptions to this rule are any transitional provisions contained in the technical documentation.

In case of any contradictions between the technical documentation and statutory provisions (acts, ordinances, Market Code), the latter prevail. If such contradictions are discovered, the working group in charge of the technical documentation will establish conformity with the statutory provisions as quickly as possible. Where such adjustments are necessary, no consultation pursuant to section 4.5 takes place and no transitional period according to section 4.6 applies.

4. Development and updates of technical documentation

4.1 Working group for technical documentation

The working group that develops the technical documentation must at least include representatives of Oesterreichs Energie, VÖEW and FGW. The business processes, data formats and data exchange must correspond to the state of the art. The process of drawing up and updating the technical documentation must be underpinned by transparency, cost efficiency and equal treatment of all existing and new market players, regardless of their size.

4.2 Market partner registration

All market partners and E-Control must have the possibility to register on www.eutilities.at, so that they are informed about any (planned) changes to the technical documentation, can participate in any consultations and have a chance to propose changes.

4.3 Proposals for changes

If market partners or E-Control propose changes to the technical documentation, the working group must discuss and, if possible, include them. Any proposed changes and the reasons for taking them up or rejecting them must be published on www.eutilities.at within three months.

4.4 Extent of changes and version control

Version control reflects the extent of the changes introduced as follows:

4.4.1 Minor changes

Mere corrections and minor changes that do not require changes to the market players' IT systems increment the second decimal place of the version number (V1.1x).

4.4.2 Other changes

Changes that are neither minor in the sense of section 4.4.1 nor major in the sense of section 4.4.3 (e.g. additions, changes or deletions of individual elements that require reconfiguration but no major changes to the market players' IT systems) increment the first decimal place of the version number (V1.x0).

4.4.3 Major changes

Changes that affect the market players' roles, their responsibilities, decision-making competences, deadlines or the IT technology or format to be used increment the units digit of the version number (Vx.00).

4.5 Consultation

The working group must consult any major changes to the technical documentation as per section 4.4.3 with all market partners and E-Control.

4.5.1 Publication of the consultation document

The document to be consulted must be published at www.eutilities.at. The market partners and E-Control must be informed about the document, the deadline for replies, and the transitional period foreseen until the new rules become applicable. This must be communicated without delay and using an adequate channel (e.g. e-mail). The consultation period must be appropriate and cannot be shorter than four weeks from the date of publication/communication. Any holiday periods are to be taken into account when setting the consultation deadline.

4.5.2 Discussion of replies

Section 4.3 applies equally for all replies submitted by the market partners or by E-Control as part of the consultation.

4.6 Publication of a new version and transitional period

Any new version of the technical documentation must be published on www.eutilities.at along with its commencement date. The market partners and E-Control must be informed about this via an appropriate channel (e.g. e-mail).

Minor changes to the technical documentation in line with section 4.4.1 are applicable from their day of publication. Other changes in line with section 4.4.2 must foresee a transitional period of at least two months. For major changes in line with section 4.4.3, there must be an appropriate transitional period of at least four months from the date of publication of the new version.