

EREGEG Gas Focus Group/Storage TF

Guidelines for Good Practice for Gas Storage System Operators (GGPSSO)

Questionnaire for SSOs

Introduction

The objective of this questionnaire is to collect information from SSOs to assist in monitoring the implementation of the GGPSSO as requested by the European Commission.

The GGPSSO set out the minimum requirements for the provision of fair and non-discriminatory access to gas storage (in accordance to the Gas Directive¹). Monitoring implementation of the GGPSSO is therefore important in understanding how access to gas storage is being provided.

Not all requirements under the GGPSSO are due to be implemented from 1 April 2005 – however it will be important to understand what progress SSOs are making towards implementing these later requirements.

The deadline for the completion of the questionnaire is **20 June 2005**.

If there are late or incomplete submissions after date they will be considered as “nil” returns. SSOs are required to indicate the date from which GGPSSO requirements were met –particularly where this after 1 April 2005.

In order to ensure that all interested parties are consulted, ERGEG will also send out questionnaires to national regulatory authorities and storage users. The view of storage users will be particularly important in assessing implementation of the GGPSSO.

¹ Directive 2003/55/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council concerning common rules for the internal market in natural gas and repealing Directive 98/30/EC

EREGEG intends to publish an initial report on the implementation of the GGPSSO in September 2005 and it expects to present these findings at the next Madrid Forum. EREGEG intends to issue a final report on implementation after it has an opportunity to consider responses to its initial report.

To help ensure transparency, responses to the questionnaire and other documents associated with the GGPSSO will be published on the EREGEG website. Any requests to keep information confidential will be considered in accordance with the relevant section of the GGPSSO that deals with the publication of the information. If you want any information to be treated as confidential this should be objectively justified and outlined clearly – taking into account the requirements of the GGPSSO. Any information that is to be treated as confidential should be placed in a separate appendix.

Please note that in order to allow for maximum common understanding of data, the answers provided by SSOs will be reviewed by the national regulatory authority.

Given that EREGEG's initial report will be published in September, we request that SSOs provide an addendum to their original submission if there are significant changes to the information that they provide, between 20 June and the beginning of September (1 September). This will ensure that the report is as up to date as possible and avoid misrepresenting the position of the SSOs.

Any question on this questionnaire should be directed in the first instance to:

Energie-Control GmbH
z.H. Mag. Karin Eriksröd
Rudolfsplatz 13a
1010 Wien

Questionnaire

1 General

1.1 Business name of respondent: **OMV Gas GmbH**

General explanatory note: non-compliance is indicated by or “n”

1.2 Is access to your storage system provided:

(a) on a regulated basis	<input type="checkbox"/>
(b) on a negotiated basis	yes
(c) both (<i>please provide comments below</i>)	<input type="checkbox"/>
notes:	

1.3 Is access provided:

(a) To a given storage facility	<input type="checkbox"/>
(b) to a group of storage facilities in the same balancing zone	yes
(c) other (<i>please provide comments below</i>)	<input type="checkbox"/>
notes:	

if you answer that access is provided to a given storage facility/to a group of storage, please assume that all following answers will be interpreted accordingly

Note: Access is provided to a group of 3 storage facilities which are organised as a pool and thereby treated as if representing one single facility. All following answers are thereby consistent.

1.4 If access to storage is not provided to individual storage facilities, please provide details (e.g. how many groups, how many sites within group) and specify how this is arranged:

answer: **3 sites**

Note: Access is provided to a group of 3 storage facilities which are organised as a pool and thereby treated as if representing one single facility.

1.5 How many system users own capacity rights (date of reference: 1 April 2005)?

answer: **5**

1.6 National framework:

(a) do you believe that there is a conflict between the requirements of the GGPSSO and national legislation that will materially affect either your interests or your ability to comply with the GGPSSO?	no
(b) if “yes”, did you notify your relevant national regulatory authority (GGPSSO Scope and Objective)?	<input type="checkbox"/>

2 Roles and responsibilities of Storage System Operators

2.1 Please specify if you are (GGPSSO 1.1):

(a) a separate entity (i.e. ownership unbundling)	<input type="checkbox"/>
(b) a separate entity (i.e. legal unbundling)	<input type="checkbox"/>
(c) part of a “combined operator” (i.e. combined transmission, LNG, storage and distribution storage operator, legally unbundled from other activities not relating to transmission, LNG, storage and distribution system operations)	yes
(d) part of a vertically integrated company (i.e. unbundling of accounts)	<input type="checkbox"/>

2.2 In the case of a SSO being part of a vertically integrated company:

(a) please provide details on the ownership structure. If an ownership diagram is available, please attach it to the completed questionnaire.	
details:	
(b) please specify if you have drawn up a document setting out all the terms and conditions relating to storage use by the affiliate company (GGPSSO 1.3).	

2.3 Please specify if you (GGPSSO 1.2.b):

(a) have developed and use standard storage contracts	yes
(b) have developed and use a storage code (approved by national relevant regulatory authority) → General Terms and Conditions published in the internet (not approved by regulatory authority)	yes
(c) consulted users in developing the standard storage contracts or the storage code	yes

2.4 Please provide details on how the consultation process for developing standard storage contracts/storage code was conducted (relating to GGPSSO 1.2.b)

(a) bilateral contacts with some users	<input type="checkbox"/>
(b) bilateral contacts with all users and some prospects	yes
(c) open consultation process, with some sort of public announcement (e.g. on company website, by press, at a conference)	<input type="checkbox"/>
(d) consultation process supervised by relevant national regulatory authority	<input type="checkbox"/>
(e) other (please specify below)	<input type="checkbox"/>
notes:	

3 Necessary TPA services

3.1 Please provide the following data in normalised cubic meters (date of reference: 1 April 2005) (GGPSSO 3.1)

	<i>Space</i>	<i>Injectability</i>	<i>Deliverability</i>
(a) technical capacity	1830 mcm	697000 m ³ /h	886000 m ³ /h
(b) available capacity	482 mcm	228364 m ³ /h	367364 m ³ /h
(c) contracted or held capacity	1348 mcm	468636 m ³ /h	518636 m ³ /h
(d) any storage capacity not available to TPA on the grounds of article 2(9) of the Gas Directive, with substantiated reasons ²			
notes:			
(e) any other capacity excluded from TPA – other than the portion used for production operations and facilities reserved exclusively for the TSO			
notes:			

3.2 Please indicate if Public Service Obligations (PSO) in your country are placed on (relating to GGPSSO 3.2, 3.5, 3.6-3-15):

(a) the SSO	<input type="checkbox"/>
(b) the shippers	<input type="checkbox"/>
(c) no PSO	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
(d) other	<input type="checkbox"/>
notes:	

3.3 Capacity for Public Service Obligations (hereafter PSO):

(a) Is storage capacity needed for any PSO offered on a TPA basis? (GGPSSO 3.2)	no
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3.4 If any capacity needed for any PSO is NOT offered on a TPA basis, please state why:

(a) national legislation	<input type="checkbox"/>
(b) other	<input type="checkbox"/>
notes: no PSO	

² Storage facility means a facility used for the stocking of natural gas and owned and/or operated by a natural gas undertaking, including the part of LNG facilities used for storage but excluding the portion used for production operations, and excluding facilities reserved exclusively for transmission system operators in carrying out their functions

3.5 Please provide the following data in normalised cubic meters for PSO, where NOT offered on a TPA basis (date of reference: 1 April 2005)

	<i>Space</i>	<i>Injectability</i>	<i>Deliverability</i>
(a) normalised cubic meters			

3.6 Do you offer the following services on the primary market (GGPSSO 3.3, 3.5, 3.7):

(a) bundled services (SBU) of space and injectability/deliverability	yes
(b) a service which includes an obligation for the SSO to allocate the gas which has been nominated	no ³
(c) injection and withdrawal are possible at any time	yes
notes:	

3.7 Are the following services separately charged (GGPSSO 3.3., 3.5, 3.7)?

(a) a service which includes an obligation for the SSO to allocate the gas which has been nominated	no
(b) injection and withdrawal are possible at any time	no
notes: Explanation: s. 3.9	

3.8 Where some services have NOT been introduced, please state why (GGPSSO 3.4.b, 3.5, 3.6, 3.7):

Obligation for the SSO to allocate according to nominations	
(a) consistent with the use of the interconnected gas transmission system	<input type="checkbox"/>
(b) not compatible with the balancing regime of the interconnected gas transportation system	<input type="checkbox"/>
Injection and withdrawal possible at any time	
(c) storage technical constraints	<input type="checkbox"/>
(d) economically use of the storage infrastructure	<input type="checkbox"/>
(e) consistent with the use of the interconnected gas transmission system	<input type="checkbox"/>
(f) not consistent with PSOs	<input type="checkbox"/>

Explanation: s. 3.9

3.9 If any of these services (please specify) has not been introduced for any other reason, please explain why

explanation: service not consistent with the Austrian market system (fn 3)

³ A service such as described in 3.6.b is not offered by OMV Gas GmbH; OMV Gas GmbH, however, considers the gas nominated as allocated.

3.10 Where there are limitations on the offer of services on the ground of either storage technical constraints or the economically efficient use of the storage infrastructure:

(a) was it made public and substantiated (GGPSSO 3.4.b)?	Yes Via published General terms and Conditions
reasons for limitations: if working gas level is low, rates may be reduced if necessary	

3.11 Please indicate if services offered have been developed with consultation of storage users to take into account market demand. If “yes”, please provide details on how the consultation process was conducted (GGPSSO 3.4.a)

(a) bilateral contacts with some users	<input type="checkbox"/>
(b) bilateral contacts with all users and some prospects	yes
(c) open consultation process, with some sort of public announcement (e.g. on company website, by press, at a conference)	<input type="checkbox"/>
(d) consultation process supervised by relevant national regulatory authority	<input type="checkbox"/>
(e) other (please specify below)	<input type="checkbox"/>
details on consultation process: demand of users	

3.12 Please specify the minimum size for each service (GGPSSO 3.8)

	Space	Injectability	Deliverability
(a) bundled services (SBU) of space and injectability/deliverability	2 mcm	800 m ³ /h	1000 m ³ /h
(b) injection and withdrawal are possible at any time		1000 m ³ /h	1000 m ³ /h

3.13 Are storage users allowed to pool their nominations with a view to overcome potential capacity thresholds (GGPSSO 3.8)?

answer:	yes
notes:	

3.14 Please specify the maximum duration for each service offered by your SSO (GGPSSO 3.3.c)

(a) bundled services (SBU) of space and injectability/deliverability	open
(b) other services	open
notes:	

3.15 Please specify if you have developed information systems and electronic communications to provide adequate data to storage users and to simplify transactions such as:

	Email	Internet	Other
(a) nominations	yes	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
(b) capacity bookings	<input type="checkbox"/>	yes	<input type="checkbox"/>
(c) transfers of capacity rights between storage users	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
(d) other : transfer of title	<input type="checkbox"/>	yes	<input type="checkbox"/>

b) and d) as of 2.Nov.2005

4 Storage capacity allocation and congestion management

4.1 What kind of capacity allocation mechanism do you apply (several answers possible, if mechanism applied different, depending on the storage facility/group of storage facilities)? (GGPSSO 4.1)

(a) market-based (e.g. auctions)	<input type="checkbox"/>
(b) first come first served	yes
(c) capacity follows the customer	<input type="checkbox"/>
(d) other (<i>please specify below</i>)	<input type="checkbox"/>
notes:	

4.2 Is the capacity allocation mechanism designed:

(a) by the SSO	yes
(b) by national legislation	<input type="checkbox"/>
(c) other (<i>please specify below</i>)	<input type="checkbox"/>
notes:	

4.3 Have these mechanisms and procedures been subject to consultation with storage users. If “yes”, please provide details on how the consultation process was conducted (GGPSSO 4.1.e)

(a) bilateral contacts with some users	<input type="checkbox"/>
(b) bilateral contacts with all users and some prospects	<input type="checkbox"/>
(c) open consultation process, with some sort of public announcement (e.g. on company website, by press, at a conference)	<input type="checkbox"/>
(d) consultation process supervised by relevant national authority	<input type="checkbox"/>
(e) other (<i>please specify below</i>)	<input type="checkbox"/>
notes: was not necessary in the past due to available capacity	

4.4 In case of congestion, what kind of solution do you apply or plan to apply (GGPSSO 4.2)

(a) market based (e.g. auctions)	yes
(b) pro rata	<input type="checkbox"/>
(c) other (<i>please specify below</i>)	yes
notes: 'Day Ahead Rate' and 'Intra Day Rate' (short timed offers)	

4.5 Is the congestion management mechanism designed:

(a) by the SSO	yes
(b) by national legislation	<input type="checkbox"/>
(c) other (<i>please specify below</i>)	<input type="checkbox"/>
notes:	

4.6 The congestion management mechanism:

(a) has it ever been used?	yes
notes: in close cooperation with AGGM (Austrian Control Area Manager) and AGCS (Austrian Clearing and Settlement for domestic market) and storage users	

4.7 Unused capacity (e.g. day-ahead release of non-nominated injectability and deliverability) (GGPSSO 4.4):

(a) do you offer all unused capacity on an interruptible basis?	no
notes: enough capacity on a firm basis available	

4.8 Do you use other means to discourage hoarding and facilitate re-utilisation and trade of storage capacity? Please specify the nature of these arrangements

answer:	no
notes:	

5 Confidentiality requirements

5.1 Please indicate if you (GGPSSO 5.1.a-c):

(a) keep databases related to storage operations separate	yes
(b) develop new IT systems for the storage business separately (when new IT systems are being developed in vertically integrated undertakings)	<input type="checkbox"/>
(c) ensure that no information available to the SSO concerning its storage business is passed to any other part of any affiliate of the company in advance of being provided to all market participants	yes
(d) have drafted a code of conduct	yes ⁴
(e) have implemented a compliance programme, supervised by a Compliance Officer	yes

5.2 If these measures have been monitored or supervised externally, please specify by whom (relating to 5.1.a-c)?

(a) national regulatory authority	yes ⁵
(b) another relevant national regulatory authority (please specify)	<input type="checkbox"/>
(c) external audit	<input type="checkbox"/>
(d) other (please specify below)	<input type="checkbox"/>
notes:	

5.3 Are the SSO and the supply business located in separate buildings (GGPSSO 5.1.d)?

answer: Econgaz	yes
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6 Transparency requirements

6.1 Are the following commercial terms published (GGPSSO 6.4.a-d):

⁴ Code of conduct in form of a general compliance programme of the company NOT explicitly related to storage.

⁵ NR has supervised the general compliance programme of the company; no explicit monitoring related to storage (s. as well fn 4).

	<i>In national language</i>	<i>In English</i>	<i>On the internet</i>	<i>Free of charge</i>	<i>Not applicable</i>
(a) if rTPA: tariffs and tariff methodologies for each service offered					
(b) if nTPA: main commercial conditions including the prices for standard services	y	y	y	y	<input type="checkbox"/>
(c) If nTPA: updates of main commercial conditions including the prices for standard services, whenever the SSO changes them	y	y	y	y	<input type="checkbox"/>
(d) services offered	y	y	y	y	<input type="checkbox"/>
(e) storage code (General Terms and Conditions)	y	y	y	y	
(f) main storage standard conditions for each service	y	y	y	y	<input type="checkbox"/>
(g) rights and responsibilities of all users	y	y	y	y	<input type="checkbox"/>
(h) rules (e.g. periods) for counter flows during injection and withdrawal	y	y	y	y	<input type="checkbox"/>
(i) rules of storage capacity transfer in case of customer switching (if any)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
(j) storage capacity allocation provisions	y	y	y	y	<input type="checkbox"/>
(k) congestion management provisions	y	y	y	y	<input type="checkbox"/>
(l) anti-hoarding provisions	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
(m) re-utilisation provisions	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
(n) auction terms (where applicable)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
(o) rules applicable for storage capacity trade on the secondary market vis-à-vis the SSO	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
(p) rules and charges applicable to storage penalties from storage users	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
(q) compensation payments from the SSO to storage users	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
(r) user-friendly instruments for calculating charges for a specific service (e.g. a tariff calculator)	y	y	y	y	<input type="checkbox"/>

6.2 Is the following operational information published (GGPSSO 6.5.a-e, 6.6.a-c, 6.9, 6.10):

	<i>In national language</i>	<i>In English</i>	<i>In energy units or ncm</i>	<i>Online information system</i>	<i>Free of charge</i>
(a) technical storage capacity	y	y	y	y	y
(b) available storage capacity	y	y	y	y	y
(c) contracted or held storage capacity	y	y	y	y	y

Info provided only to registered storage users as of 2.Nov.2005

(d) aggregated inflows and outflows at least on a weekly basis for the immediately preceding week	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
(e) historical utilization rates at least on a weekly basis for the immediately preceding week	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
(f) user-friendly instruments for verifying online the level of available and/or unused storage capacity	y	y	y	y	y
(g) maps indicating the location of their storage facilities and the connecting points of the storage facilities to the relevant network	y	y	<input type="checkbox"/>	y	y
(h) methods of determining available storage capacity	y	y	<input type="checkbox"/>	y	y
(i) operational parameters, including the rules of ownership and use of working gas	y	y	<input type="checkbox"/>	y	y
(j) TSO's pre-emptive rights with operational rules and processes attached	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
(k) any storage capacity not available to TPA on the grounds of article 2(9) of the Gas Directive, with substantiated reasons	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
(l) all planned maintenance periods that might affect storage users' rights from storage contracts, at least once a year	y	y	y	y	y
(m) the operational information corresponding to planned maintenance periods with adequate advance notice	y	y	y	y	y
(n) regular updates on details, expected duration and effect of the maintenance	y	y	y	y	y
Remark to l),m),n): info directly delivered to customers; online info via internet will be provided within 2005					

6.3 Where you have not published specific data, please state why (relating to GGPSSO 6.2., 6.3)

(a) less than three users (information about the aggregate use of storage)	<input type="checkbox"/>
(b) three users or more, but still commercial sensitivity of information	<input type="checkbox"/>
(c) reasons of cost (or substantial IT development needed)	<input type="checkbox"/>
(d) to avoid any potential market abuse	<input type="checkbox"/>
(e) to avoid significant harm to storage users commercial interest	<input type="checkbox"/>
(f) other (please specify below)	y
notes: 6.1.i: not applicable as capacity goes with the storage user not the end-user 6.2.d/e: currently no market demand due to enough capacity available to the market 6.2.k/j: n.a.	

- 6.4 If you have not published information as required by the GGPSSO about the aggregate use of storage, on the ground that such publication would harm the commercial interest of user(s), are any alternative data published (e.g. aggregate inflows and outflows on a monthly –or any other frequency- basis, non-numerical data)? Please specify and justify why this is the case (relating to GGPSSO 6.3)

answer:

- 6.5 Where unplanned disruptions in access to the storage services occur, do you ensure that (GGPSSO 6.8):

(a) current system users are notified of that disruption as soon as possible	yes
(b) information concerning the maintenance and disruptions that have occurred is made available upon request to those affected by the disruption	yes

7 Storage penalties

- 7.1 Is there a clause or provision in the storage contract/code providing for compensation payments to the storage users in the event you fail to fulfil contractual obligations (GGPSSO 8.1.a)?

answer: compensation payments yes, penalties no

8 Secondary markets

- 8.1 Are registered users allowed to trade in the secondary market (GGPSSO 9.1)

(a) bundled services only	yes
(b) both bundled and unbundled services	yes

- 8.2 Have you developed and used standardised contracts and procedures on the primary market to facilitate secondary trade of storage capacity (GGPSSO 9.1)?

answer: no

- 8.3 Is there a clause in the storage code/contract referring to or addressing secondary storage capacity trading explicitly (relating to GGPSSO 9.1)?

answer: no

- 8.4 Do you provide an electronic platform or bulletin board to facilitate secondary storage capacity trading (GGPSSO 9.2, 9.3)

answer: no

- 8.5 Have you taken any other steps to facilitate secondary storage capacity trading (GGPSSO 9.1)? Please specify how

answer: no

9 Implementation of the other GGPSSO requirements

9.1 Necessary TPA Services – please indicate if you:

	<i>As of 1 April 2005</i>	<i>Planned date of introduction</i>	<i>Not applicable</i>
(a) offer unbundled services supplementing SBUs at least for available storage capacity at the beginning of the storage year (GGPSSO 3.3.b)	yes		<input type="checkbox"/>
(b) offer short-term (<1 year) services down to a minimum period of one day (GGPSSO 3.3.c)	yes		<input type="checkbox"/>
(c) offer both firm and interruptible storage services (GGPSSO 3.3.d)	yes		<input type="checkbox"/>

9.2 Where not already provided, please provide brief details on steps you plan to take to facilitate their introduction

answer:

9.3 Secondary market – please indicate if you:

	<i>As of 1 April 2005</i>	<i>Planned date of introduction</i>	<i>Not applicable</i>
(a) allow for title transfer for both bundled and unbundled capacities (GGPSSO 9.1)	yes		
(b) recognise the transfer of rights where notified by storage users for both bundled and unbundled capacities (GGPSSO 9.1)	<input type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>
(c) allow the new owner to aggregate such storage capacity operationally (GGPSSO 9.1)	<input type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>

9.4 Where not already provided, please provide brief details on steps you plan to take to facilitate their introduction

answer: at the moment no demand for market participants

Appendix

Definitions

Available storage capacity means the part of the technical storage capacity that is not contracted or held by storage users at that moment and still available to the storage users for firm and interruptible services, and is not excluded from TPA under Article 2(9) of the Gas Directive (Definition 1 of the GGPSSO)

Storage capacity is space (expressed in normal cubic meters or energy), injectability and deliverability (expressed in normal cubic meters or energy per time unit). All of them can be firm or interruptible (Definition 17 of the GGPSSO)

Storage facility means a facility used for the stocking of natural gas and owned and/or operated by a natural gas undertaking, including the part of LNG facilities used for storage but excluding the portion used for production operations, and excluding facilities reserved exclusively for transmission system operators in carrying out their functions (Definition 18 of the GGPSSO)

Technical storage capacity is the maximum storage capacity (injectability, deliverability and space) that the SSO can offer to storage users, excluding storage capacity for SSOs operational needs