Understanding the Energy Industry

We know that the energy industry can be confusing, lots of energy terms and so many options of buying energy. This is why we want to help and provide you with a guide breaking everything we know you will encounter so that you can start to understand energy with confidence.

Metering

Half Hourly (HH) Meters

These are electricity meters usually installed on large consuming sites which record how much electricity is used every half an hour. Since April 1998, code 5 meters have been mandatory for all sites over 100 kva, and voluntary for sites under 100 kVa. This meter sends your consumption record by telephone or radio every half-hour to a central data bank. The supplier will then receive this information from the data collector and bill the client accordingly. The profile class for these meters are 00.

Non Half Hourly (NHH) Meters

These are electricity meters which do not automatically read consumption every half an hour. These meters need to be manually read and sent to the supplier for use on invoices. The profile class for these meters are 03-04 (quarterly billed) and 05-08 (monthly billed).

AMR (Automatic Meter Reads)

This is the term given to a system that provides automatic meter readings remotely. It uses telephone technology and holds the ability to transfer data into a billing system.

When an AMR is installed on a meter, it allows the supplier to pull an actual reading from the meter when billing the account.

Smart meter

Smart meters are electronic devices which are connected to your electricity and/or gas supply and record your usage, communicating this with your supplier.

Electricity – provided an AMR is installed, there is an additional option you can choose to obtain half hourly data for your non-half hourly (NHH) AMR metered supplies on a day +1 basis. This option is called Intelligent Analytics (IA). Intelligent Analytics is a chargeable service at around £3.75 per meter. If you would like this applied to NHH AMR supplies, please confirm the supply details and the date you would like IA to start from.

Gas – There are two AMR options for gas supplies: Bronze and Platinum. Bronze is free of charge and enables the supplier to pull a read from the meter each month which will be reflected on your invoices. Platinum is £50 per annum) and provides HH data on a day +2 basis. Any gas supplies with an AMR will initially be put onto the Bronze package, unless advised otherwise. If you would like Platinum to be applied to your gas AMR supplies, please confirm the supply details and the date you would like the platinum service to commence.

Metering/Invoice charges

Distribution Network Operator (DNO)

If you are unsure who is the DNO for a specific electricity supply, please use the following table. The first two digits of the MPAN will determine who the DNO is:

Each DNO operates a Meter Point Administration System (MPAS) which holds the following information for each MPAN:

- Supplier
- Data Collector (DC)
- Data Aggregator (DA)
- Meter Operator (MOP) or Meter Administrator for HH unmetered
- Customer
- Address of the exit point
- Associated MPANs
- MPAN state
- Profile Class (PC)
- Line Loss Factor Class (LLFC)
- Meter Time Switch Class (MTC)
- GSP Group
- MPRS is the name of the software package that implements the MPAS system for all DNOs. Since MPRS is used by most DNOs it is often used interchangeably with the term MPAS.

Meter Operator (MOP)

The meter operator is in charge of the general maintenance and upkeep of the electricity meter they are assigned to.

Data Collector (DC)

The data collector will gather the information from the meters, for example STARK who allow us access to their half hourly data.

Annual Quantity (AQ)

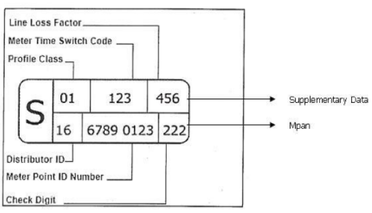
It is the sum of the annual consumption of all meters on a site. This comes from National Grid, and is based on historical usage from previous years. Measured in kWh (electricity) or Therms (gas). Supply Point AQ is the total annual consumption of all meters on a site. Meter Point AQ is the AQ for a particular Meter Point.

Meter Point Administration Number (MPAN)

Unique electricity supply Number to a property. It is also the term used in the Electricity Industry for a Supply ID. Each MPAN is 13 digits long and identifies different elements of the meter (please see below). There is an additional 8 digits known as the supplementary data, which usually follows the MPAN. Version 1.03 26 R0180

LASER mainly uses the first two digits of the MPAN as it clarifies what distribution area the meter is located in.

LASER mainly use the first two digits of the Supplementary data as it identifies what profile the meter is.



The first 2 digits of the Supplementary Data identify the Profile Class. This is applied to each MPAN to clarify the expected electricity usage. The table below identifies what each profile class means:

Profile Class	Explanation
00	Half Hourly metering (monthly billed
01-02	Domestic Usage – Not usually on LASER contract (quarterly billed)
03-04	Quarterly billed sites
05-08	Monthly billed sites

Meter Point Reference (MPR) or Meter Reference Point Number (MPRN)

Also known as Supply ID, This is a unique reference number given to every registered supply point which a gas meter is attached to. MPR assigned to the supply should never change, unless a supply is removed and or replaced. A MPR is 10 digits long, although the preceding zeros tend not to be displayed.

Meter Serial Number (MSN)

This is an identification number for each meter which is displayed on the front of each gas and electricity meter.

- Gas meters can be imperial or Metric.
- Imperial meters are normally billed in Hundred Cubic Feet (also known as Standard), the variance to this is Single, Ten and occasionally Thousand Cubic Feet
- Newly installed gas meters will be Metric meters. M016K0087607D6 is an example of a metric serial number, the 6 (following the D) denotes that it will be billed to 6 digits.

Maximum Demand

The greatest amount of electricity in kWh's passed through the meter at one point.

Meter Asset Manager (MAM)

The MAM is in charge of the general maintenance and upkeep of the Gas meter they are assigned to.

Meter Exchange (MEX)

This is when one meter is replaced for another meter which may be old or faulty. There will be no alteration to the pipework. If an exchange has taken place on a gas meter the engineer should place sticker on the new meter that shows the details of the exchange.

Available Capacity (AvCap)

Also known as the Agreed Capacity, this is an agreed amount of electrical load for a property, as stated in the property's Connection Agreement with the local Distribution Network Operator (DNO).

Estimated Annual Consumption (EAC)

The expected annual usage for individual supply.

Can we help with your school's energy?

Reach out to our dedicated education team as they can discuss your current usage, goals and options with you.

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