Tariff Interoperability

Frequently Asked Questions

Version 0.1 | Published 27 August 2026

Purpose

This document brings together recurring questions raised through consultations, webinars, working groups, Supplier Bilaterals and implementation discussions. It is intended as a practical reference for RECCo and stakeholder engagement, not as a substitute for the electricity licence, REC or final designated technical documents.

Key milestones

Phase 1a technical consultation	27 August 2026
Phase 1b Consultation	19 October 2026
Supplier endpoint details	31 December 2026
Management attestation	8 January 2027
Phase 1a go-live	18 February 2027
Phase 1b go-live	18 November 2027

Contents

1. Overview

Purpose, phases, roles and key dates

What is Tariff Interoperability?

Tariff Interoperability (TI) is a common way for energy Suppliers to make tariff information available through standardised APIs. It is intended to let Energy Smart Appliances, optimisation services and other

Users retrieve and use tariff data consistently across Suppliers, without a separate bespoke integration for each one.

Why is TI being introduced?

Tariff information is currently published in different formats and through different channels. TI is intended to reduce that fragmentation, encourage optimisation, support automated tariff comparison, and help consumers shift electricity use to lower-cost or lower-demand periods.

What is the difference between Phase 1a and Phase 1b?

Phase 1a covers public tariff pricing data and does not involve customer consent. Phase 1b adds access to account-specific tariff information where the account holder has granted permission through the Consumer Consent Solution (CCS). For Phase 1a, any person can be a TI User and access the data; for Phase 1b, access will be for authorised RTI Users only

What are the main delivery dates?

Phase 1a is due to go live on 18 February 2027. Phase 1b is planned for 18 November 2027. The Phase 1a technical consultation and the Phase 1b/CCS consultations take place during 2026; the exact consultation windows should be checked against the latest project communications.

What is a TI Energy Supplier?

A TI Energy Supplier is an electricity Supplier required to participate under Electricity Supply Standard Licence Condition (SLC) 11C, or another Energy Supplier that has opted into the TI Arrangements under REC Schedule 35. This means gas Suppliers and non-mandated electricity Suppliers can participate voluntarily.

What is a TI User?

A TI User is an organisation, individual or service that accesses public tariff information through the Phase 1a API. Examples may include optimisation services, comparison services and Energy Smart Appliance providers.

What is an RTI User?

An RTI User is a Registered Tariff Interoperability User (Organisation only) authorised to access account-specific tariff information under Phase 1b. RTI Users will also need to meet the relevant CCS registration, qualification and security requirements.

Will consumers need to use a new central TI website or app?

No. TI is an industry data standard and set of interfaces, not a new consumer-facing central service. Consumers are more likely to experience TI through a Supplier, an optimiser, a comparison service, or a smart appliance.

What should Suppliers be doing now?

Suppliers should review [the May 2026 policy and regulatory material](), build against the latest Phase 1a API artefacts, review the Test Approach and Test Workbook, raise defects early, and prepare for testing, endpoint registration and management attestation.

What are the consequences if an obligated Supplier is not ready by the deadline?

Failure to comply could amount to a breach of the Supplier's licence and REC obligations, with any compliance or enforcement response determined by Ofgem.

2. Phase 1a scope

Suppliers, tariffs and information covered by the public route

Is the mandatory Phase 1a obligation electricity only?

Yes. The mandatory obligation under Electricity Supply SLC 11C applies only to electricity suppliers. Gas Suppliers may opt into the REC TI Arrangements voluntarily, but gas Supplier participation is not mandated for Phase 1a.

Which electricity Suppliers are required to participate in Phase 1a?

Electricity Suppliers must assess their obligations against Electricity Supply SLC 11C. Domestic Suppliers are in scope; Suppliers serving only non-domestic customers may be exempt where they and their affiliates supply no more than 100,000 Relevant TI Non-Domestic Premises, subject to the full conditions in SLC 11C, or hold a relevant Ofgem derogation.

Which tariffs must be shared through Phase 1a?

The public route covers in-scope domestic tariff pricing information, tariff-like products for Relevant TI Non-Domestic Premises, and in-scope export tariffs. The final obligation is governed by Electricity Supply SLC 11C, REC Schedule 35 and the final technical specifications. Some Tariffs, such as Block Tariffs or Gas Tariffs, are optional, but can be provided if Suppliers choose.

What are the main tariff exclusions from mandatory Phase 1a tariff sharing?

The current Electricity Supply SLC11C excludes mandatory bespoke charges, block tariffs, unmetered supply charges and tariffs that cannot be represented through the Phase 1a API Technical Specification. FIT arrangements are also excluded from TI. Suppliers should check the Electricity Supply SLC 35 rather than rely on this summary alone.

Are export tariffs in scope?

Yes. Supplier-set export tariffs are included where they meet the definition set out in Electricity Supply SLC 35 and can be represented through the API technical specification.

Are Feed-in Tariff arrangements in scope?

No. FIT arrangements are treated as policy-based support payments rather than Supplier-set export tariffs that customers can select or switch between. They should not be included when determining the tariff information required through TI.

Are Smart Export Guarantee tariffs in scope?

Ordinary Supplier export products, including SEG-type offerings, are expected to fall within the export-tariff category where they meet the definition of Export Tariff in Electricity Supply SLC 35 and can be represented in the API. Suppliers should confirm any unusual arrangement against the final licence and technical rules.

Are deemed contract and out-of-contract tariffs excluded?

Not automatically. However, Electricity Supply SLC 11C.3 provides an exemption for a non-domestic-only Supplier where the only information it would otherwise need to provide relates to deemed contract or out-of-contract tariffs, provided the other exemption conditions are also met.

Are block tariffs in scope?

The current policy material excludes block tariffs from mandatory Phase 1a sharing. Suppliers should use the final designated documents as the authoritative position. Suppliers can provide these on a voluntary basis and it should be noted that the API Technical Specification accommodates these tariff structures.

Are prices published inclusive or exclusive of VAT?

Prices are presented exclusive of VAT. Separate VAT fields have not been included in the MVP.

When must a new tariff with a future effective date be published?

The current requirement is that the tariff should be available through the API at least 60 minutes before customers can be supplied on it. The relevant point is when the tariff becomes effective, rather than when it is first created or discussed internally.

3. Non-domestic Suppliers

Thresholds, exemptions, derogations and readiness

Are non-domestic electricity Suppliers in scope?

Yes, but not every non-domestic premises or contract is included. The obligation applies to Relevant TI Non-Domestic Premises and is subject to the exemption and exclusion provisions in Electricity Supply SLC 11C.

What is a Relevant TI Non-Domestic Premises?

It is a non-domestic premises where the quantity of electricity supplied is not determined using a Current Transformer electricity meter. CT-metered premises are therefore excluded from the calculation of the 100,000-premises threshold.

Does a non-domestic Supplier with fewer than 100,000 meter points automatically qualify for an exemption under Electricity Supply SLC 35?

Not simply because its total portfolio is below 100,000. The exemption applies only where all relevant conditions are met, including that the licensee supplies electricity only to non-domestic customers and the licensee and its affiliates collectively supply no more than 100,000 Relevant TI Non-Domestic Premises, or only the specified deemed/out-of-contract information would otherwise be in scope.

Does the Electricity Supply SLC 35 exemption apply if a ‘mainly’ non-domestic Supplier has one or more domestic customers?

No. The automatic exemption is available only where the electricity supply licence holder supplies electricity exclusively to non-domestic customers. An electricity Supplier with any domestic customers must comply unless an applicable Ofgem derogation is in place.

How are affiliates treated when applying the 100,000 threshold?

The threshold is assessed across the licensee and its affiliates, as set out in Electricity Supply SLC 11C. An electricity supplier should therefore consider its broader corporate structure rather than review a single operational brand or portfolio in isolation.

How is a ‘bespoke charge’ defined for the purposes of Electricity Supply SLC35?

A bespoke charge is tailored to a customer's individual needs and is not widely available on the open market. A tariff is not treated as bespoke solely because it includes a fee paid to a Micro Business TPI.

Are all non-domestic contracts treated as bespoke charges?

No. A standardised or tariff-like product offered on broadly the same charging structure to a range of business customers can still be in scope. The exemption in Electricity Supply SLC35 is intended for genuinely tailored arrangements, not every non-domestic contract.

Can bespoke charges be shared through TI?

Bespoke charges are not subject to mandatory public sharing in Phase 1a. The Phase 1b private route is intended to allow voluntary sharing of bespoke charges where a Supplier sees value in doing so and the account holder has granted permission; the detailed technical treatment remains subject to the Phase 1b design.

Is there a grace period after an electricity Supplier crosses the 100,000 threshold?

No grace period is provided in Electricity Supply SLC 35. Suppliers approaching the threshold are expected to prepare in advance so that they can comply when their circumstances change.

What happens if an electricity Supplier expects to cross the threshold shortly after Phase 1a go-live?

The electricity Supplier should plan against the point at which the Electricity Supply SLC 35 exemption will cease to apply, not wait until the threshold has been crossed. It should engage RECCo and Ofgem early if it believes it cannot be ready and consider whether a derogation application is appropriate.

Does being a B2B or I&C Supplier create a general derogation?

No. A B2B or I&C business model does not itself create a derogation. An electricity Supplier may meet the automatic exemption in Electricity Supply SLC 11C.3 or hold a specific Ofgem derogation, but it should not assume that another derogation covers TI.

Does an electricity Supplier need to register or apply for the automatic exemption?

There is no requirement to apply for the automatic exemption created by Electricity Supply SLC 35. The Supplier is responsible for assessing its own position against the licence condition and retaining a clear rationale.

Can the non-Domestic Supplier exemption threshold be changed?

RECCo cannot change the 100,000 Meter threshold for Non-Domestic Electricity Suppliers set out in Electricity Supply SLC 11C unilaterally. Any amendment would require the appropriate government and regulatory change processes. No change should be assumed unless it is formally confirmed.

What should a Supplier do if it identifies a material readiness risk?

Raise it early with RECCo, explain the cause and likely duration, and provide a credible recovery plan. Where appropriate, the Supplier can consider seeking a derogation, but this is not automatic and does not remove the need to prepare.

What if a Supplier cannot participate during the main industry testing period?

Phase 1a testing is Supplier-led rather than a single centrally certified event. The Supplier should continue testing against the published workbook, use the available validation support and engage RECCo on any gap. Missing the main testing period does not extend the regulatory deadline to provide endpoints by 31 December 2026 and go-live 18 February 2027. Also does not extend the requirement to provide attestation by 8 January 2027.

Can organisations onboard after the initial Phase 1a implementation?

There will be an enduring onboarding route for new market entrants and voluntary or late participants, although the detailed BAU process is still being developed. This does not provide an extension for Suppliers that are already obligated to be live on 18 February 2027.

What standards apply to a Supplier that opts in voluntarily?

The requirement is that a voluntary participant will meet the same relevant technical, testing and attestation standards as a mandated participant. Final guidance on the voluntary onboarding and assurance route is still being developed.

Has RECCo heard that other Suppliers are facing delivery pressures?

Suppliers have raised concerns about competing regulatory programmes, funding and implementation capacity. RECCo cannot comment on individual organisations, and those concerns do not change the obligation, but they inform the project’s support, engagement and risk-based assurance approach.

4. Phase 1a implementation and testing

Consultation, build, testing, assurance and operations

Where can the Phase 1a API Technical Specification and supporting artefacts be found?

The latest implementation material is available through the REC Developer Portal and the RECCo Tariff Interoperability project page. Suppliers should always check the version and publication status before using an artefact for build or testing.

Is the May 2026 API baseline final?

DESNZ and RECCo consulted on Tariff Interoperability in November 2025, and in the May 2026 government response, we baselined the technical documents (the API Technical Specification, EMDS changes and Standards Definition Document). These technical documents were updated in the context of pilot group testing of the design and additional comments from the industry. DESNZ and RECCo are consulting again solely on the technical documentation starting in September 2026, and finalising the technical documents in November 2026.

Parties should use the May baseline and make refinements as needed to reflect the consultation and decision

What is the purpose of the Phase 1a technical consultation?

It is a final formal opportunity to review changes since the May 2026 baseline and identify defects, ambiguities or genuine implementation blockers. It is not intended to reopen the policy decision or redesign the solution from first principles.

Are material changes to the Phase 1a design expected?

No material redesign is currently expected. Changes should mainly address defects, consistency, clarity and implementation usability, unless testing or consultation identifies an issue that would prevent interoperability or go-live.

How do the Schedule 35 'Tariff Interoperability Arrangements', EMDS and the API Technical Specification fit together in the REC?

REC Schedule 35 sets the obligations and business rules. The EMDS defines the market messages and data items, while the API Technical Specification defines the physical API representation and behaviour.

How will Supplier testing work?

Suppliers, who will be TI Energy Suppliers, will test their own implementation against the published Test Workbook and guidance. They remain responsible for determining that their API complies with the REC requirements and is operationally ready; RECCo provides the framework, tools and support rather than centrally executing Supplier testing.

What is the purpose of pilot testing?

The pilot testing is taking place between May and August 2026 and aims to validate the design and test tools. implementation artefacts and delivery approach before wider self-testing. It is intended to find obvious defects or ambiguities in the specification, workbook, guidance, validation tools and onboarding process; it is not market-wide certification.

What are the minimum expectations for Self-Directed testing?

A Supplier should complete all applicable Test Workbook scenarios, retain evidence, resolve material defects, confirm its endpoint and operational arrangements, and be able to support its management attestation. Tests that genuinely do not apply may be marked not applicable with a clear rationale.

Will Suppliers have to submit every test result and item of evidence to RECCo?

Not as a matter of routine under the current approach. RECCo plans to use proportionate, risk-based assurance and may request evidence or clarification where needed.

Will there be a standard evidence or test-report format?

The Test Workbook provides a common testing baseline, but the detailed evidence format has not yet been fully prescribed. Suppliers should retain evidence sufficient to substantiate the completed workbook and attestation. The Test workbook will be formally reviewed and signed off once Pilot Testing has been completed.

Who must sign the director-level management attestation?

The attestation must be signed by a Director, given that there are legal consequences around providing incorrect information. A signatory from an alternate can be used where a written delegation from a Director is given.

Will one attestation cover a whole group, legal entity or multiple MPIDs?

The expected unit of attestation should follow the obligated TI Energy Supplier and the implementation it operates, but the precise treatment of legal entities, REC Parties and multiple MPIDs is still to be confirmed in the final guidance.

Does RECCo certify or approve each Supplier implementation?

No. RECCo will not certify Supplier systems or guarantee compliance. Responsibility remains with each Supplier, supported by self-testing, management attestation, endpoint checks and risk-based assurance.

Is testing mandatory for TI Users?

Testing is voluntary for Phase 1a TI Users, although RECCo encourages participation and will provide relevant facilities. Testing and qualification expectations for RTI Users under Phase 1b will be more formal because they will access account-specific information.

What testing tools will RECCo provide?

The approach includes a Test Workbook, validation capability, sandbox or simulation support and implementation guidance. YAML and OpenAPI artefacts are available to support development and validation; reference code or a public GitHub issue tracker is not yet confirmed.

What are the current endpoint and attestation deadlines?

The current plan is for Supplier endpoint and contact details to be provided by 31 December 2026 and for management attestation to be submitted by 8 January 2027, ahead of the 18 February 2027 go-live.

What happens if testing identifies a material defect in the API technical specification?

The issue should be raised through the project query or change process as early as possible through the TariffInteroperability@retailenergycode.co.uk mailbox. RECCo and DESNZ will assess whether it is a clarification, defect or enhancement and determine the change, testing and timetable impact.

How will the live service be monitored after go-live (18 Feb 2027)?

RECCo is progressing Change R0323 to develop assurance processes for Tariff Interoperability, and also developing a TI Supplier Register and monitoring capability for Supplier endpoints, supported by operational processes for issue management and escalation. Suppliers remain responsible for the accuracy, security and availability of their own APIs.

What happens if incorrect or compromised tariff data is published?

The Supplier remains responsible for data accuracy and security. Monitoring, assurance and incident-management arrangements are intended to identify and escalate issues, but they do not transfer responsibility for the source data to RECCo.

Will tariff payloads be cryptographically signed?

Cryptographic signing is not part of the Phase 1a design. Data is served directly from each Supplier's own endpoint over the specified security controls, with monitoring and incident processes used to manage implementation or integrity concerns.

5. Technical questions

Current API and data-model positions

What does the last modified field refer to in Market Messages MMXXXX1, 5 and 7?

It records when anything within the Tariff Details Response payload was last updated. It relates to the tariff data, not the URL itself.

When should a tariff receive a new Tariff ID?

Where the tariff name or associated pricing data differs, it should be treated as a separate tariff and assigned a distinct Tariff ID. The combination of the Supplier MPID and Tariff ID provides the unique reference used by TI Users.

How are tariff updates detected in Phase 1a?

TI Users can use Tariff IDs and last modified values to identify changes in the public payload. Push notifications or webhooks are not part of Phase 1a; event notification (covering when a customer's tariff changes) is being developed for Phase 1b.

What tariff type values are used?

The tariff type is currently Static or Dynamic. Other descriptions, such as EV use, are handled through a separate free-text type-of-use field rather than adding more tariff type values.

How are simple flat-rate tariffs represented?

Time bands are required, while some other fields are optional. A simple tariff, therefore, needs only the required fields, such as its unit price and other mandatory tariff attributes described in the EMDS for each specific TI market message.

How are complex or mixed-rate tariffs represented?

The rates structure supports different forms according to tariff type, including time-based pricing. Complex examples and mixed scenarios should be checked against the latest examples and schema in the upcoming September 2026 consultation.

What does “polymorphism” mean in the TI API?

It means the same rates area can take different valid structures depending on the tariff type or charging arrangement. The current design has been retained, and is presenting an update to this area in the September 2026 Technical Consultation.

How are Economy 7 tariffs represented?

Economy 7 can be represented using the standard time-band and type-of-use fields. A separate Economy 7 flag has not been included, particularly because there is no single agreed definition that would make the identifier unambiguous.

How are electricity and gas differentiated?

The payload contains a fuel-type attribute. MPID formats also differ: electricity MPIDs are four characters and gas MPIDs are three characters. A single endpoint can support more than one MPID.

How should GSP Group ID and LDZ Region be used?

Under the May 2026 baseline, a TI Energy Supplier must provide the relevant LDZ region for each gas tariff. However, we now understand that typically, domestic gas tariffs are regionalised by electricity distribution network, identified by the electricity region code (DI50028 – GSP Group Id; gsp_group_id), rather than LDZ Region. The September 2026 Technical consultation will propose a change to this baseline that allows TI Energy Suppliers to differentiate their gas tariffs using GSP Group ID or LDZ Region.

Why is LDZ Region no longer an array?

The design was changed so LDZ Region is a string. Where a tariff applies separately across regions, separate Tariff IDs are used for the relevant regional variants.

Is meter_type an array?

Yes, where a tariff is restricted to particular meter types then each of the applicable meter types should be recorded. The field is conditional and lists all relevant meter types against the same Tariff ID. It is used in Market Messages MMXXXX5 and 7

Does the TI payload show whether the same data was sent to a smart meter?

No. TI covers tariff-data publication and does not confirm device-level communication, meter configuration or whether a meter holds the latest tariff information.

What API versioning approach is used?

The May 2026 baseline uses header-based API versioning. The rationale is to keep the public URL stable and allow gateway routing by version, although industry has proposed path-based and payload-based alternatives. The final position should be checked in the consultation outcome and final specification (TI API Specification v0.1.12).

Will RECCo publish the design rationale or technical issue log?

The Design and Decision Change Log forms a core deliverable in the IWG, and the OpenAPI material has its own version history.

6. Phase 1b and CCS

Account-specific information, permission and non-domestic considerations

What does Phase 1b add?

Phase 1b allows an authorised RTI User to identify the tariff applying to a particular customer's account and receive relevant notifications when that information changes. The account holder must grant permission through CCS.

Why is Phase 1b using CCS?

CCS gives Phase 1b a single, trusted way for consumers to grant and manage permission. This avoids separate consent solutions for each use case, reduces Supplier duplication and gives authorised services a consistent route to account-specific tariff information.

Are TI and CCS the same solution?

No. CCS manages permission, user qualification and related trust services. TI defines the tariff-specific Supplier and user interactions. Phase 1a operates independently of CCS; Phase 1b depends on CCS for permission management.

Does CCS affect Phase 1a?

No. Phase 1a covers public tariff data and requires no consent or identity verification. Suppliers should continue Phase 1a build and testing regardless of Phase 1b design activity.

Will Phase 1b cover non-domestic accounts?

The current TI design position is that Phase 1b must consider both domestic and relevant non-domestic electricity accounts. This is a specific TI use case and is subject to the Phase 1b and CCS consultation and detailed design.

The initial CCS service is domestic. How can TI include non-domestic accounts?

The initial CCS Minimum Marketable Product is focused on domestic use. TI Phase 1b is expected to introduce the additional account-holder, authority and Supplier-verification requirements needed for its specific non-domestic use case before any wider expansion of CCS to the whole non-domestic market.

Will TI Phase 1b determine the whole future non-domestic CCS design?

No. TI will define what is needed for the tariff-information use case. Any broader expansion of CCS across the non-domestic market would still require separate policy consideration, stakeholder engagement and consultation.

Is CCS a separate blanket obligation for every non-domestic Supplier?

No. There is not a standalone requirement for every non-domestic Supplier to join CCS simply because it supplies businesses. The relevant duties will depend on whether the Supplier is a TI Energy Supplier and on the final Phase 1b REC and CCS requirements.

What will Suppliers need to do for account-holder verification?

The emerging design requires the Supplier to maintain a process for confirming that the person referred through CCS is the relevant account holder. The exact data and journey, including non-domestic authority models, are still being designed.

How will permission be checked before information is shared?

The Consumer gives permission through CCS, which provides the RTI User with a secure token to request the account-specific tariff information from the Supplier. The Supplier validates the token before sharing the data. Access and refresh tokens support this check each time data is requested, so access remains tied to the Consumer's permission.

What information is "Account Specific Tariff Information"?

The current design uses the tariff identifier applying to the account, together with TI event notifications when relevant information changes. The RTI User then uses the Phase 1a public API to retrieve the associated pricing data, where applicable. Event notifications also form part of the account-specific Tariff Information.

Will Phase 1b include event notifications or webhooks?

Yes. CCS will use the Shared Signals Framework (SSF) as the open standard for sharing notifications needed across CCS use cases, including TI. For Phase 1b, this will allow RTI Users to receive relevant notifications, such as a tariff change or Supplier switch, while valid Consumer permission remains in place.

When should non-domestic Suppliers engage in the Phase 1b design?

They should engage during the consultation and working-group activity, even where their final obligation is uncertain. Their input is needed to test account structures, delegated authority, verification and operational journeys that may differ from domestic supply.

What parts of the Phase 1b design are still open?

Detailed non-domestic journeys, account-holder verification, permission lifecycle, event behaviour, qualification, testing and operational responsibilities are still being refined. The policy decision to deliver Phase 1b through CCS has already been made.

7. Support and further information

Engagement routes, publications and ownership

How can a Supplier raise a technical question or defect?

Use the TariffInteroperability@retailenergycode.co.uk mailbox, or raise the point through the Implementation Working Group or TI Working Group. Issues should be supported by a clear example, expected behaviour and implementation impact where possible.

How is industry involved in the project?

Industry input is gathered through consultations, the TIWG and IWG, technical reviews, pilot testing, webinars, bilateral discussions and the query tracker. Suppliers, TI Users, manufacturers, software providers and trade bodies are encouraged to participate.

Where will webinar slides, recordings and written answers be published?

They are published through the [RECCo Tariff Interoperability project page] and shared through project communications. [The Developer Portal] hosts the API implementation material.

Which document is authoritative if an FAQ conflicts with the formal rules?

The Electricity Supply Licence SLC11C, REC and final designated technical documents take precedence. This FAQ is an explanatory working document and should be updated whenever the formal position changes.

How often should this FAQ be reviewed?

It should be treated as a living document and reviewed after the Phase 1a technical consultation, the Phase 1b/CCS consultations, publication of final testing guidance and any material change to the implementation plan. In addition, RECCo may periodically update the following key stakeholder events, such as TIWGs and IWGs. We will use version control so Parties can easily see what has changed, rather than having to read the entire document each time there is an update

Appendix A – Useful Links

Published and working material

- RECCo Tariff Interoperability project page
- REC Developer Portal
- Electricity Supply Standard Licence Condition material