

Directive (EU) 2026/706 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 11 March 2026 amending Directive 2014/32/EU as regards measuring systems for electric vehicle supply equipment and compressed gas dispensers, and electricity, gas and thermal energy meters.

- 1. [Guidance](#) from the UK Government (UKG)'s Office for Product Safety and Standards states that the Measuring Instruments Regulations 2016 (MIR) currently apply across the UK but some of the provisions apply differently in Northern Ireland. How would the application of the replacement EU act affect any current GB-NI regulatory divergence/alignment?**

Under the terms of the Windsor Framework, the new Directive will apply in Northern Ireland (NI). This will introduce new elements: the scope of the Directive has been extended and the regulations in NI will apply to a wider range of products such as Direct Current (DC) meters; gas calorific value determining devices; and introducing new display options for gas and electricity meters.

The Government is already taking steps to explore the benefits of having a consistent UK regulatory landscape, starting with its plans to lay a Statutory Instrument in 2026 to enable active electrical energy meters that are not utility meters to have remote-only displays, and to come into force in 2027, within the 30 month transition deadline for Directive (EU) 2026/706.

As the UK Government has already set out, it will also be reviewing all other new measures included in the new Directive to see whether implementing similar measures would benefit the whole of the UK Internal Market. This review will be informed by a Call for Evidence that the Department for Business and Trade plans to issue later this year, alongside a full programme of stakeholder engagement which will include a detailed consideration of whether GB should match the EU's measures, including whether to also apply a remote display option to domestic gas and electricity utility meters. As noted, there is a 30 month transition deadline that allows for similar measures to come into force in Great Britain before such updates apply in Northern Ireland.

- 2. What impact is that likely to have on industry and/or consumers in NI?**

The Government is already taking steps to explore the benefits of having a consistent UK regulatory landscape by launching a Call for Evidence, and therefore does not anticipate negative impacts on industry and/or consumers in NI. This is especially the case as industry will have ample time to adapt as a result of the 30 month transition period from when Directive 2026/706 enters into force on 9 April 2026.

3. How does that compare with the likely impact of not applying the replacement EU act in Northern Ireland?

The potential benefits for consumers and business would not be realised if the new requirements were not applied in NI. Anticipated business benefits include simplifying compliance for manufacturers operating across both the GB and EU markets, reducing design complexity, and enabling more efficient product development and trade. For consumers, anticipated benefits include better access to flexible energy supply services and tariffs and the ability to monitor usage digitally, better reflecting existing consumer behaviour

The UK Government is considering applying similar measures in GB and has already committed to adopt a similar measure on the display screen requirements for energy smart appliances. We are unable to comment further on the impact here as no formal assessment of impact has been undertaken by the UK Government for this new Directive.

4. In its [EM](#) on the proposed EU act, UKG previously stated that it “will review whether equivalent measures in GB would best serve the UK’s interests” and indicated that the Product Regulation and Metrology Act 2025 would allow it to amend the MIR accordingly. Has UKG provided any further update in relation to this?

The original EM was provided in April 2025. In February 2026 the Government published a response to their consultation on [Measuring instruments display requirements for ESAs - GOV.UK](#)). This indicated an intention to implement in GB, an option similar to that in the new Directive, to allow certain electricity meters (such as those in EV charge points and heat pumps) to have remote-only displays.

The response also noted that the Government is considering all measures in the new Directive and whether similar provisions may be appropriate for the GB market. The decision on whether to implement similar measures in GB will be informed by a Call for Evidence that we plan to issue later this year.

5. Would application of the replacement EU act have any impact on GB-based businesses who wish to export products to NI?

The UK Government is already taking steps to explore the benefits of a consistent UK regulatory landscape, and therefore does not anticipate negative impacts on industry and/or consumers in NI. This is especially the case as industry will have ample time to adapt as a result of the 30 month transition period from when the

Directive enters into force on 9 April. Longer transitional regimes (up to 4 years) will be permitted for Electric Vehicle Supply Equipment and compressed gas dispensers.

The UK Government has already committed to adopt a similar measure on the display screen requirements, and will be issuing a Call for Evidence this year to determine whether the remaining requirements in the new Directive should be considered for the GB market.

6. Has UKG highlighted any risks or problems that might arise from the replacement EU act applying in NI? If so, what mitigations has it proposed?

The UK Government has not identified any risks or problems arising from the replacement act applying. It is already taking steps to explore the benefits of having a consistent UK regulatory landscape, starting with an SI to adopt measures concerning the remote display screen option for energy smart appliances in the MIR's essential requirements this year, and followed by a Call for Evidence.

7. Has UKG highlighted any likely benefits of the replacement EU act applying in NI? If so, what is your assessment of those benefits?

No assessment has been undertaken on this issue.

8. Can you provide details of any: a) engagement that has taken place on the replacement EU act; and b) potentially impacted stakeholders?

a) There was a question about the new EU legislation included in the Government's recent consultation: [Measuring instruments display requirements for ESAs - GOV.UK](#). The scope of the consultation, which received 42 responses, covered GB only and given its timing the comments related to the Commission's draft proposal (and not the final text).

b) Measuring instruments industry, Energy Smart Appliances sector, Public Charge Points for electric vehicle manufacturers, emerging industries such as businesses engaged in providing alternative fuel (e.g. hydrogen) dispensers.

9. If any engagement has taken place, what potential benefits, risks or costs to businesses and/or consumers have been highlighted?

Some limited engagement on the EU draft proposal was undertaken through the inclusion of a question in the Government's earlier consultation on display requirements. In particular, industry stated that alignment between the MIR and

MID would simplify compliance for manufacturers operating across both the GB and EU markets, reduce design complexity, and eliminate the need for separate hardware variants, enabling more efficient product development and trade. Respondents also suggested that alignment would support business growth and would reduce administrative burdens, as they will be able to supply the same product to both markets. The consultation also highlighted that the UK Government's proposal to amend for GB the physical display requirement in MIR for active electrical energy meters within Energy Smart Appliances (ESAs) would deliver tangible benefits to businesses and consumers.

Introducing the option for a remote display, alongside the integrated physical display would give manufacturers flexibility to supply ESAs with or without physical displays based on consumer preference. This approach better reflects modern consumer behaviour, including increasing use of remote and digital interfaces. This approach also aligns with the new Directive 2026/706 amending the MID, therefore it will help preserve the functioning of the UK Internal Market while enabling innovation and consumer choice.

Benefits and risks to business and consumers will be explored further in the Call for Evidence on applying similar measures in GB that we plan to publish later in the year.