

## **EXPLANATORY NOTE FOR EUROPEAN UNION LEGISLATION/DOCUMENTS WITHIN THE SCOPE OF THE UK/EU WITHDRAWAL AGREEMENT AND THE WINDSOR FRAMEWORK**

### **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**

Submitted by Department for Business and Trade, 31 March 2026

#### **SUBJECT MATTER**

1. The EU Measuring Instrument Directive 2014/32/EU (the “MID”) seeks to harmonise the requirements for various types of measuring instruments across the EU, meaning that instruments approved as conforming with specified metrological standards can be sold across the EU Single Market.
2. The EU has now adopted a targeted technical amendment (TTA) to update the MID to consider developments from new technologies, such as electric vehicle charging stations, electric vehicle supply equipment (“EVSE”) and hydrogen refilling stations, and to bring compressed gas dispensers, thermal cooling energy meters and DC meters in scope of the MID for the first time<sup>1</sup>. It also updates the essential requirements to give various measuring instruments the option of having a remote display rather than a physical one, including for smart utility meters (e.g. gas and electricity meters).

#### **SCRUTINY HISTORY**

3. An earlier Explanatory Memorandum was produced in May 2025 covering the details of the Commission’s original proposal (COM(2024)561). This updated Explanatory Memorandum includes new changes made since that proposal which were not previously considered.

#### **MINISTERIAL RESPONSIBILITY**

4. The Secretary of State for Business and Trade has responsibility for measuring instruments policy.

#### **INTEREST OF THE DEVOLVED GOVERNMENTS (DGs)**

5. Requirements for regulated measuring instruments are not a devolved matter, but the UK Government will continue to discuss matters where relevant with each of the devolved governments.
6. However, electricity supply, transmission and distribution are devolved to the Northern Ireland Executive (NIE).
7. The amendments to the MID will be implemented by Directive (EU) 2026/706 and will apply directly in all EU member states, and in Northern Ireland under the terms of the

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<sup>1</sup> Previously, Member States in the EU had different views on whether DC meters were already in scope of the MID or not – the amendments made by the TTA to Annex V MID will put this beyond doubt by setting out the specific requirements applicable to DC meters.

Windsor Framework, subject to the relevant democratic scrutiny processes. The Northern Ireland Executive Office has been contacted as part of the preparation of this explanatory memorandum and have no comments. The Department of Business and Trade will continue to engage with them and with devolved governments regarding this matter.

## LEGAL AND PROCEDURAL ISSUES

8. The MID applies in Northern Ireland under Annex 2 of the Windsor Framework, and so the changes to it introduced by the TTA will apply in Northern Ireland under Article 13(3) of the Windsor Framework. Directive (EU) 2026/706 will enter into force on 10<sup>th</sup> April 2026, the twentieth day following its publication in the Official Journal. Most of the changes made to MID by the new Directive will apply in Northern Ireland 30 months later from 10<sup>th</sup> October 2028.
9. The new requirements must be **implemented in Northern Ireland legislation by 10<sup>th</sup> April 2028** (within 2 years from entry into force). The UK Government will lay a Statutory Instrument to implement these changes in Northern Ireland, using powers in the Product Regulation and Metrology Act 2025 to amend the Measuring Instruments Regulations 2016 (“the MIR”). These regulations will be made using the negative procedure.
10. The new Directive has been adopted in accordance with the ordinary legislative procedure.

## POLICY AND LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

11. The new changes below will apply to measuring instruments placed on the EU and Northern Ireland markets from 30 months after the 10<sup>th</sup> April 2026 (when the TTA enters into force) . Under the Government’s commitments to Northern Ireland’s unfettered access to the rest of the UK market, measuring instruments that meet the technical requirements of the MID (as amended by Directive (EU) 2026/706) and are placed on the market in Northern Ireland may also be legally placed on the market in Great Britain (see regulations 33A-C of the MIR).
12. **The adopted Directive builds on the Commission’s proposal in the draft TTA in several key ways.** It significantly strengthens and clarifies the framework across multiple instrument categories, with the aim of improving legal certainty, consumer protection and enforceability.
13. The final text adds clarity on the existing scope of the MID and also brings more measuring instruments in scope of the MID for the first time. MID will now apply to **EVSE, compressed gas dispensers, DC electricity meters, modern gas meter measurement (including hydrogen, energy conversion devices and gas calorific value determining devices) and thermal energy meters for cooling.** The changes also reflect modern performance requirements and technological developments so the Directive better reflects digitalised, automated and emerging energy systems.

14. Also introduced are several horizontal safeguards and enablers. These include explicit **no retrofitting obligations for existing EV charging stations and for existing gas dispensers**. **Longer and differentiated transitional arrangements** depending on the type of measuring instrument, and provisions allowing **early designation of notified bodies and early certification** (for early adopters whose instruments meet the requirements of the new Directive) are additionally inserted.
15. Together, these measures mitigate economic and capacity risks associated with implementation. Details include:
- a. **Electric Vehicle Supply Equipment (EVSE):** The adopted Directive significantly expands on draft Annex Va to include 'critical fault' and 'Base Maximum Permissible Error' to determine accuracy requirements. It also includes detailed accuracy classes (A, B, C), operating conditions, disturbance tests and transaction rules. And additionally it explicitly states no retrofitting obligations for existing charging stations and brings **charging cables into scope**.
  - b. **Compressed gas dispensers:** There are smaller changes to Annex VIIa in the adopted TTA as compared to the draft. (The new Annex provides specified requirements for compressed gas dispenser measuring systems, bringing them in scope of MID for the first time). The final adopted Annex VIIA adds detailed definitions, accuracy classes, disturbance handling, durability, display rules, and self-service provisions. Again, it explicitly introduces no retrofitting obligations for existing dispensers.
  - c. **Electricity meters Direct Current (DC):** changes here explicitly and repeatedly integrate DC electrical energy meters (such as used in fast EV charge points) into Annex V of the MID, amending existing definitions, operating ranges, electromagnetic environments, and testing requirements.
  - d. **Gas meters and new gases:** The adopted TTA contains only small differences to the draft to enable the quantity of energy to be displayed in decibel multiples, and to add new specific requirements relating to gas calorific value determining devices. The TTA adds a new device category into the MID for the first time (gas calorific value determining devices) and amends the existing requirements for gas meters and gas conversion devices with specific Minimum Permissible Errors, durability and suitability rules.
  - e. **Display and access to measurement results:** The adopted TTA introduces options for manufacturers on how different measuring instruments can display measurement, to improve accessibility of results. Gas and electricity meters can contain either a local display or remote display, and EVSE and compressed gas dispensers have a third option of using either a consumer or end-user device. The TTA amends the existing definition of 'direct sales' to account for the remote display option, and amends the indication of result requirements to ensure the indication of result, no matter the display option used, is clear, unambiguous and **tamper proof**.
  - f. **Transitional arrangements** for placing measuring instruments on the market which meet existing MID requirements have been extended from 24 to 30 months from the entering into force date, but with separate and longer transitional regimes (up to 4 years) permitted for EVSE and compressed gas dispensers.
16. Economic operators placing products on the market in Great Britain can meet the requirements of MIR by complying with the obligations in the MID (see regulations 33A-C). The changes the TTA makes to the MID to regulate new categories of measuring instruments will not automatically apply to those products placed on the

Great British market.

17. In line with the Government's commitment to ensuring Northern Ireland traders have unfettered access to the rest of the UK internal market, these new measures will in no way impede the movement of qualifying Northern Ireland goods from Northern Ireland to Great Britain. Such goods will also continue to benefit from the market access principles set out in the United Kingdom Internal Market Act 2020. Accordingly, so long as those goods meet Northern Ireland standards, they can be sold anywhere in the UK internal market.
18. The UK Government shares similar ambitions to the EU in supporting new technological development and progress towards net zero. To that end, the Government indicated in February this year (in their response to the consultation on [Measuring instruments display requirements for ESAs - GOV.UK](#)) that it intends to implement a similar measure to that outlined in para 15e and allow active electrical energy meters that are not utility meters, (such as those in EV charge points and heat pumps) to have remote-only displays Great Britain. The UK Government plans to lay a Statutory Instrument in 2026 to make this change in Great Britain, to come into force in 2027 which is within the 30 month EU TTA transition deadline and should avoid any unnecessary divergence on regulatory requirements.
19. The government response to the consultation also noted that the Government is considering all measures in the new Directive and whether similar provisions may be appropriate for the GB market. This will take into account Government priorities to support the domestic rollout of smart energy devices, ensuring that UK businesses remain competitive in both the UK and EU markets, and maintaining protections for the UK internal 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 alongside a full programme of stakeholder engagement which will include a detailed consideration of whether GB should match the EU's measures to also apply a remote display option to domestic gas and electricity utility meters.

## **CONSULTATION**

20. There has not been a consultation undertaken by the UK Government on this change to the EU's Measuring Instruments Directive. In accordance with the Windsor Framework, amendments to the Measuring Instruments Directive will apply in Northern Ireland subject to the relevant democratic scrutiny processes.

## **FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

21. There is no data available on the financial implications of these changes as the EU's proposals in the TTA have only just been finalised. The no 'retrofitting' assurances in the TTA means that business will not be subject to a sudden request to update all their existing products once the new rules come in force. The UK Government can now begin to assess the impact of these changes for UK businesses.