



## Information on the requirements for natural gas traders and suppliers

Definitions according to section 7 para. 1 *Gaswirtschaftsgesetz* (Natural Gas Act) 2011<sup>1</sup>:

**Item 14: “natural gas trader”** shall mean a natural or legal person or a registered partnership buying and selling natural gas without carrying out the functions of transmission or distribution within or outside the system in which such natural gas trader is established.

**Item 68: “supplier”, aka “retailer”**, shall mean a natural or legal person or a registered partnership executing the function of supply.

According to section 121 Natural Gas Act 2011 a natural gas trader shall notify its activities to the regulatory authority prior to commencing them.

The 2011 Natural Gas Act contains, among others, the following requirements for natural gas traders and suppliers:

- Natural gas traders and suppliers selling natural gas to consumers subject to the provisions of the *Konsumentenschutzgesetz* (Consumer Protection Act) shall always provide for an option to enter into **noninterruptible natural gas supply contracts**. (Section 121 para. 2 Natural Gas Act 2011)
- Retailers supplying consumers shall be obliged to transmit all **price relevant data** relating to consumers supplied with standard products immediately upon their becoming available to the regulatory authority in an electronic format defined by the regulatory authority, for the purpose of entering such data in the **Tariff Calculator**. (Section 121 para. 3 Natural Gas Act 2011)

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## FAQs – Information on the requirements for natural gas traders and suppliers

- Natural gas traders and suppliers, with the exception of traders that only trade at the virtual trading point, shall contribute to the preparation of the **long-term plan** and the **network development plan**. (Section 121 para. 4 Natural Gas Act 2011)
- Retailers supplying natural gas to **protected customers** as defined in Article 2 Regulation (EU) No 994/2010 shall be obliged to comply with the **supply standard** set in Article 8 Regulation (EU) No 994/2010. (Section 121 para. 5 Natural Gas Act 2011)
- The conclusion of natural gas supply contracts having a duration in excess of one year and involving the purchase of a quantity of natural gas in excess of 250 million normal cubic metres per year, as well as their duration and the quantity of natural gas they relate to, shall be notified to the regulatory authority. (Section 121 para. 6 Natural Gas Act 2011)
- Natural gas traders and other suppliers shall be obliged to deliver natural gas to consumers as defined in section 1 para. 1 item 2 Consumer Protection Act and small businesses that claim their right to be supplied with natural gas (**obligation to provide universal service**). They shall publish, in an appropriate manner (e.g. on the internet), their rates for supply of last resort to consumers in the meaning of section 1 para. 1 item 2 Consumer Protection Act. (Section 124 Natural Gas Act 2011)
- Natural gas traders and suppliers shall draw up **general terms and conditions** for natural gas supply to customers whose consumption is not metered with load profile meters. Prior to their entry into force, the general terms and conditions and any amendments thereto shall be electronically notified to the regulatory authority, which may prohibit the application of the notified general terms and conditions to the extent that such terms violate a statutory prohibition or are unethical. The general terms and conditions must be published in a suitable format and must **contain at least** the information specified by law. (Section 125 Natural Gas Act 2011)
- **Information and advertising materials** as well as **bills** directed at consumers shall be transparent and consumer-friendly. This section also contains minimum requirements for bills. (Section 126 Natural Gas Act 2011)
- The **reporting requirements** according to the ordinances issued pursuant to sections 131 and 147 Natural Gas Act 2011 must be complied with.