

REGULATORY FACTSHEET: OPEX ADJUSTMENT IN THE 5TH REGULATORY PERIOD (ELECTRICITY DISTRIBUTION SYSTEM OPERATORS)

As of 21 January 2026

Beginning with the 6th regulatory period (starting 2034 for electricity and 2033 for gas), each regulatory period for electricity distribution, gas distribution and gas transmission system operators will last three years. The 5th regulatory period will last five years as before. The shortening of the regulatory periods will be conditional on a successful evaluation of whether the simplification and acceleration tools in the individual elements of the regulatory method are adequate based on practical experience.

With shorter regulatory periods, the regulatory budget will be updated more frequently. Given a cost development as claimed by network operators, these cost increases will be reflected earlier than before in the revenue cap, for the benefit of network operators.

Operators of electricity distribution networks may increase their revenue cap with an OPEX adjustment instrument as described below throughout the transitional 5th regulatory period.

General concept of the OPEX adjustment instrument

The revenue cap of operators of electricity distribution networks will be adjusted each year with regard to the OPEX, based on the change in output parameters from national efficiency benchmarking compared with the base year.

Changes in output parameters will be valued at efficient costs in accordance with a method for calculating efficiency scores.

When adjusting a revenue cap, account is taken of the network operator's individual share of the OPEX, as CAPEX from investments throughout the regulatory period are already subject to the CAPEX markup.

Further details

Efficient costs will be adjusted in line with general inflation, taking into account specific input price developments and productivity growth in the network sector (Xgen).

Adjustment can be made dependent on one or more materiality thresholds so as to avoid adjustment based on minor changes only.

Further details will be set out in a determination.