

Excerpt from ČEPS Operational Instruction No. PI 820-2 Power system Consumption Restriction Schedule

Consumption Restriction Schedule

The Consumption Restriction Schedule, developed by the transmission system operator control centre (ČEPS Control Centre) in cooperation with the control centres of distribution system operators (DSO control centres), sets out the procedure for and the extent of the restriction of the amount of power taken from the transmission or distribution systems for individual regulation stages applied to prevent or manage a state of emergency.

Restrictions on the amount of power taken from distribution systems are specified for individual regulation stages by relevant distribution system operators. Each DSO control centre is responsible for developing an operational instruction which contains rules for the implementation of the Consumption Restriction Schedule.

The scale of electricity consumption restrictions imposed due to serious system or local failures in areas where the occurrence of a state of emergency is imminent or a state of emergency has been declared corresponds to the respective regulation stages. Following an assessment of the situation by the ČEPS Control Centre shift manager or the respective DSO control centre dispatcher, a decision on consumption restriction in compliance with the Consumption Restriction Schedule is made after all possible measures concerning power generation, changes in network configuration, assistance from other TSOs etc. have failed to cope with the situation.

Consumption Restriction Schedule stages (regulation stages) do not apply to those consumers whose facilities are connected exclusively to a foreign power system, with regard to which restrictions in that foreign system only apply, nor to technological auxiliaries for electricity generation and heat generation and supply.

Regulation stage (RS) response time

Basic stage - no restrictions on power consumption

Warning stage – no restrictions on power consumption; however, a warning is issued that a non-standard situation may occur within the power system

RS1 – restriction by means of teleswitching

RS2 – within 1 hour of the time an RS is issued unless a longer time interval is specified

RS3 – within 30 minutes

RS4 – within 1 hour, unless a longer time interval is specified

RS5 – within 1 hour

RS6 – within 2 hours, unless a longer time interval is specified

RS7 – within 1 hour. For consumer facilities the consumption of which cannot be reduced to the minimum security limit within 1 hour, a longer response time is specified in terms of hours.

Announcement of regulation stages

The implementation of the Consumption Restriction Schedule is announced either for the whole of the Czech power system or part thereof by the ČEPS Control Centre dispatcher by means of the following:

1. by telephone to the relevant DSO control centres;
2. through the media (radio); and
3. via the ČEPS Crisis webpage (www.ceps.cz)

The area and time period (from – to) for which the regulation stage is issued is specified by the dispatcher who can subsequently revise the regulation stage, area or time period depending on failure situation development.

An instruction concerning consumption restriction within a distribution system or part thereof, in compliance with the Consumption Restriction Schedule, is issued by the dispatcher of the relevant DSO control centre. Once a failure situation has been brought under control and a consumption restriction is no longer necessary, the dispatcher who issued the restriction instruction sends a further instruction terminating the restriction.

1. Announcement by telephone

In all cases in which the ČEPS Control Centre dispatcher changes a stage of the Regulation Plan (in compliance with Regulation of the Ministry of Industry and Trade No. 80/2010), he is required to inform all the DSOs within the Bohemia (Western Czech Republic) region as well as the ČEPS Back-up Control Centre whose dispatcher subsequently informs all the DSOs in the Moravia (Eastern Czech Republic) region. In addition, regulation stages can be issued via e-mail or SMS (text message) sent through a mobile telephone.

2. Via the ČRo1-Radiožurnál radio station

The basic, warning and regulation stages are announced and terminated via the ČRo-Radiožurnál radio station during regular news bulletins beginning at 6:00 or 13:00. In addition, a “Special message on the energy situation” can be sent by the ČEPS Control Centre to be broadcast on the next regular ČRo-Radiožurnál radio station news bulletin. In the event that the duration of the regulation stages issued operatively (i.e. via a special broadcast) exceeds the regular news broadcast period (beginning at 6:00 or 13:00) and the regulation stage issued is still in place, the ČEPS Control Centre dispatcher is responsible for sending information on the regulation stage/stages to the radio station to be broadcast on regular news bulletins.

In order to facilitate the flow of information, the “Message on the energy situation” is sent by the ČEPS Control Centre to the ČRo-Radiožurnál radio station only if the basic regulation stage is changed to another regulation stage. If other than the basic stage has been issued on the previous day and merely the basic stage is in place for the following day, the ČEPS Control Centre dispatcher sends a message to be broadcast on the regular news bulletin commencing at 6:00 of the following day announcing that the basic regulation stage is still in place for that day.

Any "Message on the energy situation" must be sent by the ČEPS Control Centre to the ČRo1-Radiožurnál radio station no later than 15 minutes prior to the commencement of a news bulletin, i.e. no later than by 5:45 or 12:45. The 15-minute time interval rule also relates to "Special messages on the energy situation". Messages can be sent by telephone, fax or e-mail. Messages can also be sent upon the request of ČRo1-Radiožurnál news service staff.

3. Via the ČEPS website

Information on the regulation stage issued by the ČEPS Control Centre is published on the www.ceps.cz website and can be accessed by clicking on the Regulation Stage icon.