



# ***The Minister for the Environment and Energy Security***

**HAVING REGARD TO** Legislative Decree No 164 of 23 May 2000 implementing Directive 98/30/EC concerning common rules for the internal market in natural gas, pursuant to Article 41 of Law No 144 of 17 May 1999 and, in particular, Article 27 thereof;

**HAVING REGARD TO** the Decree of the Minister for Economic Development of 19 February 2007 ‘Approval of the technical regulation on the physical and chemical characteristics and the presence of other components in the fuel gas to be pumped’, published in the Official Gazette of the Italian Republic of 19 March 2007, No 65;

**HAVING REGARD TO** the Decree of the Minister for Economic Development of 18 May 2018 ‘Updating of the technical regulation on the physical and chemical characteristics and the presence of other components in the fuel gas to be pumped’, published in the Official Gazette of the Italian Republic of 6 June 2018, No 129, as amended by the Decree of the Minister for Economic Development of 6 June 2022;

**WHEREAS** it is necessary to amend and update the technical regulation in order to take into account the development of LNG flows around the world as a source of natural gas supply for Italy and the need to continually ensure the highest levels of safety for users, for the population and for the environment;

**WHEREAS** energy competences have been transferred, pursuant to Decree-Law No 22 of 1 March 2021, from the Ministry for Economic Development to the Ministry for Ecological Transition;

**HAVING REGARD TO** Decree-Law No 173 of 11 November 2022 laying down ‘Urgent provisions on the reorganisation of Ministerial powers’ and, in particular, Article 4 providing that the Ministry for Ecological Transition shall assume the new designation of Ministry for the Environment and Energy Security;

**HAVING REGARD TO** the REPowerEU Plan presented by the European Commission on 18 May 2022, which provides, inter alia, for the diversification of supply from new international suppliers;

**HAVING REGARD TO** Decree-Law No 17/2022, converted, with amendments, into Law No 34/2022 which introduced measures to diversify the origin of imported gas, increasing the national LNG regasification capacity, including through LNG supplies from new routes from Egypt, Qatar, Congo and supplies from other countries such as Angola, Nigeria, Indonesia, Libya and Mozambique;

**WHEREAS** the technical regulations of the natural gas sector include the one defined by the aforementioned Decree of the Minister for Economic Development of 18 May 2018 as amended;

**WHEREAS** it is necessary to amend, within the natural gas quality parameters defined by the aforementioned Decree of 18 May 2018, the value of the upper limit of the Wobbe Index, by setting a new limit that does not jeopardise the processing, storage and/or use of natural gas, in order to enable the supply of LNG from new suppliers, in particular African suppliers, and the feeding of regasified LNG into the natural gas transmission and distribution networks, while ensuring the highest levels of safety for users, the population and the environment;

**HAVING REGARD TO** the note of 25 July 2023 by the Italian Gas Committee (CIG) and the results of the study carried out by the CIG itself on the possible effects that new imported gases characterised by Wobbe Indices higher than the maximum limit established by the Decree of 18 May 2018 could have on end-uses; these studies showed that the effects of an increase in the upper limit of the Wobbe Index from the current value of 52.33 MJ/Sm<sup>3</sup> to the value of 53.00 MJ/Sm<sup>3</sup>, which can be used to cover all possible sources of LNG, does not substantially change the current condition of use of natural gas in the national territory while ensuring the highest levels of safety for users, the population and the environment;

**HAVING REGARD TO** the fact that on 18 August 2023, within the context of the procedure for the provision of information in the field of technical standards and regulations, provided for in Directive (EU) 2015/1535 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 9 September 2015 (Law No 317/86 as amended by Legislative Decree No 223 of 15 December 2017), the amendment to the technical regulation was notified to the European Commission (Notification 2023/504/I), together with a simultaneous request for application of the urgent adoption procedure referred to in Article 6(7), of Directive (EU) 2015/1535;

**WHEREAS**, by a letter dated 8 September 2023 Ref (ARES)(2023)6112458, the European Commission – Directorate-General for Internal Market, Industry, Entrepreneurship and SMEs announced its acceptance of the urgent adoption of the technical standard, “Technical regulation on the physical and chemical characteristics and

the presence of other components in the fuel gas” to be pumped, in order to ensure that European gas systems are interconnected and interoperable;

Hereby decrees:

Sole article

1. In Annex A to the Decree of the Minister for Economic Development of 18 May 2018, point 5.1, Table 1, the row concerning the Wobbe Index

Wobbe Index	47.31 ÷ 52.33	MJ/Sm <sup>3</sup>
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is replaced by the following row:

Wobbe Index	47.31 ÷ 53.00	MJ/Sm <sup>3</sup>
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This decree shall enter into force on the day after its publication in the Official Gazette of the Italian Republic.

The Minister: Gilberto Pichetto Fratin