



REPUBLIKA E SHQIPËRIË
ENERGY REGULATORY AUTHORITY

DECISION

No. 124, dated 06.05.2026

ON

**THE INITIATION OF THE PROCEDURE FOR APPROVING AMENDMENTS TO THE
REGULATION ON THE PROCEDURES AND CONDITIONS FOR THE ISSUANCE,
AMENDMENT, TRANSFER, RENEWAL, RECOGNITION AND TERMINATION OF
LICENCES IN THE NATURAL GAS SECTOR, APPROVED BY ERE BOARD DECISION NO.
97, DATED 04.07.2017**

Pursuant to Article 16 of Law No. 43/2015 “*On the Power Sector*”, as amended; Articles 16(11), 18, 22, 23 and 24 of Law No. 102/2015 “*On the Natural Gas Sector*”, as amended; Articles 15 and 26 of the *Regulation on ERE Organisation, Operation and Procedures*, approved by ERE Board Decision No. 96, dated 17.06.2016, as amended; and Article 19 of the *Regulation on the Procedures and Conditions for the Issuance, Amendment, Transfer, Renewal, Recognition and Termination of Licences in the Natural Gas Sector*, approved by ERE Board Decision No. 97, dated 04.07.2017, the ERE Board, at its meeting held on 06.05.2026, after reviewing Report No. 1527, dated 06.05.2026, prepared by the Technical Directorates on the initiation of the procedure for approving amendments to the “*Regulation on the Procedures and Conditions for the Issuance, Amendment, Transfer, Renewal, Recognition and Termination of Licences in the Natural Gas Sector*”, approved by ERE Board Decision No. 97, dated 04.07.2017,

Considering that:

- In implementation of Law No. 102/2015 “*On the Natural Gas Sector*”, the ERE Board, by Decision No. 97, dated 04.07.2017, approved the “*Regulation on the Procedures and Conditions for the Issuance, Amendment, Transfer and Termination of Licences in the Natural Gas Sector*”.
- Following the adoption of the Regulation, Law No. 102/2015 “*On the Natural Gas Sector*” was amended, inter alia, by Law No. 81/2021 “*On Certain Amendments and Additions to Law No. 102/2015 ‘On the Natural Gas Sector’*”, introducing new activities subject to licensing, including the operation of small-scale LNG and CNG facilities.
- A review of the existing Regulation has identified the need for its revision and update in order to ensure consistency with the current legal framework.
- In this context, amendments are proposed with the aim of harmonising the Regulation with Law No. 102/2015, as amended, including the introduction of new categories of licensed activities, the relevant documentation requirements, procedural deadlines and licensing procedures applicable to such activities, as well as other amendments intended to clarify and further specify the provisions of the Regulation.

- The proposed amendments and additions seek to update and harmonise the legal basis of the Regulation with the latest amendments to the legislation governing the natural gas sector, broaden its scope and provide a more detailed framework for licensing procedures relating to natural gas activities
- Accordingly, new definitions are introduced for Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG), Compressed Natural Gas (CNG), small-scale facilities, operation, utilisation, market operator and system user, while new licensing categories are established for the operation of small-scale LNG and CNG facilities.
- Furthermore, the criteria, deadlines and documentation requirements applicable to licensing applications are revised, including technical, financial, environmental and safety requirements for each licence category. The amendments also establish the possibility of granting conditional licences, together with the corresponding monitoring and compliance verification procedures.
- The proposed amendments are also intended to enhance transparency and administrative efficiency through the maintenance of a licensing register and the publication of relevant information on ERE's official website.

Decides:

1. To initiate the procedure for approving amendments to the “*Regulation on the Procedures and Conditions for the Issuance, Amendment, Transfer, Renewal, Recognition and Termination of Licences in the Natural Gas Sector*”, approved by ERE Board Decision No. 97, dated 04.07.2017, (in accordance with the draft amendments attached to this Decision)
2. The Natural Gas Directorate shall notify all stakeholders of this Decision.

This Decision shall enter into force immediately.

Each party involved in this procedure may request the review of the ERE Board's decision within 7 calendar days from the date of receipt of this decision, in the presence of new evidence that may lead the Board to issue a different decision or in cases of identified material errors. An appeal against this decision may be filed with the Administrative Court of Tirana within 45 calendar days from the date of its publication in the Official Gazette.

This decision is published on the Official Gazette.

ERE CHAIRMAN

Petrit AHMETI

Draft Amendments and Additions to the Regulation on the Procedures and Conditions for the Issuance, Amendment, Transfer, Renewal, Recognition and Termination of Licences in the Natural Gas Sector” (approved with ERE Board decision no. 97, dated 04.07.2017)

Article 1 becomes : *This Regulation is adopted pursuant to Article 16(11) and Articles 22, 23 and 24 of Law No. 102/2015 "On the Natural Gas Sector", as amended with Law no. 81/2021 "On some amendments and additions on Law no. 102/2015"; law no. 89/2018 and Law no. 64/2018, as well as implementing the "Regulation on ERE organization, operation and procedures", approved with ERE Board Decision no. 96, of date 17.06.2016, as amended.*

Article 2 becomes: *This regulation defines the procedures and terms for issuance of licences, amendment, transfer, amendment or license termination in natural gas regulated activities according to the definitions of Law no. 102/2015 "On Natural Gas Sector", as amended, as well as defines ERE's authority to review the applications, the issuance of conditional licences and the set of the respective payments for each application*

Article 3 are added the definitions as follows:

“Liquefied Natural Gas”(LNG) means natural gas consisting primarily of methane (CH₄), which is converted into liquid at 1 atmosphere (atm) pressure and a temperature of minus 161 degrees Celsius.

“Compressed Natural Gas” (CNG) means methane gas CH₄, which is compressed to approximately 200 atmospheres (atm).

“Small scale plant” means the facility used for the production / storage, transportation and / or distribution of small quantities of LNG and / or CNG.

“The terms used on this regulation, shall have the same meaning as those referred on Law no. 102/2015 "On Natural Gas Sector", as amended.

Article 4 (1) are added letters:

- ë.** Operation in small – scale LNG plants;
- f.** Operation in small – scale CNG plants. .

Article 5 shall be read: *Duration of Licence Validity issued according to this Regulation for transmission, distribution, storage and LNG activities from ERE in conformity with Article 4 of this Regulation shall be for a 30 year period, with the right to be renewed. The duration of license validity for the supply, trading, operation in natural gas spaces, operation of natural gas market operator, operation of small-scale LNG and/or CNG activities shall be for a 10 year period, with the right to be renewed.*

Article 8, (6), letter “a”, is amended to read: *An original copy or certified true copy according to the legislation in force.*

Article 9 shall be read as follows:

Point 1 letter a) are added the activities: *Operation in small-scale LNG plants; Operation in small-scale CNG plants and the notes are made on the table as follows:*

Type of the Plant	small-scale LNG ☐	production	☐
		storage	☐
		transport	☐
		regasification distribution	☐
	small – scale CNG ☐	production , compensation	☐
		storage	☐
		transport	☐
		distribution	☐

Article 9 (2) letter d) point (ii) and (iii) are amended to read:

The application for License shall be composed of: a. The applicant shall complete the form of application, according to the form as follows:

(ii) Certification of legal status (evidence of criminal record from General Directorate of Prisons) certifying that for the legal person and the administrator / administrators of the trading undertaking, there is not a final decision for any penal act

(iii) In case of foreign citizenship undertakings, shall be submitted the certificate of judicial status of the country of residence, which shall be translated and apostile stamped.

Article 9 (2) letter e, Documentation and the Financial, Fiscal Guarantees; is amended to read and point (iv) shall be read:

- *Except of the supply case (article 4.1.c), the trading case (article 4.1.ç), **the case of CNG (article 4.1.ë) and the case of LNG activity (article 4.1.f)**, the insurance certificate from the insurance undertaking (that operate in conformity with the applicable legislation in Albania) that evidences the cover of the responsibility for the injury damages, illnesses or in case of death of the Persons or the loss or destroy of property or that have resulted from the Application in the framework of the required License in a responsibility level not smaller than 10 milion USD. This security policy or policies shall be and remain applicable with fully effect for the entire duration of the required License. Furthermore the Licensee shall remain responsible for any damage that may occur or is related or result from the performed activities during the duration of the License.*

Article 9 (2) after letter f) it is added; letter g) “Market operation license”

Article 9 (2) after letter g) it is added; letter gj);

gj. License for the operation of small-scale LNG facilities

The applicant for a Licence for the Operation of Small-Scale LNG Facilities shall submit Information containing general and technical project data, including the following:

- i. approval from the relevant environmental management and protection authorities (EIA, Environmental Declaration, Permit) for the conduct of the activity in accordance with the legislation in force on environmental impact assessment;*
- ii. the detailed technical project, prepared by a licensed design company, containing data on the facility, the location of the installations, location maps, Piping and Instrumentation Diagrams (P&ID), technical specifications of the main equipment (cryogenic LNG storage tanks), as well as operational capacities;*
- iii. a preliminary agreement for the evidence of the authorised natural gas supply source through bilateral transactions on a short-term basis, but for not less than 1 (one) month;*
- iv. certification from State Technical and Industrial Inspectorate (ISHTI) regarding the inspection of all equipment certifying the technical safety and compliance of the equipment;*
- v. an operational document containing the facility operation manual, maintenance procedures, the safety management system and industrial safety policies;*
- vi. documentation proving the right to use the equipment;*
- vii. evidence of staff qualifications;*
- viii. any other permit required under the legislation in force on the transport of dangerous goods.*

Article 9 (2) after letter gj) it is added; letter h);

h. License for the operation of small-scale CNG facilities

The applicant for a licence for the operation of CNG facilities shall submit specific information/documentation as follows:

- i. approval from the relevant environmental management and protection authorities (EIA, Environmental Declaration, Permit) for carrying out the activity in accordance with the legislation in force on environmental impact assessment;*
- ii. the detailed technical project, drafted by a licensed design company, containing data on the facility, the location of the installations, location maps, data on compression systems, and the layout of filling stations (if applicable);*
- iii. authorization of the gas supply source through bilateral transactions on a short-term basis, but for not less than 1 (one) month;*
- iv. evidence of authorised storage facilities and specialised means of transport (trucks or vessels);*
- v. certification from State Technical and Industrial Inspectorate (ISHTI) regarding the inspection of all equipment for the purposes of safety and technical compliance;*
- vi. an operational document containing the facility operation manual, maintenance procedures, the safety management system and industrial safety policies;*
- vii. documentation proving the right to use the property;*

viii. *evidence of staff qualifications.*

Article 12 after point 4 are added; points 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11:

- 5. ERE may issue a conditional licensing decision where it determines that any of the outstanding conditions is not essential for immediate conduct of the activity and the applicant undertakes to complete it within a certain period.*
- 6. The period for fulfilling the condition may not exceed 12 (twelve) months from the date of entry into force of the conditional license, according to Article 24, point 2 of Law No. 102/2015.*
- 7. ERE decision to issue the conditional license specifies:*
 - a) the unfulfilled condition and the reason why it is considered non-essential;*
 - b) the exact deadline for fulfilling the condition;*
 - c) the documentation or evidence that the licensee shall submit to verify compliance;*
 - d) the legal consequences if the condition is not met within the deadline.*
- 8. The conditional licensee shall submit to ERE evidence of compliance with the condition no later than 30 (thirty) days before the expiration of the specified deadline.*
- 9. If the condition is met within the deadline, ERE issues the full license without conditions, revoking the conditional license decision.*
- 10. If the condition is not met within the deadline, ERE initiates the licence revocation procedures according to Article 16 of this Regulation, notifying the licensee in advance in writing.*
- 11. ERE refuses to issue the license in the following cases, according to Article 26 of Law No. 102/2015. On ERE decision for refusal are justified the reasons according to point 1 of this Article.*

Article 17 point 4, is amended to read:

- 4. The Licensing Register shall be kept by the responsible structure for licensing at ERE and shall be updated after each meeting of the ERE Board and shall be published on ERE official website. The Register shall contain these data;*
 - a. Name of the Licensee;*
 - b. Unique Identification Number of the Undertaking (NUIS) and premises;*
 - c. Number and series of the License;*
 - d. The licensed Activity;*
 - e. Service area,*
 - f. Number and date of ERE Board decision;*
 - g. Duration of the license;*
 - h. Conditional licensing decisions.*

Article 17 after point 2 is reworded as follows:

- 3. The relevant data regarding the licenses to perform the activities in the natural gas sector and their withdrawal are registered on the manual Register that is kept by the Board secretary.*
- 4. The Licening Register shall be kept by the responsible structure for licensing at ERE and shall be updated after each board meeting and is published on ERE official website. The Register shall contain these data;*

On Annex A it is added the table as follows:

ANNEX A
APPLICATION REGISTRATION AND PROCESSING FEES

ACTIVITY	Licensing	Modification	Renewal	License/asset transfer
Operation in small – scale LNG plants	1 000 000 ALL	100 000 ALL	100 000 ALL	100 000 ALL
Operation in small – scale CNG plants	1 000 000 ALL	100 000 ALL	100 000 ALL	100 000 ALL

Note:

a) The applicant, at the time of submitting the application, must have executed the payment according to the provisions of this Annex. The application payment is non-refundable and can be made directly to the bank account with the following details, or after issuing an electronic invoice from the ERE finance structure, at the request of the applicant himself:

Bank transfer charges (both at sending and receiving banks) shall be paid by the applicant.

b) The applicant, at the moment of submitting the application, attaches the Declaration as follows:

I DECLARE THAT:

- No licence previously granted to the applicant for activities in the natural gas sector, either in Albania or abroad, has been revoked or refused.
(if to the applicant it is removed or refused before a license, shall inform the reasons and respective decision)

- I am informed with the the applicable legal and regulatory framework and I am engaged for its implementation, as well as the regulations and rules approved by ERE for natural gas sector operation.

- The documents and data submitted for the purpose of this application are real and I am aware that, in case of declaring false data or submitting forged documents or false data, I am subject to the measures provided in the Criminal Code and other effective legal and by-legal acts.
- I undertake to appear before ERE premises if needed for any hearing session regarding this application.
- I have executed the application fee has been paid, according to the definitions of the regulation, on date __.__.__, at _____ Bank .
- I am not engaged in any other commercial activity in Albania or any other country.
- *(If the applicant is engaged in any other commercial activity, he shall provide the relevant explanations)*

For the applicant

(name surname, signature)