

ENERGY UTILITIES

BILLING SHORTFALLS IN SAP® IS-U

Billing quantities higher/lower than nomination outside a tolerance level in SAP® IS-U

The turnaround in energy policy means that tolerance levels are increasingly tied to the spot market and are therefore gaining in importance, especially for very large customers. The BILLING.easy solution from the RT.easy® Product Factory by Sopra Steria Consulting is the add-on for SAP® IS-U and allows you to automatically account for tolerance levels.

Challenge

The consequences of the developments on the wholesale markets and the recognisable price developments in the energy business are now clearly felt.

Energy suppliers are increasingly reflecting the increased importance of the spot market in their contracts. This is also reflected in the fact that pricing schemes for sales or re-buys of unused or additionally required electricity and gas volumes outside of agreed tolerance levels are linked increasingly to the spot market.

A tolerance level is when the energy supplier and the energy customer agree a pricing scheme for consumption above and below a defined quantity limit. This is called a shortfall.

The quantity limits of a tolerance level can be agreed as discreet values for a month, quarter, season or year or as a percentage of planned delivery quantities for the relevant delivery period.

Due to changes in energy policy and for major customers, hourly or 15-minute tolerance levels are increasingly used. The basis for determining quantities higher and lower than nomination is then an agreed forecast profile, whereby third-party deliveries and feed-ins must be taken into account.

Calculating quantities for bundle customers becomes even more complex where a tolerance level has been agreed on the basis of a sum load profile. The quantities higher and lower than nomination must be distributed proportionally to the individual delivery points.

In summary, it can be said that with tolerance levels:

- Complex quantity calculations may be necessary
- Residual quantities are typically evaluated based on spot market prices
- Hourly or 15-minute evaluation of residual quantities is gaining importance

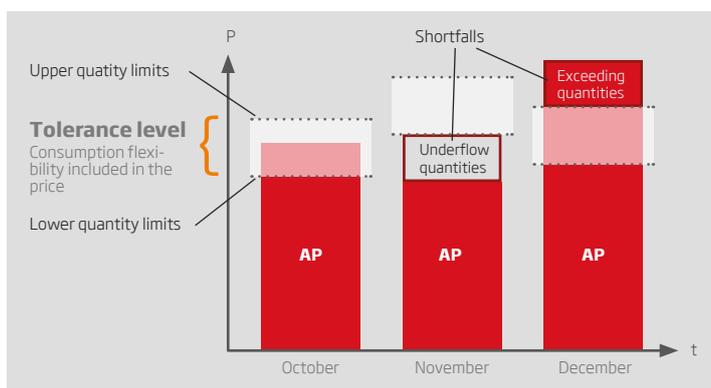


Fig. 1: Tolerance level with monthly quantity limits and quantities higher/lower than nomination.

Weaknesses of the SAP® IS-U standard

Billing tolerance levels in SAP® IS-U gives rise to the following problems:

- Do you use an SAP® EDM with an RTP interface or another EDM system?
- How are the quantities transferred from the external EDM system to SAP® IS-U?
- Do you need the billing of tolerance levels for bundle customers?
- What master data model in SAP® IS-U is to be used?
- What tariff schedules are affected?
- For which periods do you define quantity limits?
- Do you use a CRM system and do you need to automatically implement billing?

Resolving these problems typically leads to solutions that require a high level of self-development, manual intervention and specialised knowledge. This raises process costs and creates dependencies on a few key staff.

Our solution for the billing of tolerance levels

Our BILLING.easy solution, the add-on for SAP® IS-U, resolves these problems as per the BILLING.easy standard and automatically runs these within the normal SAP® IS-U billing processes, with full flexibility.

Quantity calculations for the tolerance level or the spot market-based price calculations for quantities beyond nomination are fully automated and auditable using BILLING.easy. These are then provided to SAP® IS-U billing. In this manner, quantity and price data with an intermittency of ≥ 1 minute can be billed. Even processes such as invoice corrections, claims management or the connection to standard reporting blocks no longer require any special outlay.

Advantage and benefits of the solution

Using BILLING.easy significantly improves the efficiency and quality of supplier billing and processes it in an auditable manner. With the help of our CRM interface (SAP® CRM or non-SAP® systems), manual steps for the structuring of the billing logic and billing of the tolerance level are no longer required.

Employees in the relevant specialist departments will no longer need to undertake the preparation and checks that were the norm until now. At the same time, you will have full flexibility in illustrating requirements.

Additional master data in SAP® IS-U is not required and master data can be reduced. EDM systems (SAP® EDM or third party systems) can be integrated without problems. Despite greater flexibility and simplicity you will continue using the standard SAP® IS-U billing process.

Contact us

Would you like to find out more or discuss in further detail? Then please contact us by phone or e-mail.

RT.easy¹®

