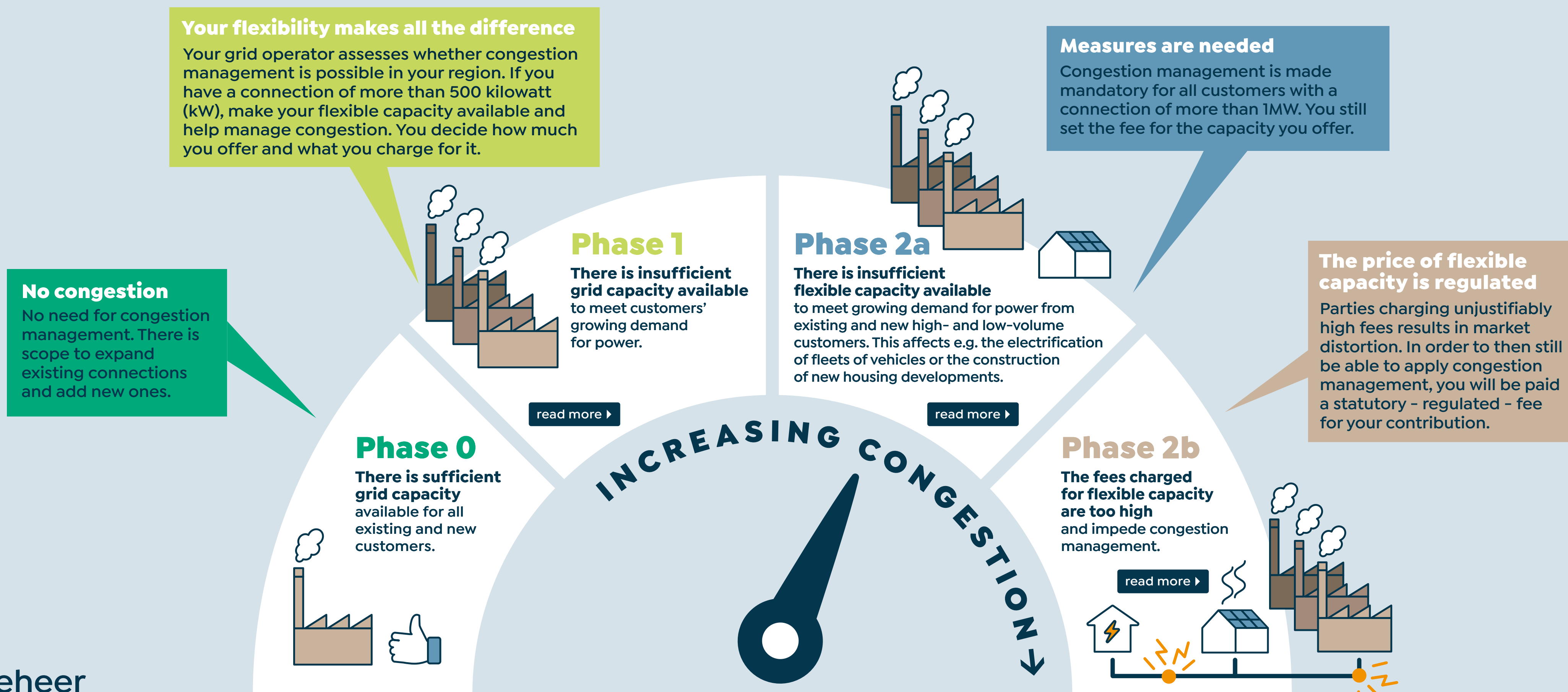


# Here's how congestion management works

To guarantee a stable and reliable power grid, we spread out the available grid capacity whenever demand for power transmission exceeds levels that the grid can handle. When demand is too high at a certain time, we will ask you to temporarily reduce the amount of power you feed in or consume. The space on the grid freed up this way will then be divided evenly among existing and new power grid users.

Explanation



Back

**The busier it gets on the grid, the more drastic the measures that grid operators will be forced to take. It is important, therefore, that you get ahead of the curve and prepare now.**

This way, you stay in control of how much flexible capacity you are willing to offer and how much you charge for it. After all, when congestion relief measures need to be scaled up, the grid operator may end up making it mandatory for you to participate in congestion management. While you will then still have a say in the price paid for flexible capacity, you will be required to make all your contracted capacity available as flexible capacity.

When congestion arises, grid operators assess the congestion management options and call on high-volume consumers to come forward if they would be willing and able to be flexible.

### **High-voltage and medium-voltage**

Congestion can occur both on the high-voltage grid (e.g. grid operator TenneT) and on the medium-voltage grid of the regional grid operator. You therefore enter into a contract with one of these parties for congestion management. Communication about the contracts clearly runs through your own grid operator. Information about contract reimbursements can be found [here](#).

### **Mandatory participation regulations**

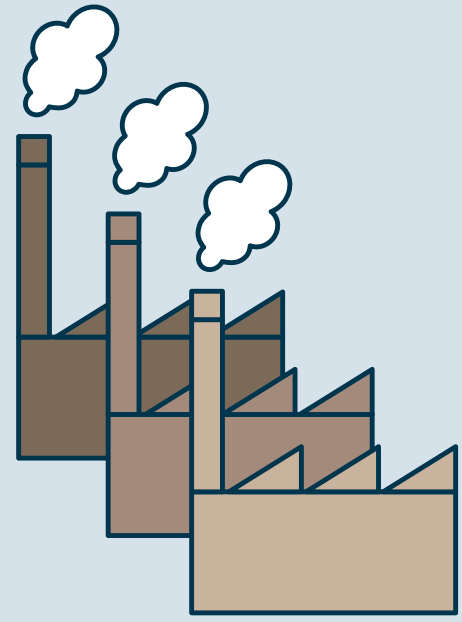
Phase 2a explains which measures the grid operator takes when participation in congestion management becomes mandatory for specific customers. That possibility already exists since the amendment of

the Electricity Network Code on November 25, 2022. In addition to this, a recent amendment proposal for the 'Electricity Network Code' was submitted to the ACM in which the steps mentioned in phase 2a - are explained.

### **Questions and more information**

Your grid operator will of course inform you about every phase in congestion management and the steps involved be placed there. Do you already have questions about it? Then look at the website from Partners in Energy or contact your own grid operator. You can also send an email to [relatiemanagers@partnersinenergie.nl](mailto:relatiemanagers@partnersinenergie.nl).

Go to Partners in Energy ▶

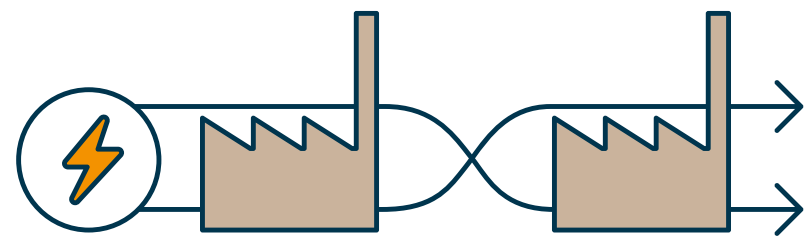


# Phase 1 - Your flexibility makes all the difference

There is insufficient grid capacity available to meet growing demand for power from existing and new customers. If you have a connection of more than 500 kilowatt (kW), your grid operator will ask you to sell some of your flexible capacity. You decide the price and how much you can offer.

## step 1 Congestion assessment announcement

The grid operator announces a congestion assessment in your region and asks you to use flexible capacity.

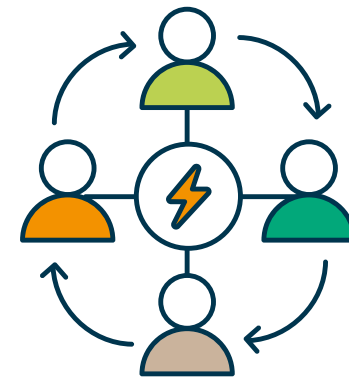


Since the reasons for performing a congestion assessment may differ by area, always check with your grid operator what the current state of affairs is in your region.

## step 2 During the congestion assessment

You can help manage congestion through a Congestion Service Provider (CSP) or directly with your grid operator. You can also become a CSP yourself. Take a look on Partners in Energy for more information.

[Partners in Energy](#)



## step 3a



### Congestion management is possible

The assessment shows that congestion management is possible in your region. Want to take part? There are two ways you can take part:

#### 1 Redispatch (with and without bid obligation contract)

Grid operators place their daily orders for flexible capacity on GOPACS. The CSP subsequently places a bid on an energy trading platform that is connected to GOPACS. **Redispatch always goes through a CSP.**

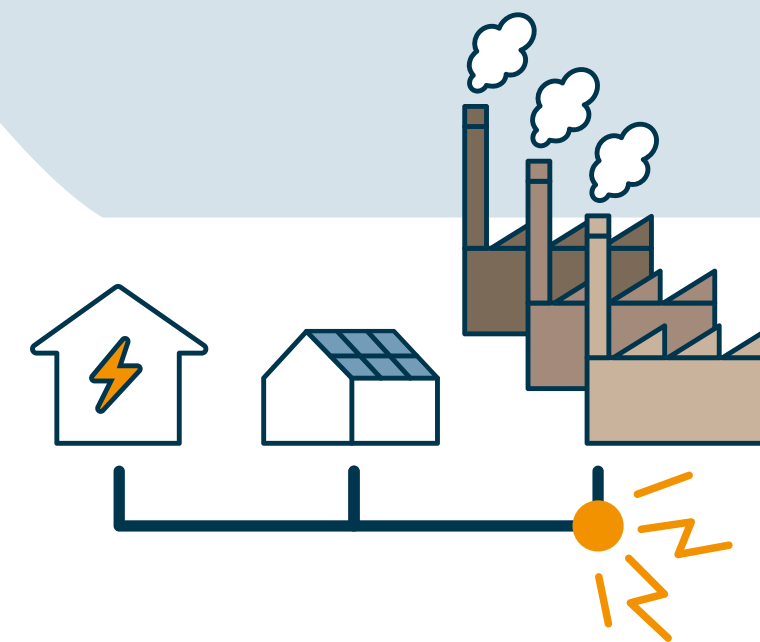
#### 2 Capacity limitation contract

Your transmission limit is changed temporarily to prevent the grid from becoming overloaded. This can be done either at fixed times or as and when needed with one day's notice (day ahead). **You can take out a capacity limitation contract through a CSP or directly with the grid operator.**

[Go to GOPACS](#)

[Go to Contract](#)

## step 3b



### Congestion management is not possible

The assessment shows that congestion management is currently not viable in your region and that the grid will have to be expanded. The assessment report explains how long this will take.

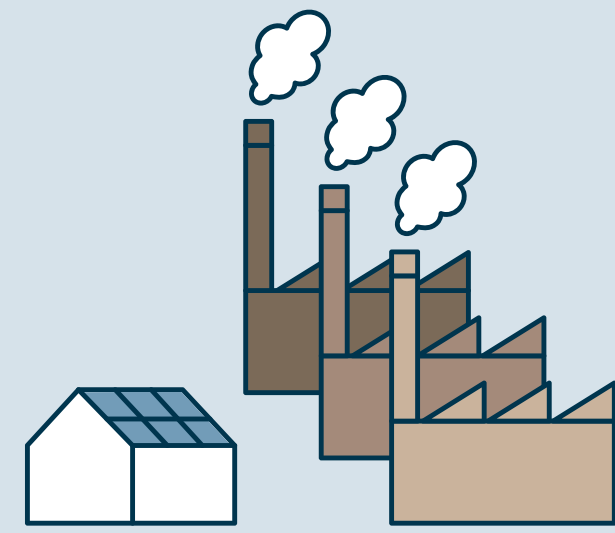
**1 In the meantime:** The grid operator will monitor the situation in the region and check whether new offers of flexible capacity can provide usable scope for a solution after all.

**2 Even if the flexible capacity you can offer does not clear the congestion in your region, we would like to hear from you whether you would be willing to help us manage congestion.**

So it's always a good idea to **fill in** the interest form.

[Back to dashboard](#)

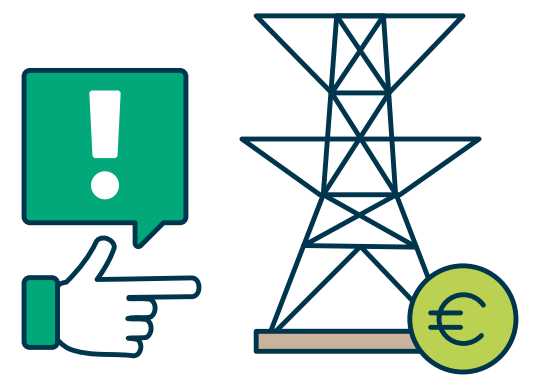
[To Phase 2a](#)



# Phase 2a – Measures are needed

There is insufficient flexible capacity available to meet growing demand for power from existing and new high- and low-volume customers. Congestion management is made mandatory for specific customers with a connection of more than 1MW.

## step 1 The grid operator sets the threshold for mandatory participation at 1MW.



If your connection exceeds this threshold, you may be required to contribute. This is subject to the following criteria:

- Do you generate power?** The grid operator can, based on a joint guideline, require you to make all your contracted capacity available as flexible capacity.
- Do you consume power?** You will, in principle, also be required to make all your contracted capacity available. If this is not possible, you will be under an obligation to explain to the grid operator in writing why this is not possible and substantiate how much capacity you can make available.

**Companies that contribute to the Netherlands' vital infrastructure are exempted** from mandatory congestion management. Check the website of the National Coordinator for Counterterrorism and Security (NCTV) to see if your company is eligible for an exemption.

[Go to NCTV](#)

## step 3 Decide how to contribute

Even if you are obligated to contribute, you still decide what exactly you offer. There are two ways in which you can contribute:

Even if you are obligated to contribute, you still decide what exactly you offer. There are two ways in which you can contribute:

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## 1 Redispatch (with and without bid obligation contract)

Grid operators place their daily orders for flexible capacity on GOPACS. The CSP subsequently places a bid on an energy trading platform that is connected to GOPACS. **Redispatch always goes through a CSP.**

## 2 Capacity limitation contract

This is a contract under which you agree when you will temporarily draw more or less power from the grid. **You can take out a capacity limitation contract through a CSP or directly with the grid operator.**

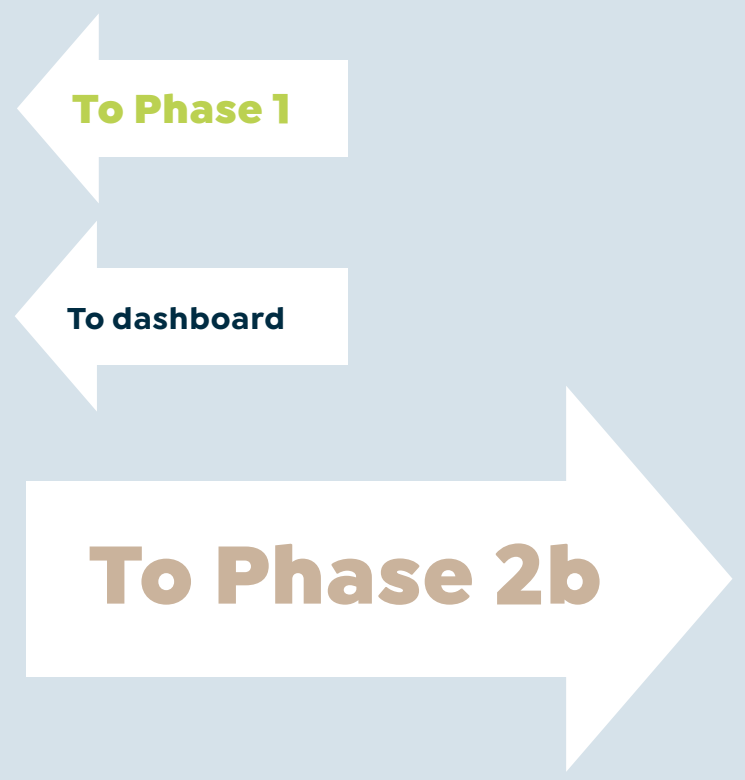
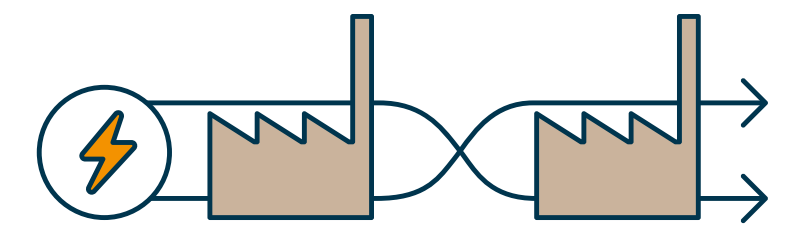
[Go to GOPACS](#)  
[Go to Contract](#)

## step 2 During the congestion assessment

You can help manage congestion through a Congestion Service Provider (CSP) or directly with your grid operator. You can also become a CSP yourself. Take a look on Partners in Energy for more information.

## step 4 Use of flexible capacity

Your grid operator will contact you to make specific agreements on the use of your flexible capacity. This is how you will be making an important contribution to clearing the congestion in your region.



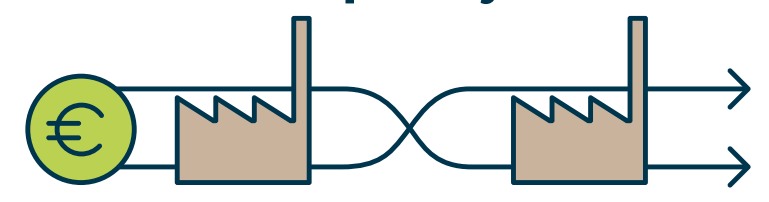
Since the reason for performing a congestion assessment may differ by area, always check with your grid operator what the current state of affairs is in your region.

# Phase 2b - Flexible capacity pricing is regulated



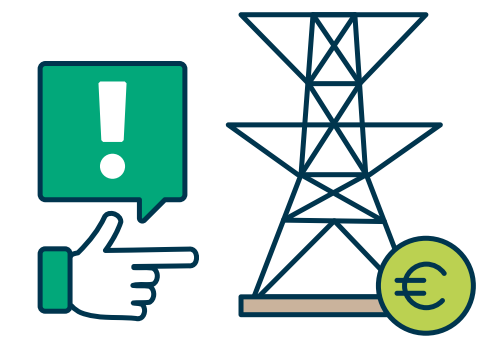
The fees charged for flexible capacity are too high and impede congestion management. In order to still be able to apply congestion management, you will be paid a statutory fee for your contribution.

## step 1 Statutory fees for flexible capacity



Parties charging unjustifiably high fees results in market distortion. In order to still be able to apply congestion management and keep the price of flexible capacity at the regular market level, you will be paid a statutory fee for your contribution. We often refer to this phase as 'non-market-based congestion management'.

## step 2 The grid operator sets the threshold for mandatory participation at 1MW.



If your connection exceeds this threshold, you may be required to contribute. This is subject to the following criteria:

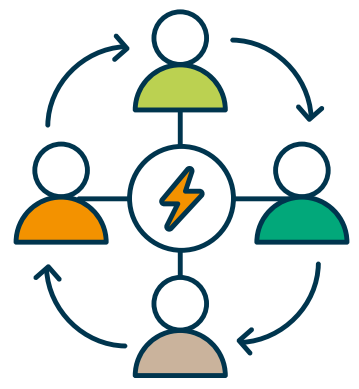
**Do you generate power?** The grid operator can, based on a joint guideline, require you to make all your contracted capacity available as flexible capacity.

**Do you consume power?** You will, in principle, also be required to make all your contracted capacity available. If this is not possible, you will be under an obligation to explain to the grid operator in writing why this is not possible and substantiate how much capacity you can make available.

**Companies that contribute to the Netherlands' vital infrastructure are exempted** from mandatory congestion management. Check the website of the National Coordinator for Counterterrorism and Security (NCTV) to see if your company is eligible for an exemption.

[Go to NCTV](#)

## step 3 Only through a Congestie Service Provider (CSP)



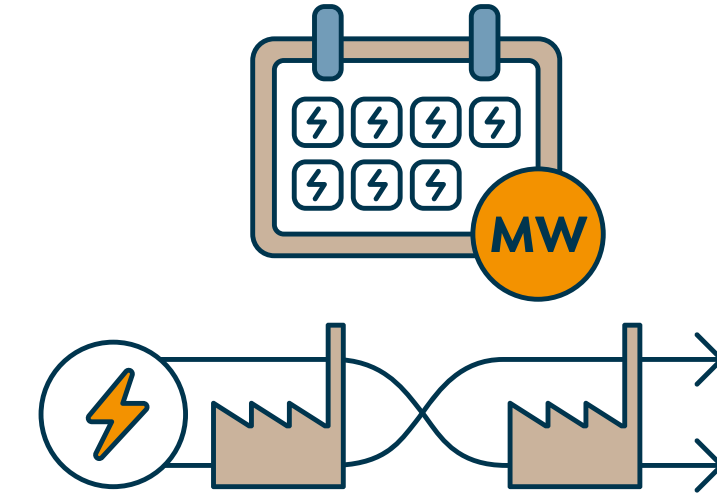
In this phase, you can only bid through a CSP. Take a look on **Partners in Energy** for more information.

[Partners in Energy](#)

*\* Before they start buying capacity in exchange for statutory fees, grid operators will use all the capacity freed up under capacity limitation contracts that have already been signed.*

\*

## step 4 Daily offer



In this phase, redispatch bids are the only option. Here's how this works: Grid operators place their daily orders for flexible capacity on GOPACS.

The CSP subsequently responds by placing a bid on an **energy trading platform\*\*** that is connected to GOPACS. CSPs can also place bids directly on GOPACS.

**\*\*GOPACS is where bids placed on various platforms (EPAX and ETPA, Powerexchange, and ROD) are brought together.**

[Go to GOPACS](#)

[To Phase 2a](#)

[To Phase 1](#)

[To dashboard](#)

Since the reasons for performing a congestion assessment may differ by area, always check with your grid operator what the current state of affairs is in your region.

## step 5 Fees

Under this form of congestion management, grid operators pay statutorily fixed fees.

[Go to fees](#)