



Department for
Business, Energy
& Industrial Strategy

Department for Business,
Energy & Industrial Strategy

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27 November 2020

The Authority (Ofgem), the SEC Panel,
SEC Parties, and other interested parties

Dear Colleague,

Smart Metering Implementation Programme: response to consultation on matters relating to the BEIS elements of the November 2020 SEC Release

This letter contains a response (and associated directions) to our consultation of 23 October 2020 on matters relating to the BEIS elements of the November 2020 SEC Release. The changes consulted upon included the date on which a number of SEC Technical Specifications and Subsidiary Documents are proposed to be designated/re-designated, a number of proposed corrections to a subset of these documents, the date from which changes to Section L of the SEC that were previously suspended should take effect and the form of the directions that give effect to the above.

The BEIS proposals were supported by all respondents. A summary of consultation responses and the government response to the consultation can be found in **Annex A** to this letter. As a result, we are with effect from 29 November 2020 designating/re-designating the proposed changes to SEC Technical Specifications and Subsidiary Documents as well as bringing into effect a modification to Section L3.18 of the SEC that was suspended by BEIS' X3.1 Direction of 18 September 2020 (as per the Directions in **Annex B**). The purpose of the SEC Section L3.18 suspension was to prevent the issuing of XML signing Certificates until functionality to support them became available as part of the November 2020 SEC Release.

Yours faithfully,

Duncan Stone

Deputy Director and Head of Delivery,
Smart Metering Implementation Programme

Annexes:

Annex A – Response to 23 October 2020 Consultation

Annex B [Separate Attachment] – Directions to designate/re-designate SEC Technical Specifications and Subsidiary Documents for BEIS-directed changes in the November 2020 SEC Release and to bring into effect a modification to Section L3.18 of the SEC

Annex A – Response to 23 October 2020 Consultation

Overview of consultation responses

1. The consultation closed on 13 November 2020 and we received a total of 6 written responses from E.ON, EDF Energy, Ovo Energy, Landis+Gyr, Square1 Energy and Mississippi Energy.
2. The six respondents agreed with all of the consultation questions. One respondent suggested that more detail should have been included in the consultation on the change related to Section L3.18. Another respondent requested that any additional changes that are being made to the documents post-consultation are made publicly available ahead of the designation date.

Government response

3. From the consultation responses, BEIS noted agreement from all the respondents with the proposals set out in the October consultation. As a result, we are today issuing a Direction to designate/re-designate the changes to SEC Technical Specifications and Subsidiary Documents that we have consulted on through various consultations previously. These designations/re-designations will take effect on 29 November 2020.
4. We are also issuing today a Direction to bring into effect a modification to Section L3.18 of the SEC that was suspended by BEIS' X3.1 Direction of 18 September 2020. Again, this will take effect on 29 November 2020. The purpose of this suspension was to prevent the issuing of XML signing Certificate until functionality to support them becomes functional as part of the November 2020 SEC Release.
5. In response to the comment made by a respondent that more detail should have been included in the consultation on the change related to Section L3.18, we note that the respondent did ultimately find the additional detail they were looking for and we will seek to address the respondent's feedback for future consultation documentation.
6. In relation to the request made by a respondent that any additional changes that are being made to the documents post-consultation are made publicly available ahead of the designation date, we would like to clarify that, other than the changes described in paragraph 12 below that were previously consulted upon by the DCC, we have made no further changes to the technical documents that we consulted upon as part of this consultation, except for minor changes to the versioning and formatting of some technical documents as explained below.

Versioning and further changes to documents

7. There are two sets of legal changes to SEC subsidiary documents that feed into the November 2020 release. These are: (i) BEIS led changes which are primarily, but not exclusively, related to the introduction of Auxiliary Proportional Controller functionality and XML signing Certificates; and (ii) changes from a package of SEC modifications that will also form part of the November 2020 release. Legally these changes are being made via separate routes. The BEIS-led changes will be made using powers under condition 22 of the DCC licence and Section X5 of the SEC. The non-BEIS related changes will be made using the SEC Modification process. In practice, what

this means is that once the package of Subsidiary Document changes for the November 2020 Release is made by BEIS, a number of those documents will be further modified by the SEC Modification changes. It is planned that the SECAS website that shows the latest versions of the SEC will show only the consolidated versions of the relevant documents, i.e. incorporating the changes from both these two routes.

8. Some of the documents that we are designating/re-designating with effect from 29 November will be immediately modified upon their designation/re-designation by SEC modifications which also form part of the November 2020 SEC Release. The subset of documents that we are designating/re-designating that will be immediately further modified in this way is:

- Smart Metering Equipment Technical Specifications;
- Great Britain Companion Specification;
- Technical Specification Applicability Tables;
- Organisation Certificate Policy;
- SMKI Registration Authority Policies and Procedures;
- DCC User Interface Services Schedule;
- DCC User Interface Specification; and
- Message Mapping Catalogue.

9. Given that these documents will be changed by SEC Modifications we have designated them with different version numbers to the final version numbers that will apply once the SEC Modification changes have been applied by SECAS. The version numbers of these documents that we are designating/re-designating are¹:

- Smart Metering Equipment Technical Specifications 2 29 November 2020 (BEIS only version) - which will become Smart Metering Equipment Technical Specifications 2 29 November 2020 once the SEC modification changes have been applied;
- Great Britain Companion Specification v4.0 (BEIS only version) - which will become Great Britain Companion Specification v4.0 once the SEC modification changes have been applied;
- Technical Specification Applicability Tables v9.1 - which will become Technical Specification Applicability Tables v10.0 once the SEC modification changes have been applied;
- Organisation Certificate Policy vB2.1 - which will become Organisation Certificate Policy vB3.0 once the SEC modification changes have been applied;

¹ In the case of SMETS, CHTS, DUIS and MMC, we have used the words ("BEIS only version") in the version whereas for the other documents we have incremented the minor version number of the existing version. The principal reason for this difference in approach is that for SMETS, CHTS, DUIS and GBCS, we are designating an additional version of the documents into the SEC to sit alongside other versions of those documents, whereas for the other documents, we are re-designating an existing document.

- SMKI Registration Authority Policies and Procedures vD2.1 - which will become as SMKI Registration Authority Policies and Procedures vD3.0 once the SEC modification changes have been applied;
- DCC User Interface Service Schedules vE3.1 - which will become DCC User Interface Service Schedules vE4.0 once the SEC modification changes have been applied;
- DCC User Interface Specification vAD4.0 (BEIS only version) - which will become DCC User Interface Specification vAD4.0 once the SEC modification changes have been applied; and
- Message Mapping Catalogue vAF4.0 (BEIS only version) - which will become Message Mapping Catalogue vAF4.0 once the SEC modification changes have been applied.

10. In addition, we consulted upon a designation version of the Service Request Processing Document (SEC Appendix AB) of vAB4.0. However, this document has since been re-designated on 24 November 2020 as vAB4.0 (in relation to a SMETS1 service-related change). As a result, we are re-designating this document as vAB5.0.

11. The other documents that we are re-designating which are not affected by SEC modifications have (with the exception of CHTS) been given a version number of the form “x.0” and include:

- Communications Hub Technical Specifications v1.4;
- SMKI Interface Design Specification vM3.0;
- SMKI Repository Interface Design Specification vO3.0;
- Service Request Processing Document vAB5.0; and
- Inventory Enrolment and Decommissioning Procedures vAC3.0.

12. In the version of DUIS upon which BEIS consulted in October 2020², we omitted to include two changes that the DCC had previously consulted upon in May 2020 for the November 2020 SEC Release³. These changes were:

- In Section 1.4.7.1, we have added the text:
“In relation to the GasThresholdMatrix element for SMETS1 Service Requests, the units for BlockThreshold data item in table 59 shall be kWh instead of Wh.”, and
- In 3.8.114.3, we have added the additional response code:

E081111	The Service Request refers to a SMETS2+ Device and the InstallCode field is not 32 characters (representing 16 octets) in length.
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we have also corrected a spelling mistake in Table 2 of Section 1.4.6 in column 1.11.

² <https://smartenergycodecompany.co.uk/latest-news/beis-consultation-on-matters-relating-to-the-november-2020-sec-release/>

³ <https://www.smartdcc.co.uk/customer-hub/consultations/changes-required-to-deliver-against-beis-q4-package-to-be-included-in-the-november-2020-sec-release/>

13. Finally, we have made two other minor amendments to the documents that we are designating which are:

- In section 7.2 of the SMKI Repository Policies and Procedures, we have adjusted the sub-bullet point numbering hierarchy to be consistent with the usage elsewhere in the document; and
- In the User Interface Services Schedule, in the “notes” column against Service Reference Variant 7.13, we have deleted the words “The limitations set out in footnote 1 also apply” as the matters that were originally intended to be dealt with in the footnote are now covered by the provisions of H3.10B.