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DP210

‘RSA forecasts, orders and pay stock charges for Alt HAN Equipment’

Modification Report

Version 0.1

8 July 2022



About this document

This document is a draft Modification Report. It currently sets out the background, issue, and progression timetable for this modification, along with any relevant discussions, views and conclusions. This document will be updated as this modification progresses.

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1. Summary

This proposal has been raised by Tom Woolley from SMS Plc.

Registered Supplier Agents (RSAs) can work with numerous Suppliers simultaneously and install Smart Metering Equipment on their behalf. However, currently, only Suppliers can procure and send forecasts of installation volumes of Alternative Home Area Network (Alt HAN) equipment. This is due to Smart Energy Code (SEC) Section Z 'Alt HAN Arrangements' stating that only Relevant Supplier Parties have permission. As a result, Registered Supplier Agents (RSAs) cannot procure or forecast installation volumes of Alt HAN equipment. The Proposer has stated that it would be beneficial for them to be able to order the Alt HAN equipment and subsequently install the equipment for their Suppliers.

2. Issue

What are the current arrangements?

Currently, only energy Suppliers can forecast and procure Alt HAN equipment. This is due to SEC Section Z 'Alt HAN Arrangements' not stating that any other SEC Party Category has the same permissions. The Proposer has stated that it would be beneficial for RSAs to be allowed to forecast and procure Alt HAN equipment on behalf of the Suppliers that they are affiliated with. The Proposer has also informed SECAS that an Alt HAN Supplier contract change is required, however this is outside of the scope of this modification.

Alt HAN Explicit Charges

The cost recovery for Alt HAN is broken down into Fixed and Explicit Charges. The Explicit Charges apply to 'in stock' (warehoused) and 'on the wall' (installed) Alt HAN Devices. The Alt HAN Forum has expressed interest in allowing RSAs to be charged directly for any 'in stock' Alt HAN Devices.

What is the issue?

The SEC currently restricts Alt HAN equipment forecasting and ordering to 'Relevant Supplier Parties' (Small and Large Suppliers) only. RSAs such as Metering Equipment Managers (MEMs) can install Smart Metering Equipment on Suppliers' behalf, and so not including them within SEC Section Z4.36 will inhibit the rollout of Alt HAN equipment.

What is the impact this is having?

Suppliers cannot wholly outsource the forecasting and provision of Alt HAN equipment to their Agents, increasing the burden on Suppliers. Without RSAs being able to forecast and procure Alt HAN equipment, Suppliers will be restricted, and in some cases not able to support the Alt HAN implementation. This will be caused by a lack of human resources, as well as a potential lack of warehouse capacity.

Impact on consumers

If Suppliers do not have the capability to roll out AltHAN Devices and are unable to outsource this function to their Agents then they will not be able to offer AltHAN functionality to consumers.

3. Assessment of the proposal

Areas for assessment

Sub-Committee input

As part of the modification assessment, SECAS will engage with the Chairs from the Operations Group (OPSG), the Technical Architecture and Business Architecture Sub-Committee (TABASC), the Security Sub-Committee (SSC) and the Smart Metering Key Infrastructure Policy Management Authority (SMKI PMA) to confirm what input is required from these forums.

SECAS believes the following Sub-Committees will need to input to this modification:

Sub-Committee	Input needed
OPSG	To confirm that allowing RSAs to forecasts, orders and pay stock charges for Alt HAN equipment is a satisfactory solution to the issue identified and does not have any adverse operational impacts. If the OPSG states that this modification is not of interest, SECAS will not engage with the Sub-Committee.
SMKI PMA	None – No impacts on the SMKI document set
SSC	None – No impacts on the Security infrastructure
TABASC	None – No architecture changes should result from this modification.

Appendix 1: Progression timetable

This Draft Proposal was raised on 4 July 2022. The Smart Energy Code Administrator and Secretariat (SECAS) will present the proposal to the Change Sub-Committee for initial comment on 19 July 2022.

Timetable	
Event/Action	Date
Draft Proposal raised	4 Jul 2022
Presented to CSC for initial comment	19 Jul 2022
SEC Sub-Committee Chair triage meeting	20 Jul 2022
Business requirements developed with Proposer and DCC	Jul 2022
Business requirements workshop	8 Aug 2022
Presented to CSC for final comment and recommendations	16 Aug 2022

Appendix 2: Glossary

This table lists all the acronyms used in this document and the full term they are an abbreviation for.

Glossary	
Acronym	Full term
Alt HAN	Alternative Home Area Network
MEM	Metering Equipment Manager
OPSG	Operations Group
RSA	Registered Supplier Agent
SECAS	The Smart Energy Code Administrator and Secretariat
SMKI PMA	Smart Metering Key Infrastructure Policy Management Authority
SSC	Security Sub-Committee
TABASC	Technical Architecture and Business Architecture Sub-Committee