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November 2023 SEC Release (2 November 2023)

SEC Release Implementation Document

Version 3.0

9 May 2023



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About this document

This document is a Smart Energy Code (SEC) Release Implementation Document (RID). It summarises the scope of the SEC Release, the impacts it will have, the timeline and testing strategy, the central costs that will be incurred, and the acceptance criteria for this release.

This document will be updated periodically as the release develops.

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This document also has one annex:

- **Annex A** will contain the Data Communication Company's (DCC's) SEC Release Testing Approach Document (TAD) for this release. This document will be produced by the DCC at a later date.

1. Scope

Approved Modification Proposals

The following Modification Proposals have been approved for inclusion in this release:

- [MP122B 'Operational Metrics – Part 2'](#) proposes enhancements to DCC reporting on Alerts and Incident Categories 3, 4 and 5.
- [MP216 'Incorporation of Category 2 Issue Resolution Proposals into the SEC – Batch 9'](#) proposes two Issue Resolution Proposals (IRPs) which require changes to the Great Britain Companion Specification (GBCS) v4.x series – IRP 640 and IRP 658.

Targeted Modification Proposals

The following Modification Proposals will be included in this release if a decision to approve is received by the respective cut-off dates:

- [MP137 'Sharing information on Defects and Issues'](#) proposes for the DCC to build and maintain a database which can store issues and defects reported to it by Parties. *Estimated cut-off date for inclusion: 19 October 2023*
- [MP219 'Accessing Consumption Data on behalf of SEC Parties'](#) proposes to allow Other Users to obtain Consumption Data by using the employing Party's Appropriate Permission. The data would also be collected in accordance with the employing Party's Energy Licence. To do this, Other Users would communicate with the DCC Systems using their own credentials, without obtaining Unambiguous Consent from the Energy Consumer. *Estimated cut-off date for inclusion: 19 October 2023*
- [MP226 'Incorporation of Category 3 Issue Resolution Proposals into the SEC - Batch 10'](#) proposes two IRPs and one Change Resolution Proposal (CRP) which require changes to the GBCS v4.x series – IRP 657, IRP 660 and CRP 655. *Cut-off date for inclusion: 24 May 2023*
- [MP230 'Review the SLA for delivery and completion for SMETS1 firmware'](#) proposes to introduce an exemption to the current five-day Service Level Agreement (SLA) for the delivery of SMETS1 firmware. *Estimated cut-off date for inclusion: 19 October 2023*

No further modifications that impact on DCC Systems are expected to be added. Further modifications that do not impact on DCC Systems may be added to the scope of this release at a later date.

Modification Proposals removed from scope

The following modification will no longer be implemented as part of the November 2023 SEC Release:

- [MP211 'Aligning the SMI with the CPL'](#) has been removed from scope as there will not be enough time before the cut-off date. SECAS will instead target MP211 for the June 2024 SEC Release.

DCC Change Requests

The following DCC Change Requests are planned to be implemented alongside this SEC Release:

- CR4290 'Smart Metering Equipment Technical Specification (SMETS) 1 Device Swap Out' proposes to introduce a process for obtaining data on the Full Operating Capacity (FOC) cohort of SMETS1 Prepayment Meter Interface Devices (PPMIDs) which is necessary for swapping out the Devices.

2. Impacts

This section lists the impacts that the changes included in this release will have on participants and their systems, SEC documents and other industry Codes. This section assumes all targeted modifications will be approved for inclusion in this release.

SEC Party and DCC impacts

Participant impact matrix					
Modification	Suppliers	Electricity Networks	Gas Networks	Other SEC Parties	DCC
MP122B					✓
MP137	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
MP216	✓			✓	✓
MP219	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
MP226	✓				✓
MP230					✓

The impacts on the different participants are summarised below. The business requirements for each Modification Proposal are annexed to the Modification Reports for each modification, which are available on the corresponding modifications' webpages.

SEC Party impacts	
Participant	Summary of impacts
All SEC Parties	All Parties* will have access to a database with known issues and defects for Devices.
Supplier Parties	- Suppliers may be impacted if instances of firmware validation failure increase. - Suppliers will be able to update firmware as the firmware image which has been transferred but not activated has been removed. - Suppliers will be able to outsource the collection of Consumption Data to Other Users more easily.
Electricity Network Parties	Electricity Network Parties will be able to outsource the collection of Consumption Data to Other Users more easily.

SEC Party impacts	
Participant	Summary of impacts
Gas Network Parties	Gas Network Parties will be able to outsource the collection of Consumption Data to Other Users more easily.
Other SEC Parties	- Device Manufacturers will be aware of when the Boost Function Event Log begins and ends, ensuring accurate data. - Other SEC Parties will be able to act more widely on behalf of contracting Suppliers and Network Parties. - Other Users/Flexibility Providers will be able to act on behalf of SEC Parties, especially in circumstances when the employing Party has not been able to receive Consumption Data from that Smart Metering System, this means the data can be collected and then passed from Suppliers and Network Operators onto Flexibility Providers.

*The Proposed Solution for MP137 currently includes giving all SEC Parties access to the Device defects database. If access is to be restricted to specific SEC Parties, this will be confirmed as the solution develops.

DCC impacts	
Area impacted	Summary of impacts
Communication Service Providers (CSPs)	- CSP North will record an additional field for Alert timestamps. - CSPs will need to provide information on Device defects to the DCC. - To implement functionality for the IRPs small changes are required to some CSP documentation and Critical Software products.
Data Service Provider (DSP)	- Two Alert timing points will be added to CSP North Smart Metering Wide Area Network (SMWAN) External Interface. - Two Alert timestamps will be extracted from SMWAN Gateway for passing to Request Manager Gateway and Message Gateway. - Alert Supplementary Timing (AST) logs will be configured and delivered to the DCC. - The DCC will be required to maintain the Device defects database.
Data Management	Changes to the design and test specifications for the Data Management component to support MP211.
Data Science and Analytics (DS&A)	- There will be changes to DSP flows used in DS&A reporting which will be added to the existing Alerts reporting. - Small impact to DS&A reporting on the Central Products List (CPL).
Self-Service Management Interface (SSMI)	SSMI File Transfer interface will be updated to feature AST logs to allow request for redelivery.
Technical specifications	Change required to DCC User Gateway Interface Design Specification (DUGIDS) to support MP211.

DCC impacts	
Area impacted	Summary of impacts
	- Change required to SMETS2 to add clause clarifying the requirements which aren't applicable to a Gas Smart Metering Equipment (GSME) Device without a Valve more explicitly. - Change required to GBCS to allow Load Controllers to receive Alerts related to their Security Credentials. - Changes required to GBCS to improve the clarity of numerical and octet string formatting.
Regulatory	DCC will be required to report when it is unable to process firmware images within the current five-day SLA.

SECAS impacts

The Smart Energy Code Administrator and Secretariat (SECAS) will need to make the updates to the SEC to implement the modifications approved for this release.

SECAS will also need to liaise with the DCC and the Operations Group (OPSG) to ensure that the DCC's Performance Measurement Methodology (PMM) is updated to reflect the changes in reporting introduced by MP122B.

SEC document impacts

The following SEC documents will be updated in this release:

- Section A 'Definitions and Interpretation'
- Section F 'Smart Metering Systems Requirements'
- Section H 'DCC Services'
- Section I 'Data Privacy'
- Schedule 8 'Great Britain Companion Specification'
- Schedule 9 'Smart Metering Equipment Technical Specifications'
- Schedule 11 'Technical Specification Applicability Tables'
- Appendix E 'DCC User Interface Services Schedule'

Each of these documents is affected by the following modifications:

SEC document impact matrix						
Document	MP122B	MP137	MP216	MP219	MP226	MP230
Section A	✓			✓		
Section F		✓				
Section H	✓	✓				
Section I				✓		
Schedule 8			✓		✓	
Schedule 9					✓	

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SEC document impact matrix						
Document	MP122B	MP137	MP216	MP219	MP226	MP230
Schedule 9					✓	
Schedule 11			✓			
Appendix E						✓

The document impacts for some modifications are provisional based on the current understanding of the solutions. Some solutions are still at early stages of assessment, and the impacts will be updated as these modifications evolve.

The approved changes to each document are annexed to the Modification Reports for each modification, which are available on the corresponding modifications' webpages.

Technical documentation versions and validity

The following versions of each the Technical Specifications will be implemented in the November 2023 SEC Release:

Technical Specification impact matrix			
Tech Spec	Version	MP216	MP226
GBCS	v4.3	✓	✓
GSMETS	v4.5		✓

Currently, the GBCS and the SMETS are the only technical specifications impacted by this release. It has been assumed that only new Sub-Versions will be introduced and not new Principal Versions. Once a decision on all of the Technical Specification impacting modifications have been received, SECAS will confirm the final versions being introduced with the Technical Architecture and Business Architecture Sub-Committee (TABASC).

Other code impacts

No other Codes are impacted as a result of this release.

3. Implementation timeline

This section lists the planned timeline for the implementation of this release.

This timeline includes dates for approval of the TAD, dates for when the System Integration Testing (SIT) and User Integration Testing (UIT) test phases are planned to commence and complete and key governance steps for the Change Sub-Committee (CSC) and other Sub-Committees to complete.

Please note that dates for the submission and approval of the SIT and UIT Completion Reports and the commencement and closure of the UIT window are provisional and may change nearer the time.

These dates are based on the anticipated schedule for OPSG, Testing Advisory Group (TAG) and CSC meetings and will be confirmed as the DCC prepares the TAD.

Release implementation timetable		
Date	Event	Notes
15 Nov 22	CSC baselines RID for system-impacting modifications	The CSC will review the RID for DCC System-impacting modifications (including modifications targeted but not approved) and baseline the document.
18 Jan 23	DCC submits draft SEC Release TAD	
25 Jan 23	TAG reviews draft SEC Release TAD	
26 Jan 23 – 23 Feb 23	DCC consults on draft SEC Release TAD	The DCC will consult the industry on the draft TAD.
22 Mar 23	DCC submits updated SEC Release TAD	The TAD will be updated to account for comments provided by the TAG and from the consultation.
29 Mar 23	TAG reviews updated SEC Release TAD	The TAG will provide a view to the CSC on whether this document is suitable for use.
18 Apr 23	CSC reviews SEC Release TAD	The CSC will review the TAD and incorporate it into the RID.
Late Apr 23	SIT commences	
2 May 23	OPSG reviews the DCC's progress against the operational acceptance criteria	
16 May 23	CSC baselines RID for non-system-impacting modifications	The CSC will review the RID for non-DCC System-impacting modifications (including modifications targeted but not approved) and re-baseline the document to include these.
19 Jul 23	DCC submits SIT Completion Report	
26 Jul 23	TAG reviews SIT Completion Report and status against the testing acceptance criteria	The TAG will provide a recommendation to the CSC on whether SIT has been completed successfully.
Jul 23	Test Participants inform DCC of their regression testing plans	At least 10 Working Days before UIT begins
1 Aug 23	OPSG reviews the DCC's progress against the operational acceptance criteria	
Sep 23	UIT commences	
5 Sep 23	OPSG reviews the DCC's progress against the operational acceptance criteria	
Sep 23	Test Participants to provide regression testing results to DCC	At least five Working Days before UIT completion

Release implementation timetable		
Date	Event	Notes
26 Sep 23	DCC submits evidence against the operational acceptance criteria	
Oct 23	UIT window closes	
3 Oct 23	OPSG reviews status against the operational acceptance criteria	The Operations Group will provide a recommendation on whether the release should be implemented as planned.
17 Oct 23	CSC go/no-go decision	The CSC will review the status of the release against the acceptance criteria and will determine if the release should be implemented as planned.
2 Nov 23	Release go-live	The changes are implemented.

The implementation of MP122B ‘Operational Metrics – Part 2’

The DCC has advised that although the legal text that will facilitate the [MP122B ‘Operational Metrics – Part 2’](#) Proposed Solution will be implemented on 2 November 2023, the system changes that will provide the additional functionality is set to go live in December 2023. This is due to delays in the delivery of the DCC System solution.

4. Test strategy

This section covers the testing approach that will be taken by the DCC as part of the implementation of this release.

DCC’s testing approach

The DCC’s SEC Release Testing Approach Document will be provided as Annex A to this document in due course. This will cover the DCC’s approach to SIT.

User testing approach

The DCC’s SEC Release Testing Approach Document will be provided as Annex A to this document in due course. This will cover the DCC’s approach to UIT.

5. Costs

This section summarises the costs that will be incurred by the DCC and the SECAS in implementing this release.

DCC costs

The total DCC implementation costs of this release have not yet been determined.

The DCC has provided the following cost breakdown for each DCC System impacting modification in this release via the individual DCC Assessments:

Breakdown of DCC implementation costs					
Modification	Design, Build & PIT	SIT	UIT	Implement to live	Application Support
MP122B	£811,776	£360,191			£31,904 ¹
MP137	£15,000 – £25,000	TBC			TBC (likely one FTE)
MP216	None identified during Preliminary Assessment				

Costs in italics are estimated costs provided in the Preliminary Assessments. Firm costs will be provided in the Impact Assessments.

The DCC will provide standalone costs for SIT, UIT and Implement to Live for each modification for inclusion in their Modification Reports as part of the Impact Assessment. Once the scope of the release is confirmed and the Preliminary Assessments for all candidate modifications are complete, the DCC will produce a combined Preliminary Assessment. This will provide a combined estimated cost for each of these stages when the modifications are delivered as a single package. Where possible, these combined costs will also be provided in the respective Modification Reports.

SECAS costs

SECAS will incur two days effort, equating to around £1,200, to update and implement the changes to the SEC. SECAS estimate a maximum of eight days of effort, equating to around £4,800, will be needed for project management of the release. This cost has already been accounted for in the SECAS budget, and so Parties will not incur any additional costs.

6. Acceptance criteria

The following criteria will need to be met before the release can go live.

Prior to go-live, the OPSG and the TAG will review the status of the release against these criteria. They will provide a recommendation to the CSC on whether to implement the release as planned. The CSC will review these recommendations and will determine then if the release should or shouldn't be implemented as planned.

¹ Application Support costs have been calculated at £1,994 for a period of 16 months after the solution is implemented.

Operational acceptance criteria

1. The DCC has brought to readiness all the new and changed components needed to provide the new services. This will include completing the service design and proving the service operations capability.
2. The DCC has demonstrated that all pre-existing services will be stable in the run-up to deployment of the release.
3. The DCC has proven that the new services can be operated alongside, and integrated with, the existing services.
4. The DCC has assessed the risk posed by existing problems and defects in the existing live service, and the implications these will have for the revised service.
5. The DCC has assessed and addressed the impact on Users arising from any issues, defects or workarounds within the new services.
6. The DCC has demonstrated that lessons learnt from previous SEC Releases and other DCC changes have been taken on board.
7. The DCC has demonstrated there will be no detrimental impact on consumers' experience.
8. The DCC has completed assurance of the Business Continuity and Disaster Recovery processes.
9. SECAS will be ready to implement the approved changes to the SEC on the agreed implementation date.
10. SECAS has brought to readiness all the new and changed components that it is responsible for that are needed to support the new services.

Testing acceptance criteria

1. The DCC has developed the coding for each approved change and confirmed it will be able to deploy this to the production environment on the agreed implementation date.
2. The DCC has completed and closed each test phase against the agreed exit criteria specified in the TAD.
3. The DCC has successfully completed regression testing.
4. The DCC has allowed adequate opportunity for Users to test the changes prior to deployment.
5. The DCC has confirmed that there are no Severity 1 or 2 defects outstanding that would be deployed to the live environment.
6. The DCC has produced a clear resolution plan for any outstanding Severity 3, 4 or 5 defects and that the number of remaining testing issues is within the agreed threshold figures specified in the TAD.
7. The DCC has demonstrated that the SIT and UIT test environments were aligned to the solution being deployed to the production environment; if there were any differences, these were identified and the risks these posed demonstrably managed.

Appendix 1: Version control

Document history		
Version	Date	Changes
0.1	8 Nov 2022	First draft published and presented to the CSC to be baselined for the scope on the DCC Systems.
1.0	16 Nov 2022	Scope on the DCC Systems baselined by the CSC.
2.0	14 Feb 2023	Updated to reflect DP226 being added to scope, MP211 being removed from scope and MP122B being approved for inclusion.
3.0	16 May 2023	Updated to reflect MP219 and MP230 being added to scope.

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
AST	Alert Supplementary Timing
BEIS	Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy
CH	Communications Hub
CHTS	Communications Hub Technical Specifications
CoT	Change of Tenancy
CPL	Central Products List
CSC	Change Sub-Committee
CSP	Communication Services Provider
DCC	Data Communication Company
DS&A	Data Science and Analytics
DSP	Data Services Provider
ESME	Electricity Smart Metering Equipment
ESMETS	Electricity Smart Metering Equipment Technical Specification
GBCS	GB Companion Specification
GPF	Gas Proxy Function
GSME	Gas Smart Metering Equipment
GSMETS	Gas Smart Metering Technical Specification
HAN	Home Area Network
IHD	In-Home Display
IHDTS	In-Home Display Technical Specification
IRP	Issue Resolution Proposal
MMC	Message Mapping Catalogue
PIT	Pre-Integration Testing

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Glossary	
Acronym	Full term
PPMID	Prepayment Interface Device
PPMIDTS	Prepayment Meter Interface Device Technical Specification
RID	Release Implementation Document
RMS	Root Mean Square
SEC	Smart Energy Code
SECAS	Smart Energy Code Administrator and Secretariat
SIT	System Integration Testing
SMETS	Smart Metering Equipment Technical Specifications
SMWAN	Smart Metering Wide Area Network
SMI	Smart Metering Interface
SRV	Service Request Variant
SSI	Self-Service Interface
SSMI	Self-Service Management Interface
TABASC	Technical Architecture and Business Architecture Sub-Committee
TAD	Testing Approach Document
TAG	Testing Advisory Group
UIT	User Integration Testing
XML	Extensible Markup Language