

This document is classified as **Clear** in accordance with the Panel Information Policy. Recipients can distribute this information to the world, there is no limit on disclosure. Information may be shared without restriction subject to copyright.



# November 2025 SEC Release (6 November 2025)

## SEC Release Implementation Document

Version 0.1

12 November 2024



Managed by



## 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.

## Contents

|                                   |                               |    |
|-----------------------------------|-------------------------------|----|
| 1.                                | Scope .....                   | 3  |
| 2.                                | Impacts.....                  | 3  |
| 3.                                | Implementation timeline ..... | 5  |
| 4.                                | Test strategy .....           | 7  |
| 5.                                | Costs .....                   | 7  |
| 6.                                | Acceptance criteria.....      | 8  |
| Appendix 1: Version control ..... |                               | 9  |
| Appendix 2: Glossary .....        |                               | 10 |

## 1. Scope

### 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:

- [MP252 'Amending the process for Communications Hub returns'](#) proposes to allow any SEC Party to return Communications Hubs to the Data Communications Company (DCC). This will require SEC Parties to return Communications Hubs to the DCC using the current method via the Communication Service Providers (CSPs), and the Data Service Provider (DSP) and DCC to process the returns internally.

*Cut-off date for inclusion: 6 April 2025*

- [MP268 'Certificate rotation and expired Certificates'](#) aims to address the security risks associated with using Organisation Certificates with extended Validity Periods in Devices installed after the 2024 manufacturing pack release.

*Cut-off date for inclusion: 6 February 2025*

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.

### DCC Change Requests

There are no Change Requests currently targeted for this release.

## 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 |
| MP252                     | ✓         | ✓                    | ✓            | ✓                 | ✓   |
| MP268                     | ✓         | ✓                    |              |                   | ✓   |

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             | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(MP252) Will allow all SEC Parties to return Communications Hubs to the DCC using the current method via the CSPs.</li> </ul>                                                                                                       |
| Supplier Parties            | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(MP268) Suppliers will need to update their systems and processes to manage and replace Device Certificates.</li> </ul>                                                                                                             |
| Electricity Network Parties | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(MP268) Electricity Network Operators will need to update their systems and processes to manage and replace Device Certificates.</li> </ul>                                                                                         |
| Gas Network Parties         | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>N/A</li> </ul>                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |
| Other SEC Parties           | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>N/A</li> </ul>                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |
| DCC                         | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(MP252) The DCC will need to process the Communications Hub returns internally for reuse or recycle.</li> <li>(MP268) The DCC will need to update their systems and processes to manage and replace Device Certificates.</li> </ul> |

| DCC impacts                     |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |
|---------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Area impacted                   | Summary of impacts                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |
| DCC Systems                     | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(MP252) DCC System impacts are expected to be limited to the DSP, CSPs and DCC Service Management System (DSMS) and/or Future Service Management (FSM). This will require changes to the DSP to allow an automated triggering of an Application Programming Interface (API) for the DSMS to create a Returns Record. Where an automated Returns Record is not created, there will be changes to the DSP to allow the DCC and CSPs to manually create the unsolicited Return Records where needed.</li> <li>(MP268) DCC System impacts are expected to be limited to the DSP. The DSP solution will require changes to the Key Management System and Data Management Components.</li> </ul> |
| Data Services Provider          | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(MP252) This will require changes to the DSP to allow an automated triggering of an API for the DSMS and/or FSM to create a Returns Record. Where an automated Returns Record is not created, there will be changes to the DSP to allow the DCC and CSPs to manually create the unsolicited Return Records where needed.</li> <li>(MP268) The DSP will create an automation initiation of Access Control Broker (ACB) Organisation Certificate replacement as a daily task. This automation will prioritise Devices commissioned within the last 48 hours. Certificate replacements which fail will be retried every seven days, with a maximum of three attempts.</li> </ul>              |
| Communication Service Providers | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(MP252) Where an automated Returns Record is not created, there will be changes to the DSP to allow CSPs to manually create the unsolicited Return Records where needed.</li> </ul>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |

## 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.

Managed by

## SEC document impacts

The following SEC documents will be updated in this release:

- Section G 'Security'
- Appendix AC 'Inventory, Enrolment and Decommissioning Procedures'
- Appendix H 'CH Handover Support Materials'
- Appendix I 'CH Installation and Maintenance Support'

Each of these documents is affected by the following modifications:

| SEC document impact matrix |       |       |
|----------------------------|-------|-------|
| Document                   | MP252 | MP268 |
| Section G                  |       | ✓     |
| Appendix AC                |       | ✓     |
| Appendix H                 | ✓     |       |
| Appendix I                 | ✓     |       |

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

Some Releases include proposals that require changes to either the Smart Metering Equipment Technical Specification (SMETS) or the Great Britain Companion Specification (GBSC). However, the proposals within this document only require changes to the SEC, so no technical specifications will be affected.

## 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 Testing Approach Document (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 Operations Group (OPSG), Testing Advisory Group (TAG) and CSC meetings and will be confirmed as the DCC prepares the TAD.

| Release implementation timetable |                                                                                      |                                                                                                                                                                           |
|----------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Date                             | Event                                                                                | Notes                                                                                                                                                                     |
| 19 Nov 24                        | 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.                         |
| 19 Feb 25                        | DCC submits draft SEC Release TAD                                                    |                                                                                                                                                                           |
| 26 Feb 25                        | TAG reviews draft SEC Release TAD                                                    |                                                                                                                                                                           |
| 1 Mar 25 – 19 Mar 25             | DCC consults on draft SEC Release TAD                                                | The DCC will consult the industry on the draft TAD.                                                                                                                       |
| 19 Mar 25                        | DCC submits updated SEC Release TAD                                                  | The TAD will be updated to account for comments provided by the TAG and from the consultation.                                                                            |
| 26 Mar 25                        | TAG reviews updated SEC Release TAD                                                  | The TAG will provide a view to the CSC on whether this document is suitable for use.                                                                                      |
| 15 Apr 25                        | CSC reviews SEC Release TAD                                                          | The CSC will review the TAD and incorporate it into the RID.                                                                                                              |
| May 25                           | SIT commences                                                                        |                                                                                                                                                                           |
| 13 May 25                        | OPSG reviews the DCC's progress against the operational acceptance criteria          |                                                                                                                                                                           |
| 20 May 25                        | 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. |
| 17 Jun 25                        | CSC reviews SEC Release TAD                                                          | The CSC will review the TAD and incorporate it into the RID.                                                                                                              |
| Aug 25                           | Test Participants inform DCC of their regression testing plans                       | At least 10 Working Days before UIT begins                                                                                                                                |
| 12 Aug 25                        | OPSG reviews the DCC's progress against the operational acceptance criteria          |                                                                                                                                                                           |
| Sep 25                           | UIT commences                                                                        |                                                                                                                                                                           |
| 9 Sep 25                         | OPSG reviews the DCC's progress against the operational acceptance criteria          |                                                                                                                                                                           |
| 17 Sep 25                        | DCC submits SIT Completion Report                                                    |                                                                                                                                                                           |
| 24 Sep 25                        | 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.                                                                          |

| Release implementation timetable |                                                                  |                                                                                                                                                   |
|----------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Date                             | Event                                                            | Notes                                                                                                                                             |
| Sep 25                           | Test Participants to provide regression testing results to DCC   | At least five Working Days before UIT completion                                                                                                  |
| 1 Oct 25                         | DCC submits evidence against the operational acceptance criteria |                                                                                                                                                   |
| Oct 25                           | UIT window closes                                                |                                                                                                                                                   |
| 14 Oct 25                        | OPSG reviews status against the operational acceptance criteria  | The Operations Group will provide a recommendation on whether the release should be implemented as planned.                                       |
| 21 Oct 25                        | 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. |
| 6 Nov 25                         | Release go-live                                                  | The changes are implemented.                                                                                                                      |

## 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 |
| MP252                                 | <i>£200,000-£300,000</i>  | <i>£0</i> | <i>£0</i> | <i>£0</i>         | <i>£0</i>           |
| MP268                                 | <i>£10,000 - £160,000</i> | <i>£0</i> | <i>£0</i> | <i>£0</i>         | <i>£0</i>           |

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 Operations Group 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.

### 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.

Managed by



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              | 12 Nov 2024 | First draft published and presented to the CSC to be baselined for the scope on the DCC Systems. |

## 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                                        |
| ACB      | Access Control Broker                            |
| API      | Application Programming Interface                |
| CSC      | Change Sub-Committee                             |
| CSP      | Communication Services Provider                  |
| DCC      | Data Communication Company                       |
| DSMS     | DCC Service Management System                    |
| DSP      | Data Services Provider                           |
| FSM      | Future Service Management                        |
| OPSG     | Operations Group                                 |
| PIT      | Pre-Integration Testing                          |
| RID      | Release Implementation Document                  |
| SEC      | Smart Energy Code                                |
| SECAS    | Smart Energy Code Administrator and Secretariat  |
| SMETS    | Smart Metering Equipment Technical Specification |
| SIT      | System Integration Testing                       |
| TAD      | Testing Approach Document                        |
| TAG      | Testing Advisory Group                           |
| UIT      | User Integration Testing                         |