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DP290

‘Incorporation of Category 3 Issue Resolution Proposal into the SEC – Batch 11 and GBCS Changes’

Modification Report

Version 0.1

8 April 2025



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 David Walsh from The Data Communications Company (DCC).

Issue Resolution Proposals (IRP) identify and resolve issues in the Technical Specifications documents of the Smart Energy Code (SEC). These issues have been identified by a variety of means and raised for one of the following reasons.

- A request for clarification of any aspect of the documentation;
- A request to resolve a suspected or confirmed Technical Specifications defect; or
- A change identified by the Department for Energy Security & Net Zero (DESNZ) to implement a policy intent.

These issues are then added to an issues log whilst a potential resolution is developed. The Technical Specification Issue Resolution Subgroup (TSIRS) determine all potential solutions and will request these be progressed as part of a Modification Proposal for implementation into the SEC. Once the TSIRS has determined that the issue can be closed, the IRPs will be passed to Smart Energy Code Administrator and Secretariat (SECAS) to begin the modification process.

The DCC have conducted an initial assessment in order to categorise the IRP and identify the correct Impact Assessment path for the Modification process. The categories are outlined as follows:

- Category 1 - DCC core system impacting, requiring a code / system change.
- Category 2 - Non-DCC core system impacting, no code / system change required, just has a testing / testing tool impact.
- Category 3 - Non-DCC core system impacting, no code / system change required.

IRPs are packaged into SEC Modifications as part of the SEC Release process. Implementation of these IRPs will ensure Devices operate as intended.

This Modification also includes an update to the NGNM (Non-GBCS Non-Mandated) Alerts table into the Great Britain Companion Specification (GBCS).

2. Issue

What are the current arrangements?

IRPs identify issues within SEC Technical Specification documents and put forward a solution to the identified problem. In the early stages of the Smart Metering Implementation Program (SMIP), the Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy (BEIS) (which has now become DESNZ) took the lead in developing the SEC Technical Specifications. As part of this, DESNZ also took responsibility for receiving and responding to issues raised either internally, by the DCC, or by other interested Parties. Since its inception, several hundred issues have been raised in relation to Technical Specifications through the TSIRS. In some cases, these queries have been resolved by providing an explanation of the Specifications, whilst others have resulted in proposed amendments to the Specifications in the form of IRPs. The IRP solutions identified have been developed by the TSIRS.

What is the issue?

The individual IRP details for this modification can be found on the SECAS website link here. This document reflects the issue, background information and details of the solution that has been discussed and agreed at the TSIRS. The IRP included in this proposal, listed below, requires changes to the Great Britain Companion Specification (GBCS) with initial key impacts identified below.

IRP665

Any Certificates which are applied to Devices during manufacturing have been validated and are stored as credentials in the Trust Anchor Cells in the Device. If these Certificates need replacing during commissioning or if the Certificate credentials expire a replacement Certificate will be required. Replacements certificates will be applied through the 'update security credentials' command and will be subject to Certification Path Validation (CPV).

This process only applies to replacement certificates as any original certificates in the Trust Anchor Cells would have been previously validated. Ensuring that CPV is only applied to replacement Certificates avoids any unnecessary time or effort.

The aim of this proposed change is to emphasise that CPV only applies to the replacement Certificates and does not apply under any circumstance to existing Certificates held as credentials in Trust Anchor Cells.

NGNM (Non-GBCS Non-Mandated) Alerts table

Device Alerts are unsolicited messages sent by Devices to DCC Users. The GB Companion Specification (GBCS) lists and defines the structure of these Alerts, distinguishing between mandated and non-mandated Alerts.

GBCS Parse software allows any new non-mandated Alerts of the right format (as specified by the GBCS) sent by Devices to be passed to the DCC User. These new non-mandated Alerts have been captured in the GBCS within Table 16.2 following the November 2021 SEC Release. Any new non-mandated Alerts will be captured temporarily in a register until they are adopted by the SEC.

[Non-GBCS-Non-Mandated-Alerts-Register 2025_03_07](#)

What is the impact this is having?

The IRP addresses discrepancies within the Technical Specifications that require correcting, or additional clarification. They have caused confusion amongst some SEC Parties and may continue to do so if not amended. Therefore, the TSIRS has discussed these issues and agreed that improvements are required to the Technical Specifications to address this.

Impact on consumers

The changes should not have an impact on consumers.

3. Assessment of the proposal

Sub-Committee input

SECAS will engage with the Chairs from the Operations Group (OPSG), the Technical Architecture and Business Architecture Sub-Committee (TABASC), the Testing Advisory Group (TAG), the Security Sub-Committee (SSC), Privacy Sub Committee (PSC) 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 provide the following input to this modification:

Sub-Committee input	
Sub-Committee	Input sought
OPSG	None
PSC	None
SMKI PMA	None
SSC	Understand any potential security risks posed by this modification
TABASC	Understand any potential technical impacts as a result of this modification proposal
TAG	None

Appendix 1: Progression timetable

Timetable	
Event/Action	Date
Draft Proposal raised	18 March 2025
Preliminary Assessment requested	14 April 2025
Presented to CSC for initial comment	15 April 2025
CSC converts Draft Proposal to Modification Proposal	15 April 2025
<i>Modification discussed with TABASC</i>	<i>1 May 2025</i>
<i>Modification discussed with SSC</i>	<i>14 May 2025</i>
<i>Preliminary Assessment returned</i>	<i>16 May 2025</i>
<i>Present to CSC to receive approval for report phase</i>	<i>17 June 2025</i>
<i>Modification Report Consultation</i>	<i>23 June 2025 – 11 July 2025</i>
<i>Change Board Vote</i>	<i>20 Aug 2025</i>

Italics denote planned events that could be subject to change

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
BEIS	Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy
CPV	Certification Path Validation
DCC	Data Communications Company
DESNZ	Department for Energy Security & Net Zero
GBCS	Great Britain Companion Specification
IRP	Issue Resolution Proposals
NGNM	Non-GBCS Non-Mandated
OPSG	Operations Group
PSC	Privacy Sub-Committee
SEC	Smart Energy Code
SECAS	The Smart Energy Code Administrator and Secretariat
SMIP	Smart Metering Implementation Program
SMKI PMA	Smart Metering Key Infrastructure Policy Management Authority
SSC	Security Sub-Committee
TABASC	Technical Architecture and Business Architecture Sub-Committee
TAG	Testing Advisory Group
TSIRS	Technical Specification Issue Resolution Subgroup