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November 2025 SEC Release (6 November 2025)

SEC Release Implementation Document

Version 2.0

14 October 2025

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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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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.
- [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.
- [MP283 'Data Breach Reporting'](#) aims to include a requirement for DCC Other Users to report Data breaches to the Privacy Sub-Committee.
[MP286 'Establishment of the Privacy Sub-Committee into the SEC'](#) aims to introduce the Privacy Sub-Committee into the SEC and allow the Sub-Committee to raise its own modifications, following the path of the Security Sub-Committee.
- [MP290 'Incorporation of Category 3 Issue Resolution Proposal into the SEC – Batch 11 and GBCS Changes'](#) aims to make a text-only change 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.
- [MP297 'Housekeeping for November 2025 SEC Release'](#) aims to correct typographical and grammatical errors identified in the SEC, to ensure clarity.
- [MP298 'Enhancements to SEC Appendix AW – Performance Assurance Framework'](#) aims to provide an enhancement to SEC Appendix AW, thus making the Performance Assurance Framework (PAF) more robust and provide better clarity to the Performance Assurance Board (PAB) and SEC Parties engaging with the PAB.

Estimated cut-off date: 30 October 2025

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	✓	✓			✓
MP283				✓	
MP286	✓	✓	✓	✓	
MP297					
MP298	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓

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	(MP252) Will allow all SEC Parties to return Communications Hubs to the DCC using the current method via the CSPs. (MP298) will provide all SEC Parties with greater clarity on the PAF and PAB processes.
Supplier Parties	(MP268) Suppliers will need to update their systems and processes to manage and replace Device Certificates. (MP286) Suppliers are indirectly impacted as they would no longer be asked to raise Draft Proposals on behalf of the PSC.
Electricity Network Parties	(MP268) Electricity Network Operators will need to update their systems and processes to manage and replace Device Certificates. (MP286) Electricity Network Parties are indirectly impacted as they would no longer be asked to raise Draft Proposals on behalf of the PSC.
Gas Network Parties	(MP286) Gas Network Parties are indirectly impacted as they would no longer be asked to raise Draft Proposals on behalf of the PSC.
Other SEC Parties	(MP283) Other SEC Parties (DCC Other Users) will be impacted as they will be required to inform the PSC of any Data breaches. (MP286) Other SEC Parties are indirectly impacted as they would no longer be asked to raise Draft Proposals on behalf of the PSC.
DCC	(MP252) The DCC will need to process the Communications Hub returns internally for reuse or recycle. (MP268) The DCC will need to update their systems and processes to manage and replace Device Certificates.

DCC impacts	
Area impacted	Summary of impacts
DCC Systems	(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. (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.
Data Services Provider	(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. (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.
Communication Service Providers	(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.

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.

SEC document impacts

The following SEC documents will be updated in this release:

- Section A 'Definitions and Interpretations'
- Section D 'Modification Process'
- Section F 'Smart Metering System Requirements'
- Section G 'Security'
- Section I 'Data Privacy'
- Schedule 8 'Great Britain Companion Specifications'
- Appendix AC 'Inventory, Enrolment and Decommissioning Procedures'
- Appendix I 'CH Installation and Maintenance Support'

- Appendix AD ‘DCC User Interface Specification’
- Appendix AW ‘Performance Assurance Framework’

Each of these documents is affected by the following modifications:

SEC document impact matrix							
Document	MP252	MP268	MP283	MP286	MP290	MP297	MP298
Section A							✓
Section D				✓			
Section F	✓						
Section G		✓					
Section I			✓	✓			
Schedule 8					✓		
Appendix AC		✓					
Appendix I	✓						
Appendix AD	✓					✓	
Appendix AW							✓

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 2025 SEC Release:

Technical Specification impact matrix		
Tech Spec	Version	MP252
DUIS	5.4 (anticipated)	✓
GBCS	4.4 (anticipated)	N/A

SEC Appendix AD ‘DCC User Interface Specification (DUIS)’ is the technical specification impacted by the implementation of MP252 in this release. It has been assumed that only a new Sub-Version will be introduced and not a new Principal Version. A new version of SEC Schedule 8 ‘Great Britain Companion Specifications (GBCS)’ will be introduced to support the transition to Virtual Wide Area Network (VWAN). There is no associated modification with the release of a new GBCS version.

Technical documentation versions and validity

The following versions of each the Technical Specifications will be amended in the November 2025 SEC Release:

Technical Specification impact matrix			
Tech Spec	Version	MP290	MP297
DUIS	5.3		✓
GBCS	3.2	✓	

Amendments to GBCS v3.2 will be made as part of the implementation of MP290 in the November 2025 SEC Release. Amendments to DUIS v5.3 will be made as part of the implementation of MP297 in the November 2025 SEC Release.

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.

Release implementation timetable		
Date	Event	Notes
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.
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 TAD is provided as Annex A to this document. This covers the DCC's approach to SIT.

User testing approach

The DCC's SEC Release TAD is provided as Annex A to this document. This covers the DCC's approach to UIT.

Regression testing approach

The DCC's SEC Release TAD is provided as Annex A to this document. This covers the DCC's approach to regression testing.

The DCC's SEC Release TAD was approved by the TAG.

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 cost of this release will be £329,626.

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	£232,006	£86,300		£11,320	£24,563 ¹
MP268	N/A				
MP283	N/A				
MP286	N/A				
MP290	N/A				
MP297	N/A				
MP298	N/A				

No additional impact on operational costs have been identified.

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.

Currently it is assumed that Regression Testing will be carried out post approval of any modifications, with the DCC providing costings for this activity per Release to the Change Sub-Committee (CSC) once understood, but prior to implementation.

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.

¹ Not included in the total cost of the Modification, but as an annual charge for running costs.

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	12 Nov 2024	First draft published and presented to the CSC to be baselined for the scope on the DCC Systems.
1.0	19 Nov 2024	Scope of the Release baselined by the CSC.
2.0	14 Oct 2025	Inclusion of all targeting modifications, impacted SEC documents and DCC costs.

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