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DP316

‘DUIS SRV12.2 Pre-Notification of CHF Ambiguity’

Modification Report

Version 0.1

9 March 2026



About this document

This document is a Modification Report. It sets out the background, issue, solution, impacts, costs, implementation approach and progression timetable for this modification, along with any relevant discussions, views and conclusions.

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This document also has one annex:

- **Annex A** contains the redlined changes to the Smart Energy Code (SEC) required to deliver the Proposed Solution.

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1. Summary

This proposal has been raised by David Walsh from the Data Communications Company (DCC).

The DCC User Interface Specification (DUIS) allows for a DCC User to send Service Reference Variant (SRV) 12.2 'Device Pre-notification' to a Communications Hub. This is expected to be used in the case when a Communications Hub is accidentally Decommissioned or when the Communications Service Provider (CSP) fails to pre-notify the Communications Hub following the normal business processing pattern. The Communications Hub consists of two logical functions: the Communications Hub Function (CHF) and Gas Proxy Function (GPF). Each of these logical Devices has its own unique identification number. The pre-notification of a Communications Hub requires both the CHF and GPF identifiers to be specified as part of SRV 12.2.

Currently DUIS does not specify the error code expected if the sender of the Service Request (SR) erroneously specifies both the CHF and GPF identifiers to be the same value, and the current response code description does not cover the duplication of the CHF Device ID nor is it descriptive of the problem. The Proposed Solution is to make text only changes to the SEC and add clarification to the response code 'E120201' description to remove any ambiguity and reduce testing failures across the industry.

This modification will have no direct impacts on any SEC Parties but will give greater clarity and transparency to SEC Appendix AD 'DCC User Interface Specification' (DUIS). Implementation costs are limited to SEC Change team time and effort to update the SEC. The SEC Change team is targeting an implementation date of 5 November 2026 (November 2026 SEC Release).

2. Issue

What are the current arrangements?

The DUIS allows for a DCC User to send an SRV 12.2 'Device Pre-notification' for a Communications Hub. This is expected to be used in the case when a Communications Hub is accidentally Decommissioned or when the CSP fails to pre-notify the Communications Hub following the normal business processing pattern.

The Communications Hub consists of two logical functions: the CHF and GPF. Each of these logical Devices has its own and unique identification number. The pre-notification of a Communications Hub requires both the CHF and the GPF identifiers to be specified in the SR.

DCC Users are required to submit the requests 12.2 'Device Pre-notification' and must include two Device IDs of the CHF and the GPF. If there are any issues with the SR, then the DCC are unable to execute the request and instead send an error response code. Below are the error code responses which are listed in SEC Appendix AD:

Response Code	Response Code Description
E120201	The Device ID already existed in Smart Metering Inventory and its Status was not 'Decommissioned' or 'Withdrawn'

E120203	The Device Type / Manufacturer / Model / Firmware Version data specified by the User do not match the values contained on the Central Products List (CPL) that have been approved for use.
E120204	Not all the applicable optional data items are included in the Request or not applicable data items are included in the Request
E120207	This Device Type (GPF) can't be Pre-notified

What is the issue?

Currently DUIS does not specify the error code expected if the sender of the SR erroneously specifies both the CHF and the GPF identifiers to be the same value; However, should this occur the DCC currently sends a Response with the Response Code 'E120201' which is defined in the DUIS specification which states the following:

Response Code	Response Code Description
E120201	The Device ID already existed in Smart Metering Inventory and its Status was not 'Decommissioned' or 'Withdrawn'

The 'E120201' Response Code description does not cover the duplication of the CHF Device ID nor is it descriptive of the problem. This means the DCC User may not be able to establish the root cause for the Response Code received.

What is the impact this is having?

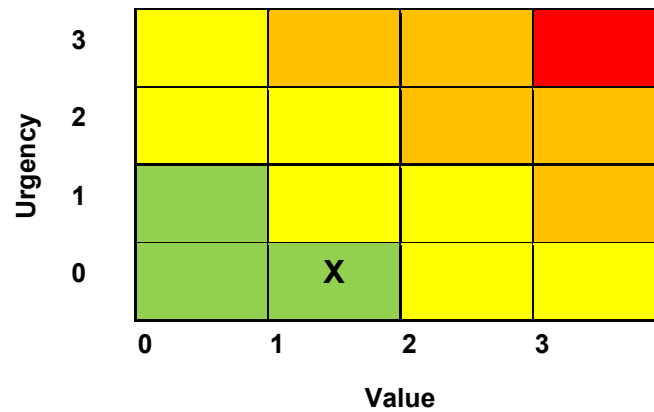
Doing nothing means this ambiguity remains within the DUIS specification and runs the risk of causing uncertainty. Users are unsure of the expected behaviour, and the future Data Service Provider (DSP2) could produce a different error in this scenario.

Impact on consumers

There is no impact on consumers as a result of this modification.

What is the priority of this Modification?

This modification has a priority score of Low. This rating is based on the following factors:



These scores have been allocated based on the below factors:

- The Proposed Solution would provide clarity to the requirements within SEC Appendix AD 'DCC User Interface Specification' in relation to clause 3.8.128 'Device Pre-Notification'.

3. Solution

Proposed Solution

The Proposed Solution is to make text-only changes to SEC Appendix AD with the aim of providing clarity and to avoid any ambiguity and misinterpretation.

The changes to the SEC required to deliver the Proposed Solution can be found in Annex A.

4. Impacts

This section summarises the impacts that would arise from the implementation of this modification.

SEC Parties

SEC Party Categories impacted			
✓	Large Suppliers	✓	Small Suppliers
	Electricity Network Operators		Gas Network Operators
	Other SEC Parties		DCC

Suppliers will benefit from this modification through specifying the behaviour in the Response Code description, as this will ensure a common understanding of the specification and reduce failures within testing cycles across the industry.

DCC System

This modification does not impact the DCC Systems.

SEC and subsidiary documents

The following parts of the SEC will be impacted:

- SEC Appendix AD – DCC User Interface Specification (DUIS).

The changes to the SEC required to deliver the Proposed Solution can be found in Annex A.

Technical specification versions

This modification makes changes to the DUIS. However, the changes are only to the text and do not impact the schema. There are other changes to DUIS scheduled for the November 2026 Release.

Devices

This modification does not impact Devices.

Consumers

This modification does not impact consumers.

Other industry Codes

This modification does not impact other industry Codes.

Greenhouse gas emissions

This modification does not impact greenhouse gas emissions.

5. Costs

DCC costs

There are no DCC costs associated with this modification.

SEC costs

The estimated SEC Change team implementation costs to implement this as a stand-alone modification is half a day of effort, amounting to approximately £300. This cost will be reassessed when combining this modification in a scheduled SEC Release. The activities needed to be undertaken for this are:

- Updating the SEC and releasing the new version to the industry.

SEC Party costs

There are no SEC Party costs associated with this modification.

6. Implementation approach

Recommended implementation approach

The SEC Change team is recommending an implementation date of:

- **5 November 2026** (November 2026 SEC Release) if a decision to approve is received before 22 October 2026; or
- **Ad-hoc** SEC Release) if a decision to approve is received after 22 October 2026

The November 2026 SEC Release is next scheduled release for DUIS that this modification could reasonably be implemented within. If a decision is not received by 22 October, then the SEC Change team will implement this change into the next SEC release where a DUIS change is included.

7. Case for change

Business case

This modification will address inconsistencies and points of potential confusion or misinterpretation with minimal costs limited to SEC Change team time and effort.

Views against the General SEC Objectives

Proposer's views

The Proposer believes that the modification will better facilitate SEC Objective (g)¹ as it will correct errors in the SEC and lead to less confusion or interpretation. Specifying the behaviour in the response code description will reduce test failures across the industry and help reduce costly rework.

¹ To facilitate the efficient and transparent administration and implementation of this Code.

Views against the consumer areas

Improved safety and reliability

This modification will have a neutral impact on safety and reliability.

Lower bills than would otherwise be the case

This modification will have a neutral impact on consumer bills.

Reduced environmental damage

This modification will have a neutral impact on environmental damage.

Improved quality of service

This modification will have a minor improvement on the quality of service as Suppliers will be able to better understand the issue which may lead to a reduced cycle time and reduce ambiguity when resolving the issue.

Benefits for society as a whole

This modification will have a neutral impact on benefits for society.

Final conclusions

This modification addresses inconsistencies and points of potential confusion or misinterpretation. There are no DCC costs and only a minimal SEC Change team cost to implement.

Appendix 1: Progression timetable

Timetable	
Event/Action	Date
Draft Proposal raised	9 March 2026
<i>Presented to CSC for initial comment</i>	<i>17 March 2026</i>
<i>CSC converted Draft Proposal to Modification Proposal</i>	<i>17 March 2026</i>
<i>Modification Report approved by CSC</i>	<i>17 Mar 2026</i>
<i>Modification Report Consultation</i>	<i>18 Mar – 8 Apr 2026</i>
<i>Change Board Vote</i>	<i>22 Apr 2026</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
CHF	Communications Hub Function
CSP	Communications Service Provider
DCC	Data Communications Company
DSP	Data Service Provider
DUIS	DCC User Interface Specification
GPF	Gas Proxy Function
SEC	Smart Energy Code
SRV	Service Reference Variant