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DP318

‘Incorporation of Category 3 Issue Resolution Proposal into the SEC – Batch 12 and GBCS Changes’

Modification Report

Version 0.1

10 March 2026



About this document

This document is a 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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This document also has one annex:

- **Annex A** contains the IRP667 Technical Specification Issue Resolution Proposal document.

Annexes?

Contact

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1. Summary

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 the SEC Change team to begin the modification process.

IRP667 Proposes a text change to provide a Consumer with a 'Rejected-Duplicate Top Up' message when a duplicate Unique Transaction Reference Number (UTRN) is entered into a Prepayment Meter Interface Device (PPMID).

This modification is targeted for the November 2026 SEC Release and is anticipated to impact Large Suppliers, Small Suppliers, and Meter Manufacturers. There are no anticipated costs associated with this modification outside that of the SEC Change team implementation costs. This modification is a Self-Governance modification.

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.

The Data Communications Company (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. These changes will impact Users that are involved with the application of replacement Device Certificates.

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 Great Britain Companion Specification (GBCS) with initial key impacts identified below.

IRP667

Resolves any ambiguity in GBCS relating to the duplicate entry of an UTRN via the PPMID.

A meter operating in prepayment mode can be topped up using a UTRN. Three methods can be used to apply the top-up to the meter:

1. an energy Supplier can send the UTRN directly to the meter using a Service Request (SR);
2. a consumer can enter the UTRN directly at the meter;
3. or the consumer can enter the UTRN to the PPMID which forwards the UTRN to the meter.

Every UTRN is unique and can only be used once; the meter will verify the UTRN and reject a duplicate UTRN.

Where a UTRN has been sent from the PPMID to the meter and has passed all checks, the meter will apply the UTRN and send two messages:

- the first message is to inform the energy Supplier of the successful top-up;
- and the second message is sent back to the PPMID informing the consumer of the successful top-up.

If the meter detects a duplicate UTRN, then the meter will not send a message to the energy Supplier, however this will also result in the message to the PPMID not being sent. As a result, the consumer will not receive feedback about the top-up failure.

IRP667 clarifies the meter behaviour by separating the generation of the message to the PPMID from the generation of the message to the energy Supplier. In case the consumer has entered a UTRN on the PPMID, which the meter then identifies as a duplicate UTRN, the meter will not send a message to the energy Supplier, but it will send a message back to the PPMID indicating that the UTRN has been identified as a duplicate. The PPMID can then display this message on its screen, ensuring that the consumer is informed that the top-up failed as the UTRN had been rejected by the meter as a duplicate.

Although the original concern related to Gas Smart Metering Equipment (GSME), the IRP is written to cover both GSME and Electricity Smart Metering Equipment (ESME).

What is the impact this is having?

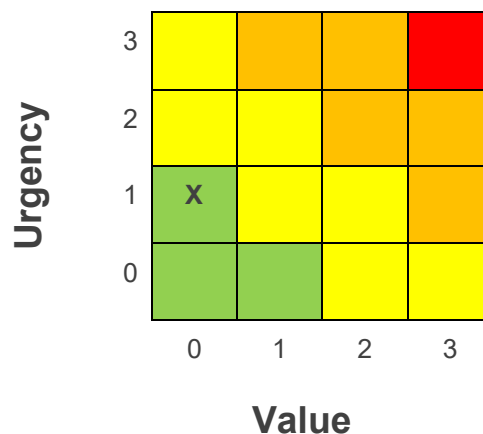
The IRP addresses discrepancies within the Technical Specifications that require correcting, or additional clarification. They have caused confusion amongst some SEC Parties and may continue to do so if not amended. Therefore, the TSIRS has discussed these issues and agreed that improvements are required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

Impact on consumers

These changes will improve the Consumer experience by informing them when a duplicate UTRN has been entered into a PPMID Device.

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:

- Consumer benefits as these changes will enhance the Consumer experience by providing notification when a duplicate UTRN has been entered.

Please refer to Appendix 3 for a full breakdown of how the priority score was calculated.

3. Assessment of the proposal

Sub-Committee input

SEC Change have engaged 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), The Performance Assurance Board (PAB) and the Smart Metering Key Infrastructure Policy Management Authority (SMKI PMA) to confirm what input is required from these forums. SEC Change believe the following Sub-Committees will need to provide the following input to this modification:

Sub-Committee input	
Sub-Committee	Input sought
OPSG	SEC Change does not believe there will be any OPSG impact
PAB	SEC Change does not believe there will be any Performance Assurance impacts.
PSC	SEC Change does not believe there will be any PSC impacts
SMKI PMA	SEC Change does not believe there will be any SMKI PMA impact
SSC	Potential Security consideration due to changing the way duplicate entries are handled.
TABASC	SEC Change does not believe there will be any TABASC impact
TAG	SEC Change does not believe there will be any TAG impact

Appendix 1: Progression timetable

Timetable	
Event/Action	Date
Draft Proposal raised	10 March 2026
<i>Presented to the Change Sub-Committee (CSC) for initial comment</i>	<i>17 March 2026</i>
<i>CSC converts Draft Proposal to Modification Proposal</i>	<i>17 March 2026</i>
<i>Preliminary Assessment requested</i>	<i>April 2026</i>
<i>Preliminary Assessment returned</i>	<i>April 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
BEIS	Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy
CSC	Change Sub-Committee
DCC	Data Communications Company
DESNZ	Department for Energy Security & Net Zero
ESME	Electricity Smart Metering Equipment

Glossary	
Acronym	Full term
GBCS	Great Britain Companion Specification
GSME	Gas Smart Metering Equipment
IRP	Issue Resolution Proposal
OPSG	Operations Group
PAB	Performance Assurance Board
PPMID	Prepayment Meter Interface Device
PSC	Privacy Sub-Committee
SEC	Smart Energy Code
SMKI PMA	Smart Metering Key Infrastructure Policy Management Authority
SMIP	Smart Metering Implementation Program
SR	Service Request
SSC	Security Sub-Committee
TABASC	Technical Architecture and Business Architecture Sub-Committee
TAG	Testing Assurance Group
TSIRS	Technical Specification Issue Resolution Subgroup
UTRN	Unique Transaction Reference Number

Appendix 3: Prioritisation Matrix

Prioritisation Matrix ¹							
Legal & regulatory compliance ⁱ	Operational performance ⁱⁱ	Cost benefit ⁱⁱⁱ	Consumer impact ^{iv}	Security impacts ^v	Value	Urgency	Priority
0	0	0	1	0	0	1	Low

- This change will deliver an enhanced Consumer experience

ⁱ Ensure that Parties (including the DCC) meet the obligations of all relevant laws, regulations and licence obligations

ⁱⁱ Deliver performance improvements enhancing speed, quality, costs, flexibility and dependability

ⁱⁱⁱ Realise financial benefits compared to the cost of the change and the impact of doing nothing

^{iv} Meet or enhance consumer and end user needs and expectations through offering better services

^v Deliver or enhance the smart metering security arrangements or reduce the risk of a security incident arising

¹ The impact or improvement in each area is measured on a 0-1-2-3 rating system, where 0 is equal to no expected impact or improvement and 3 is equal to a major expected impact or improvement.