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February 2024 SEC Release (29 February 2024)

SEC Release Implementation Document

Version 6.0

13 February 2024



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

Approved Modification Proposals

The following Modification proposals have been approved for inclusion in this release:

- [MP162 'SEC changes required to deliver MHHS'](#) proposes to amend the SEC in order to facilitate the go-live of the Market-Wide Half-Hourly Settlement (MHHS) programme. The changes will allow Supplier Agents to be able to collect half-hourly meter readings from Electricity Smart Metering Equipment (ESME) for MHHS.
Please note that only the MP162 changes to SEC Appendix R 'Common Test Scenarios Document' will be implemented in this SEC Release. The remaining impacted documents will be implemented on 27 June 2024 (June 2024 SEC Release).
- [MP167B 'Review of SEC documents \(DCC Internal Systems change governance\)'](#) proposes to define the Programme Assurance Policy (PAP), and reference the document in the SEC. This will obligate the Data Communications Company (DCC) to adhere to the document when it is initiating a project or programme with potential DCC User impacts.
- [MP176 'Customer Analytics Reporting'](#) proposes to mandate that the DCC delivers a standardised set of benchmarked reporting to all DCC Users which will enable them to identify their performance for key business processes in comparison to their peers and to enable them to diagnose reasons for poor performance so that they can take steps to address it.
- [MP243 'CHTS v1.1 and GBCS v2.1 Installation End Date and Maintenance End Date'](#) proposes to extend the Communications Hub Technical Specifications (CHTS) v1.1 and Great Britain Companion Specification (GBCS) v2.1 Installation End Date by 24 months. This would change the End Date from 30 April 2024 to 30 April 2026.
- [MP259 'Triage System Interface Definition'](#) proposes to expand the Triage System Interface definition to include both Internet Protocol Security (IPsec) as well as an alternative Transport Layer Security (TLS) Virtual Private Network (VPN). Additionally, to futureproof the SEC Guidance, it is also proposed that references to TLS v1.2 are changed to generic wording referring parties to the SSC Guidance on which version of TLS to use.
- [MP261 'Extending the Organisation Certificate Validity Period'](#) proposes to allow the DCC to create Organisation Certificates for more than 10 years, where it is agreed by the Smart Metering Key Infrastructure Policy Management Authority (SMKI PMA), having first considered the views of the Security Sub-Committee (SSC). It will also allow the DCC to re-use the existing Public Key information.

DCC Change Requests

There are no DCC Change Requests planned to be implemented alongside this SEC Release.

2. Impacts

This section lists the impacts that the changes 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
MP162 (SEC Appendix R changes)					✓
MP167B					✓
MP176	✓	✓			✓
MP243	✓			✓	✓
MP259	✓			✓	✓
MP261	✓			✓	✓

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	N/A
Supplier Parties	(MP176) (indirect impact) Suppliers will receive a more detailed level of reporting from the DCC and may wish to amend their internal processes accordingly. (MP243) Suppliers will be able to continue installing CHTS v1.1 – GBCS v2.1 Communications Hubs that would otherwise have to be scrapped or returned. (MP259) Suppliers will be impacted by this if they operate a Triage Facility and choose to employ TLS as a security protocol. (MP261) Suppliers will be positively impacted as the risk of extended I&C timescales will be mitigated, which would reduce the likelihood of additional inconvenience for their consumers through repeat visits.
Electricity Network Parties	(MP176) (indirect impact) Electricity Network Parties will receive a more detailed level of reporting from the DCC and may wish to amend their internal processes accordingly.
Gas Network Parties	N/A
Other SEC Parties	(MP162) Meter Data Retrievers (MDRs) will be aware of the User Entry Process Testing (UEPT) requirements.

SEC Party impacts	
Participant	Summary of impacts
	(MP243) Meter Installers will be able to continue installing CHTS v1.1 – GBCS v2.1 Communications Hubs that would otherwise have to be scrapped or returned. (MP259) Device Manufacturers and Meter Asset Providers (MAPs) will be impacted if they choose to employ TLS as a security protocol with a Triage Facility. (MP261) Device Manufacturers will be positively impacted by the assurance of Certificates remaining the same in future iterations of the manufacturer pack, as well as by managing a single updated pack. (MP261) Meter installers will be positively impacted as the risk of extended I&C timescales will be mitigated, which would reduce the likelihood of additional inconvenience for their consumers through repeat visits.
DCC	(MP167B) The DCC must adhere to the PAP when it is initiating a project or programme with potential DCC User impacts. (MP259) The DCC will not be immediately impacted, however when the current TLS version becomes deprecated, they would be able to update in accordance with Security Sub-Committee (SSC) Guidance. (MP261) The DCC will be positively impacted by this change as it will allow them to align the Organisation Certificates with the Issuing Organisation Certificate Authority (OCA) Certificate, to enable them to issue a single update to the manufacturing pack

DCC impacts	
Area impacted	Summary of impacts
Report Generation	(MP176) the DCC will require increased resource to support and deliver the enhanced reporting suite.
Operational	(MP243) DCC will be able to allow CHTS v1.1 – GBCS v2.1 Communications Hubs to be installed that would otherwise have to be scrapped or returned. (MP259) The DCC will not be immediately impacted, however when the current TLS version becomes depreciated, they would be able to update in accordance with Security Sub-Committee (SSC) Guidance.
Testing	(MP162) UEPT requirements will be made available for the remainder of the MP162 changes. (MP167B) The DCC must adhere to the PAP when it is initiating a project or programme with potential DCC User impacts
Governance	(MP167B) The DCC will be required to adhere to the contents of the PAP when initiating projects and/or programmes that fall within scope of that document.

SECAS impacts

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 Interpretation'
- Section D 'Modification Process'
- Section G 'Security'
- Section H 'DCC Services'
- Section L 'SMKI and DCC Key Infrastructure (DCCKI)'
- Schedule 11 'Technical Specification Applicability Tables'
- Appendix B 'Organisation Certificate Policy'
- Appendix M 'SMKI Interface Design Specification'
- Appendix O 'SMKI Repository Interface Design Specification'
- Appendix R 'Common Test Scenarios Document'
- Appendix S 'DCCKI Certificate Policy'
- Appendix T 'DCCKI Interface Design Specification'
- Appendix X 'Registration Data Interface Specification'
- Appendix AI 'Self Service Interface Code of Connection'
- Appendix AL 'SMETS1 Transition and Migration Approach Document'

Each of these documents is affected by the following modifications:

SEC document impact matrix						
Document	MP162	MP167B	MP176	MP243	MP259	MP261
Section A		✓				
Section D		✓				
Section G					✓	
Section H			✓			
Section L						✓
Schedule 11				✓		
Appendix B						✓
Appendix M					✓	
Appendix O					✓	
Appendix R	✓					

SEC document impact matrix						
Document	MP162	MP167B	MP176	MP243	MP259	MP261
Appendix S					✓	
Appendix T					✓	
Appendix X					✓	
Appendix AI					✓	
Appendix AL					✓	

The approved changes to each document are annexed to the Modification Reports for each modification. These are available on the corresponding modifications' webpages.

Other code impacts

No other Codes are impacted by this release.

3. Implementation timeline

This section lists the planned timeline for the implementation of this release.

Release implementation timetable		
Date	Event	Notes
15 Aug 2023	Change Sub-Committee (CSC) baselines RID	The CSC will review the RID and baseline the document.
31 Jan 2024	DCC submits evidence against the operational acceptance criteria	
13 Feb 2024	Operations Group (OPSG) reviews status against the operational acceptance criteria	The OPSG will provide a recommendation to the CSC on whether the release should be implemented as planned. <i>Preliminary reviews of progress will be scheduled across preceding meetings.</i>
20 Feb 2024 (exp'd date)	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.
29 Feb 2024	Release go-live	The changes are implemented.

4. Test strategy

This release will not impact the DCC Systems and so will not require any Pre-Integration Testing (PIT), Systems Integration Testing (SIT) or User Integration Testing (UIT).

There are no User testing impacts for this release.

5. Costs

This section summarises the costs that will be incurred by the DCC and SECAS in implementing this release.

DCC costs

Breakdown of DCC implementation costs						
Modification	Design, Build & PIT	Additional Cloud Infrastructure	Power BI Report Build (5 Months)	DCC Test Assurance	Penetration Testing	DCC User Acceptance Testing (4 Weeks)
MP176 (Alternative Solution)	£72,000	£42,000	£195,000	£20,000	£10,000	£4000

SECAS costs

SECAS will incur two days effort, equating to around £1,200, to update and implement the changes to the SEC. SECAS estimates a maximum of four days of effort, equating to around £2,400, 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, OPSG will review the status of the release against these criteria. It will provide a recommendation to the CSC on whether to implement the release as planned. The CSC will review this recommendation 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.
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.

Appendix 1: Version control

Document history		
Version	Date	Changes
0.1	8 Aug 2023	First draft published.
1.0	15 Aug 2023	Scope of the Release baselined by the CSC.
2.0	10 Oct 2023	Updated to reflect MP167B being approved by the Change Board for implementation.
3.0	27 Nov 2023	Updated to reflect the approval for implementation of MP243 by the Change Board, the removal of MP224 and DP238 from the Release Scope, and the addition of MP248 to the Release Scope.
4.0	14 Dec 2023	Addition of MP176 and DP259 into the February 2024 SEC Release scope.
5.0	18 Jan 2024	Removal of MP230 and MP246, and addition of MP261 to the scope of the February 2024 SEC Release.
6.0	13 Feb 2024	Updating RID to reflect all approved modifications for the February 2024 SEC Release.

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
CHTS	Communications Hub Technical Specifications
CSC	Change Sub-Committee
DCC	Data Communications Company

Glossary	
Acronym	Full term
ESME	Electricity Smart Metering Equipment
GBCS	Great Britain Companion Specification
MDR	Meter Data Retriever
MHHS	Market-wide half-hourly settlement
OCA	Organisation Certificate Authority
OPSG	Operations Group
PAP	Programme Assurance Policy
PIT	Pre-Integration Testing
RID	Release Implementation Document
SEC	Smart Energy Code
SECAS	Smart Energy Code Administrator and Secretariat
SIT	System Integration Testing
SMETS	Smart Metering Equipment Technical Specification
UEPT	User Entry Process Testing
UIT	User Integration Testing