

This document is classified as **White** in accordance with the Panel Information Policy. Information can be shared with the public, and any members may publish the information, subject to copyright.



June 2023 SEC Release (29 June 2023)

SEC Release Implementation Document

Version 8.0

28 June 2023



Managed by



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.

Contents

1. Scope	3
2. Impacts.....	4
3. Implementation timeline	8
4. Test strategy	9
5. Costs	10
6. Acceptance criteria	11
Appendix 1: Version control	12
Appendix 2: Glossary	12

This document also has one annex:

- **Annex A** contains the Data Communication Company’s (DCC’s) SEC Release Testing Approach Document (TAD) for this release. This document is provided separately to this RID.

1. Scope

Approved Modification Proposals

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

- [MP102B 'Power Outage Alerts triggered by an OTA firmware upgrade - enduring solution'](#) proposes the Data Service Provider (DSP) builds a mechanism that will suppress power outage Alerts (POAs) which may have been caused by a firmware update to certain Electricity Smart Metering Equipment (ESME) Devices.
- [MP125 'Correcting Device Information for the ESME Variant'](#) proposes to allow the Responsible Supplier to be able to correct the ESME Variant Device detail in the Smart Metering Inventory (SMI) after the Device has been commissioned.
- [MP128A 'Gas Network Operators SMKI Requirements'](#) proposes to introduce obligations for Gas Network Parties (GNPs) to replace their Organisation Certificates with Access Control Broker (ACB) Certificates and submit a Certificate Revocation Request if they no longer intend to be DCC Users, allowing an incoming GNP to place its own Organisation Certificates on Devices.
- [MP183 'Post Commissioning Obligations Reporting'](#) proposes to remove the successful execution of Certificate-related Service Requests as a criterion for meeting Post Commissioning Obligations, increasing the accuracy of the DCC's reporting.
- [MP215 'Communications Hub Ordering and Forecasting'](#) proposes to introduce aspects of the Temporary Communications Hub Ordering and Delivery Rules (TCHODR) to the business-as-usual (BAU) rules governing the forecasting and ordering process for Smart Metering Equipment Technical Specification (SMETS) 2+ Communications Hubs.
- [MP220 'MMC Changes resulting from GBCS v4.1 Device Testing'](#) proposes to address an issue with the Parse & Correlate software. There will also be corrections within the SEC to specify the Home Area Network (HAN) Connected Auxiliary Load Control Switches (HCALCS) Use Case. These will introduce an additional Message Code and allow the Device Alert sent from an HCALCS Device to be parsed successfully for intended recipients.
- [MP214 'Clarification of Acceptable DCC User IDs for Import and Export Suppliers'](#) proposes to allow Parties to act in any combination of some or all the User Roles of Import Supplier, Export Supplier and Gas Supplier with the same DCC User ID.
- [MP222 'CPL submission efficiency improvements'](#) proposes to allow Device Manufacturers to submit Central Products List (CPL) hardware/firmware revisions for pre-existing SMETS2 Devices without requiring Supplier endorsement. The Manufacturer will also be able to submit the Hash Image.
- [MP229 'Notification of material change to User Systems to include decommissioning'](#) proposes to align the explicit requirements for notification of decommissioning User Systems to the Security Sub-Committee (SSC). The requirement is implicit within the SEC, but the Security Controls Framework (SCF) has made this requirement explicit. Updating the SEC to align these documents will remove any ambiguity Users may experience.

No further modifications are expected to be added to the scope of this release.

Modification Proposals removed from scope

The following modification will no longer be implemented as part of the June 2023 SEC Release. This is due to the Proposer choosing to withdraw the modification:

- [MP134B 'Use of SMKI Certificates relating to a SoLR event – Part 2'](#)

DCC Change Requests

The following DCC Change Requests are planned to be implemented alongside this SEC Release:

- CR4427 'Enduring solution for Implementing additional XML Signing credentials' proposes to implement the additional Extensible Markup Language (XML) signing credentials into the DCC's scope, based on a number of other security-related changes identified by the Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy (BEIS) that is related to SEC Section G 'Security'.
- CR4703 'Augment recovery scenario for Network Operator Certificates' proposes to implement several improvements approved by the Smart Metering Key Infrastructure (SMKI) Policy Management Authority (PMA) to the processes and tools used in recovering erroneous Network Operator Certificates and replacing them with ACB Certificates.

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
MP102B		✓			✓
MP125	✓	✓		✓	✓
MP128A			✓		✓
MP183	✓				✓
MP214	✓	✓	✓		
MP215	✓			✓	✓
MP220	✓	✓			✓
MP222	✓			✓	✓
MP229					

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	<i>No additional impacts.</i>
Supplier Parties	- The gaining Responsible Supplier will be able to amend the ESME Variant code, in the instance the details are executed incorrectly by the previous installing Supplier. - Suppliers will receive more accurate reporting on the commissioned status of their Devices. - Suppliers will have different requirements for Communications Hub Orders. - Suppliers will receive Firmware Distribution Receipt Alerts from HICALCS Devices. - Suppliers will no longer be required to endorse CPL hardware/firmware revisions for SMETS2 Devices. - Suppliers will be able to use the same User ID for multiple roles, saving them from approaching the SEC Panel for multiple ID numbers.
Electricity Network Parties	- Electricity Network Operators will no longer receive POAs from Devices that have been generated as a result of an over-the-air (OTA) firmware upgrade. - Electricity Network Operators will be able to accurately view the functionality of the Devices at a property. - Electricity Network Parties will be able to use the same User ID for multiple roles, saving them from approaching the SEC Panel for multiple ID numbers.
Gas Network Parties	- If a GNP intends to cease being a DCC User, it will need to submit a Certificate Revocation Request to remove its Certificates and must not subscribe to any further Organisation Certificates. - Gas Network Parties will be able to use the same User ID for multiple roles, saving them from approaching the SEC Panel for multiple ID numbers.
Other SEC Parties	- Other SEC Parties will be able to accurately view the functionality of the Devices at a property. - Other SEC Parties will have different requirements for Communications Hub Orders. - Device Manufacturers will be able to submit CPL hardware/firmware revisions for SMETS2 Devices listed on the CPL without requiring Supplier endorsement.

DCC impacts	
Area impacted	Summary of impacts
Data Services Provider	Changes are required to the motorway and reporting components of the DSP application.

DCC impacts	
Area impacted	Summary of impacts
	• Early Life Support to provide enhanced monitoring and checking of system health and aims to investigate and address any anomalous behaviour before service incidents materialise. • Request Management will build a tracking mechanism that records firmware activations in progress for affected Devices. • In Northbound processing, Request Management will check whether an AD1 'Power Outage Event' Alert is for a Device currently being tracked and, if so, will stop processing and add an entry to the 'Power Outage Suppression Log'. • DSP will modify the validation rules associated with Service Reference Variant (SRV) 8.4 'Update Inventory'.
Reporting	• The DCC will need to make amendments to the existing Post Commissioning Obligations reporting.
Administration	• The DCC will be able to offer the same User ID to SEC Parties wanting to act in different User Roles, saving it from minor administrative tasks.

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.

MP128A

SECAS will ensure that the additional requirement for outgoing GNPs to replace their Organisation Certificates with ACB Certificates is communicated to GNPs.

MP215

SECAS will update the Communications Hub Ordering and Forecasting guidance document on the SEC website.

SEC document impacts

The following SEC documents will be updated in this release:

- Section F 'Smart Metering System Requirements'
- Section G 'Security'
- Section H 'DCC Services'
- Section L 'Smart Metering Key Infrastructure and DCC Key Infrastructure'
- Schedule 11 'TS Applicability Tables'
- Appendix B 'Organisation Certificate Policy'

- Appendix Z ‘CPL Requirements Document’
- Appendix AC ‘Inventory, Enrolment and Withdrawal Procedures’
- Appendix AD ‘DCC User Interface Specification’ (DUIS)
- Appendix AF ‘Message Mapping Catalogue’ (MMC)

Each of these documents is affected by the following modifications:

SEC document impact matrix									
Document	MP102B	MP125	MP128A	MP183	MP214	MP215	MP220	MP222	MP229
Section F	✓					✓		✓	
Section G									✓
Section H					✓				
Section L			✓						
Schedule 11*		✓					✓		
Appendix B			✓						
Appendix Z								✓	
Appendix AC				✓					
Appendix AD		✓					✓		
Appendix AF							✓		

The approved changes to each document are annexed to the Modification Reports for each modification, which are available on the corresponding modifications’ webpages.

*SEC Schedule 11 ‘TS Applicability Tables’ will be consequentially updated due to the latest sub-versions of DUIS and MMC going live in this release.

Technical documentation versions and validity

The following versions of each the Technical Specifications will be implemented in the June 2023 SEC Release:

Technical Specification impact matrix			
Tech Spec	Version	MP125	MP220
DUIS	v5.2	✓	✓
MMC	v5.2		✓

The DUIS and the MMC are the only technical specifications impacted by this release. Only new Sub-Versions will be introduced and not new Principal Versions. The final versions being introduced will be confirmed with the Technical Architecture and Business Architecture Sub-Committee (TABASC).

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 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
21 Jun 22	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.
21 Sep 22	DCC submits draft SEC Release TAD	
28 Sep 22	TAG reviews draft SEC Release TAD	
Oct 2022	DCC consults on draft SEC Release TAD	The DCC will consult the industry on the draft TAD.
23 Nov 2022	DCC submits updated SEC Release TAD	The TAD will be updated to account for comments provided by the TAG and from the consultation.
30 Nov 2022	TAG reviews updated SEC Release TAD	The TAG will provide a view to the CSC on whether this document is suitable for use.
13 Dec 2022	OPSG reviews the DCC's progress against the operational acceptance criteria	
20 Dec 2022	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.
31 Jan 2023	SIT commences	

Release implementation timetable		
Date	Event	Notes
Mar 2023	OPSG reviews the DCC's progress against the operational acceptance criteria	
Apr 2023	OPSG reviews the DCC's progress against the operational acceptance criteria	
May 2023	DCC submits SIT Completion Report	
May 2023	OPSG reviews the DCC's progress against the operational acceptance criteria	
May 2023	Test Participants inform DCC of their regression testing plans	By 10 Working Days before UIT begins.
May 2023	UIT commences	
May 2023	TAG reviews SIT Completion Report	The TAG will provide a recommendation on whether SIT has been completed successfully.
Jun 2023	OPSG reviews status against the operational acceptance criteria	The OPSG will provide a recommendation on whether the release should be implemented as planned.
Jun 2023	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.
Jun 2023	Test Participants to provide regression testing results to DCC	By five Working Days before UIT completion
Jun 2023	UIT window closes	
29 Jun 2023	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 Testing Approach Document is provided as Annex A to this document. This covers the DCC's approach to SIT.

User testing approach

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

5. Costs

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

DCC costs

The total DCC implementation costs of this release have not yet been determined.

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
MP102B	£144,252	£44,304	N/A	£8,968 ¹	£1,722
MP125	£51,593	£24,938		£4,464	N/A

No additional impact on operational costs have been identified.

The DCC has provided 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.

SECAS costs

SECAS will incur five days effort, equating to around £3,000, to update and implement the changes to the SEC. SECAS estimate a maximum of 20 days of effort, equating to around £12,000, 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.

¹ Including Early Life Support for a period of 1 month following go-live.

6. Acceptance criteria

The following criteria will need to be met before the release can go live.

Prior to go-live, the OPSG 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.
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	14 Jun 2022	First draft published.
1.0	21 Jun 2022	Scope on the DCC Systems baselined by the CSC and MP128A updated to reflect document-only solution.
2.0	11 Oct 2022	Updated to reflect the approval for implementation of MP102B, MP125 and MP128A and the removal of MP122B from scope.
3.0	1 Nov 2022	Updated to reflect the planned implementation of DCC Change Requests CR4427 and CR4703.
4.0	17 Jan 2023	Updated to reflect the targeted implementation of MP183, MP215 and MP220 and the withdrawal of MP134B.
5.0	14 Apr 2023	Updated to reflect the approval for implementation of MP183, MP215 and MP220 and the targeted implementation of MP222 and DP229.
6.0	16 May 2023	Updated to reflect the targeted implementation of MP214.
7.0	25 May 2023	Updated to reflect the approval for implementation of MP214, MP222, MP229.

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
BAU	business-as-usual
BEIS	Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy
CPL	Central Products List
CSC	Change Sub-Committee
CSP	Communication Service Provider

Managed by

Glossary	
Acronym	Full term
DCC	Data Communication Company
DSP	Data Service Provider
DUIS	DCC User Interface Specification
ESME	Electricity Smart Metering Equipment
GNP	Gas Network Party
HAN	Home Area Network
HCALCS	HAN Connected Auxiliary Load Control Switch
MMC	Message Mapping Catalogue
OPSG	Operations Group
OTA	Over-the-air
PIT	Pre-Integration Testing
POA	Power Outage Alert
RID	Release Implementation Document
SCF	Security Controls Framework
SEC	Smart Energy Code
SECAS	Smart Energy Code Administrator and Secretariat
SIT	System Integration Testing
SMETS	Smart Metering Equipment Technical Specification
SMI	Smart Metering Inventory
SMKI	Smart Metering Key Infrastructure
SMKI PMA	Smart Metering Key Infrastructure Policy Management Authority
SoLR	Supplier of Last Resort
SRV	Service Reference Variant
SSC	Security Sub-Committee
TABASC	Technical Architecture and Business Architecture Sub-Committee
TAD	Testing Approach Document
TAG	Testing Advisory Group
TCHODR	Temporary Communications Hub Ordering and Delivery Rules
UIT	User Integration Testing
XML	Extensible Markup Language