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MP201

‘CHTS v1.1 and GBCS v2.0 Applicability End Date’

Modification Report

Version 1.0

15 March 2022



About this document

This document is a Modification Report. It currently 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.

Contact

If you have any questions on this modification, please contact:

Joe Hehir

020 7770 6874

joe.hehir@gemserv.com

1. Summary

This proposal has been raised by David Rollason on behalf of the Data Communications Company (DCC).

[MP191 'Extending CHTS v1.0 & v1.1 IVP and MVP end dates'](#) extended the Installation Validity Period (IVP) and Maintenance Validity Period (MVP) end dates for SEC Schedule 10 'Communications Hub Technical Specifications' (CHTS) v1.0 by 12 months. These dates changed to 31 January 2023 and 28 February 2023 respectively. For CHTS v1.1 the IVP and MVP end dates were extended by two years to 30 April 2024 and 31 May 2024 respectively. This change was implemented to avoid the risk that Suppliers would have stock that they could no longer install and would need to be scrapped.

The Applicability Period End Date for CHTS v1.1 and SEC Schedule 8 'GB Companion Specification' (GBCS) v2.0 compliant stock ended on 28 February 2022. This Applicability Period End Date should also have been extended but was omitted from MP191. Also, the definition of Applicability Period within SEC Section A 'Definitions and Interpretation' has an incorrect cross reference.

The Proposed Solution is to extend the CHTS v1.1 and GBCS v2.0 Applicability Period End Date by 18-months to 28 August 2023. In addition, the cross reference in the SEC Section A definition of Applicability Period has been updated.

This modification will impact Suppliers and the DCC. The costs of this proposal are limited to Smart Energy Code Administrator and Secretariat (SECAS) time and effort to implement the changes. There are no other costs associated with this change. If approved this change will be implemented one Working Day after decision and is being progressed as a Self-Governance Modification.

2. Issue

What are the current arrangements?

CHTS v1.0 and v1.1 and GBCS v1.1 and v2.1 are being held by Parties in volume. Parties were unlikely to be able to install them before the previous IVP dates which were 31 January 2022 and 30 April 2022 respectively. For this reason, MP191 was raised with the solution to extend these dates changed to 31 January 2023 and 28 February 2023 respectively. For CHTS v1.1 the IVP and MVP end dates were extended by two years to 30 April 2024 and 31 May 2024 respectively. This change was implemented to avoid the risk that Suppliers would have stock that they could no longer install and would need to be scrapped.

What is the issue?

For CHTS v1.1 and GBCS v2.0, an extension of the Applicability Period End Date was omitted, and this also needs to be extended.

What is the impact this is having?

If the Applicability Period End Date is not extended, an estimated 430,000 Communication Hub stock will remain non-compliant and will not be able to be installed. These stocks will then need to be scrapped.

Impact on consumers

If this modification is not implemented, then SEC Parties will have an estimated 430,000 Communications Hub stock that is not SEC compliant and therefore should not be installed and will have to be scrapped. The rollout for consumers may be significantly delayed.

3. Solution

Proposed Solution

The Proposed Solution is to extend the Applicability Period End Date for CHTS v1.1 and GBCS v2.0 by 18 months to 28 August 2023.

In addition, the cross reference in the SEC Section A definition of Applicability Period has been updated.

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

Supplier Parties

This modification will enable Suppliers to install and maintain CHTS v1.1 and GBCS v2.0 Communications Hubs for a longer period of time, preventing any wastage of excess stock in warehouses.

DCC System

There will be no impacts to the DCC Systems.

SEC and subsidiary documents

The following parts of the SEC will be impacted:

- Section A 'Definitions and Interpretation'
- Schedule 11 'Technical Specification Applicability Tables' (TSAT)

The changes to the SEC required to deliver the proposed solution can be found in Annex A.

Technical specification versions

This modification only seeks to extend the Applicability Period End Date for CHTS v1.1 and GBCS v2.0. The versions of the other technical specifications will not be impacted by this modification, and there are no changes to the technical specifications themselves.

Consumers

If this modification is not implemented, then SEC Parties will have stock that is not SEC compliant and therefore should not be installed and will be scrapped. The rollout for consumers may be delayed.

Other industry Codes

There are no impacts to other industry Codes.

Greenhouse gas emissions

There are no impacts to Greenhouse gas emissions.

5. Costs

DCC costs

There are no DCC costs associated with this modification.

DCC

This modification will enable the DCC to continue to provide CHTS v1.1 and GBCS v2.0 Communications Hubs to Suppliers for a longer period of time, preventing any wastage of excess stock in its warehouses.

SECAS costs

The estimated SECAS implementation cost 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 will be no SEC Party costs to implement this modification.

6. Implementation approach

Approved implementation approach

The Change Sub-Committee (CSC) has agreed an implementation date of:

- **One Working Day after decision** (ad-hoc SEC Release).

This is a document only change and needs to be implemented as soon as possible as the Applicability End Date in question has already expired, requiring an ad-hoc SEC Release. Due to the time-critical nature, SECAS is recommending this modification be implemented one Working Day after the Change Board vote (if approved). This would be before the ten Working Day Self-Governance decision referral window closes. If the decision was subsequently referred and overturned, the changes would be backed out of the SEC.

7. Assessment of the proposal

Support for Change

The Security Sub-Committee (SSC) was concerned about extending the Applicability Period End Date due to it delaying firmware upgrades that improve security controls for the given version of Communications Hub. As a result, on 9 March 2022, the DCC presented the SSC with a risk assessment. The SSC noted the risk assessment and agreed that the residual risk from the proposed 18-month Applicability Period End Date extension is within the risk appetite.

Views against the General SEC Objectives

Proposer's views

The Proposer believes this modification better facilitates SEC Objective (a)¹ as it will prevent Communications Hubs being scrapped and will help to better facilitate the efficient provision and installation of smart metering systems.

Views against the consumer areas

Improved safety and reliability

The modification is neutral against this consumer benefit area.

Lower bills than would otherwise be the case

The modification is neutral against this consumer benefit area.

Reduced environmental damage

This modification would provide a positive impact in this area by preventing Communications Hubs from being scrapped. This would be achieved by extending the time Suppliers can install and maintain the Communications Hubs in question.

Improved quality of service

The modification is neutral against this consumer benefit area.

Benefits for society as a whole

The modification is neutral against this consumer benefit area.

Appendix 1: Progression timetable

Due to the time critical nature of this modification, a shortened five Working Day Modification Report Consultation has been issued. The Change Board vote will be held on 23 March under Self-Governance. If approve, this modification will be implemented one Working Day after the decision.

Timetable	
Event/Action	Date
Draft Proposal raised	8 Mar 2022
Risk Assessment presented to Security Sub-Committee (SSC)	9 Mar 2022

¹ To facilitate the efficient provision, installation, and operation, as well as interoperability, of Smart Metering Systems at Energy Consumers' premises within Great Britain.

Timetable	
Event/Action	Date
CSC converts Draft Proposal to Modification Proposal	15 Mar 2022
Modification Report approved by CSC	15 Mar 2022
Modification Report Consultation (5WD)	15 Mar 2022 – 21 Mar 2022
Change Board Vote	23 Mar 2022
Implementation (ad-hoc Release)	24 Mar 2022

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 Specification
DCC	Data Communications Company
GBCS	GB Companion Specification
IVP	Installation Validity Period
MVP	Maintenance Validity Period
SEC	Smart Energy Code
SECAS	The Smart Energy Code Administrator and Secretariat
SSC	Security Sub-Committee
TSAT	TS Applicability Tables

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Annex A

Legal text – version 1.0

About this document

This document contains the redlined changes to the SEC that would be required to deliver this Modification Proposal.

Section A ‘Definition and Interpretation’

These changes have been redlined against Section A version 25.0.

Amend Section 1.1 as follows (housekeeping change):

Applicability Period

has the meaning given to that expression in Section A3.~~3029~~(d) (GB Companion Specification and CPA Security Characteristics).

Schedule 11 'TS Applicability Tables'

These changes have been redlined against Schedule 11 version 15.0.

Amend CHTS applicability table as follows:

CHTS and Relevant Versions of GBCS

CHTS Version	Installation Start Date	Installation End Date	Maintenance Start Date	Maintenance End Date	Relevant GBCS Version	Applicability Period Start Date	Applicability Period End Date
1.0	30/09/16	31/01/23	30/09/16	28/02/23	1.1	06/11/17	Not determined
1.1	28/10/18	Not determined	28/10/18	Not determined	2.0	28/10/18	28/0 28 /2 23
1.1	28/10/18	30/04/24	28/10/18	31/05/24	2.1	28/10/18	Not determined
1.3	29/11/19	Not determined	29/11/19	Not determined	3.2	29/11/19	Not determined
1.4	29/11/20	Not determined	29/11/20	Not determined	4.0	29/11/20	Not determined
1.5	04/11/21	Not determined	04/11/21	Not determined	4.1	04/11/21	Not determined