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MP250

‘Correction of an error in GBCS’

Modification Report

Version 1.0

17 October 2023



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 Smart Energy Code Administrator and Secretariat (SECAS) has identified an error relating to the implementation of [SECMP0056 'IHD / PPMID Zigbee Attributes Available on the HAN'](#). This error is within the GB Companion Specification (GBCS) Table 7.4. This error and its resolution has been tracked by the Department for Energy Security and Net Zero's (DESNZ's) Issue Log under TS1580.

The Proposed Solution is to correct the SECMP0056-related errors and inconsistencies identified in SEC Schedule 8 'GB Companion Specification'. The change is purely document only and explains the situation more clearly. It will not require any system changes.

This modification will have no direct impacts on any SEC Party but will give greater clarity and transparency to SEC Schedule 8 'GB Companion Specification'. Implementation costs are limited to SECAS time and effort to update the SEC. Implementation is targeted for the November 2023 SEC Release. This is a Fast-Track Modification.

2. Issue

What are the current arrangements?

SECMP0056 was implemented on 3 November 2022 as part of the November 2022 SEC Release. The modification made Zigbee attributes for Change of Tenancy (CoT) parameters available to Smart Metering Equipment Technical Specifications 2 (SMETS2) Home Area Network (HAN) Devices such as In Home Displays (IHDs) and Pre-Payment Meter Interface Devices (PPMIDs). Furthermore, the solution also mandated IHDs and PPMIDs to query the Electricity Smart Metering Equipment (ESME) and Gas Proxy Function (GPF) for CoT information. This allows the HAN Device to be notified when a CoT has taken place and will subsequently clear all data belonging to the previous occupier.

Upon implementation, GBCS Table 7.4 was updated with incorrect values, which has since been identified.

What is the issue?

The proposed changes are listed below along with the specific amendments that are needed in this modification:

Summary of error	Sections affected	Proposed change
The implementation of SECMP0056 in GBCS v4.2 Table 7.4 used 'Gas Mirror Endpoint' instead of 'Gas ESI Endpoint' for the GPF. The information relating to the 'Proposed Provider Change Control' had been listed in	GBCS Table 7.4	In GBCS v4.2 Table 7.4 implement the following changes: - Cell E639: Set to 'GPF : Energy Services Interface (Gas ESI Endpoint)' - Cells F636 to F641: Clear existing content 'Proposed Provider

Managed by

column F under 'Attributes' instead of column H 'Notes'. See also TS1580 in the DESNZ Issues Log.		Change Control; #9 Clear IHD Data - Consumer' Cells H636 to H641: Replace existing content with 'Proposed Provider Change Control; #9 Clear IHD Data – Consumer' The resulting table 7.4 is embedded below:  AM322__T7-4_Changes_based_on_GBCS-
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What is the impact this is having?

If these corrections are not resolved, the GBCS will contain inconsistencies compared with the actual implementation in the Communication Hubs. Leaving these inconsistencies in the document could cause confusion for Parties and Manufacturers when reading these documents.

Impact on consumers

The identified issue does not impact consumers.

3. Solution

Proposed Solution

The Proposed Solution is to correct the error identified in SEC Schedule 8 'GB Companion Specification'. The change is purely document only and explains the situation more clearly. It will not require any system changes.

The legal text 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

This modification will impact Communications Hub Manufacturers as removing these inconsistencies in the GBCS will remove confusion when reading these documents and actual Communications Hub functionality. The Change will not impact IHD and PPMID Manufacturers as the Devices will continue to read the same item from the GPF, however the relevant information is now in Table 7.4 column H instead of column F.

There are no direct impacts on SEC Parties from this modification. All Parties will indirectly benefit from this modification as the SEC Documents will have greater clarity and transparency.

DCC System

This modification does not impact the Data Communications Company (DCC) Systems.

SEC and subsidiary documents

The following parts of the SEC will be impacted:

- Schedule 8 'GB Companion Specification'

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

Technical specification versions

Due to the approach for managing and updating technical specification documents, these have been left out of this modification. This is to mitigate the risk of new sub-versions being created with no material benefit.

GBCS v4.3 will go live as part of the November 2023 SEC Release. If approved, this modification will need to be implemented in a release that features an uplift to GBCS. This will prevent the need for an unnecessary uplift to the Technical Specifications. As such, SECAS proposes that the correction is included within GBCS v4.3,

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.

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 are no SEC Party costs associated with this modification.

6. Implementation approach

Approved implementation approach

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

- **2 November 2023** (November 2023 SEC Release) if a decision to approve is received on or before 19 October 2023
- **7 November 2024** (November 2024 SEC Release) if a decision to approve is received after 19 October 2023

The technical specifications are usually only uplifted once per year, with the next scheduled uplift this modification could aim for being the November 2023 SEC Release. The fall-back date is currently the November 2024 SEC Release as it is expected that the 2024 Release schedule will contain the technical specification uplifts within that SEC Release.

As this is a Fast-Track Modification, there is a 15-Working Day referral window following the CSC's decision to approve.

7. Case for change

Business case

This modification will only incur the costs for SECAS time and effort and will address multiple inconsistencies and points of potential confusion or misinterpretation. Implementing this change within a release that contains a GBCS uplift will be more efficient than requiring an uplift to solely facilitate the change. SECAS recommends an implementation within the November 2023 SEC Release to prevent the error being in the Technical Specifications for another 12 months.

Views against the General SEC Objectives

Proposer's views

The Proposer believes that the modification will better facilitate SEC Objective (a)¹ as it will correct errors in the SEC and lead to less confusion or interpretation.

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 neutral impact on quality of service.

¹ Facilitate the efficient provision, installation, operation and interoperability of smart metering systems at energy consumers' premises within Great Britain.

Benefits for society as a whole

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

Final conclusions

This modification addresses an inconsistency and point of potential confusion or misinterpretation. There are no DCC costs and only a minimal SECAS cost to implement.

Appendix 1: Progression timetable

Timetable	
Event/Action	Date
Draft Proposal raised	5 Oct 2023
Presented to CSC for initial comment	17 Oct 2023
CSC converted Draft Proposal to Modification Proposal	17 Oct 2023
Fast-Track Modification approved by CSC	17 Oct 2023

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
CoT	Change of Tenancy
CSC	Change Sub-Committee
DCC	Data Communications Company
DESNZ	Department for Energy Security and Net Zero
ESI	Energy Services Interface
ESME	Electricity Smart Metering Equipment
GBCS	GB Companion Specification
GPF	Gas Proxy Function
HAN	Home Area Network
IHD	In Home Display
PPMID	Pre-Payment Meter Interface Device
SEC	Smart Energy Code
SECAS	Smart Energy Code Administrator and Secretariat
SMETS	Smart Metering Equipment Technical Specifications

