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MP269

‘June 2024 SEC Release Supporting Changes’

Modification Report

Version 1.0

18 June 2024

Corporate member of
Plain English Campaign
Committed to clearer
communication

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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

To reduce the amount of Data Communications Company (DCC) System traffic required to support Market-Wide Half Hourly Settlement (MHHS), the DCC are proposing to specify within the SEC how they will utilise data caching for Smart Metering Equipment Technical Specification (SMETS) 1 Devices. This was raised through [MP256 'SEC Alignment with DCC SMETS1 MHHS Capacity Requirements'](#), which was subsequently approved for implementation by the Change Board in January 2024.

Following approval of MP256, the DCC identified some alterations they wished to make to the MP256 legal text to accurately reflect and specify the intent of the modification, as the current legal text could be open to differing interpretations. If amendments are not made, the MP256 legal text will not fully reflect the designed DCC solution and could lead to confusion amongst Parties.

The Proposed Solution aims to clarify the changes required to reflect the DCC Design. The legal text changes will affect SEC Appendix AM 'SMETS1 Supporting Requirements'. The change required clarifies that Users can retrieve data from an earlier date, as opposed to only the previous day period.

This modification will have no direct impacts on any SEC Party but will give greater clarity and transparency to DCC Users. Implementation costs are limited to Smart Energy Code Administrator & Secretariat (SECAS) time and effort to update the SEC. Implementation is targeted for the June 2024 SEC Release. The rationale for implementing this modification into the June 2024 SEC Release is to amend the legal text of MP256 at the same time as MP256's implementation into the SEC.

This modification was approved as a Fast-Track Modification in the June 2024 Change Sub-Committee (CSC) meeting.

2. Issue

What are the current arrangements?

To reduce the amount of DCC System traffic required to support MHHS, the DCC are proposing to utilise SMETS1 Service Providers (S1SPs) data caching, a technical feature which is already in existence for some S1SPs and will be in place by April 2025 for others in readiness for MHHS migration. [MP256 'SEC Alignment with DCC SMETS1 MHHS Capacity Requirements'](#) will codify this process into the SEC, enabling clarity for SEC Parties as to how responses will be processed.

MP256 will be implemented on 27 June 2024 as part of the June 2024 SEC Release. The Proposed Solution of MP256 is to make a text-only change to the SEC to define how the DCC will process these SMETS1 Service Responses.

What is the issue?

Following approval of MP256, the DCC identified some alterations they wished to make to the MP256 legal text to accurately reflect and specify the intent of the modification, as the current MP256 legal text could be open to differing interpretations. The changes look to specify in further detail how the approved solution of MP256 will be applied to SMETS1 Devices.

What is the impact this is having?

If legal text amendments are not made, the MP256 legal text will not fully reflect the designed DCC solution and could lead to confusion amongst Parties.

Impact on consumers

This issue does not impact consumers.

3. Solution

The Proposed Solution clarifies the changes required to reflect the DCC design.

Appendix AM 'SMETS1 Supporting Requirements', clauses 18.21, 18.22 and 18.24, will remove the wording of 'only' and 'or entries that have not previously been retrieved by the S1SP'. This will clarify to the DCC Users that entries from different days can be retrieved by the User, as opposed to just the previous day.

The changes to the SEC required to deliver the Proposed Solution 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

SEC Parties are not expected to be impacted by the implementation of this modification.

DCC Systems

This modification will not impact DCC Systems as the functionality is being delivered already and this would ensure the legal text matches the design.

SEC and subsidiary documents

The following parts of the SEC will be impacted:

- Appendix AM 'SMETS1 Supporting Requirements'

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

Consumers

There are no impacts on consumers.

Other industry Codes

There are no impacts on other industry Codes.

Greenhouse gas emissions

There are no impacts on greenhouse gas emissions.

Net Zero

There is no impact to Net Zero targets.

5. Costs

DCC costs

There are no DCC implementation costs associated with this modification.

SECAS costs

The estimated SECAS implementation cost to implement this as a stand-alone modification is one day of effort, amounting to approximately £600. 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 implementation costs associated with this modification.

6. Implementation approach

Approved implementation approach

The CSC has agreed an implementation date of:

- **27 June 2024** (June 2024 SEC Release)

As this modification is introducing changes supporting MP256 due to be implemented in the June 2024 SEC Release, it is important that it is implemented alongside them to avoid inconsistency in SEC documentation.

7. Assessment of the proposal

Observations on the issue

Following the approval of MP256, the DCC identified amendments required to the legal text which would more accurately reflect the intent of MP256 and DCC design. SECAS and the DCC jointly reviewed the proposed amendments and agreed a modification is required to make the requested amendments to the MP256 legal text.

Solution development

SECAS drafted the legal text changes for MP256 needed to address the issue. These changes were reviewed by DCC and SECAS, both of which agreed with the intent of the change. The proposed legal text was subsequently reviewed by the SECAS lawyers before being refined.

The proposed changes will mean Sections 18.21, 18.22 and 18.24 will have the wording of '*only*' and '*or entries that have not previously been retrieved by the S1SP*' removed from the clauses. This will clarify to DCC Users that entries from different days can be retrieved by the User, as opposed to just the previous day.

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

8. Case for change

Views against the General SEC Objectives

Proposer's views

The Proposer believes this proposal will better facilitate SEC Objective (b)¹ on the basis DCC is required to comply with the obligations under the MHHS Programme including ensuring sufficient capacity for the increased volume of MHHS Service Requests.

Views against the consumer areas

Improved safety and reliability

This modification will be neutral against this consumer benefit area.

Lower bills than would otherwise be the case

This modification will be neutral against this consumer benefit area.

Reduced environmental damage

This modification will be neutral against this consumer benefit area.

Improved quality of service

This modification will be neutral against this consumer benefit area.

Benefits for society as a whole

This modification will be neutral against this consumer benefit area.

¹ enable the Data Communications Company to comply at all times with the General Objectives of the Data Communications Company (as defined in the Data Communications Company Licence), and to efficiently discharge the other obligations imposed upon it by the Data Communications Company Licence;

Appendix 1: Progression timetable

Timetable	
Event/Action	Date
Draft Proposal raised	15 May 2024
CSC converts Draft Proposal to Modification Proposal	18 Jun 2024
Modification Report approved by CSC for Fast-Track implementation	18 Jun 2024

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
CSC	Change Sub-Committee
DCC	Data Communications Company
MHHS	Market-Wide Half Hourly Settlement
S1SP	SMETS1 Service Provider
SEC	Smart Energy Code
SECAS	Smart Energy Code Administrator and Secretariat
SMETS	Smart Metering Equipment Technical Specification