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MP318

‘Incorporation of Category 3 Issue Resolution Proposal into the SEC – Batch 12 and GBCS Changes’

Modification Report

Version 1.0

9 June 2026

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Plain English Campaign
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592



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.

Contents

1.	Summary	3
2.	Issue	3
3.	Solution	5
4.	Impacts	5
5.	Costs	7
6.	Implementation approach.....	7
7.	Assessment of the proposal	8
8.	Case for change	8
	Appendix 1: Progression timetable	10
	Appendix 2: Glossary	10
	Appendix 3: Prioritisation Matrix.....	11

This document also has two annexes:

- **Annex A** contains the Issue Resolution Proposal (IRP) 667 Technical Specification Issue Resolution Proposal document including Legal text.
- **Annex B** contains the Data Communications Company (DCC) Preliminary Impact Assessment Report.
- **Annex C** contains the Modification Refinement Consultation Responses.

Contact

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

Marc Rhodes

020 3922 0750

Marc.Rhodes@talan.com

1. Summary

This proposal has been raised by David Walsh from the DCC.

IRPs identify and resolve issues in the Technical Specifications documents of the Smart Energy Code (SEC). These issues have been identified by a variety of means and raised for one of the following reasons:

- A request for clarification of any aspect of the documentation;
- A request to resolve a suspected or confirmed Technical Specifications defect; or
- A change identified by the Department for Energy Security & Net Zero (DESNZ) to implement a policy intent.

These issues are then added to an issues log whilst a potential resolution is developed. The Technical Specification Issue Resolution Subgroup (TSIRS) determine all potential solutions and will request these be progressed as part of a Modification Proposal for implementation into the SEC. Once the TSIRS has determined that the issue can be closed, the IRPs will be passed to the SEC Change team to begin the modification process.

IRP667 Proposes a text change to provide a consumer with a 'Rejected-Duplicate Top Up' message when a duplicate Unique Transaction Reference Number (UTRN) is entered into a Prepayment Meter Interface Device (PPMID).

This modification is targeting the next available SEC Schedule 8 'Great Britain Companion Specification (GBCS)' uplift that will be carried out as part of a SEC Release and is anticipated to impact Large Suppliers, Small Suppliers, and Device Manufacturers. This modification has anticipated costs of up to £25,000. This modification is a Self-Governance modification.

2. Issue

What are the current arrangements?

IRPs identify issues within SEC Technical Specification documents and put forward a solution to the identified problem. In the early stages of the Smart Metering Implementation Program (SMIP), the Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy (BEIS) (which has now become DESNZ) took the lead in developing the SEC Technical Specifications. As part of this, DESNZ also took responsibility for receiving and responding to issues raised either internally, by the DCC, or by other interested Parties. Since its inception, several hundred issues have been raised in relation to Technical Specifications through the TSIRS. In some cases, these queries have been resolved by providing an explanation of the Specifications, whilst others have resulted in proposed amendments to the Specifications in the form of IRPs. The IRP solutions identified have been developed by the TSIRS.

The DCC have conducted an initial assessment in order to categorise the IRP and identify the correct Impact Assessment path for the Modification process. The categories are outlined as follows:

- Category 1 - DCC core system impacting, requiring a code / system change.

- Category 2 - Non-DCC core system impacting, no code / system change required, just has a testing / testing tool impact.
- Category 3 - Non-DCC core system impacting, no code / system change required.

IRPs are packaged into SEC Modifications as part of the SEC Release process. Implementation of these IRPs will ensure Devices operate as intended. These changes will impact Users that are involved with the application of replacement Device Certificates.

What is the issue?

The individual IRP details for this modification can be found on the SEC website via the link provided [here](#). This document reflects the issue, background information and details of the solution that has been discussed and agreed at the TSIRS. The IRP included in this proposal, listed below, requires changes to GBCS with initial key impacts identified below.

IRP667

Resolves any ambiguity in GBCS relating to the duplicate entry of an UTRN via the PPMID.

A meter operating in prepayment mode can be topped up using a UTRN. Three methods can be used to apply the top-up to the meter:

1. an energy Supplier can send the UTRN directly to the meter using a Service Request (SR);
2. a consumer can enter the UTRN directly at the meter;
3. or the consumer can enter the UTRN to the PPMID which forwards the UTRN to the meter.

Every UTRN is unique and can only be used once; the meter will verify the UTRN and reject a duplicate UTRN.

Where a UTRN has been sent from the PPMID to the meter and has passed all checks, the meter will apply the UTRN and send two messages:

- the first message is to inform the energy Supplier of the successful top-up;
- and the second message is sent back to the PPMID informing the consumer of the successful top-up.

If the meter detects a duplicate UTRN, then the meter will not send a message to the energy Supplier, however this will also result in the message to the PPMID not being sent. As a result, the consumer will not receive feedback about the top-up failure.

IRP667 clarifies the meter behaviour by separating the generation of the message to the PPMID from the generation of the message to the energy Supplier. In case the consumer has entered a UTRN on the PPMID, which the meter then identifies as a duplicate UTRN, the meter will not send a message to the energy Supplier, but it will send a message back to the PPMID indicating that the UTRN has been identified as a duplicate. The PPMID can then display this message on its screen, ensuring that the consumer is informed that the top-up failed as the UTRN had been rejected by the meter as a duplicate.

Although the original concern related to Gas Smart Metering Equipment (GSME), the IRP is written to cover both GSME and Electricity Smart Metering Equipment (ESME).

What is the impact this is having?

The IRP addresses discrepancies within the Technical Specifications that require correcting, or additional clarification. They have caused confusion amongst some SEC Parties and may continue to do so if not amended. Therefore, the TSIRS has discussed these issues and agreed that improvements are required to the Technical Specifications to address this.

Impact on consumers

These changes will improve the consumer experience by informing them when a duplicate UTRN has been entered into a PPMID Device.

What is the priority of this modification?

The priority of this modification has been determined as **Standard**. This rating is based on perceived impacts on:

- Consumers, Vulnerability and Priority Services Register (PSR).
- Smart & Retail Operations.

Please refer to **Appendix 3** for a full breakdown of how the priority score was calculated.

3. Solution

Proposed Solution

Wording changes to GBCS to clarify the meter behaviour by separating the generation of the message to the PPMID from the generation of the message to the energy Supplier.

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

Breakdown of Other SEC Party types impacted			
	Shared Resource Providers		Meter Installers

Breakdown of Other SEC Party types impacted			
✓	Device Manufacturers		Flexibility Providers
	DCC Other Users		MAPs/ MAMs

DCC Systems

DCC System changes

The full impacts on DCC Systems can be found in the DCC Preliminary Impact Assessment (PIA) response in Annex B.

DCC System traffic

There is no anticipated increase in DCC system traffic as a result of this modification.

SEC and subsidiary documents

The following parts of the SEC will be impacted:

- Schedule 8 'GB Companion Specification' (GBCS)

Devices

Devices impacted			
✓	Electricity Smart Metering Equipment	✓	Gas Smart Metering Equipment
✓	Communications Hubs	✓	Gas Proxy Functions
✓	In-Home Displays	✓	Prepayment Meter Interface Devices
✓	Standalone Auxiliary Proportional Controllers	✓	Home Area Network Connected Auxiliary Load Control Switches
✓	Consumer Access Devices	✓	Alternative Home Area Network Devices

Consumers

These changes will improve the consumer experience by informing them when a duplicate UTRN has been entered into a PPMID Device.

Other industry Codes

This modification will have no impact on other industry Codes.

Greenhouse gas emissions

This modification will have no impact on greenhouse gas emissions.

5. Costs

DCC costs

The estimated DCC implementation costs to implement this modification is £0- £25,000. The breakdown of these costs is as follows:

Breakdown of DCC implementation costs	
Activity	Cost
Design, Build and Pre-Integration Testing (PIT)	£0 - £10,000
Systems Integration Testing (SIT)	£0
User Integration Testing (UIT)	£0
Implement to Live	£0 - £15,000
Application Support	£0

More information can be found in the DCC Preliminary Assessment response in Annex B.

SEC Change costs

The estimated SEC Change 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

SEC Change does not anticipate any SEC Party costs as a result of this Modification.

6. Implementation approach

Recommended implementation approach

SEC Change is recommending an implementation date of:

- Included in the next available SEC Release that impacts Technical Specification documents, in line with next GBCS release

As the changes impact a Technical Specification, they must be implemented in a SEC Release that includes an uplift to the Technical Specifications to prevent more than one change to the Technical Specifications in a calendar year. The November 2026 SEC Release is the next SEC Systems Release that this modification can be included in which is expected to include Technical Specification changes, however due to testing requirements MP318 will not be ready in time for this release and will be included in the next available GBCS release.

7. Assessment of the proposal

Sub-Committee input

The SEC Change team have engaged with the Chairs from the Operations Group (OPSG), the Technical Architecture and Business Architecture Sub-Committee (TABASC), the Testing Advisory Group (TAG), the Security Sub-Committee (SSC), Privacy Sub Committee (PSC), The Performance Assurance Board (PAB), the Smart Metering Key Infrastructure Policy Management Authority (SMKI PMA) and the Finance Sub-Committee (FSC) to confirm what input is required from these forums. SEC Change believe the following Sub-Committees will need to provide the following input to this modification:

Sub-Committee input	
Sub-Committee	Input sought
FSC	SEC Change does not believe there will be any FSC impact
OPSG	SEC Change does not believe there will be any OPSG impact
PAB	SEC Change does not believe there will be any Performance Assurance impacts.
PSC	SEC Change does not believe there will be any PSC impacts
SMKI PMA	SEC Change does not believe there will be any SMKI PMA impact
SSC	Potential Security consideration due to changing the way duplicate entries are handled.
TABASC	SEC Change does not believe there will be any TABASC impact
TAG	SEC Change does not believe there will be any TAG impact

8. Case for change

Business case

IRP667 will enhance the consumer experience by informing them when a duplicate UTRN has been entered into a PPMID Device.

Views against the General SEC Objectives

Proposer's views

The Proposer believes that this Modification better facilitates SEC Objectives (a)¹ and (c)². This modification will enhance the operation of Smart Metering Systems (SMS) at consumers premises and ensure the provision of appropriate information for consumers.

Industry views

The SSC could not see any issues arising from the implementation of this Modification.

Views against the consumer areas

Improved safety and reliability

This modification will be neutral against safety and security for consumers.

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 has a positive impact on improving quality of service.

Benefits for society as a whole

This modification will be neutral against this consumer benefit area.

Final conclusions

There was one response received to the Modification Refinement Consultation, the response was approving of the implementation of MP318. The respondent stated that it was a low-cost proposal which was needed and easy to resolve.

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

² (c) facilitate Energy Consumers' management of their use of electricity and gas through the provision to them of appropriate information by means of Smart Metering Systems

Appendix 1: Progression timetable

Italics denote planned events that could be subject to change

Timetable	
Event/Action	Date
Draft Proposal raised	10 March 2026
Presented to the Change Sub-Committee (CSC) for initial comment	17 March 2026
CSC converts Draft Proposal to Modification Proposal	17 March 2026
Preliminary Assessment requested	27 March 2026
Preliminary Assessment returned	15 April 2026
Modification discussed with SSC	27 May 2026
<i>Present to CSC to receive approval for report phase</i>	<i>16 June 2026</i>
<i>Modification Report Consultation</i>	<i>17 June 2026 – 8 July 2026</i>
<i>Change Board Vote</i>	<i>22 July 2026</i>

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
BEIS	Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy
CSC	Change Sub-Committee
DCC	Data Communications Company
DESNZ	Department for Energy Security & Net Zero
ESME	Electricity Smart Metering Equipment
FSC	Finance Sub-Committee
GBCS	Great Britain Companion Specification
GSME	Gas Smart Metering Equipment
IRP	Issue Resolution Proposal
MAM	Meter Asset Manager
MAP	Meter Asset provider
OPSG	Operations Group
PAB	Performance Assurance Board
PIA	Preliminary Impact Assessment
PIT	Pre-Integration Testing
PPMID	Prepayment Meter Interface Device

Glossary	
Acronym	Full term
PSC	Privacy Sub-Committee
SEC	Smart Energy Code
SIT	Systems Integration Testing
SMKI PMA	Smart Metering Key Infrastructure Policy Management Authority
SMIP	Smart Metering Implementation Program
SMS	Smart Metering System
SR	Service Request
SSC	Security Sub-Committee
TABASC	Technical Architecture and Business Architecture Sub-Committee
TAG	Testing Assurance Group
TSIRS	Technical Specification Issue Resolution Subgroup
UIT	User Integration Testing
UTRN	Unique Transaction Reference Number

Appendix 3: Prioritisation Matrix

Strategic Direction Statement Prioritisation				
SDS Alignment	Importance	Complexity	Overall Total	Priority
1	1	1	3	STANDARD

SDS Alignment – The Proposed Solution of this modification would support two aspects of the SDS, which are:

- Consumers, Vulnerability and PSR.
- Smart & Retail Operations.

Importance – The Proposed Solution would deliver an enhanced consumer experience.

Complexity – This would be a text-only change to the SEC and therefore is believed to be a straightforward change.