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DP287

‘Access to historic GSME battery Alerts’

Modification Report

Version 0.1

11 Mar 2025



About this document

This document is a draft Modification Report. It currently sets out the background, issue, and progression timetable for this modification, along with any relevant discussions, views and conclusions. This document will be updated as this modification progresses.

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1. Summary

This proposal has been raised by Joey Manners of Octopus Energy.

When Gas Smart Metering Equipment (GSME) are running low on battery, they send Alerts to the Responsible Supplier. If the consumer switches Supplier, the Service Audit Trail (SAT) is not shared with the gaining Supplier. Therefore, gaining Suppliers do not have visibility of historic Alerts relating to the GSME. This means that if the battery ran out of power before the Supplier gained the consumers Device, they will be unable to identify whether the Gas Meter is unresponsive because of a spent battery or other reasons.

Without access to historic Gas Meter battery Alerts, Suppliers have to take additional steps to identify the issue with the meter. This leads to a poor experience for consumers as they may have to experience standard fault resolution procedures rather than specific action to replace their gas meter battery. Because the battery is spent, this also means that the gaining Supplier is unable to fully complete the Change of Supplier (CoS) process as they cannot replace the Certificates on the Device.

2. Issue

What are the current arrangements?

When a GSME is running low on battery, it may send an unsolicited Alert to the responsible Supplier to make them aware of the issue. The Great Britain Companion Specification (GBCS) lists and defines the structure of these Alerts, distinguishing between mandated and non-mandated Wide Area Network (WAN) Alerts.

Some examples of Alerts which relate to a Gas Meter having low battery are:

- 0x8F1F 'Low Battery Capacity' (Mandated - WAN alert)
- 0x81D2 'Battery 3% Alert' (Trigger conditions: Battery very low alert (3%)) (Non-Mandated - WAN Alert)
- 0x8F82 'Remaining Battery Capacity reset' (Mandated - WAN alert)

What is the issue?

Currently, Suppliers do not have visibility of historic Alerts relating to the GSME. This means that if the battery ran out of power before the Supplier gained that consumer, they will be unable to identify whether the Gas Meter is unresponsive because of a spent battery or other reasons.

This also means that Supplier's are unable to fully complete the CoS process as they are unable to replace the Certificates on the Device.

What is the impact this is having?

Without access to historic Gas Meter battery Alerts, Suppliers have to take additional steps to identify the issue with the meter. This may include attending the site to investigate or to request the consumer undertake steps to determine whether the screen on the Gas Meter is operational.

Impact on consumers

There is potential for a poor consumer experience as they may have to follow standard fault resolution procedures rather than specific action to replace their gas meter battery.

3. Assessment of the proposal

Areas for assessment

Scale of the issue

Smart Energy Code Administrator and Secretariat (SECAS) will work with SEC Parties to identify the scale of this issue. SECAS notes that Parties generally expect GSME battery to last around 15 years and with many Smart Metering Equipment Technical Specifications (SMETS) 1 and SMETS2 GSME installed in the previous 10 years, the number of occurrences of this issue is likely to increase.

Potential solutions

SECAS has worked with the Data Communications Company (DCC) and the GBCS Working Group to identify two potential solutions. These issues will be further examined throughout the Refinement Process.

Proposal 1 – DCC holds a list of the Alerts which relate to a GSME having a low battery. It was suggested the period which DCC maintains these Alerts could be extended to allow a new Supplier to see Data from further back than the previous 30 days.

Proposal 2 – Battery information can be gained by sending SRV 7.4 'Read Supply Status'. This returns GBCS Use Case GCS33 "RemainingBatteryLifeinDays". This information is available on the Gas Proxy Function (GPF), however the gaining Supplier is unable to view this information as they have been unable to replace the Certificates on the Device.

This situation could be resolved by allowing the gaining Supplier to update the certificates on the GPF once the Registration Data has been updated and shows the gaining Supplier as the owner of the GSME.

Sub-Committee input

SECAS will engage with Chairs from the Operations Group (OPSG), the Technical Architecture and Business Architecture Sub-Committee (TABASC), the Security Sub-Committee (SSC) and the Smart Metering Key Infrastructure Policy Management Authority (SMKI PMA) to confirm what input is required from these forums. SECAS believes the following Sub-Committees will need to provide the following input to this modification:

Sub-Committee input	
Sub-Committee	Input sought
OPSG	What are the operational impacts of this modification?
SMKI PMA	No input sought.
SSC	No input sought.

Managed by

Sub-Committee input	
TABASC	What are the impacts of this modification on the technical and business architecture?

Appendix 1: Progression timetable

Timetable	
Event/Action	Date
Draft Proposal raised	11 Mar 2025
<i>Presented to Change Sub-Committee (CSC) for initial comment</i>	18 Mar 2025
<i>Modification discussed with TABASC</i>	3 Apr 2025
<i>Modification discussed with OPSG</i>	8 Apr 2025
<i>Business Requirements developed</i>	14 Apr – 28 Apr 2025
<i>Modification discussed with Working Group</i>	7 May 2025
<i>Modification discussed with TABASC</i>	3 Jun 2025
<i>Modification discussed with OPSG</i>	9 Jun 2025
<i>Preliminary Assessment</i>	16 Jun – 14 Jul 2025
<i>Modification discussed with Working Group</i>	6 Aug 2025
<i>Modification discussed with TABASC</i>	7 Aug 2025
<i>Modification discussed with OPSG</i>	11 Aug 2025
<i>Refinement Consultation</i>	25 Aug – 10 Sep 2025
<i>Modification discussed with Working Group</i>	1 Oct 2025
<i>Impact Assessment request at Change Board</i>	29 Oct 2025
<i>Impact Assessment</i>	3 Nov 2025 – 3 Jan 2026
<i>CSC approves Modification Report</i>	17 Mar 2026

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
COS	Change of Supply
DCC	Data Communications Company
GBCS	Great Britain Companion Specification
GPF	Gas Proxy Function
GSME	Gas Smart Metering Equipment

Glossary	
Acronym	Full term
OPSG	Operations Group
SAT	Service Audit Trail
SECAS	The Smart Energy Code Administrator and Secretariat
SMETS	Smart Metering Equipment Technical Specification
SMKI PMA	Smart Metering Key Infrastructure Policy Management Authority
SSC	Security Sub-Committee
TABASC	Technical Architecture and Business Architecture Sub-Committee
WAN	Wide Area Network