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SECMP0055

‘Incorporation of multiple Issue Resolution Proposals into the SEC’

Modification Report

Version 0.2

Administered by



About this document

This document is the Modification Report for SECMP0055 'Incorporation of multiple Issue Resolution Proposals (IRPs) into the SEC'. It provides detailed information on the background, issues, solutions, costs, impacts and implementation approach. It also summarises the discussions that have been held and the conclusions reached with respect to this Modification Proposal.

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This document also has two annexes:

- **Annex A** contains the redlined changes to the SEC required to deliver the proposed solution.
- **Annex B** contains the full list of IRPs considered.

1. Summary

BEIS has managed a process of assessing issues raised by industry concerning Technical Specifications, including SMETS, GBCS and DUIS. Where necessary, these have resulted in Issue Resolution Proposals that typically clarify, correct or align the Technical Specifications to current practice. Responsibility for implementing IRPs is passing from transitional governance to SEC governance.

The proposed solution is to consider each of the candidate IRPs for inclusion in this Modification Proposal. Individual IRPs may be considered for a subsequent modification if consequences that were unforeseen during the development of the IRP are identified during the refinement of this modification.

This modification has no anticipated impacts on SEC Parties.

This modification will cost £1,200 in SEC administration effort.

This modification will be implemented on **27 June 2019** if approved by **20 June 2019**.

2. Background

What is the issue?

In the early stages of the Smart Metering Implementation Program, the Department for Business, Energy & Industrial Strategy (BEIS) took the lead in developing the technical specifications that sit under the SEC. As part of this, BEIS also took responsibility for receiving and responding to issues raised internally, by the DCC and other interested industry parties. Since its inception, several hundred issues have been raised in relation to technical specifications under the SEC through the TSIRS (Technical Specification Issue Resolution Sub-Group) group. In some cases, these queries have been resolved by providing an explanation of the specifications, whilst some have resulted in proposed amendments to the specifications in the form of Issue Resolution Proposals (IRPs).

BEIS has implemented IRPs required for the initial DCC Releases and has begun handing over those not required for initial releases for implementation through the Modification Process.

SECMP0055 was raised by DCC on 2 May 2018 to resolve this issue.

3. Solution

Proposed Solution

This modification proposes to implement several IRPs that have been developed and agreed by TSIRS. As part of this modification's refinement, SECAS, the Proposer and the Working Group considered each of the 31 candidate IRPs for inclusion in this Modification Proposal. The final list of IRPs for this Modification excludes any IRP where there has been a system impact identified. The excluded IRPs will be the subject of a subsequent modification.

The proposed solution for each of the IRPs typically:

- Clarifies requirements in the affected technical specification document (meaning, implementing the IRP reduces the risk of the end-to-end solution failing to work as expected); or
- Aligns the affected technical specification to the end-to-end solution as currently implemented (meaning, implementing the IRP reduces the risk that the implemented solution needs adjusting to align to the technical specification or that a part of the solution is deemed non-compliant).

The specific changes are those developed as part of the IRP process, led by BEIS. The final list of IRPs can be found in Annex B of the Working Group Consultation (WGC). This list may change in line with consultation responses if IRPs need including or omitting.

Legal text

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

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

No SEC Party should be impacted by this modification, due to simply making clarifications to documents or aligning them existing solutions.

DCC System

There are no impacts to the DCC systems in this modification, this is due to text-only changes in the legal text.

SEC and subsidiary documents

The following parts of the SEC will be impacted:

- SEC Schedule 8 – GB Companion Specification
- SEC Schedule 9 – SME Technical Specifications 2
- SEC Schedule 10 – CH Technical Specifications
- SEC Schedule 11 – TS Applicability Tables

Other industry Codes

No impacts are anticipated on other industry codes.

Greenhouse gas emissions

There are no impacts to Greenhouse Gas Emissions anticipated.

5. Costs

SECAS costs

The estimated SECAS implementation cost to implement this modification is 2 days of effort, amounting to approximately £1,200. The activities needed to be undertaken for this are:

- Updating the SEC and releasing the new version to the industry.

SEC Party costs

No cost should be incurred by SEC Parties due to the changes proposed in this modification.

6. Implementation approach

Recommended implementation approach

The Working Group is recommending an implementation date of:

- **27 June 2019** (June 2019 SEC Release) if a decision to approve is received on or before 20 June 2019; or
- **07 November 2019** (November 2019 SEC Release) if a decision to approve is received after 20 June 2019 but on or before 07 October 2019.

The intention is to implement this modification at the next opportunity when GBCS is amended, which we currently anticipate being June 2019. The Release targeted for this modification may change if GBCS is not amended during the June 2019 Release or if a more economic delivery date is suggested for delivering these non-functional changes.

With new sub-versions of GBCS, SMETS 2, and CHTS being created as part of this modification, the TS Applicability Tables will be amended accordingly and will take consideration of any alternative implementation approach to administering these new versions as part of the Working Group Consultation.

Alternative implementation approach

As part of refining the legal text with the selected IRPs, discussions took place as to what would be the best method to implement the legal text over different sub-versions of the technical specifications.

The alternative approach recommends that existing versions of SMETS and GBCS will need incrementing to new versions as listed below:

- SMETS 2.0 to SMETS 2.1
- GBCS 1.1 to GBCS 1.2

This differs to the proposed approach because it includes amending previous versions of the technical specifications. The rationale for this was that due to the TS Applicability Tables still having an undetermined maintenance applicability period these versions will likely still be in use and should therefore be updated to ensure these changes are implemented for devices currently using the older versions. This approach will require more work on the part of SECAS and SEC Parties to deliver, it has therefore been recommended as an alternative approach. Comments will be sought as part of the Refinement process. If the Working Group and Consultation responses find this approach preferable to the proposed approach the Alternative Solution will be selected as the new implementation approach for SECMP0055.

7. Discussions and development

The Working Group considered and answered these questions put forward in the Refinement period of SECMP0055. A summary of the discussions are noted below.

Do you consider that the solution identified in each IRP remains necessary?

The Working Group has considered the list of candidate IRPs that have been approved by TSIRS. Each is considered beneficial to the industry in resolving ambiguities or aligning with existing practice.

Do you foresee any unintended consequences of implementing these IRPs?

The Working Group has considered the candidate list of IRPs. DCC identified two IRPs considered to be systems-impacting and these IRPs have been removed from the list to enable the remaining IRPs to progress through this Modification.

The Working Group has sought feedback from Parties to reaffirm that the IRPs do not have unintended adverse impacts. Each IRP with potentially unintended impacts has been removed from the final list and have been highlighted to be considered in a future IRP inclusion modification.

Do you see any reason not to implement each of these IRPs as part of a single change?

Where no potential system or Party impact has been identified the Working Group considered that each IRP in the original Modification Proposal and the additional IRPs subsequently closed by TSIRS should be included in a single change, as it is considered most economic to include these IRPs in a single Release.

Is June 2019 an appropriate Release for this modification?

The Working Group queried whether June 2019 was an appropriate Release to target for this modification. June 2019 is the first release after Release 2 where GBCS is expected to be amended and implementing this modification along with other GBCS changes is expected to be the most economic method of implementing this change.

The Working Group asked DCC to estimate Release costs for this modification for June and November 2019 to ensure the decision is economically acceptable.

Why is a Working Group required?

The Working Group discussed whether a modification Working Group is required for this change, given the process that has been followed by TSIRS. Considering that this is the first modification of its kind, it was considered good practice to follow a 'normal' modification process, although it was noted that the expectation was that a relatively quick refinement process was expected.

8. Conclusions

Benefits and drawbacks

The Proposer and the Working Group have identified the following benefits and drawbacks in implementing this modification:

Benefits

- Resolving ambiguities in the technical specifications will help new entrants, systems developers and manufacturers to develop a working end-to-end system. It will also reduce the risk that existing Parties, system developers and manufacturers implement unintended changes.

Drawbacks

- No drawbacks have been identified by the Working Group.

Proposer's rationale against the General SEC Objectives

Objective (a)¹

The Proposer believes that SECMP0055 will better facilitate SEC Objective (a) due to incorporating the selected IRPs into the SEC reducing the risk of future operational issues arising if the solution proposed in the IRP is not implemented consistently across each affected party.

Objective (b)²

The Proposer believes that SECMP0055 will better facilitate SEC Objective (b) due to formalising these solutions, where they align with the DCC's or Devices' implementation, avoids an inefficient redesign by various parties and / or perceived or real compliance issues.

Objective (g)³

The Proposer believes that SECMP0055 will better facilitate SEC Objective (g) by providing efficiency in the form of incorporating the IRPs into the core SEC text rather than requiring additional documentation to address these issues.

Working Group members' views

The Working Group unanimously agreed with the proposer's views that General SEC Objectives (a) and (b) are better facilitated due to SECMP0055. A minority of the Working Group believed that General SEC Objective (g) is better facilitated due to SECMP0055.

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

² (b) Enable the DCC to comply at all times with the objectives of the DCC and to discharge the other obligations imposed upon it by the DCC License.

³ (g) Facilitate the efficient and transparent administration and implementation of the SEC.

Appendix 1: 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 & Industrial Strategy
DCC	Data and Communications Company
GBCS	GB Companion Specification
IRP	Issue resolution Proposal
MRC	Modification Report Consultation
PIT	Pre-Integration Testing
SIT	Systems Integration Testing
TSIRS	Technical Specification Issue Resolution Sub-Group
UIT	User Interface Testing



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