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MP077 'DCC Service Flagging' Business requirements – version 0.5

About this document

This document contains the business requirements for this Modification Proposal. It provides detailed information on the business requirements for the Proposed Solution agreed by the Proposer, with input from the Data Communications Company (DCC) and Sub-Committees. It also provides the considerations and assumptions for each business requirement with respect to this Modification Proposal.

1. Business requirements

This section contains the functional business requirements. Based on these requirements a full solution will be developed.

Business Requirements	
Ref.	**Requirement**
1	DCC to implement a method of understanding if there is a Device currently at a premise.
2	DCC to have a reliable source of information on the state of DCC Service Flags.
3	DCC to implement a new Service Flag state of “N” for Non-Active to inform where a Device has not been set to active.

This document contains requirements for multiple solution options, and an assessment for each option is to be provided. The table below summarises the requirements that make up each solution option:

Solution Options			
Option	**Req. 1**	**Req. 2**	**Req. 3**
Option 1	✓	✓	✓
Option 2	✓	✓	✓

2. Considerations and assumptions

This section contains the considerations and assumptions for each business requirement.

2.1 General

The DCC Service Flag provides information regarding the state of a Smart Metering System (SMS) at the consumer’s premise. The three current states of the DCC Service Flagging are:

- “A” for Active;
- “W” for Withdrawn; and
- “S” for Suspended.

The solution will look to address the issues of understanding what the correct DCC Service Flags are, whether those are displayed and ensuring that the correct information can be sent to users of the service.

The DCC will create a new DCC Service Flag state of “I”. The proposed “I” flag will be used to identify a SMS with installed Devices where the Devices are not fully operational or have not been commissioned. Until the SMS can deliver the full range of functionality, the DCC Service Flag associated with the SMS will be set to “I”. The “I” flag will be added as a new state to the existing Service Flag states.

With the InstalledNotCommissioned being included in the “I” Flag, the responsible party (or parties) for installation(s) will be obligated to provide the correct information to the Smart Metering Inventory (SMI). This is crucial to ensure no miscommunications occur with setting the correct DCC Service Flags.

The “I” Flag is to be used when the following circumstance occurs:

- One or multiple Metering Devices have been installed at a premise and the DCC is informed by the Responsible Supplier that the Devices are in the state “InstalledNotCommissioned”.

SEC Section A ‘Definitions and Interpretations’ defines the Smart Metering Systems separately for electricity and gas. The DCC Service Flag is used equally for electricity and gas and is communicated to the Electricity Registration Data Provider (RDP) and Gas RDP. MP077 was raised by Network Parties and Suppliers for electricity; however, it makes sense to extend this to gas too, so both are accounted for in the same solution.

We anticipate this solution will have impacts on the Smart Energy Code (SEC), Master Registration Agreement (MRA), Retail Energy Code (REC), the UK Link Systems and potentially the Uniform Network Code (UNC). The UK Link Systems impact will require a change proposal to be raised and implemented by their Data Services Contract (DSC) Delivery Sub-Group.

Any solution should cover Smart Metering Equipment Technical Specification (SMETS)2 meters.

Any solution should include a ‘clean up’ of the data and links between the SEC, MRA and Xoserve which are affected as a result of this Modification Proposal.

Any solution should include guidance notes to fully detail what each Service Flag does in plain English and what it reflects in the inventory as well as what triggers a flag to be updated to that status.

2.2 Requirement 1: To implement a method of understanding if there is a Device currently at a premise.

This requirement obligates the DCC to implement a means of identifying whether there is at least one Device enrolled in a Smart Metering System at a premise.

Currently, the means of identifying Devices is done through identifying whether a SMS is active or not. An active SMS is identified by at least one Metering Device that has been commissioned on the SMS. For accurate information on the location of an individual smart meter, a combination of DCC Service Status, Meter Point Status and Device Status is required. Information supplied by DCC service flags alone does not suffice.

The current implementation of the SEC and DCC service does not account for Devices that may have been removed from the SMS or that don’t deliver all of the smart functionality. If all Metering Devices have been removed from the SMS the status of the SMS remains incorrectly as active.

Therefore, a more granular approach is required. As part of the Modification Proposal’s solution, it looks to allow for the situation where the SMS ceases to exist due to all Metering Devices being removed or not being available. As part of this assessment, we require the clarifications on the current DCC’s use of the “A” for Active Flag and “S” for Suspended Flag states and whether that aligns to the SEC.

DCC will also provide summaries for the current “A” for Active and “S” for Suspended DCC Service Flag States so it can be accurately placed in the SEC. These are required to remove ambiguity from when Flag states are used and to prevent SEC Users being misinformed.

2.3 Requirement 2: To have a reliable source of information on the state of DCC Service Flags.

This requirement obligates the DCC to provide reliable and consistent updates on the state of Service Flags.

At the moment, Service Flags describing the state of the SMS are being set to inaccurate values. SEC Parties have noted that this inaccuracy has made the switching process of Smart Meters and other Devices harder to complete. It also may result in Suppliers mis-selling a service to consumers if the Service Flag misinforms the Supplier of which services they can provide to the consumer. With reliable information of DCC Service Flags being an integral part of Ofgem's Switching Programme plans, this is required as part of the Modification Proposal's solution.

This requires DCC to remove the "W" for Withdrawn Flag from the DCC Flagging System. With the "W" Flag requiring a Service Request which is not currently used in the DCC User Interface Specification (DUIS) and future versions, this Flag is obsolete and needs removing. The reason it currently isn't in use in DUIS is due to the removal of the non-domestic opt-out.

2.4 Requirement 3: To implement a new Service Flag state of "N" for Non-Active to inform where a Device has not been set to active.

This requirement obligates the DCC to create a new DCC Service Flag state of "N" to indicate a Non-Active SMS. The "N" flag will be added as a new state to the existing D0350 Data Flow.

SEC Parties have identified that after a SMS is fully operational, the flag is set to "A". However, this flag state did not change on these systems, despite having had all Devices removed from the SMS at a later time.

Upon successful commissioning of the Device the DCC Service Flag will be then set to "A".

The "N" Flag is to be used when the following circumstance occurs:

- All Metering Devices on the SMS have been set to the states "Decommissioned", "Recovery" or "Recovered".

Any time the "N" Flag is used, the DCC will issue the D0350 Data Flow and provide the relevant information to the Meter Point Administration Service (MPAS) Provider.

Discussions took place as to whether more Device States should be included in the "N" Flag's scope or whether it should be providing information at a Device, rather than SMS level. These points were considered by the Proposer from the Working Group and the Technical Architecture and Business Architecture Sub-Committee (TABASC). The Proposer elected to choose this limited scope due to the information at an individual Device level already being available through the SMI. It was acknowledged that although possible to replicate the data in the SMI to deliver information through the Service Flags, this wouldn't be feasible. This was due to concerns that it would come at unjustifiable expense to industry and that the lead time required to implement the solution would be too long for any improvement before Ofgem's Switching Programme takes effect.

3. Solution options

This section outlines the solution options for this Modification Proposal. It provides detailed information on the two variants of the proposed solution for the business requirements contained in Section 1 of this document.

3.1 Option 1

Solution Option 1 will consist of Business Requirements 1-3.

This solution consists of the originally proposed business requirements, with the intention of removing the “W” and “S” Service Flags and retaining only the “A” Flag. From there, two new Service Flags will be added – the “N” and “I” Flags leaving the following 3 states:

- A – Active
- N – Non-Active
- I – InstalledNotCommissioned

3.2 Option 2

Solution Option 2 will consist of Business Requirements 1-3.

This solution consists of the originally proposed business requirements, but with the intention of only removing the “W” whilst retaining both the “A” and “S” Flags. The solution will therefore display the correct information when using these two existing Service Flag states, whilst introducing the two new Service Flags – the “N” and “I” Flags. This will result in the following 4 states:

- A – Active
- S – Suspended
- N – Non-Active
- I – InstalledNotCommissioned

4. Glossary

This table lists all the acronyms used in this document and the full term they are an abbreviation for.

Glossary	
Acronym	**Full term**
DCC	Data Communications Company
DSC	Data Services Contract
DUIS	DCC User Interface Specification
MPAS	Meter Point Administration Service
MRA	Master Registration Agreement
RDP	Registration Data Provider
REC	Retail Energy Code
SEC	Smart Energy Code
SMETS	Smart Meter Equipment Technical Specifications
SMI	Smart Metering Inventory
SMS	Smart Metering System
TABASC	Technical Architecture and Business Architecture Sub-Committee