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MP077 ‘DCC Service Flagging’

September 2019 Working Group Meeting summary

Discussion of the issue

A summary of the issue for [MP077 ‘DCC Service Flagging’](#) was provided. It explained that currently the Data and Communications Company (DCC) Service Flags are flawed and don’t provide a consistent and reliable source of information for Users. In addition, the Service Request to deliver the ‘W’ for Withdrawn Flag won’t be available in DUIS v3.0, adding further need to amend the SEC. The Working Group agreed that it is crucial that a reliable source for DCC Service Flag information is available especially with the upcoming Ofgem switching programme looking to make Change of Supplier quicker and more efficient.

SECAS stated that initial research indicated that SEC Appendix X ‘Registration Data Interface Specification’ would be affected by the Modification Proposal. In this Appendix the three current DCC Service Flag states are referenced for Gas and Electricity Registration Data Providers (RDPs). SECAS explained how the three Service Flags operate and that states such as ‘decommissioned’ were not accounted for in the Service Flags. In summary, Service Flags could be set to the correct value but end up misleading Suppliers and therefore consumers as to the services that can be provided.

Discussion of the business requirements

The discussions then turned to the three initial business requirements provided. The three requirements were as follows:

1. DCC to implement a method of understanding if there is a Device currently at a premises.
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 been installed but not commissioned/set to active.

The Working Group agreed that the requirements 1 and 2 would instruct DCC to deliver the original intentions of the Service Flags. It was mentioned that because these weren’t changes, but ensuring the DCC’s obligations for Service Flags are made clearer. For the third requirement, a data flow (D350M) that is used in DCC Systems currently uses the information that is desired for the ‘N’ Flag.

There were discussions as to what states should be covered in the ‘N’ Flag. Originally, it was suggested that these following states should be included:

- Pending;
- Installed, not yet Commissioned;
- Decommissioned; and
- Recovery/Recovered.

One Working Group member suggested that 'Pending' be removed from this list. Their rationale was the interactions made whilst a Device is in that state would not be necessary. The other states were agreed by the Working Group. Another Working Group member raised that as part of the solution, the SEC needs to explicitly detail how the DCC Service Flags work. As the SEC currently remains silent on the operational process on how the Service Flags work, this was supported among members. SECAS noted this would be included alongside the changes to the Service Flag states in the SEC.

Finally, a Working Group member enquired into the cross code impact this Modification Proposal would deliver. SECAS confirmed that this would have an impact on the Master Registration Agreement (MRA) and the Uniform Network Code (UNC). SECAS took an action to provide details to both codes to indicate this Modification Proposal may result in changes to each. DCC stated that for any official business requirements being sent over for assessment, they should use the greater detail discussed in the meeting. SECAS agreed to this. The Working Group agreed that the business requirements, once elaborated on, should be submitted for a Preliminary Assessment.

Next steps

The agreed next steps were to use the updated business requirements to request a Preliminary Assessment from DCC. Additionally, SECAS agreed to distribute any drafts of the legal text ahead of time to ensure it aligns with the needs of the Proposer and Working Group.