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DP090 ‘Incorporation of Non GBCS Non-Mandated Alerts into the SEC’ Problem statement – version 1.0

About this document

This document provides a summary of this Draft Proposal, including the issue or problem identified, the impacts this is having, and the context of this issue within the Smart Energy Code (SEC).

Proposer

This Draft Proposal has been raised by Emslie Law from SSE.

What is the issue or problem identified?

What are Non GBCS Non-Mandated Alerts?

Device Alerts are unsolicited messages sent by Devices to DCC Users e.g. a Supplier. SEC Schedule 8 'Great Britain Companion Specification (GBCS) defines the structure of the Alerts and contains a listing of Alerts, distinguishing between mandated and non-mandated Alerts. These GBCS Mandated Alerts and GBCS Non-Mandated Alerts can be found in Table 16.2 within the GBCS.

Non GBCS Non-Mandated (NGNM) Alerts are Alerts that are built into Devices by Device manufacturers. These conform to GBCS formats but are not included in GBCS Table 16.2.

Suppliers and manufacturers have a general (but non regulatory) responsibility to ensure all Alerts supported by their Devices beyond those specified in the SEC are captured in the Non-GBCS Non-Mandated Alerts Register on the [SEC Website](#) until they are adopted into the SEC.

What is the problem?

Providing the Alert is in the correct format, the GBCS Parse & Correlate software allows any Alerts (whether they are included in GBCS or not) sent by Devices to be passed to the DCC User.

Many DCC Users only recognise Alerts defined in GBCS as when the Smart Metering Implementation Programme (SMIP) was in its infancy Non GBCS Alerts were not expected to be in use. As a result, DCC Users' systems have not been designed to recognise NGNM Alerts.

As these are currently not included in GBCS, the Parse & Correlate software provides the Alert code but does not provide a description of the problem the Alert is communicating. Suppliers therefore receive Alerts but are unable to identify the reason for them. Whilst Suppliers could access this information from the SEC website, this would be highly manually intensive. Alternatively, each Supplier could amend their systems to incorporate the Alert codes from the SEC website, but this would involve a large number of individual system changes.

Additionally, whilst a Supplier may know which NGNM Alerts to expect from meters and Devices installed by themselves, they will continually inherit meters and Devices for which they were not the original installer and will be unaware of NGNM Alerts on Devices that have 'churned' to them.

Depending on the individual Alert either the Supplier or the Network Operator can configure the Alerts by setting them on or off according to their business needs. In order to make NGNM Alerts configurable these must be included in GBCS Table 16.2 and must be added to the DCC User Interface Specification (DUIS) Schema. If this is not implemented, Suppliers and Network Operators will receive large numbers of Alerts which have no description and which they are not able to stop receiving.

Processing of NMNG Alerts

In the early stages of the SMIP, it was planned that BEIS would take the lead in monitoring and incorporating these NGNM Alerts into the SEC through the Technical Specification Issue Resolution Sub-Group (TSIRS). However, this process has now been handed over to the Smart Energy Code Administrator and Secretariat (SECAS) for changes to be implemented through the Modifications Process. To improve efficiency, it is proposed that these changes should be progressed under a

single proposal at regular intervals, where possible alongside Issue Resolution Proposals (IRPs). This will be the first of these proposals.

How does this issue relate to the SEC?

These NGNM Alerts listed in the table below will be incorporated into SEC Schedule 8 and SEC Appendix AD 'DCC User Interface Specification'.

Event / Alert Code	Event / Alert Code Name	Trigger conditions	Alert WAN (Alert Type)	Alert HAN	Alert contains Sensitive Data	Known Remote Party Role	ESME / GSME Event/Alert Configuration Responsibility
0x81C7	Over Current Level 2	Current over 120% of the I _{max} rating for more than 20 minutes	Y(1)	N	N/A	Supplier	Supplier
0x81C8	Over Current Level 2 L1	Current over 120% of the I _{max} rating for more than 20 minutes in phase L1	Y(1)	N	N/A	Supplier	Supplier
0x81C9	Over Current Level 2 L2	Current over 120% of the I _{max} rating for more than 20 minutes in phase L2	Y(1)	N	N/A	Supplier	Supplier
0x81CA	Over Current Level 2 L3	Current over 120% of the I _{max} rating for more than 20 minutes in phase L3	Y(1)	N	N/A	Supplier	Supplier
0x81CB	Bridged terminals	Bridged terminals are detected	Y(1)	N	N/A	Supplier	Supplier
0x81CC	Ultrasonic A flag start	A flag present	Y(1)	N	N/A	Supplier	Supplier
0x81CD	Ultrasonic A flag stop	A flag cleared	Y(1)	N	N/A	Supplier	Supplier
0x81CE	Ultrasonic B flag start	B flag present	Y(1)	N	N/A	Supplier	Supplier
0x81CF	Ultrasonic B flag stop	B flag cleared	Y(1)	N	N/A	Supplier	Supplier
0x81D0	Ultrasonic C flag start	C flag present	Y(1)	N	N/A	Supplier	Supplier
0x81D1	Ultrasonic C flag stop	C flag cleared	Y(1)	N	N/A	Supplier	Supplier
0x81D2	Battery 3% Alert	Battery very low alert (3%)	Y(1)	N	N/A	Supplier	Not possible

Table 1 List of current Non GBCS Non-Mandated Alerts

What is the impact this is having?

What are the impacts of doing nothing?

These Alerts are currently being sent to DCC Users with no contextual information and no means to disable them. To monitor and manually define these Alerts is an inefficient working practice, especially since the DCC User may deem the Alert unnecessary. This will continue until the NGNM Alerts are migrated into the SEC.

What are the views of the industry?

Views of the DCC

The DCC is generally in support of this Draft Proposal but is keen to ensure the number of Technical Specification changes per year is kept to a minimum. The DCC also stated DP090 will impact DCC systems, DUIS and GBCS, and there will be a need for a schema change. There should be no impact on Communications Hubs and so no Communication Service Provider (CSP) impact. This change will impact mainly on the Data Service Provider (DSP) and on Parse & Correlate.

Views of SEC Parties

The migration of these NGNM Alerts into the SEC has been discussed and agreed upon by the TSIRS. Although TSIRS is a BEIS led group, various SEC Parties are represented.

No further comments have been received from SEC Parties.

Views of Panel Sub-Committees

The Technical Architecture and Business Architecture Sub-Committee (TABASC) expressed an interest in the progression of this proposal. It agreed with the proposal's intent and wanted to be kept informed of its progress. It noted that this will impact a number of technical specifications and commented that this should be implemented in a SEC Release alongside other changes to these documents, if possible.

The Security Sub-Committee (SSC) requested to be kept updated on the progress of this Draft Proposal.

Views of the Change Sub-Committee

The Change Sub-Committee was in agreement that this Draft Proposal should be converted to a Modification Proposal and go through the Refinement Process to allow for an Impact Assessment to be carried out.