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SECMP0066 ‘Advanced Shipment Notifications (ASN) for Consignment of Communications Hubs’

November 2019 Working Group Meeting summary

Recap of the issue

A summary of the Modification Proposal’s issue was provided. It was explained that the Proposer has deemed the 48-hour window between issuing the Advanced Shipment Notification (ASN) and the delivery of Communications Hubs (CHs) being insufficient. This is due to the time taken for the Supplier to process the ASN and forward relevant information to their third-party logistics partner. This results in deliveries being refused by the third-party which causes increased costs in smart meter implementation.

Discussion of the Preliminary Assessment

The Preliminary Assessment was distributed in the meeting materials and was discussed in detail during the Working Group meeting.

The Proposer queried if the need for a third warehouse applies for each time period extension. The DCC confirmed that this was the case as they already operate their warehouses at full capacity.

The Proposer questioned the potential 2023 implementation as they feel this is be exaggerated. It was discussed that planning permission would be required to construct the new warehouse or attempt to extend the current occupied warehouses. Time will also be needed to hire and train staff and fit the warehouse accordingly as well as installing the IT infrastructure. This does not include the possible contract re-negotiations to extend the 48-hour window.

One Working Group member questioned the OMS and Comms Hub processes. The DCC commented that damage can occur in transit from manufacturers. This can result in faulty units so the DCC perform random sample testing when the CHs are received at the warehouse. This testing removes the possibility of the ASNs being made available well in advance of delivery dates.

Next steps

The modification will be sent out for refinement consultation to gain further industry feedback.

The DCC will also contact their Logistics team to provide a clear and concise breakdown on current processes to ensure there is no ambiguity.

As stated in the Preliminary Assessment, the DCC Logistics team are willing to discuss and collaborate with the Proposer to help rectify issues experienced with ASN-linked processes. This will also be explored as a next step. The potential collaboration could result in a solution that may not require a SEC modification.