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DP101 ‘Large Gas Meter Displays’

Problem statement – version 0.2

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?

Previous discussions

At the October 2016 Technical Specifications Issue Resolution Sub-Group (TSIRS) meeting, EDF Energy logged an issue (BEIS Issue Log ID – TS0649). This was in relation to an inconsistency in display requirements as different manufacturers were interpreting the requirements differently.

As a result, the Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy (BEIS) raised a subsequent Change Resolution Proposal (CRP522 'Meter User Interface display same as consumption import register'). This was to amend future versions of the Smart Metering Equipment Technical Specifications (SMETS) to explicitly state that User Interfaces are required to display the value of the energy registers to 'appropriate precision'. CRP522 was implemented in September 2018 as part of the Data Communications Company (DCC) Release 2.

At the time EDF did not believe this resolved the issue since there was still flexibility in the number of digits that could be displayed. This would not ensure the consistency they desired. Therefore, they raised SECMP0006.

As part of the progression of the Modification Proposal the Working Group discussed any potential conflicts with the Measuring Instruments Directive (MID)¹. It noted the view from the British Electrotechnical and Allied Manufacturers Association (BEAMA), that it did not support the mandating of the number of display digits due to the variation in Consumer use cases. BEAMA added that flexibility may be required for the number of display digits in the future.

Implementation of SECMP0006

[SECMP0006 'Specifying the number of digits for device display'](#) was implemented as part of the November 2018 SEC Release. It amended SEC Schedule 9 'Smart Metering Equipment Technical Specifications 2' (SMETS2) to standardise the number of digits used to display Consumption Registration on a User Interface.

For Gas Smart Metering Equipment (GSME), SECMP0006 required the values stored in the Consumption Register, the Tariff Block Counter Matrix and the Tariff Time of Use (ToU) Register Matrix to be displayed as:

1. A decimal integer number of thousandths of metres cubed, rounded down to the nearest thousandth of a metre cubed;
2. discarding all except the eight least significant decimal digits;
3. exactly eight decimal digits (adding leading zeros if necessary); and
4. the decimal point separator placed between the fourth and third least significant digits.

Impact on Large Gas Meters

The SMETS allows the use of Large Gas Meters at Domestic premises. However, some of the Large Gas Meters are unable to measure to thousandths of a metre cubed. Equally, due to the greater flow

¹ [Directive 2014/32/EU of the European Parliament and of the Council of 26 February 2014](#)

rate, they require more than the five most significant digits to meet the MID requirements which states:

“An indicating device shall have a sufficient number of digits to ensure that the quantity passed during 8000 hours at Qmax does not return the digits to their initial values”.

This means the current requirement in the SMETS to have only five digits before a decimal point conflicts with the MID requirement.

How does this issue relate to the SEC?

As described above, the SMETS sets out the specifications in section 4.4.5.1 for what is displayed on GSME.

The SMETS also states in Section 4.1:

Any requirements to Lock, Enable, Disable or Arm Supply set out in this Section 4, only apply to Gas Smart Metering Equipment other than Large Gas Meters installed at Domestic Premises.

This ensures Large Gas Meters must comply with the display requirements set out in the remainder of Section 4.

What is the impact this is having?

Large Gas Meters must meet the requirements imposed by the SMETS and the MID. If Large Gas Meters are not excluded from the SMETS obligations for displaying a limited number of digits in the display, they will become non-compliant with the MID.

What are the views of the industry?

Views of the Change Sub-Committee

A Change Sub-Committee (CSC) member suggested this Draft Proposal not be expanded to include other potential issues, in case it exempted too much.

Another Member sought clarification whether this change would apply to future Large Gas Meters, as he was not aware of any currently installed. SECAS advised that it was not aware of any SMETS2 Large Gas Meters currently installed.