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DP105 'Sending SR11.2 to Devices in Suspended State'

Problem statement – version 0.1

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 Chun Chen from the Data Communications Company (DCC).

What is the issue or problem identified?

Background

Once a firmware entry is removed from the Central Products List (CPL), the Smart Metering Inventory (SMI) status for the impacted Devices will be set to be in a 'Suspended' state. While the Device is in a 'Suspended' state, only a Critical Service Request (SR) can be sent to those Devices, and any Non-Critical SRs will be rejected by Data Services Provider (DSP) with an E5[1] error.

As an exception, the following Non-Critical SRs will be allowed if the Device is 'Suspended':

- SR11.1 'Update Firmware'
- SR6.23 'Update Security Credentials (CoS)'; and
- SR2.2 'Top Up Device' with a Command Variant value of 2 (only for Smart Metering Equipment Technical Specifications (SMETS) 1 Devices).

This means SR11.2 'Read Firmware Version' will be rejected by the DSP E5 validation, when the Device is in a 'Suspended' state.

What is the issue?

If the SR11.3 'Activate Firmware' response for successful firmware activation is not received by the DSP, the Device will remain in the 'Suspended' state even though the new firmware is now activated on the meter. There is no other recoverable method unless another new firmware update takes place.

To get around this, SR11.2 would need to be added to the exception list. This would allow the SMI status to be updated based on the SR11.2 response while the Device is in the 'Suspended' state.

How does this issue relate to the SEC?

Any changes to how SR11.2 is handled would necessitate a change to the DCC User Interface Specification (DUIS) and to the DCC/DSP Systems, requiring a modification to do so.

[1] Failed Authorisation – Invalid Device Status

What is the impact this is having?

Without the required addition of SR11.2 into the exception list, there will be a small percentage of Devices that cannot be recovered from the ‘Suspended’ state if the SR11.3 response is not received by the DSP.

Currently the only way to resolve this is for a Service User to carry out another firmware update, which is a waste of time and effort.