SEC
Smart Energy Code

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Smart Energy Code

DP121

‘Commissioning non-commissioned Devices after CoS’

Modification Report

Version 0.1

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About this document

This document is a draft Modification Report. It currently sets out the background, issue, and progression timetable for this modification, along with any relevant discussions, views and conclusions. This document will be updated as this modification progresses.

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1. Summary

This proposal has been raised by Paul Saker from EDF.

There are instances where Smart Metering Equipment Technical Specifications (SMETS) 2 Devices have been installed but not commissioned. This is due to premises not having Smart Meter Wide Area Network (SM WAN) coverage when the Device was installed. In the case of no SM WAN coverage, the Data Communications Company (DCC) has 90 days to address the WAN connectivity. In this timespan, it is possible that the Consumer could request a Change of Supplier (CoS) which will result in the Consumer not receiving smart services from their installed Device as the new Supplier will not have the Install Code.

2. Issue

What are the current arrangements?

Currently Suppliers are required to check if there is SM WAN coverage before attending a premise to install a SMETS2 Device. Situations can arise where a SMETS2 Device is installed but not commissioned. This can happen where the DCC WAN Coverage Database indicates that there will be WAN coverage to the premises but on arrival there is no coverage (known as 'reactive install and leave'), or where a smart meter needs to be installed but there is no current WAN coverage to the premises (known as 'proactive install and leave'). In these cases, Suppliers are required to install the Devices, including a Communications Hub (CH) in a non-commissioned state, and then commission the CH once a WAN connection has been established.

The processes and obligations relating to the commissioning of Devices, as well as 'install and leave', are set out in the Smart Energy Code (SEC); including, amongst others, Section F7 'Installation and Maintenance of SMETS2+ Communications Hubs' and Appendix I 'CH Installation and Maintenance Support Materials' where it is referred to as the 'CH No SM WAN Installation Procedure'.

What is the issue?

The DCC has a 90-day target to resolve WAN connectivity to 'reactive install and leave' installations. The time taken to establish WAN connectivity to 'proactive install and leave' installations is likely to be even longer. These 'install and leave' processes and associated obligations are included in the energy Supply Licences. In addition, the Operational Licence conditions require Suppliers to ensure their Devices can communicate with the DCC once WAN is available.

As a result of these timescales there is a risk that the Consumer will change their energy Supplier before WAN connectivity has been established. In these circumstances the gaining Supplier is not currently able to commission the installed Devices. This is because it requires the Install Code to enable the installed Devices to be joined to the Home Area Network (HAN) (using Service Reference Variant (SRV) 8.11), which needs to occur before the Devices can be commissioned.

What is the impact this is having?

The impact of this issue is that Consumers who change Supplier before their SMETS2 Devices can be commissioned will not be able to receive smart services from their meter. There is a significant risk that these non-commissioned Devices will be removed or replaced, which not only causes inconvenience to Consumers but will incur a significant cost in terms of unnecessary site visits and stranded SMETS2 Devices.

It would therefore make sense that the process to enable Devices to be commissioned as a result of a 'No SM WAN Installation', and any obligations on Parties required to enable that process to work, should be set out in the SEC.

Appendix 1: Progression timetable

This Drat Proposal was raised on 23 March 2020. It will be presented to the Change Sub-Committee (CSC) for initial comment on 31 March 2020. Feedback will then be requested from each of the SEC Sub-Committees to gain a greater understanding of the issue identified.

Timetable	
Event/Action	**Date**
Draft Proposal raised	24 Mar 2020
Present to CSC for initial comment	31 Mar 2020
Present to CSC for final comment and recommendations	28 Apr 2020
Present to Panel for conversion from Draft Proposal to Modification Proposal	15 May 2020

Appendix 2: Glossary

This table lists all the acronyms used in this document and the full term they are an abbreviation for.

Glossary	
Acronym	**Full term**
CH	Communications Hub
CoS	Change of Supplier
CSC	Change Sub-Committee
DCC	Data Communications Company
HAN	Home Area Network
SEC	Smart Energy Code
SECAS	Smart Energy Code Administrator and Secretariat
SM	Smart Meter
SMETS	Smart Metering Equipment Technical Specifications
SRV	Service Reference Variant
WAN	Wide Area Network