SEC
Smart Energy Code

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Smart Energy Code

DP123

'IVP and MVP realignment of SMETS2 v2.0'

Modification Report

Version 0.2

Corporate member of Plain English Campaign
Committed to clearer communication
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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 Alastair Cobb from Landis & Gyr.

The Smart Energy Code (SEC) sets out the Smart Metering technical specifications. To ensure interoperability the dates which these technical specifications can be used are set out within the SEC.

Due to an unforeseen delay in the development of Smart Metering Equipment Technical Specifications SMETS2 v4.2 / GBCS v3.2 Devices following a change in Commercial Product Assurance (CPA) guidance which needed to be implemented immediately, the Installation Validity Period (IVP) and Maintenance Validity Period (MVP) for these Devices as currently set out will cause a significant interruption in the supply and installation of Devices.

2. Issue

What are the current arrangements?

The SEC sets out the Smart Metering technical specifications. These include Smart Metering Equipment Technical Specifications (SMETS) and Great Britain Companion Specifications (GBCS). To ensure interoperability the Technical Specification Applicability Tables (TSAT) specify the dates Devices using these specifications can be installed and maintained. The Installation Validity Period (IVP) sets out the date until which these Devices can be installed and the Maintenance Validity Period (MVP) sets out the date when they must be moved onto a newer version of the technical specifications.

What is the issue?

During the course of 2019, the National Cyber Security Centre (NCSC) and the Security Sub-Committee (SSC) provided industry guidance around triage capability which had a direct impact upon meter manufacturers, in particular those with non-operational port functionality. This guidance needed to be implemented immediately and therefore has resulted in unplanned work and approvals which were significantly longer than the work required for SMETS2 v4.2 / GBCS v3.2 Devices. During this period Suppliers have continued to procure SMETS2 v2.0 Devices to meet their obligations. Furthermore with the additional impact of the reduction in installations as a result of the COVID-19 situation this has resulted in Suppliers holding a large number of SMETS2 v2.0 Devices and many more in the global supply chain with currently only a short window of time until October 2020 to install them.

Therefore, the IVP and MVP dates for SMETS2 v4.2 / GBCS v3.2 are no longer consistent with a smooth 100% transition of supply chain for Devices with this functionality. Without a realignment, this will result in either a break in installations after the end of the IVP period for SMETS2 v2.0, or a large number of scrapped meters, and potentially both.

In addition, the majority of Devices and components across all manufacturers are manufactured in the Far East where the supply chain has been affected by the Coronavirus Public Health measures.

What is the impact this is having?

The major impact is that there will be a break in the rollout in installations from the end of October 2020 due to a shortage of Devices with SMETS2 v4.2 firmware, without any derogation to continue to fit SMETS2 v2.0 Devices.

Additionally, since the NCSC guidance around the updating of firmware has removed the capability for Device manufacturers to upgrade Device firmware unless connected to the DCC network, this will cause substantial scrappage costs if they cannot be installed.

Appendix 1: Progression timetable

Once raised this Draft Proposal will be discussed at Change Sub-Committee (CSC) on 31 March 2020.

Timetable	
Event/Action	**Date**
Draft Proposal raised	30 March 2020
Presented to CSC for initial comment	31 March 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**
CPA	Certified Product Assurance
GBCS	Great Britain Companion Specifications
IVP	Installation Validity Period
MVP	Maintenance Validity Period
NCSC	National Cyber Security Centre
TSAT	Technical Specification Applicability Tables
SEC	Smart Energy Code
SMETS	Smart Metering Equipment Technical Specifications
SSC	Security Sub-Committee