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DP125 'Correcting the ESME variant'

Modification Report Version 0.1



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.

Contents

1. Summary.....	3
2. Issue	4
Appendix 1: Progression timetable.....	6
Appendix 2: Glossary.....	7

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1. Summary

This proposal has been raised by John Noad from nPower.

Data Communications Company (DCC) Users must ensure Devices connected to the Home Area Network (HAN) are recorded on the Smart Metering Inventory (SMI) by sending a Service Request (SR)12.2 'Device Pre-notification'. This also updates the 'ESMEVariant'. Once this is recorded on the SMI only the installing Supplier can update it. This means that on Change of Supplier (CoS) it can no longer be updated by the gaining Supplier. Incorrect entries cannot therefore be corrected as is it explicitly forbidden in Appendix AD 'DCC User Interface Specification' (DUIS).

This leads to incorrect information in the SMI which is a problem at a fundamental level. If the Device type does not match the information presented in industry data, a Supplier's internal back-end systems will reject the Device and it will not be recognised as a legitimate and valid Device.

2. Issue

What are the current arrangements?

DCC Users must ensure that all Devices connected to the HAN are recorded on the SMI. This is achieved by sending a Device Pre-notification (SR 12.2) to the DCC. Upon receiving the SR12.2, the DCC will update the SMI and set the SMI Status of the Device to 'Pending'.

The SR12.2 contains information regarding the 'ESMEVariant' field. This specifies details about the Device such as if it includes a HAN Connected Auxiliary Load Control Switch (HCALCS).

'EMSEVariant' Code	CPL Device Type
A, AD or ADE	Single Element Electricity Metering Equipment
B, BD or BDE	Twin Element Electricity Metering Equipment
C, CD or CDE	Polyphase Element Electricity Metering Equipment

What is the issue?

If a Device has a status of 'Pending', only the DCC User who added the Device to the SMI may update details of that Device; or delete that Device from the SMI. Devices with SMI statuses other than 'Pending', can only have their SMI status amended by the Responsible Supplier. This is important because SR8.4 'Update Inventory' can only be used to update the Device details provided via Pre-Notification (SR12.2) while the meter is still in 'Pending' status.

Once the SR12.2 has been received by the DCC and the 'EMSEVariant' field is updated this cannot be changed by the DCC nor can it be changed by the gaining Supplier on CoS. While it is possible for the installing Supplier to amend the 'ESMEVariant' field, the Supplier would not know when a CoS will occur.

It is crucial to note that there are two barriers in place before this issue becomes a problem; these barriers lie with the Device Manufacturer and the Installing Supplier. If the Device Manufacturer incorrectly identifies the Device in question, then it is up to the Installing Supplier to check the Device's details. This issue only becomes problematic if both the Device Manufacturer and Installing Supplier overlook the incorrectly identified Device details.

To summarise, a gaining Supplier is unable to update the 'ESMEVariant' field of a commissioned Electricity Smart Metering Equipment (ESME) after SR 12.2 has been executed incorrectly by the previous installing Supplier.

What is the impact this is having?

Not resolving the issue will mean errors identified in the SMI will not be able to be corrected and the volume of incorrect data will continue to increase.

Operationally, the implementation of firmware upgrades could mean a Device's functionality may change. A change of functionality would mean there would be a discrepancy with the Device variant as listed at the very outset.

The worst outcome of this issue is that a gaining Supplier sends a firmware update, but the upgrade does not work.

3. Assessment of the proposal

Observations on the issue

SEC Administrator and Secretariat (SECAS) investigations identified that if an 'AD' ESME is wrongly notified as an 'A' ESME, there is a chance it can be validated within the Commercial Products List (CPL). However, SECAS consider the chance of this happening is highly unlikely as there are two validation checks to ensure the Device type is recorded accurately, specifically with the Device Manufacturer and the Responsible Supplier.

Supposing that an ESME is not checked by the two validation checks mentioned above and is incorrectly identified; DUIS explicitly forbids the gaining Supplier to correct the details of a commissioned meter.

Appendix 1: Progression timetable

This Draft Proposal was raised on 7 May 2020 and will be presented the Change Sub-Committee (CSC) for initial discussion on 26 May 2020.

Timetable	
Event/Action	Date
Draft Proposal raised	7 May 20
Presented to CSC for initial comment	26 May 20

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
CoS	Change of Supplier
CPL	Commercial Products List
DCC	Data Communications Company
DUIS	DCC User Interface Specification
ESME	Electricity Smart Metering Equipment
HAN	Home Area Network
HCALCS	HAN Connected Auxiliary Load Control Switch
SMI	Smart Metering Inventory
SR	Service Request