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MP143 'Incorporating IRPs into GBCS v3 series'

Modification Report

Version 1.0

8 April 2022

Corporate member of
Plain English Campaign
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About this document

This document is a Modification Report. It sets out the background, issue, solution, impacts, costs, implementation approach and progression timetable for this modification, along with any relevant discussions, views and conclusions.

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This document also has four annexes:

- **Annex A** contains the business requirements for the solution.
- **Annex B** contains the redlined changes to the Smart Energy Code (SEC) required to deliver the Proposed Solution.
- **Annex C** contains the full Data Communications Company (DCC) Impact Assessment response.
- **Annex D** contains the full responses received to the Refinement Consultation.

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1. Summary

This proposal was raised by Martin Bell from the Energy and Utilities Alliance (EUA).

[MP098 'Incorporation of multiple Issue Resolution Proposals into the SEC - Batch 3'](#) was implemented in the November 2020 SEC Release. It incorporated 20 non-DCC System impacting Issue Resolution Proposals (IRPs) into the GB Companion Specification (GBCS) v4.0 and the Smart Metering Equipment Technical Specifications (SMETS) 2 documents of that release.

During the development of MP098, there was no material benefit to implement the 18 GBCS impacting IRPs into the GBCS version 3.x series. SEC Parties wanted to incorporate these 18 IRPs into the GBCS v3 series as and when a material change necessitated an uplift to the next GBCS v3.x.

During development of MP143 it has become apparent that SEC Parties only require certain IRPs to be included within the GBCS version 3.x series. The scope of this modification is now those five IRPs: IRP589, IRP596, IRP623, IRP631 and IRP642.

The DCC's Impact Assessment states that implementation will cost £57,514. If approved, this modification is targeted for the November 2022 SEC Release. MP143 is currently the only modification proposing an uplift to the GBCS version 3.x series.

This modification will affect all Suppliers, Other SEC Parties and the DCC. It will be progressed as a Self-Governance Modification.

2. Issue

What are the current arrangements?

MP098 introduced 20 non-DCC System impacting IRPs into the GBCS v4.0 and the SMETS Device Level Versioning of 29 November 2020 in the November 2020 SEC Release. To ensure certainty for the industry it was agreed that the 18 GBCS impacting IRPs would not be implemented into the GBCS version 3.x series (to give an uplift to v3.3) as it was deemed not materially beneficial at the time.

What is the issue?

Industry discussion, primarily from meter manufacturers, has noted there should have been an option to implement these IRPs into the GBCS version 3.x series in the November 2021 SEC Release. This was not part of the implementation approach consulted upon in MP098.

It had been assumed that the November 2021 SEC Release would include other material changes to the GBCS version 3.x series. However, this was not the case and MP143 is the only active modification proposing to make changes to this series.

Device Manufactures believe their Devices will not be compliant with the Commercial Product Assurance (CPA) scheme if some of these IRPs are not incorporated into the GBCS version 3.x series.

What is the impact this is having?

If the GBCS version 3.x series continues to be used but these IRPs are not incorporated, the industry efficiencies provided by these IRPs will not be possible.

IRPs identify issues in the SEC Technical Specifications. The IRPs included in this proposal are the same GBCS impacting IRPs included in MP098 (IRP589 and IRP596) and three further IRPs (IRP623, IRP631 and IRP642) that were identified as needing implementation into GBCS version 3.x series.

The remaining IRPs from MP098 are no longer in scope of this modification. The IRPs that remain in scope are listed in the table below. The individual IRP details can be found on the Smart Energy Code Administrator and Secretariat (SECAS) website link [here](#) under document name 'MP143 IRPs for inclusion'.

Non system impacting IRPs		
IRP number	IRP title	Impacted Technical Specification
IRP589	CS02b authentication sequence v0_1	GBCS
IRP596	TransCoS Execution Counters – CS02b query	GBCS
IRP623	Read ALCS Event Log values v2	GBCS
IRP631	Table 7 3 8 - Correction of Inconsistency	GBCS
IRP642	Reclarifying trigger for Alert Code 8F69 v0_2	GBCS

Impact on consumers

If not resolved, some Devices that are installed at consumer premises will not be compliant with CPA certification. These Devices would therefore need to be replaced and disposed of, causing negative environmental impacts.

3. Solution

Proposed Solution

The Proposed Solution is to incorporate these IRPs into the GBCS version 3.x series in the soonest possible Technical Specification impacting scheduled SEC Release.

Based on feedback from Device Manufacturers, the only IRPs that are required to be placed into the GBCS version 3.x series are:

- IRP589 'CS02b authentication sequence'
- IRP596 'TRANSCOS execution counters'
- IRP623 'Read ALCS Event Log values v2'
- IRP631 'Table 7 3 8 - Correction of Inconsistency'
- IRP642 'Reclarifying trigger for Alert Code 8F69 v0_2'

4. Impacts

This section summarises the impacts that would arise from the implementation of this modification.

SEC Parties

SEC Party Categories impacted			
✓	Large Suppliers	✓	Small Suppliers
	Electricity Network Operators		Gas Network Operators
✓	Other SEC Parties	✓	DCC

Breakdown of Other SEC Party types impacted			
	Shared Resource Providers		Meter Installers
✓	Device Manufacturers		Flexibility Providers

This proposal will impact Device Manufacturers with Devices that operate in compliance with GBCS v3.2 as well as all Suppliers due to the implementation of a new version of GBCS v3.x series.

DCC System

Although the IRPs within this Modification Proposal are non-DCC System impacting, an uplift to the GBCS version 3.x series will mean the Data Service Provider (DSP) needs to make changes to its system to recognise the new version as valid.

The Communications Service Providers (CSPs) are not required to have GBCS v3.3 compliant Communications Hubs declared in the Central Products List (CPL) and therefore the impacts upon them are limited to testing the interoperability of their GBCS v3.2 and v4.1 Communications Hubs against GBCS v3.3 Devices.

The full impacts on DCC Systems and the DCC's proposed testing approach can be found in the DCC Impact Assessment response in Annex C.

SEC and subsidiary documents

The following parts of the SEC will be impacted:

- Schedule 8 'GB Companion Specification'
- Schedule 11 'Technical Specification Applicability Tables' (TSAT)

The changes to the SEC required to deliver the proposed solution can be found in Annex B.

Technical specification versions

This modification would introduce a new Sub-Version to the GBCS version 3.x series. Currently, this would result in a new GBCS v3.3.

Devices

Devices impacted			
✓	Electricity Smart Metering Equipment	✓	Gas Smart Metering Equipment
	Communications Hubs		Gas Proxy Functions
	In-Home Displays		Prepayment Meter Interface Devices
	Standalone Auxiliary Proportional Controllers		Home Area Network Connected Auxiliary Load Control Switches
	Consumer Access Devices		Alternative Home Area Network Devices

The IRPs clarify behaviours and therefore many Devices will already be behaving in the way the clarification describes. Those that are not will need updates to ensure they match the behaviours described in the IRPs.

None of these IRPs will impact Communications Hubs. There is a loosening of restrictions on the Communications Hubs but there will not be any forced change as they will already be compliant with the existing specification.

Consumers

If implemented, this modification will positively impact consumers. Any costs incurred by Parties for disposal of Devices would ultimately be passed onto the consumer; this modification will reduce the number of Devices that would need to be disposed of. Additionally, removing the need to have Devices removed will mean less site visits to consumers.

Other industry Codes

This modification will not impact any other industry Codes.

Greenhouse gas emissions

If implemented, this modification will positively impact greenhouse gas emission. If not resolved, some Devices that are installed at consumer premises will not be compliant with CPA certification. These Devices would therefore need to be replaced and disposed of, causing negative environmental impacts.

5. Costs

DCC costs

The DCC implementation costs to implement this modification is £57,514. The breakdown of these costs are as follows:

Breakdown of DCC implementation costs	
Activity	Cost
Design, Build and Pre-Integration Testing (PIT)	£32,890
Systems Integration Testing (SIT)	£24,624
User Integration Testing (UIT)	£0
Implement to Live	£0
Application Support	£0

More information can be found in the DCC Impact Assessment response in Annex C.

SECAS costs

The estimated SECAS implementation costs to implement this modification is two days of effort, amounting to approximately £1,200. The activities needed to be undertaken for this are:

- Updating the SEC and releasing the new version to the industry.

SEC Party costs

This modification will not incur any direct SEC Party costs. SEC Party views were sought during the Refinement Consultation. One respondent noted they could not accurately confirm costs without knowing what Devices would need to be replaced. Another respondent noted the costs to Suppliers and Meter Asset Providers (MAPs) of not implementing this solution would be incurred from Device replacements, and the implementation would mean Devices did not need to be replaced.

The full responses to the Refinement Consultation can be found in Annex D.

6. Implementation approach

Agreed implementation approach

The Change Sub-Committee (CSC) has agreed an implementation date of:

- **3 November 2022** (November 2022 SEC Release) if a decision to approve is received on or before 4 May 2022; or
- **29 June 2023** (June 2023 SEC Release) if a decision to approve is received after 4 May 2022 but on or before 30 Dec 2022.

As this modification impacts the GBCS, it should be implemented alongside other GBCS changes to prevent new versions being created unnecessarily. However, currently MP143 is the only modification proposing an uplift to the GBCS version 3.x series. The November 2022 SEC Release is the earliest release this modification can be targeted for. The DCC has highlighted it will require six months from decision to implementation.

If a decision is not received in time for the November 2022 SEC Release, it will be targeted for the June 2023 SEC Release, which is the next release expected to contain SEC Technical Specification changes.

7. Assessment of the proposal

Observations on the issue

Change Sub-Committee views

The CSC agreed the issue was clear. During the September 2020 CSC meeting, the Proposer advised that the reason for raising this modification was to ensure if and when a material change is required to the GBCS v3.x series, the IRPs could also be incorporated to make Devices more efficient.

The Proposer also noted that the industry would need to consider the consequences of Devices that could not be upgraded and what the Validity Periods of existing versions should be. There is also an ongoing question around what is worth upgrading and creating a new GBCS v3.x version for, which could potentially make Devices non-compliant with the specifications.

Solution development

The initial proposal was raised when SEC Parties expressed a desire for the option to incorporate these 18 IRPs included in MP098 into the GBCS version 3.x series as and when a material change necessitates an uplift to the next GBCS v3.x. The Proposer's initial aim was to target this modification for the November 2021 SEC Release when it was assumed [SECMP0007 'Firmware updates to IHDs and PPMIDs'](#) would be applied to both the GBCS versions 3.x and 4.x series. However, SECMP0007 was only applied to GBCS v4.x in the November 2021 SEC Release. Consequently, later on in refinement, the Proposer agreed to target this modification for the November 2022 SEC Release instead.

The Proposed Solution is dependent on the industry's decision on whether a GBCS version 3.x series is required. It is also affected by SEC Parties' preferences on which IRPs should be included within the GBCS version 3.x series, should there be another release.

Should the GBCS version 3.x series be maintained?

DCC and SECAS views

SECAS and the DCC aim to have no more than a single linear uplift to the Technical Specifications where there is a material benefit, to minimise disruption to industry. The desired approach is to move forward against the latest version of the given Technical Specification with each change being

additive over time on a linear basis, instead of changes to different Technical Specification series being made in parallel. SECAS worked closely with the DCC via the Working Group to draft the Technical Specifications for the modifications in the November 2021 SEC Release during their refinement. In drafting these, it was assumed these would be applied to the latest GBCS version series only (expected to be v4.x at the time).

SECAS has carried out an investigation into the implementation of a further uplift to the GBCS version 3.x series and has found several risks and impacts of doing so. These are summarised in the points below:

- Implementation approach for parallel versions of the GBCS were not considered as part of the Working Groups or draft legal text changes for the modifications targeted for the November 2021 SEC Release;
- Greater complexity for the DCC to implement and manage GBCS compatibility for a parallel GBCS v3.3 alongside a GBCS v4.1;
- Significant increase in testing permutations of GBCS, SMETS and Communication Hub Technical Specification (CHTS) combinations for both the DCC and Device Manufacturers, with the DCC needing more emulators for GBCS v3.3;
- Increased document maintenance, with the GBCS v3.3 effectively containing different specifications to the proposed GBCS v4.1; and
- Increased complexity for industry in facilitating parallel versions of the GBCS, each implementing sub-sets of functionality.

The DCC and SECAS also considered the precedent that maintaining the GBCS version 3.x series could set for future releases. This could lead to further parallel versions of the GBCS being supported in the future which would amplify the impacts noted above. This significantly increases the complexity of managing each release for the DCC and management of GBCS compatibility for all Users, as all Parties would have to manage multiple GBCS combinations, with each version containing different functionality.

The DCC also had initially advised that uplifting the GBCS version 3.x series as well as the GBCS version 4.x series would have Communications Hub impacts. Further definition would be required to determine the obligations on the DCC relating to supporting Communications Hubs against any extension to the GBCS v3.x series i.e. would the DCC need to release new Communications Hub firmware to ensure compliance to any new GBCS v3.3. This would have impacted the DCC's implementation plans for the November 2021 SEC Release.

The subsequent reduction in scope of this modification to five IRPs has meant that there will not be an impact on Communications Hubs.

Risk to the delivery of the November 2021 SEC Release

All of the above impacts would have presented a risk to the implementation of the November 2021 SEC Release if MP143 was approved for this release.

Taking into consideration the Working Group discussions, the DCC had always assumed that only the GBCS version 4.x series would be impacted by this release as it seeks to maintain the approach of only have a single GBCS series.

Any additional implementation of a parallel GBCS version 3.x series in the form of GBCS v3.3 would have needed to be progressed as a change to the existing November 2021 SEC Release scope. It would therefore have needed to be Impact Assessed by all impacted Parties to determine the impacts of implementation timescales and associated costs. This had the potential to result in added implementation time and effort for the DCC and its Service Providers, which it may not have been able to mitigate in order to prevent a delay to the November 2021 SEC Release.

TABASC views

SECAS provided the Technical Architecture and Business Architecture Sub-Committee (TABASC) with an update on the November 2021 TSAT versions¹. SECAS recommended that MP143, if approved, will only be implemented in the November 2021 release if another change to the GBCS version 3.x series is also approved for inclusion that MP143 can go in alongside, which is dependent upon industry preferences. SECAS highlighted the risks of introducing a GBCS v3.3 and recommended that the GBCS version 3.x series was not uplifted.

A TABASC Member advised that the original concern for Meter Manufacturers was that there was no plan for older versions of the GBCS to be made obsolete, with multiple versions of the standards coexisting.

A further concern was that some of the changes implemented into GBCS v4.0 were not implemented into the GBCS v3.x series, and that this may result in compliance challenges for manufacturers. The TABASC Member advised that they would gather views from the EUA and report their findings back to SECAS to share with the TABASC.

A TABASC Member highlighted a concern that they were yet to receive GBCS v3.2 Dual Band Communications Hubs and they were not expecting those from Arqiva until December 2021. If the GBCS starts to cut off at v3.2 then this may cause maintenance issues. The TABASC Chair agreed that more needs to be done with the DCC to speed up the delivery of GBCS v3.2 compliant Communications Hubs but believed this issue should be handled separately from whether both the GBCS v3.x and the GBCS v4.x series are maintained.

The TABASC Chair added that the GBCS 4.x series changes had Device behaviour impacts but did not impact the behaviour of Communications Hubs. They were reasonably comfortable with continuing with just the GBCS v4.x series, subject to the views of the EUA and the British Electrotechnical and Allied Manufacturers Association (BEAMA).

EUA views

SECAS highlighted the risks of uplifting the GBCS version 3.x series in the November 2021 SEC Release and recommended that this did not occur. SECAS also asked the EUA to consider that MP143 would be the only modification generating this uplift.

EUA members expressed their need for several of the IRPs included in MP098 to be implemented in the GBCS version 3.x series. This was due to the desire to keep operating on the GBCS version 3.x series whilst ensuring the specification reflected the current behaviour of Devices, ensuring Device compliance.

¹ Please see TABASC paper TABASC_62_0402_08 for more details

The Proposer did not agree that the impacts listed would have a material impact on the DCC or Parties and were strongly opposed to no longer maintaining the GBCS v3.x series. They advised that two of the IRPs in question were essential from a CPA and compliance perspective:

- IRP589 'CS02b authentication sequence'
- IRP596 'TRANSCOS execution counters'

BEAMA views

Following the Technical Specification Issue Resolution Sub-group (TSIRS) meeting on 8 July 2021, a request was made for an Electricity Smart Metering Equipment (ESME) manufacturer view from BEAMA members. BEAMA consulted with members and reiterated its position that BEAMA currently supports the need for the GBCS 3.x series. BEAMA also requested more clarity around what moving to the GBCS 4.x series requires that is understood by the whole industry. Different Parties appeared to have opposing views, as to whether the move to the GBCS 4.x series requires Auxiliary Proportionate Control (APC) functionality to be present within the Device. This additional functionality would require a hardware change.

The TSIRS believed that the GBCS 4.x series could be implemented without any hardware changes.

Conclusion

Following these discussions, the Proposer has agreed that a version of GBCS series v3.x must be maintained. It is envisioned that version 3.3 will be the last update to this series.

Which IRPs should be in scope?

SECAS advised that all 18 of the non-DCC System impacting IRPs from MP098 were initially in scope of MP143. The DCC had advised that the number of non-DCC System impacting IRPs had little impact on it. Therefore, SECAS asked the Working Group to consider whether the non-DCC System impacting IRPs within [MP158 'Incorporation of multiple Issue Resolution Proposals into the SEC – Batch 5'](#), which was targeted for implementation in the GBCS v4.x series in the November 2021 SEC Release, should be added as well.

IRP623 and IRP631 in the table below were originally within scope of MP158, but were withdrawn from the scope of that modification as they specifically need to be added to the GBCS v3.x series.

IRP642 was raised following the initiation of this modification. It provides an additional clarification on text that was inserted into GBCS v3.2 as part of [SECMP0055 'Incorporation of multiple Issue Resolution Proposals into the SEC'](#) and the Proposer has confirmed they were happy to include this within the modification. SECAS recommended that they were included into the scope of this modification.

GBCS v3.x impacting IRPs		
IRP Number	What is the issue?	What is the impact?
IRP623	Clarification is required regarding whether the 'control Home Area Network (HAN) connected Auxiliary Load Control Switch (ALCS)' command, issued from the ESME to an	This is causing ambiguities in the scenarios in which the

GBCS v3.x impacting IRPs		
IRP Number	What is the issue?	What is the impact?
	ALCS or a HAN Connected Auxiliary Load Control Switches (HCALCS), has an associated entry in the ALCS Event Log for both calendar driven events and remote party commands.	Device is meant to record entries into the ALCS Event Log.
IRP631	The Device Language Message Specification (DLMS) Device Requirements (for ESME) which are contained in GBCS v4.0 are not reflected in GBCS v3.x. This IRP aims to incorporate the changes in DLMS Device Requirements (for ESME) that have been baselined on GBCS v4.0 into GBCS v3.x.	This is causing inconsistency between GBCS v4.x and GBCS v3.x.
IRP642	Changes to GBCS section 10.2.2.2 implemented in GBCS v3.2 aimed to clarify the timing of the Alert 0x8F69 when establishing a tunnel. However, it did not specify this Alert should only be sent for the first establishment of a tunnel, and not repeated on subsequent tunnel establishments.	Devices could be designed to send Alerts for every tunnel establishment.

The Proposer and a Device Manufacturer questioned the benefit in including all of the non-DCC System impacting IRPs from MP098 and MP158, noting that some of them could have Device Manufacturer impacts. They clarified that they only sought IRP589 and IRP596 to be implemented in the GBCS v3.x series, considering feedback from other Device manufacturers.

A manufacturer advising from an ESME perspective noted the need for IRP631 'Table 7 3 8 - Correction of Inconsistency' which had been discussed at the TSIRS. The IRP stated that it would be incorporated into the next GBCS 3.x version. SECAS highlighted that IRP631 only impacts ESME and it was agreed the BEAMA should provide a view on its need.

SECAS also presented a similar proposal to TSIRS members, and highlighted the feedback that had been received. TSIRS members agreed with the view that not all IRPs from MP098 and MP158 were required for inclusion within the GBCS version3.x series. Members supported the reduction in scope to just the IRPs that are included within the Proposed Solution.

BEAMA also confirmed its agreement that IRPs 589, 596, 623, 631 are the only ones that need to be included within the modification.

EUA contacted its members who had no objections to the inclusion of the new IRP642 within this modification.

Conclusion
<p>Only the following IRPs should be included within the scope of this modification:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • IRP589 'CS02b authentication sequence' • IRP596 'TRANSCOS execution counters' • IRP623 'Read ALCS Event Log values v2' • IRP631 'Table 7 3 8 - Correction of Inconsistency' • IRP642 'Reclarifying trigger for Alert Code 8F69 v0_2'

Should the GBCS v3.x series be end dated?

One Working Group member wanted clarification on whether the plan is to bring GBCS v3.3 alongside GBCS v3.2, or to make GBCS v3.2 obsolete. SECAS advised it would not propose end-dating GBCS v3.2 if an uplift to GBCS v3.3 occurred.

Another Working Group member also questioned if the changes that are coming into effect in the November 2022 SEC Release will warrant an uplift to the GBCS version 3.x series, and when the Installation Validity Periods (IVP) and Maintenance Validity Periods (MVP) will be agreed.

SECAS advised that the Technical Specification versions for the November 2022 SEC Release are yet to be confirmed but that it would consult the industry and the TABASC on the best approach. Since then, SECAS has confirmed there are no changes to the GBCS v3.3 series from other modifications targeted for the November 2022 SEC Release.

The Proposer and a Device manufacturer confirmed that they would not expect any further uplifts to the GBCS v3.x series following the implementation of the two IRPs in question. They added that this modification could be used in part to end-date previous versions of the GBCS v3.x series if a new Sub Version is added to include the IRPs in question. These include GBCS v3.0, v3.1 and v3.2.

TSIRS members also shared the view that older versions of the GBCS v3.x series could be end dated.

SEC Parties were consulted on this element as part of the Refinement Consultation. Neither respondent supported end dating earlier versions so it will not form part of this modification.

IRP 613

In July 2021 the Department for Business, Energy, Industrial & Strategy (BEIS) contacted SECAS with regards to IRP613 'Clarification for binding on rejoin'. BEIS requested that IRP613 was added to the scope of MP143, for inclusion within November 2021 SEC Release. As the issue relates to the imminent release of GBCS v3.2 compliant Communications Hubs, BEIS felt it would be unacceptable to wait until November 2022. This would result in a change to the MP143 implementation, bringing it forward from the November 2022 SEC Release to the November 2021 SEC Release.

The DCC carried out an impact assessment and confirmed that the addition of these IRPs, as well as IRP613, for inclusion within the November 2021 SEC Release could only be done if it received a decision on MP143 by the end of July 2021.

SECAS could not commit to this request due to the timeline constraints. It was not possible to conduct industry consultations, nor fully investigate the possible impact IRP613 may have had on manufactures and the need for Working Group meetings to discuss it. The Proposer did not wish to add this IRP to the scope of this modification and jeopardise the inclusion of the IRPs already in scope for inclusion. BEIS subsequently confirmed that IRP613 will not be introduced into GBCS v3.x and will instead only be added to the GBCS v4.x series, and this will be carried out separately to this modification.

It was clarified during Working Group discussions that implementing IRP613 into the GBCS v3.x series was costly and wouldn't bring benefits as these are impacting Devices already in the field. This modification is aimed to prevent the early removal of Devices in the field that would be non-compliant with CPA recertification. It is expected that any Device that could be upgraded to 4.x series via firmware would be.

8. Case for change

Business case

There are Devices installed in consumer premises that are due to have CPA recertification process. Without the implementation of these IRPs into the GBCS v3.x series they will not be compliant at recertification and will need to be exchanged. One Large Supplier responded to the Refinement Consultation noting that exchange of Devices could cost them more than £100k balanced against the costs of implementation which are £57,514.

If not implemented, the potential Device exchange costs, impacts to consumers who need to have their Device exchanged, and potential scrappage costs would be higher than the cost to implement the modification.

To maximise the benefits, these IRPs need to be implemented as soon as possible so the modification is targeted for the November 2022 SEC Release. A decision is required on this modification by 4 May 2022 if it is to be included within this Release.

Views against the General SEC Objectives

Proposer's views

Objective (a)²

The Proposer believes that this modification will better facilitate SEC Objective (a) as the implementation of the IRPs will reduce the risk of future operational issues arising.

Industry views

The Working Group agreed with the Proposer that this modification will better facilitate SEC Objective (a). Respondents to the Refinement Consultation also agreed with this view.

Views against the consumer areas

Improved safety and reliability

If implemented, this modification will have a neutral impact against this consumer area.

Lower bills than would otherwise be the case

If implemented, this modification will have a neutral impact against this consumer area.

Reduced environmental damage

If implemented, this modification will have a positive impact against this consumer area as potentially non-compliant Devices would not need to have been removed and disposed.

² Facilitate the efficient provision, installation, operation and interoperability of smart metering systems at energy consumers' premises within Great Britain.

Improved quality of service

If implemented, this modification will have a neutral impact against this consumer area.

Benefits for society as a whole

If implemented, this modification will have a neutral impact against this consumer area.

Final conclusions

TABASC views

Subject to the EUA and BEAMA views, the TABASC initially agreed with the views of the DCC and SECAS that an uplift to the GBCS version 3.x series should not occur. However, following consultation with the EAU, BEAMA and the TSIRS, it has become clear manufacturers need to maintain the GBCS version 3.x series to ensure compliance with the CPA. The TABASC subsequently supported proceeding with this modification.

EUA views

The EUA engaged with the Meter Manufacturers (and the other EUA Member group) for feedback to identify what IRPs are critical from their perspective. The response was that there are only two which have a CPA and compliance perspective, which they believe are essential and therefore need to be incorporated in to a GBCS v3.x version.

BEAMA views

BEAMA consulted with its members and reiterated its position that BEAMA currently supports the need for the GBCS 3.x series.

Working Group views

The Working Group was presented with the benefits and potential costs of the modification following the Preliminary Assessment. The Working Group agreed that the modification should progress.

Refinement Consultation

One respondent noted that these IRPs are essential to ensure any Devices, which are built to GBCS v3.x, remain compliant with the GBCS and therefore remain CPA compliant. This would prevent their premature removal.

Another respondent advised that they were supportive of this modification but believed IRP613 also needed to be included. This was clarified during Working Group discussions that the implementing IRP613 into GBCS v3.x series was costly and wouldn't bring benefits as these are impacting Devices already in the field. This modification is aimed at preventing the early removal of Devices in the field that would be non-compliant with CPA recertification.

Appendix 1: Progression timetable

Following the Modification Report Consultation, the modification will be presented to the Change Board for vote under Self-Governance on 20 April 2022.

Timetable	
Event/Action	Date
Draft Proposal raised	18 Sep 2020
Presented to CSC for initial comment	29 Sep 2020
Modification discussed with Working Group	6 Jan 2021
Modification discussed with TABASC	4 Feb 2021
Modification discussed with EUA	16 Feb 2021
Modification discussed with BEAMA	Apr 2021
Modification discussed with Working Group	7 Jul 2021
DCC Preliminary Assessment requested	7 Sep 2021
Preliminary Assessment discussed with Working Group	1 Dec 2021
Refinement Consultation	7 Dec 2021 – 4 Jan 2022
Refinement Consultation responses discussed with Working Group	5 Jan 2022
Preliminary Assessment discussed with TABASC	6 Jan 2022
Impact Assessment requested	26 Jan 2022
Impact Assessment returned	9 Mar 2022
Impact Assessment discussed with TABASC	7 Apr 2022
Modification Report approved by CSC	7 Apr 2022
Modification Report Consultation	8 Apr – 14 Apr 2022
Change Board vote	20 Apr 2022

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
ALCS	Auxiliary Load Control Switch
APC	Auxiliary Proportionate Control
BEAMA	British Electrotechnical and Allied Manufacturers Association
BEIS	Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy
CHTS	Communication Hub Technical Specification
CoS	Change of Supplier
CPA	Commercial Product Assurance
CPL	Central Products List

Glossary	
Acronym	Full term
CSC	Change Sub-Committee
CSP	Communications Service Provider
DCC	Data Communications Company
DLMS	Device Language Message Specification
DSP	Data Service Provider
ESME	Electricity Smart Metering Equipment
EUA	Energy and Utilities Alliance
GBCS	Great Britain Companion Specification
HAN	Home Area Network
HCALCS	HAN Connected Auxiliary Load Control Switch
IHD	In Home Display
IRP	Issue Resolution Proposal
IVP	Installation Validity Period
MAP	Meter Asset Provider
MVP	Maintenance Validity Period
PIT	Pre-Integration Testing
PPMID	Prepayment Meter Interface Device
SEC	Smart Energy Code
SECAS	Smart Energy Code Administrator and Secretariat
SIT	System Integration Testing
SMETS	Smart Metering Equipment Technical Specifications
TABASC	Technical Architecture and Business Architecture Sub-Committee
TSAT	Technical Specifications Applicability Tables
TSIRS	Technical Specification Issue Resolution Sub-group
UIT	User Integration Testing