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DP145

‘Align SEC Documentation with DCC Solution for SR8.3 Decommission Device’

Modification Report

Version 0.1

15 October 2020



Managed by



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 Chun Chen from the Data Communications Company (DCC).

Currently Smart Energy Code (SEC) Sections A 'Definitions and Interpretation' and H 'DCC Services' conflict with the DCC design for Service Request (SR) 8.3 (Decommission Device). As it stands, a Communications Hub which forms part of a Smart Metering System (SMS) can only be removed and returned by a Responsible Supplier Party. If a Communications Hub is no longer part of an SMS, then it no longer has a Responsible Supplier as per its definition in SEC Section A, and which leads to further contradictions in SEC Section H.

2. Issue

What are the current arrangements?

Any eligible Supplier Party holding either Import Supplier or Gas Supplier User Role can decommission a Communications Hub that does not have any Electricity Smart Metering Equipment (ESME) or Gas Smart Metering Equipment (GSME) Devices associated with it by sending an SR8.3. This is designed to support Supplier Parties in two scenarios:

Scenario 1 - Faulty Communications Hub

If a Communications Hub is commissioned by the installer on site but the installer failed to add a meter to the Communications Hub device log using SR8.11 (Update Home Area Network (HAN) Device Log) no meter point association would be given. In this situation, the Supplier Party is expected to use SR8.3 to decommission the Communications Hub before returning it to the DCC.

Scenario 2 - Removal of a meter and the Communications Hub from consumer premises

In this scenario, both the meter and Communications Hub are commissioned, but the Supplier Party wishes to remove both the meter and the Communications Hub from consumer premises. In this case, the Supplier Party's current business process is to remove the meter from the Communications Hub Device log first, and then decommission the meter. This process will remove the meter point association for the Communications Hub. The Supplier will decommission the Communications Hub using the SR8.3 as the final step.

In both scenarios, the current DCC design will support the Supplier Party's business process to decommission a Communications Hub, even when the Communications Hub never had, or currently does not have, any ESME or GSME Devices associated with it.

What is the issue?

What is currently written in the SEC conflicts with this DCC design in SEC Sections A 'Definitions and Interpretation' and H 'DCC Services', the exact areas are detailed below:

- SEC Section A states a Responsible Supplier *‘means in respect of a Smart Metering System (or any Device forming, or intended to form, part of a Smart Metering System) which relates to:*
 - *(a) an MPAN, the Import Supplier for that Smart Metering System; and/or*
 - *(b) an MPRN, the Gas Supplier for that Smart Metering System.’*

which as the Communications Hub is not part of the SMS, this means that a Communications Hub would have no Responsible Supplier in this situation.

- SEC Section H states in H6.2 that *‘Only the Responsible Supplier(s) for a Communications Hub Function, Smart Meter, Gas Proxy Function or Type 1 Device may Decommission such a Device’*. Due to the issue outlined above in SEC Section A, this means due to there not being a Responsible Supplier for the Communications Hub, this means the Communications Hub would not be able to be decommissioned; and
- SEC Section H states in H6.3 that *‘Where a Responsible Supplier (or, in the case of a SMETS1 CHF, the Lead Supplier) becomes aware that a Device has been uninstalled and/or is no longer operating, that User shall send a Service Request requesting that it is Decommissioned.’*. The issue here is that as the Supplier Party will not be an eligible User to send out the SR 8.3 to decommission the Device. It also contradicts a joint User and DCC requirement to follow the Service Request Processing Document as stated in H4.2 where *‘Each User and the DCC shall each comply with the applicable obligations set out in the Service Request Processing Document concerning the secure processing of the communications required to be sent via the DCC User Interface’*.

What is the impact this is having?

Without this clarification of the current DCC Systems, the DCC System will be non-compliant to what is currently stated in the SEC.

However, changing the validation rule of SR8.3 to align with the SEC will potentially break Supplier Party's current business processes, and leave a number of Communications Hub units that cannot be decommissioned by any Supplier Party and as a result could not be returned.

Appendix 1: Progression timetable

The Draft Proposal was raised on 15 October 2020 and will be taken to the Change Sub Committee (CSC) meeting on 27 October 2020 for initial comment. Following this, the Draft Proposal will be taken to the Panel Sub Committees of the Technical Architecture and Business Architecture Sub Committee (TABASC), Security Sub Committee (SSC) and the Operations Group. It will then be returned to the CSC at the meeting on 24 November 2020.

Timetable	
Event/Action	Date
Draft Proposal raised	14 Oct 20
Presented to CSC for initial comment	27 Oct 20
Sub Committee input given	5 Nov – 13 Nov 20
Presented to CSC for decision	24 Nov 20
Presented to Panel for conversion to Modification Proposal	11 Dec 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
CHF	Communications Hub function
CSC	Change Sub Committee
DCC	Data Communications Company
ESME	Electricity Smart Metering Equipment
GSME	Gas Smart Metering Equipment
HAN	Home Area Network
MPAN	Meter Point Administration Number
MPRN	Meter Point Reference Number
SEC	Smart Energy Code
SMETS1	Smart Metering Equipment Technical Specifications 1
SMS	Smart Metering System
SR	Service Request
SSC	Security Sub Committee
TABASC	Technical Architecture and Business Architecture Sub Committee