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DP146 'SM WAN Coverage Date'

Modification Report

Version 0.1

16 October 2020

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.

Contents

1. Summary.....	3
2. Issue.....	3
Appendix 1: Progression timetable	5
Appendix 2: Glossary	5

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1. Summary

This proposal has been raised by Clare Stapley from the Data Communications Company (DCC).

The DCC are required to provide information to Parties via the Self Service Interface (SSI) regarding the Smart Metering Wide Area Network (SM WAN) availability for SMETS1 and SMETS2 Devices. The requirement as set out in Smart energy Code (SEC) Section H is to provide information on if and when the SM WAN will be available and specifically references 1 January 2021. This date is used as when the Smart Meter Implementation Programme began, roll out was due to be completed by the end of 2020. However, target completion of roll out has subsequently been delayed.

Some Users systems may use a hardcoded date of 1 January 2021 within their business process which may cause issue for them now the date is no longer relevant. In addition, some DCC reporting and Self-Service Interface (SSI) functionality currently uses 1 January 2021 date which in turn may impact DCC Users using those reports.

2. Issue

What are the current arrangements?

SEC Section H8.16 requires the DCC to provide information on the Wide Area Network (WAN) availability for SMETS1 and SMETS2 Devices.

- (f) any and all information in respect of the SMETS1 SM WAN as the DCC is required to make available under the Self-Service Interface Access Control Specification and the SSI Baseline Requirements Document, which shall be made available to all Users; and the following information in respect of the SMETS2+ SM WAN, which shall be available to all Users (and which shall be capable of interrogation by post code and postal outcode):
 - (i) whether a Communications Hub Function installed in a premises at any given location:
 - (A) is expected to be able to connect to the SM WAN;
 - (B) is expected to be able to connect to the SM WAN from a particular date before 1 January 2021, in which case the date shall be specified; or
 - (C) cannot be confirmed as being able to connect to the SM WAN before 1 January 2021;

Currently, the DCC logic for the Central and South Regions Communication Service Provider (CSP) is as follows:

- If a premises already has a WAN coverage, then the parameter availability on the CH device is set at 'True' and the WAN availability date is empty.
- If the premises do not have any WAN coverage, but CSP plan to cover with a future network build in the next few months then the WAN availability on the CH is set to 'False' and the availability date will be populated .
- If the premises do not have any WAN coverage and there is no plan in place to provide WAN coverage, then the WAN availability on the CH is set to 'False' and the availability date will be empty. This will remain empty until six weeks before the date of coverage is being provided, after which the availability date will be populated.

What is the issue?

The issue is based on the current arrangements used in the Central and South Region, DCC Service Users will start to see WAN availability date beyond 1 January 2021 in particular for new build properties and in areas where there is no network coverage. This will go beyond the 1 January 2021 limitation date stated in the SEC.

The DCC is therefore proposing to change the SEC and amend the Soft Ware (SW) WAN availability coverage date and extend this to 1 January 2029. This date is after the termination of the contract DCC have with the CSP for Central and South Region.

What is the impact this is having?

The current arrangements have implications to DCC Users whose systems use hardcoded date of 1 January 2021 within their business process as well as in DCC reporting and Self-Service Interface (SSI) functionality. It is worth noting DCC users are all dependant on these reports which will reflect the hardcoded date of 1 January 2021.

Appendix 1: Progression timetable

This Draft Proposal was raised on 6 October 2020, the Proposal will be taken to the Change Sub-Committee (CSC) for initial comment and decision on 27 October 2020. From there, if the CSC approves that it is an issue, it will be then taken to Panel on 13 November 2020 for conversion to a Modification Proposal.

Timetable	
Event/Action	Date
Draft Proposal raised	16 Oct 2020
Presented to CSC for initial comment	27 Oct 2020
Presented to Panel for conversion	13 Nov 2020
Working Group	2 Dec 2020
Refinement consultation	9 Dec - 30 Dec 2020
Modification Report approved by Panel	15 Jan 2021

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
CSC	Change Sub Committee
CSP	Communication Service Provider
DCC	Data Communications Company
SEC	Smart Energy Code
SM	Smart Meter
SMETS1	Smart Metering Equipment Technical Specifications 1
SMETS2	Smart Metering Equipment Technical Specifications 2
SSI	Self Service Interface
SW	Soft Ware
WAN	Wide Area Network