SEC
Smart Energy Code

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Smart Energy Code

DP178

‘Removing DSP validation against the SMI join status for SR8.8.x’

Modification Report

Version 0.1

15 July 2021

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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 David Walsh on behalf of the Data Communications Company (DCC).

An issue has been brought to the DCC's attention whereby the on-site Device Installation and Commission (I&C) process fails when the Data Service Provider (DSP) does not receive successful messages for joins of Service Reference Variants (SRVs) 8.7.x. This prevents the Service User from being able to send an Unjoin command as the business validation on the SRV 8.8.1 'Unjoin Service (Critical)' or 8.8.2 'Unjoin Service (Non-Critical)' commands check that a Device is joined to the Smart Metering Inventory (SMI) to allow it to be un-joined. This results in Devices failing the I&C process which must then be fixed by manually updating the SMI database.

2. Issue

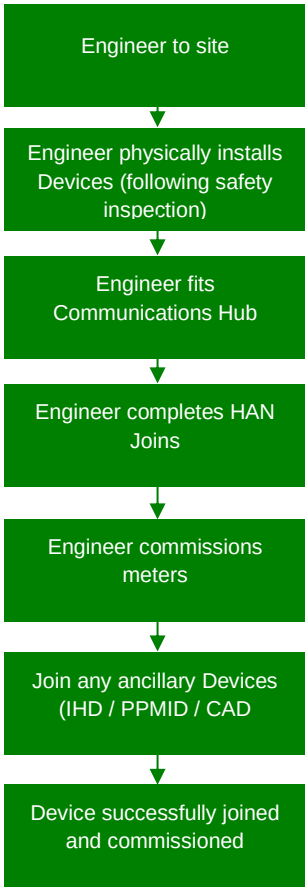
What are the current arrangements?

It has been reported by Suppliers to the DCC that the on-site I&C process for Devices can fail where the DSP does not receive successful messages for joins of SRVs 8.7.x. For example, there may be problems joining a Consumer Access Device (CAD) to an Electricity Smart Metering Equipment (ESME).

When this occurs, currently, the only way to complete the I&C process is a manual update of the SMI database. This is completed by the DCC at a cost of £2,000 per update. This is because:

- it is not possible to continue the I&C process by retrying the Join; and/or
- a high percentage of the meters are not Great Britain Companion Specification (GBCS) compliant and will reject the retry of the Join command (SR8.7.x) if a previous Join was already successfully completed.

The flow diagram below sets out the current step-by-step procedure of the on-site Device I&C process:



What is the issue?

Since August 2020 there have been four cases (across different Suppliers) where the response to the SR 8.7.2 'Join Service (Non-Critical)' is not received by the DSP despite the join working within the ESME. Hence, the Service User is unable to send an Unjoin command as the business validation on the SRV 8.8.1 'Unjoin Service (Critical)' or 8.8.2 'Unjoin Service (Non-Critical)' commands check that only Devices joined in the SMI may be un-joined.

Note that SRV 8.8.1 is used with Critical commands, while SRV 8.8.2 is used with non-Critical commands.

There are instances where if the Service User sends SR 8.7.2 again to the ESME then this will pass through the DSP, but it is then rejected at the ESME as it is already joined.

Smart Energy Code (SEC) Schedule 8 'GB Companion Specification' (GBCS) mandates that Devices should accept a re-send of the SR 8.7.x 'Join Service' command, even if the Device is already joined (for example, it is already in the Device Log).

The DSP currently updates the SMI and sets up the join relationship depending on the response to the Join command.

As part of the Unjoin command, SRV 8.8.2 validates the SMI join relationship. For example, the system only allows the Unjoin command (SR 8.8.x) if Devices are already joined to each other, otherwise the DSP will reject the Service Request with the following error code:

DCC User Interface Specification	
Response Code	**Response Code Description**
E080801	According to the DCC Systems Smart Metering Inventory the 'Other Device' is not joined to the Business TargetID Device

It should be noted that there are no Smart Metering Technical Specifications (SMETS), GBCS, Security or any other SEC requirement mandating that the DSP must apply such validation other than what is defined in the DCC User Interface Specification (DUIS).

What is the impact this is having?

If the issue identified under this proposal is not addressed, there will be:

- Further I&C failures; and
- an ongoing cost to manually correct the SMI database to allow Users to reuse any Devices.

Each manual database correction is charged to the DCC at an average of £2,000. Any firmware fixes of meter defects normally take more than 12 months to deploy.

There have been four incidents with this problem since August 2020, and further incidents are expected.

Impact on consumers

If the issue is left unresolved, consumers will be left with Devices that have not been commissioned and are therefore not providing smart functionality.

Appendix 1: Progression timetable

This Draft Proposal was raised on 15 July 2021. SECAS will present this Draft Proposal to the Change Sub-Committee (CSC) for initial comment on 27 July 2021 before presenting it to the relevant Sub-Committees.

Timetable	
Event/Action	**Date**
Draft Proposal raised	15 Jul 2021
Presented to CSC for initial comment	27 Jul 2021
Problem Statement discussed with Sub-Committees	Aug 2021
Request for information issued to industry	Aug 2021
Presented to CSC for final comment and decision	28 Sep 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**
CAD	Consumer Access Device
CSC	Change Sub-Committee
DCC	Data Communications Company
DSP	Data Service Provider
DUIS	DCC User Interface Specification
ESME	Electricity Smart Metering Equipment
GBCS	Great Britain Companion Specification
I&C	Installation & Commission
IHD	In Home Display
PPMID	Prepayment Meter Interface Device
SEC	Smart Energy Code
SMETS	Smart Metering Equipment Technical Specifications
SRV	Service Reference Variant
SR	Service Request