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# MP157 'Removal of DUIS v1.1 and v2.0'

## Modification Report

Version 1.0

30 June 2021

Corporate member of  
Plain English Campaign  
Committed to clearer  
communication

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## About this document

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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 one annex:

- **Annex A** contains the redlined changes to the Smart Energy Code (SEC) required to deliver the Proposed Solution.

## Contact

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## 1. Summary

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This proposal has been raised by Helen Metcalfe from the Data Communications Company (DCC).

[MP080 'Managing DUIS uplifts'](#), implemented as part of the November 2019 SEC Release, added DCC User Interface Specification (DUIS) Versions and an 'end date' for these Versions to the Technical Specification Applicability Tables (TSAT). Currently in the SEC, the TSAT still displays DUIS versions 1.1 and 2.0 as available for use as there is no definition of 'end date' for the DUIS. The definitions associated with the end dates and the removal of DCC support need to be made clear, so DCC Users understand the need to uplift to higher DUIS versions.

The Proposed Solution is to amend the TSAT so that it is clear to Users that DUIS v1.1 and v2.0 are no longer supported in the SEC beyond the End dates stated. This solution will be fully clarifying the intent of MP080, which was introduced to manage DUIS uplifts by introducing end dates. This will be achieved by amending the DUIS table to have a Maintenance Start Date and Maintenance End Date to determine whether a DUIS version is within its Maintenance Validity Period (MVP). If approved this means that DUIS Versions should no longer be used after the specified Maintenance End Date and can be removed from the TSAT in order to reduce complexity and testing costs. This change automatically applies to SEC Appendix AF 'Message Mapping Catalogue' (MMC) also.

This proposal has no associated DCC costs although SEC Parties that are DCC Users will incur costs in uplifting to a newer DUIS Version. However, uplifting to a newer DUIS Version will be necessary at some point for all Users. If approved, this Modification Proposal will be implemented in the November 2021 SEC Release under Self-Governance.

## 2. Issue

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### What are the current arrangements?

[MP080 'Managing DUIS uplifts'](#) was implemented as part of the November 2019 SEC Release. It added DUIS Versions to the TSAT to give clarity to Users around which Versions were supported by the DCC. As part of this it was noted that DUIS versions 1.1 and 2.0 would, at a later stage, be removed so that DCC Users would migrate to DUIS version 3.0 or higher. This would ensure that coverage for all Smart Meter Equipment Technical Specification (SMETS) 1 and SMETS2 Devices would be guaranteed. It was acknowledged that two supported DUIS Versions would be expected to run at any one time.

### What is the issue?

Currently in the SEC, the TSAT still displays DUIS versions 1.1 and 2.0 as available for use as the definition of the End date specifically related to DUIS is not clear. This could lead to confusion for DCC Users.

## What is the impact this is having?

Any User still using a version of DUIS after its specified end date may not be able to use the DCC System to submit Service Requests. Users need to be aware of the significance of the DUIS version end date to ensure they allow sufficient time to uplift to a newer version of DUIS.

### Impact on consumers

There is no direct impact on consumers.

## 3. Solution

### Proposed Solution

The Proposed Solution is to amend the SEC to ensure a clear definition of the DUIS 'end date' by aligning it with the Maintenance End Date which is applicable to the Maintenance Validity Period (MVP).

This will be achieved by amending the DUIS table to have a Maintenance Start Date and Maintenance End Date to determine whether a DUIS version is within its MVP. DUIS versions will therefore be included into the MVP definition entries in SEC Section A 'Definitions and Interpretation'. These rules will also allow an older DUIS version to be removed following Section A3.23 where it states that once the MVP for a version has expired, it will be removed from the SEC the next working day.

This solution will be carrying out the intent of MP080, which was introduced to manage DUIS uplifts by introducing end dates.

## 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

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All SEC Parties that are DCC Users will no longer be able to use DUIS versions when the Maintenance End Date has passed. Specifically, this will apply to DUIS version 1.1 and 2.0 after the Modification Proposal's implementation date. Instead, they will have to uplift to a DUIS Version which has not passed its Maintenance End Date as specified in the TSAT.

## **DCC System**

There are no impacts on DCC Systems.

## **SEC and subsidiary documents**

The following parts of the SEC will be impacted:

- Section A 'Definition and Interpretation'
- Schedule 11 'Technical Specification Applicability Table'

The changes to the SEC required to deliver the Proposed Solution can be found in Annex A.

## **Technical specification versions**

DUIS versions 1.1 and 2.0 will be affected by having Maintenance End Dates beyond which they cannot be used and this will apply to other DUIS versions as and when appropriate Maintenance End Dates have been included in the TSAT.

## **Consumers**

Consumers will not be impacted by this proposal.

## **Other industry Codes**

No other industry Code is impacted by this proposal.

## **Greenhouse gas emissions**

Greenhouse gas emissions are unaffected by this proposal.

# **5. Costs**

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## **DCC costs**

There are no DCC costs associated with this proposal.

## SECAS costs

The estimated Smart Energy Code Administrator and Secretariat (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

SEC Parties should not have a cost associated with this proposal, providing they have uplifted to DUIS version 3.0 or higher. If they have not uplifted from DUIS version 1.1 or Version 2.0 they will need to do this by the implementation date. Whilst this will likely incur some costs it is a necessary part of the development of smart metering.

# 6. Implementation approach

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## Agreed implementation approach

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

- **4 November 2021** (November 2021 SEC Release) if a decision to approve is received on or before 21 October 2021; or
- **10 Working Days following approval** if a decision to approve is received after 21 October 2021.

SECAS believes that the implementation date of 4 November 2021 (November 2021 SEC Release) is the ideal time due to the Maintenance End dates for DUIS v1.1 and v2.0 being set at 26 November 2021. If the cut-off date for a decision is passed, then it is important that this modification is implemented as soon as possible to ensure the definitions are clear for the dates in the TSAT.

# 7. Assessment of the proposal

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## Observations on the issue

### CSC's views

When taken for initial comment to the CSC, the members had no comments on it other than because it facilitates the previously approved MP080 it should proceed to implement the required changes clarify the definition of End date for DUIS v1.1 and v2.0 in the SEC.

### TABASC's views

When the Draft Proposal was taken to the Technical Architecture and Business Architecture Sub Committee (TABASC), members were asked about any impacts or considerations that should be

noted in its development. The TABASC Chair enquired into what changes would be made, stating that MP080, whilst implementing an end date for the DUIS versions, had yet to specifically define the end dates in SEC Section A 'Interpretation and Definitions'. SECAS noted that any change made under this proposal would include definitions of the DUIS end dates.

TABASC members also asked whether there would be a concrete deadline beyond which DUIS v1.1 and v2.0 would no longer be able to be used, or if there would be any transitional period for Users to uplift to the newer versions. SECAS stated the Proposer favoured a definitive end date to be codified in the SEC, with transition to have taken place prior to the end date for those DUIS versions where the end date is set at 26 November 2021.

### Solution development

The Proposed Solution will be enacting changes approved by a previous Modification Proposal. The solution therefore didn't require development outside of how best to deliver the proposed changes. Legal text development initially included the definition of a 'Supported Period' but feedback from the TABASC and the TABASC Chair amongst others highlighted that this did not add clarity. This was therefore changed to include the definition of the end date to align with the definition of the Maintenance End Date. It was felt that this was clearer since DCC Users were already familiar with the Maintenance End Date and it was already defined in Section A. Therefore, only a simple extension of the definition was required.

The TABASC also reviewed the proposed legal text and was content that it delivers the clarifications required to fully deliver the MP080 solution.

### Support for Change

The CSC emphasised its support for the proposal due to it facilitating the objective from MP080 to remove DUIS v1.1 and v2.0 from the TSAT at the time of the November 2021 SEC Release.

The TABASC is supportive of the change and agreed the legal text delivers the required definitions.

Under MP080 Parties supported the approach of end-dating older DUIS Versions as reducing the regression testing costs associated with these would be beneficial for industry as a whole.

The Operations Group reviewed the Draft Proposal and believed the solution was fit for purpose and supported its conversion to a Modification Proposal and progressing. One Operations Group member noted questions surrounding the guidance that would need to accompany the proposal. In particular, they wanted details around how consultations would happen for industry to agree on when a DUIS version would be removed, the notice period being sufficient for SEC Parties and what would happen in the event of a User trying to use a version of DUIS that had passed its Maintenance End Date. SECAS stated that the notice period would be at least 12 months for any DUIS version having a Maintenance End Date, citing Small Suppliers who had informed SECAS that they would be able to uplift to a new version in that time, provided a year was given for them to transition over. SECAS also stated that the method of consultation would be brought forward as part of a Modification Proposal, and that this change would allow industry input if there was any reason to delay adding a Maintenance End Date for a DUIS version looking to be removed. The SECAS technical expert present at the meeting stated that an error message would be returned in the event of a User trying to send a request on a version of DUIS that had exceeded the Maintenance End Date. SECAS confirmed it was less likely this event would happen, as all parties should have uplifted away from a DUIS version that is due to be end dated by the Release that end dating takes place.

When the Draft Proposal returned to the CSC for decision, it was approved for conversion to a Modification Proposal and to proceed to the Report Phase. One CSC member wanted to note concerns around the guidance and whether this would address the queries raised in the Operations Group meeting concerning the notice period, how the consultations would operate and what would happen if a User sent a request through an expired version of DUIS. Another CSC member stated they believed an error message would be returned if they used a DUIS version that the DCC had stopped using, and added that a SEC Party shouldn't be on the expired version of DUIS if sufficient notice had been given. SECAS confirmed this, adding that 12 months was the planned notice period to be set out in guidance, rather than codified into the SEC, and that new SEC Modifications would be needed to issue the required consultation and to end date the affected DUIS version.

## Views against the General SEC Objectives

### Proposer's views

The Proposer believes that general SEC Objectives (a)<sup>1</sup> and (g)<sup>2</sup> are better facilitated by this proposal. SEC Objective (a) is improved by having all Users confirmed as having moved to DUIS v3.0 or higher, which can communicate with both SMETS1 and SMETS2 Devices, thereby reducing chance of operational issues. SEC Objective (g) is improved by the SEC becoming more transparent as to which DUIS Versions are available for use. Eventually references to Versions that have passed their Maintenance End Date can be removed from the SEC.

## Views against the consumer areas

This proposal is neutral against the consumer areas.

### Improved safety and reliability

The proposal is neutral is against this consumer area.

### Lower bills than would otherwise be the case

The proposal is neutral is against this consumer area.

### Reduced environmental damage

The proposal is neutral is against this consumer area.

### Improved quality of service

The proposal is neutral is against this consumer area.

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<sup>1</sup> Facilitate the efficient provision, installation, operation and interoperability of smart metering systems at energy consumers' premises within Great Britain.

<sup>2</sup> Facilitate the efficient and transparent administration and implementation of the SEC.



## Benefits for society as a whole

The proposal is neutral is against this consumer area.

## Appendix 1: Progression timetable

The Draft Proposal was converted to a Modification Proposal at the CSC on 29 June 2021 and will proceed directly to Modification Report Consultation on 30 June 2021. From there, it will proceed to the Change Board on 28 Jul 2021 for decision.

Timetable	
Event/Action	Date
Draft Proposal raised	22 Mar 2021
Presented to CSC for initial comment	30 Mar 2021
Discussed with Panel Sub-Committees for initial comment	6 Apr 2021 – 4 May 2021
Presented to TABASC	3 Jun 2021
Presented to Operations Group	28 Jun 2021
Presented to CSC for conversion to Modification Proposal	29 Jun 2021
Modification Report Consultation	30 Jun 2021 – 19 Jul 2021
Change Board vote	28 Jul 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
CSC	Change Sub-Committee
DCC	Data Communications Company
DUIS	DCC User Interface Specification
MMC	Message Mapping Catalogue
MRC	Modification Report Consultation
MVP	Maintenance Validity Period
SEC	Smart Energy Code
SECAS	Smart Energy Code Administrator and Secretariat
SMETS	Smart Metering Equipment Technical Specifications
TABASC	Technical Architecture and Business Architecture Sub Committee
TSAT	Technical Specification Applicability Table