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MP194

‘Incorporation of Category 2 Issue Resolution Proposals into the SEC – Batch 7’

Modification Report

Version 0.2

21 February 2022



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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This document also has three 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 Communication Company (DCC) Preliminary Assessment response.

Contact

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1. Summary

This proposal has been raised by Terry Jefferson from the Energy and Utilities Alliance (EUA).

Issue Resolution Proposals (IRPs) identify and resolve issues in the Technical Specifications documents of the SEC. The Technical Specification Issue Resolution Sub-group (TSIRS) has determined all solutions and has requested these be progressed as a Modification Proposal for implementation into the SEC. Implementation of this IRP will ensure Devices operate as they are intended.

The DCC has performed an initial assessment of this IRP and consider it to be non-DCC System impacting but will require DCC System testing. This change will require a Preliminary Assessment and is expected to have DCC costs associated with its implementation.

The Proposed Solution is to update the Great Britain Companion Specification (GBCS) Table 10.6.2.4 clarify that the Event is created following the reception of a CCS01 Command.

The DCC's Preliminary Assessment indicates that implementation will cost up to £150,000, with a lead time of six weeks for Design, Build and Pre-Integration Testing (PIT). If approved, this modification is targeted for the June 2023 SEC Release.

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

The Technical Architecture and Business Architecture Sub-Committee (TABASC) disagreed that this solution resolved the issue. They also noted that the issue was not affecting SEC Parties and advised that it should be returned to TSIRS for further consideration. At the TSIRS meeting 10 February 2022 it was agreed that the IRP617 should be withdrawn.

The Proposer therefore agreed to withdraw this modification.

2. Issue

What are the current arrangements?

IRPs identify issues within the SEC Technical Specification documents and put forward a solution to the identified problem. In the early stages of the Smart Metering Implementation Program (SMIP), the Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy (BEIS) took the lead in developing the SEC Technical Specifications. As part of this, BEIS also took responsibility for receiving and responding to issues raised internally, by the DCC, and by other interested parties. Since its inception, several hundred issues have been raised in relation to Technical Specifications through the TSIRS. In some cases, these queries have been resolved by providing an explanation of the Specifications, whilst others have resulted in proposed amendments to the Specifications in the form of IRPs. The IRP solutions identified to have been developed by the TSIRS.

What is the issue?

The IRP included in this proposal, listed below, requires changes to the GBGS with initial key impacts identified in the table below.

The individual IRP details for this modification can be found on the Smart Energy Code Administrator and Secretariat (SECAS) website link [here](#) under document name 'MP194 - IRP Details'. This document reflects the issue, background information and details of the solution that has been discussed and agreed at TSIRS. They are an integral part of the SEC modification.

IRP617

GBCS Table 10.6.2.4 requires that certain actions are taken by a Dual Band Communications Hub (DBCH) on the occurrence of a 'No More Sub Gigahertz (GHz) Device Capacity' event. The event shall occur when:

- a Device is added to the Communications Hub Function (CHF) Device Log which is not Gas Smart Metering Equipment (GSME) or Home Area Network (HAN) Connected Auxiliary Load Control Switch (HCALCS);
- there are already four Devices in the CHF Device Log, which are not HCALCS or GSME, that joined the Smart Meter Home Area Network (SMHAN) on a Sub GHz frequency; and
- the Device added then attempts to join the SMHAN on a Sub GHz frequency.

For the DBCH to detect this event, the Device Type of the Device being added to the CHF Device Log must be known before that Device attempts to join. Normally, this is the case because the Command to add a Device to the CHF Device Log includes the Device Type of the added Device. The proposed changes to GBCS Table 10.6.2.4 clarify that the Event is created following the reception of a CCS01 Command.

What is the impact this is having?

Without this clarification, there is confusion as to when this Event should be detected. The above criteria for this Event can also be met during a DBCH exchange. In these instances, the SEC Party would attempt a 'CCS03 Restore Device Log' Command to re-add those Devices to the new DBCH. The Devices would not be able to be paired and the Event would not be generated. The SEC Party would not be able to quickly identify how to resolve the issue to restore the Devices.

Impact on consumers

As the criteria for the Event can be met during a DBCH exchange, but the Event would not be generated, installers may spend more time troubleshooting when re-adding the consumer's existing Devices to the new DBCH. This clarification will aid installers in troubleshooting during a DBCH exchange.

3. Solution

The proposed changes to GBCS Table 10.6.2.4 clarify that the Event is created following the reception of a CCS01 Command.

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

Although Suppliers and Device Manufacturers are not directly affected by the modification, they will be impacted by an uplift to the GBCS.

DCC System

Although the IRP within this Modification Proposal is non-DCC System impacting, an uplift to the GBCS version 4.x series will mean the Data Service Provider (DSP) needs to make changes to their system to recognise the new version as valid.

The Communications Service Providers (CSPs) impacts are limited to documentation changes and integration testing as part of System Integration Testing (SIT).

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

SEC and subsidiary documents

The following parts of the SEC will be impacted:

- SEC Schedule 8 'Great Britain Companion Specification'
- Schedule 11 'TS Applicability Tables'

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 4.x series.

Consumers

Consumers will not be directly affected by the modification, however indirectly this modification would impact them as Suppliers would save time troubleshooting when carrying out a DBCH exchange that meets the criteria of this edge case.

Other industry Codes

This modification will not have an impact on any other Industry Codes.

Greenhouse gas emissions

There will be no direct impact from this modification, however indirectly this would lead to a reduction in Devices being disposed.

5. Costs

DCC costs

The estimated DCC implementation costs to implement this modification is £0 - £150,000. The breakdown of these costs are as follows:

Breakdown of DCC implementation costs	
Activity	Cost
Design, Build and Pre-Integration Testing (PIT)	£0 - £150,000
Systems Integration Testing (SIT)	TBC
User Integration Testing (UIT)	TBC
Implement to Live	TBC
Application Support	TBC

The DCC has noted that whilst there will be additional costs for SIT and UIT, these are not expected to take the costs for the modification outside of the range provided above.

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

SECAS costs

The estimated Smart Energy Code Administrator and Secretariat (SECAS) implementation cost to implement this as a stand-alone modification is one day of effort, amounting to approximately £600. This cost will be reassessed when combining this modification in a scheduled SEC Release. The activities needed to be undertaken for this are:

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

SEC Party costs

Views of SEC Parties will be gained during the Refinement Consultation.

6. Implementation approach

Recommended implementation approach

SECAS is recommending an implementation date of:

- **29 June 2023** (June 2023 SEC Release) if a decision to approve is received on or before 29 June 2022; or
- **7 November 2024** (November 2024 SEC Release) if a decision to approve is received after 29 June 2022 but on or before 7 November 2023.

The technical specifications are usually only uplifted once per year, with the next scheduled uplift this modification could aim for is the June 2023 SEC Release. It is estimated that the 2024 Release schedule will contain the technical specification uplifts within the November SEC Release.

7. Assessment of the proposal

Observations on the issue

Sub-Committee views

The Change Sub-Committee (CSC) agreed the issue was clear and should proceed to Refinement with a view to being implemented.

The TABASC questioned the scale of this issue, noting that there were very few DBCHs in the field.

A Working Group member also questioned whether this was a genuine issue and whether any money at all should be spent on progressing. No members of the Working Group identified that this was an issue that was occurring for them.

Solution development

The issues and the solutions have been discussed and agreed upon by the TSIRS. Although the TSIRS is a BEIS led group, various SEC Parties are represented. The TSIRS agreed the solutions and agreed they should be implemented into the SEC. Please note, no business case analysis is performed by the TSIRS.

Support for Change

TABASC views

The TABASC Chair questioned whether the solution identified fixed the issue that was presented, noting that a solution should be to stop the failure of restoring Devices, rather than clarifying when an Event is expected. They also noted that the issue was not affecting SEC Parties.

Working Group views

The Working Group noted the costs in the Preliminary Assessment and provided no further comment.

TSIRS views

The TABASC requested that the IRP be returned to TSIRS for further consideration. At the TSIRS meeting 10 February 2022 it was agreed that the IRP617 should be withdrawn. As this modification was only aimed at implementing IRP617 the Proposer has agreed to withdraw this modification.

Business Case

A Working Group member questioned whether this was a genuine issue and whether any money at all should be spent on progressing. No members of the Working Group identified that this was an issue that was occurring for them.

Views against the General SEC Objectives

Proposer's views

The Proposer believes that this modification will better facilitate SEC Objective (a)¹ as the implementation of the IRPs will reduce the risk of future operational issues arising.

Industry views

Industry views will be sought during the Refinement Consultation.

Views against the consumer areas

Improved safety and reliability

This change is neutral in this area.

Lower bills than would otherwise be the case

This change is neutral in this area.

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

Reduced environmental damage

This change is neutral in this area.

Improved quality of service

This change is neutral in this area

Benefits for society as a whole

This change is neutral in this area.

Appendix 1: Progression timetable

This modification has now been withdrawn.

Timetable	
Event/Action	Date
Draft Proposal raised	23 Nov 2021
Draft Proposal converted to Modification Proposal	30 Nov 2021
Preliminary Assessment requested	6 Dec 2021
Modification discussed with Working Group	2 Feb 2022
Modification discussed with the TABASC	3 Feb 2022
Modification withdrawn	21 Feb 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
BEIS	Department of Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy
CHF	Communications Hub Function
CSC	Change Sub-Committee
CSP	Communications Service Provider
DBCH	Dual Band Communications Hub
DCC	Data Communications Company
DSP	Data Service Provider

Glossary	
Acronym	Full term
EUA	Energy and Utilities Alliance
GBCS	Great Britain Companion Specification
GHz	Gigahertz
GSME	Gas Smart Metering Equipment
HAN	Home Area Network
HCALCS	HAN Connected Auxiliary Load Control Switch
IRP	Issue Resolution Proposals
PIT	Pre-Integration Testing
SEC	Smart Energy Code
SECAS	Smart Energy Code Administrator and Secretariat
SIT	System Integration Testing
SMHAN	Smart Meter Home Area Network
SMIP	Smart Metering Implementation Program
TABASC	Technical Architecture and Business Architecture Sub-Committee
TSIRS	Technical Specifications Issue Resolution Sub-group
UIT	User Integration Testing