SEC Newsletter

WELCOME TO THE MAY 2022 SEC NEWSLETTER!

Welcome to the May 2022 SEC Newsletter!

This edition provides the latest on the Market Wide Half Hourly Settlement Programme and Cross-Code impacts of modification BSC P375. There's an update on the June 2022 SEC Release and what DCC Users need to do in relation to MP104.

Also highlighted are opportunities to join the SMDA Sub-Committee and Management Panel Sub-Group, feed into the annual SEC Panel Q&A session on 15 July 2022, and join an Intro to the DCC webinar. You are also invited to comment on five new draft Modification Proposals raised.

Governance

MARKET-WIDE HALF HOURLY SETTLEMENT (MHHS) PROGRAMME

Industry work on the Market-wide Half Hourly Settlement (MHHS) Programme has continued this month with key activities as follows:

- The MHHS Cross Code Advisory Group (CCAG) discussed the legal text for MP162 and agreed a new defined term to be added to the SEC to describe the Meter Data Retrieval (MDR) Service.
- Two new design principles have been approved relating to consumer benefits and ensuring a 'level playing field'.
- The Migration Working Group will develop the MHHS Migration Strategy.

CROSS-CODE IMPACTS OF MODIFICATION BSC P375

SECAS completed analysis to understand the level of regulatory, operational and commercial risk that SEC Parties may be exposed to at sites operating under Balancing and Settlement Code (BSC) Modification Proposal P375. The Technical and Business Architecture Sub Committee (TABASC) agreed that all key risks have been mitigated by the design of P375 under the BSC:

- Accuracy of a Smart Metering In-Home Display
- Energy imbalance exposure
- Energy purchasing risk

The TABASC has asked SECAS to undertake similar analysis for BSC P430, which extends the P375 arrangements so that they apply to licensed Energy Suppliers as well as Virtual Lead Parties.

DO YOU KNOW ABOUT THE UPCOMING SEC RELEASE?

The June 2022 SEC Release is right around the corner! It goes live on 30 June 2022 and will contain DCC System impacting changes as well as BEIS-led changes to support the Enduring Change of Supplier (ECoS) arrangements. If you want to know more about the changes being made, click here for the list of approved Modification Proposals being implemented. If you have any questions, please contact the Change Team.

An updated version of the DCC User Gateway Interface Design Specification (DUGIDS) has also been published in support of the June 2022 SEC Release. It can be found here.

Governance

ARE YOU READY FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION OF MP104?

MP104 'Security Improvements' will go live on **30 June 2022** as part of the June 2022 SEC Release.

DCC Users are required to digitally sign XML format Service Requests and Signed Pre-Commands with a User Role Signing Private Key. The SSC wants to ensure that Keys are used correctly, and so MP104 will be introducing a validation check to ensure compliance. **From 30 June 2022, each Service Request or Signed Pre-Command that you send will need to be digitally signed using a SMKI Organisation Certificate with a Remote Party Role of 'xmlSign'. If this is not the case, the DCC will cease processing the communication and notify you, i.e., the request will fail DCC validation and be rejected. You will need to ensure that you are ready for this change ahead of this date.**

Furthermore, the DCC is expecting to uplift the changes required for MP104 to the User Integration Testing (UIT) environment in early May 2022. From this point, any of these requests that you submit within this testing environment will need be digitally signed, or these too will be rejected. If you have any questions on MP104, please contact the Change Team.

RETAIL ENERGY CODE (REC)

On 18 July 2022, changes are being implemented into the REC to introduce Central Switching Service (CSS) arrangements. To support stakeholder understanding of the impacts on their organisations, the REC Code Manager is hosting several information sessions between now and the July 2022 release. You can access a list of confirmed engagement events on the REC Portal.

SMART METER DEVICE ASSURANCE SCHEME

Testing Update

Testing is now available against the SMDA November 2020 SEC Release Baseline. The Baselines and Test Specification Library are available on the SMDA website here.

The Scheme Operator has reviewed the approved modifications for the June 2022 and November 2022 SEC Releases. No changes are required to the SMDA test scripts based on the June 2022 SEC Release and to date, two modifications within the November 2022 SEC Release will require a change to the SMDA test scripts. Proposed changes will be disseminated to the SMDA Management Panel Sub-Group (MPSG) for comment before any changes are implemented. Wider consultation will also take place with device Manufacturers and industry stakeholders to ensure full transparency of any changes being proposed, agreed, and implemented.

Opportunities

The SMDA Sub-Committee (SMDASC) which meets every two months, is the decision-making body overseeing the day-to-day management of the Scheme, and is responsible for providing recommendations to the SEC Panel in relation to expenditure.

Three positions are currently available on the SMDASC: *One Large Supplier representative; and Two Small Supplier representatives.*

The MPSG which also meets every two months, is the technical working group managing the Scheme to ensure it meets testing objectives, and manages the test specifications and test scripts. There are two positions available for Small Suppliers to join the MPSG.

If you are interested in finding out more, please contact smdaso@gemserv.com

Events

UPCOMING SECAS EVENTS

Introduction to the Data Communications Company (DCC) webinar – 29 June 2022
This session will provide a high level introduction to the DCC services, introduce key contacts and signpost to resources available to support Parties.

The Agenda includes key functions in DCC that you will be dealing with:
- Service Centre;
- Customer Relationship Management;
- Comms Hub Logistics;
- Incident;
- Problem Team;
- Q&A

Please share any topics or questions you would like to see covered in the webinar by contacting the SECAS Helpdesk **by 22 June 2022.**

SEC Parties can register to attend the webinar here.

If you have any questions for SECAS or topics you would like to see covered in future webinars or workshops, please contact the SECAS Helpdesk.

SEC Panel Q&A Session - 15 July 2022

SEC Parties are invited to join the Annual SEC Panel Q&A webinar on 15 July 2022. Parties will have the chance to put their questions to the SEC Panel and Sub-Committee Independent Chairs, learn about highlights from the previous year and hear about the year ahead. Please submit any questions you would like to see answered by the Panel on the day by contacting the SECAS Helpdesk before **8 July 2022**.

SEC Parties can register to attend the session here.

SECAS WEBINAR PRESENTATION SLIDES AND RECORDINGS

Our twice-yearly **Introduction to the SEC Webinar** took place on 17 May 2022. It was great to see this so well attended, with over 60 attendees on the day and many more registered to receive the recording. This knowledge building session was aimed at those new to Smart Metering or having recently acceded to the SEC. Once logged in, SEC Parties can view the presentation slides and video recordings of all our recent webinars here.

If there are any topics that you'd like to be covered at future webinars, please contact the SECAS Helpdesk.

Modifications

NEW DRAFT PROPOSALS

There have been five new Draft Proposals raised since the last newsletter. You are invited to provide feedback to the Change Team to help us understand whether these issues affect you.

MP203 'Security Assurance of Device Triage Facilities'

The National Cyber Security Centre (NCSC) has recently updated the Commercial Product Assurance (CPA) Security Characteristics (SCs) which will allow the triage and refurbishment of Devices in line with relevant use cases. The SEC does not currently take account of the need for regulatory assurance of Triage Facilities, Triage Tools and Triage Interfaces to provide security assurance across the end-to-end smart metering system.

DP204 'Incorporation of Category 3 Issue Resolution Proposals into the SEC – Batch 8'

Issue Resolution Proposals identify and resolve issues in the Technical Specifications documents of the SEC. The 10 IRPs included in this modification have been assessed by the DCC and are considered to be non-DCC System impacting and not require DCC System testing. They provide updates and cross references/clarifications to Technical Specifications only. There should be no impact on Device behaviour.

DP205 'Updating terminology to align with the NCSC'

The National Cyber Security Centre (NCSC) recently published an article highlighting an issue with terminology which is deemed not to be inclusive. The Proposal aims to replace the terms "black-list" and "white-list" with "deny list" and "allow list". These terms are used throughout the SEC and its subsidiary documents. There are also many instances of these terms used in DCC Systems and in the Central Products List (CPL).

DP206 'Allowing Generation Licence Holders to Apply Export MPANs'

Parties that hold an Electricity Generation Licence are permitted to trade export energy from domestic sites. However, as the SEC and its supporting technical specifications are currently written, only Export Suppliers that hold an Electricity Supply Licence can apply an Export Meter Point Administration Number (MPAN) to Smart Metering Equipment Technical Specifications (SMETS) Devices. This is preventing SEC Parties from exercising their rights under the Electricity Generation Licence, and subsequently limiting choice for domestic customers who wish to generate revenue for their export energy.

DP207 'Allowing Registered Supplier Agents to Maintain Meter Firmware'

Supplier Parties authorise Meter Operators (MOPs) and Meter Asset Managers (MAMs) to install and maintain Smart Meters. However, under the SEC, MOPs and MAMs are not able to use the DCC System to remotely manage the meters' Firmware. Device Firmware management is integral to the health of the Smart Metering ecosystem. The Proposer believes that MOPs and MAMs are in a better position than Suppliers to facilitate this, and that enabling Suppliers to outsource these operations to their Registered Supplier Agents (RSAs) will improve the overall Smart Metering service.

Modifications

REFINEMENT CONSULTATIONS

There are currently two open Refinement Consultations. As a SEC Party, you can help influence the Proposed Solution, determine the business case for the change, and comment on how the proposal will affect your organisation. For more information and to respond the consultation, download the consultation pack linked below and send your response to the Change Team.

MP160 'Certificate Signing Request forecasting' Download here.	**Closing Date:** Wednesday 1 June 2022	**Impacted Parties:** All SEC Parties
MP109 'ADT and Exit Quarantine file delivery mechanism' Download here.	**Closing Date:** Wednesday 1 June 2022	**Impacted Parties:** Other SEC Parties (Device Manufacturers and Meter Installers)

Publications

OPEN INDUSTRY CONSULTATIONS WEBPAGE

Please visit our Open Industry Consultations webpage for details of consultations that may be of interest to SEC Parties. If you are aware of a consultation that should be added, please contact the SECAS Helpdesk.

For other publications that may be of interest to you, please view the Operations Report in the May 2022 WHITE SEC Panel Meeting 104 Documentation. SEC Parties can also view the Transitional Governance Update (TGU) Paper in the May 2022 GREEN SEC Panel Meeting 104 Documentation.

SECAS HELPDESK

Please contact the SECAS Helpdesk with any questions and a member of the team will be happy to help. Helpdesk hours are **Monday-Friday 9-5pm (excluding bank holidays)**.

Key Governance Meeting Dates

1 June	**SEC Monthly Working Group Meeting – June 2022**
6 June	**Strategic Working Group 09**
7 June	**MP162 Working Group Meeting**
8 June	**Smart Metering Key Infrastructure Policy Management Authority Meeting 94**
8 June	**Security Sub-Committee Meeting 148**
14 June	**Operations Group Meeting 73**
16 June	**Technical Architecture and Business Architecture Sub-Committee Meeting 78**
17 June	**SEC Panel Meeting 105**
21 June	**Change Sub-Committee Meeting 40**
22 June	**Security Sub-Committee Meeting 149**
22 June	**Change Board Meeting 67**
27 June	**Operations Group Meeting 74**
29 June	**Testing Advisory Group Meeting 91**