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## MP216 ‘Incorporation of Category 2 Issue Resolution Proposals into the SEC – Batch 9’

### December 2022 Working Group – meeting summary

#### Attendees

Attendee	Organisation
Ali Beard (AB)	SECAS
Rachel Black (RB)	SECAS
Mike Fenn (MF)	SECAS
Ben Giblin (BG)	SECAS
Joey Manners (JM)	SECAS
Elizabeth Woods (EW)	SECAS
Mark Pitchford (MP)	DCC
Christopher Thompson (CT)	DCC
David Walsh (DW)	DCC
Patricia Massey (PM)	BEAMA
Eleanor Taylor (ET)	BEIS
Julie Brown (JB)	British Gas
Emma Johnson (EJ)	Centrica
Steve Blackler (SBlac)	E Gas & Electricity
Alex Hurcombe (AH)	EDF
Daniel Davies (DD)	ESG Global
Martin Bell (MB)	EUA
Craig Biffen (CB)	EUA
Stuart Blair (SB)	Northern Power Grid
Ralph Baxter (RB)	Octopus
Jamie Flaherty (JF)	Ofgem
Audrey Smith-Keary (ASK)	Ovo Energy
Mahfuzar Rahman (MR)	Scottish Power

#### Overview

##### Issue

This modification contains two Issue Resolution Proposals that have been discussed and approved by the Technical Issues Resolution Sub-Group (TSIRS)

IRP640 was raised due to an issue with the Boost Function Event Log. The Boost Function Event Log is a single log capable of storing entries for the most recent 23 Boost Periods on an Electricity Smart

Metering Equipment (ESME) or a Standalone Auxiliary Proportional Controller (SAPC). There is currently ambiguity as to which of the two date-times (start time or end time) should be used as the selection criteria, for determining which log entries are to be returned. Because of this ambiguity Device Manufacturers can currently interpret the Technical Specifications in different ways which returns different data on the Boost Function Event Log.

IRP658 was raised as when a Device processes firmware updates, it has its own policy regarding whether it attempts to transfer a Manufacturer image from the Communications Hub. Devices may require a stored image on that Device to be activated before it can process further updates. If this is the case, then in the situation where a new version of firmware is released and distributed but subsequently is discovered to have a security vulnerability or other issue, then there is no means to replace it prior to activation. There is an increased security risk by forcing a Device to activate outdated firmware rather than move directly to latest firmware. Additionally, where a firmware image has been transferred but not activated and a change of Supplier occurs prior to activation, the incoming Supplier may be unable to update the firmware as they would be unaware of the image stored on the Device.

### **Solution**

The solution for IRP640 is that this will specify that the end date-time should be used to select data for the Boost Function Event Log. It will also add missing data to the affected GBCS tables.

The solution for IRP658 is to make it a stated requirement that an Over-the-Air (OTA) Client in a Gas Smart Metering Equipment (GSME)/ ESME/ SAPC or Home Area Network Connected Auxiliary Load Control Switch (HCALCS) must not prevent replacement of an un-activated Upgrade Image that it may already be holding.

## **Working Group Discussion**

SECAS (BG) provided an overview of the modification MP216 which includes two Issue Resolution Proposals (IRPs) which require changes to the Great Britain Companion Specifications (GBCS). He highlighted the DCC Preliminary Assessment, discussed the feedback received during the Refinement Consultation and the implementation timeline following the meeting

SECAS (BG) explained the Preliminary Assessment had been returned with no costs associated with Design, Build and Pre-Integration Testing. In addition, no Full Impact Assessment would be required as the changes will be included in the post PIT change request. A member from DCC (DW) noted there might be a change to the DCC emulators as part of this modification which could be included as part of post-PIT Change Request (CR).

SECAS (BG) stated there had been no responses to the Refinement Consultation. SECAS (AB) asked an open question about whether industry was supportive of these changes and whether they would be worth the (Release) implementation cost if no Party was interested in the changes.

A member (MR) confirmed that this modification will help to overcome some difficulties with Over-the-Air (OTA) firmware upgrades. They also noted that if this modification is implemented, some Manufacturer firmware may not be available when the SEC release takes place. As such, Manufacturers device specifications may be out of line immediately after the SEC release.

Another member (JB) voiced support for the modification. (MB) agreed with this statement and informed the Working Group this had been raised because of discussion in TSIRS. (DW) added that this has also been discussed in the GBCS Working Group and mentioned that most of the DCC

changes would be regarding emulators rather than System Integration Testing (SIT)/User Integration Testing (UIT).

## Next Steps

The following actions were recorded from the meeting:

- SECAS will discuss this modification at the next TABASC meeting on 5 January 2022. This modification will then be discussed at the Change Sub-Committee meeting on 17 January 2023 with the recommendation that this progresses to the Report Phase.