

SECAS Guidance Notes: Technical Specifications and their interaction with the Central Product List (CPL)

Contents

1. Purpose	1
2. SEC Technical Documentation	1
3. Document Lifecycles	2
4. The Central Product List (CPL)	3

1. Purpose

This guidance document provides an overview of the Technical Specification lifecycle provisions within the Smart Energy Code (SEC), and the interactions between different versions of Technical Specifications and the [Central Product List](#) (CPL).

2. SEC Technical Documentation

2.1 SEC Technical Code Specification Documents

The SEC contains a set of documents classed as Technical Code Specifications. Among the Technical Code Specifications, the most relevant to this guidance document are:

[SEC Schedule 8 - Great Britain Companion Specification \(GBCS\)](#) - describes communications between Smart Metering Devices and the Data Communications Company (DCC).

[SEC Appendix AD - DCC User Interface Specification \(DUIS\)](#) - describes communications between DCC Users and the DCC. The latest version of the DUIS references most versions of the GBCS, including those which are no longer in circulation.

[SEC Appendix AF - Message Mapping Catalogue \(MMC\)](#) - sets out the mapping of Service Responses and Device Alerts in GBCS format to a more human-readable format.

2.2 SEC minimum requirements for Smart Metering system devices

There are two documents below which set out the minimum requirements for Smart Metering system devices:

[SEC Schedule 9 - Smart Metering Equipment Technical Specifications \(SMETS\)](#) covers Electricity Smart Metering Equipment (ESME), Gas Smart Metering Equipment (GSME) and associated devices: In Home Displays (IHDs), Prepayment Meter Interface Devices (PPMIDs), Home Area Network Connected Auxiliary Load Control Switches (HCALCs) and Standalone Auxiliary Proportional Controllers (SAPCs).

Technical Specification Cross Reference	SMETS1 1 February 2018	SMETS2 1 February 2018	SMETS2 8 November 2018	SMETS2 4 July 2019	SMETS2 29 November 2020	SMETS2 4 November 2021
GSMETS	(GSMS) 1.2	2.0	3.1	4.2	4.3	4.3
ESMETS	(ESMS) 1.2	2.0	3.1	4.2	5.0	5.1
IHDTS	1.2	2.0	3.1	4.2	4.3	4.3
PPMIDTS	N/A	2.0	3.1	4.2	4.3	4.4
HCALCSTS	N/A	2.0	3.1	4.2	5.0	5.1
SAPCTS	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	5.0	5.0

[SEC Schedule 10 - Communications Hub Technical Specifications \(CHTS\)](#) covers the Communications Hub Function and Gas Proxy Function.

3. Document Lifecycles

There are two types of updates to the Technical Specifications, and can be either:

- **Principal Versions**, which are proactive changes and apply from the date they go live. Currently installed Devices are not affected until their [Maintenance Validity Period](#) (see below) expires.
- **Sub-Versions** may be retroactive, meaning any installed Device to which the Technical Specification applies must be updated to be in line with the new Sub-Version.

Technical Specifications can have multiple live versions with overlapping validity periods. Each live version will have an associated version of GBCS, which in turn will have an Applicability Period.

SEC Parties can identify whether a Technical Specification is still valid, by referring to the **Installation Validity Period (IVP)** and **Maintenance Validity Period (MVP)** in [SEC Schedule 11 - the Technical Specification Applicability Tables \(TSAT\)](#). This document shows the Device Level Versioning (DLV) of ESME, GSME, IHD, PPMID, HCALC, SAPC and Comms Hub devices.

The IVP and MVP are described in the TSAT as: Installation Start Date to Installation End Date and Maintenance Start Date to Maintenance End Date. An example of the TSAT GSMETS IVP and MVP can be found below:

GSMETS Version	Installation Start Date	Installation End Date	Maintenance Start Date	Maintenance End Date	Relevant GBCS Version	Applicability Period Start Date	Applicability Period End Date
2.0	30/09/16	27/04/23	30/09/16	Not determined	1.1	06/11/17	Not determined
3.1	08/11/18	27/04/23	08/11/18	Not determined	2.0	28/10/18	Not determined
3.1	08/11/18	27/04/23	08/11/18	Not determined	2.1	28/10/18	Not determined
4.2	29/11/19	Not determined	29/11/19	Not determined	3.2	29/11/19	Not determined
4.3	29/11/20	Not determined	29/11/20	Not determined	3.2	29/11/20	Not determined
4.3	29/11/20	Not determined	29/11/20	Not determined	4.0	29/11/20	Not determined
4.3	04/11/21	Not determined	04/11/21	Not determined	4.1	04/11/21	Not determined

3.1 What is an Installation Validity Period?

This is the period during which a Device compliant with a specific version of SMETS or CHTS can be installed. It consists of two dates: an Installation Start Date (from when compliant devices can be installed) and Installation End Date (after which they can no longer be installed).

When a new Principal Version is introduced, there will typically be a defined period where the IVP of the existing version(s) overlaps with the new version to allow time for older Device stock to be used.

3.2 What is a Maintenance Validity Period?

The MVP is the period during which a Device must be repaired, replaced, upgraded or modified in line with relevant Technical Specification. MVPs will typically have no Maintenance End Date unless the specification is updated through a Sub-Version requiring changes.

3.3 What is an Applicability Period?

Each version of SMETS or CHTS is bound to one or more versions of GBCS for a limited period of time called the Applicability Period documented in [SEC Schedule 11 - TSAT](#).

Each entry in the TSAT details the IVP and MVP start and end dates for each Technical Specification, together with the associated relevant versions of GBCS and the GBCS Applicability period.

Each version of the GBCS requires Devices to comply with a relevant Version of the [Commercial Product Assurance](#) (CPA) Security Characteristics, as specified in the TSAT.

3.4 What happens to old versions?

Once a Technical Specification's IVP and MVP end dates or a GBCS version's Applicability Period lapses, they are removed from the SEC. Older versions remain on the SEC website for reference.

4. The Central Product List (CPL)

4.1 Structure and Content

The [Central Products List](#) (CPL) contains a list of Device Models, both SMETS1 and SMETS2+, that the DCC can communicate with. The latest version of the CPL spreadsheet can be found [here](#). Guidance on the CPL can be found [here](#).

Each CPL entry contains:

- Entry number
- If the entry is Current or has been Removed
- Device Type
- Manufacturer Identifier
- Model Identifier
- Hardware
- Firmware
- Version of SMETS / CHTS
- Version of GBCS

For SMETS2+ Devices, the CPL also contains Assurance Certificate information covering:

- [Commercial Product Assurance](#) (CPA) Certificates: Required for all Devices other than Prepayment Interface Devices (PPMIDs).
- [Device Language Message Specification](#) (DLMS) Certificates: Only required for Single, Twin, or Polyphase ESME or SAPC devices. SAPC devices are treated as ESMEs when they are added to the CPL.
- [Zigbee](#): All Devices.

For Comms Hubs and ESME / GSME devices, Manufacturers can also choose to provide a Manufacturer Image Hash. Lastly, for ESME / GSME devices, Manufacturers must provide contact details and information relating to the firmware which can be found in the [Firmware Information Repository](#) (FIR) once [logged in](#).

Any Device in use must conform to a 'Current' CPL entry. Before any MVP End Date is reached, the responsible Supplier must update the Device to a 'Current' hardware / firmware configuration listed on the CPL or replace it with a 'Current' Device listed on the CPL.

4.2 SEC Compliance

[SEC Section F2.1 'Smart Metering System Requirements'](#) requires the SEC Panel to maintain a Central Products List of:

- SMETS2+ Device Models for which the Panel has received all the Assurance Certificates required for the Physical Device Type relevant to that Device Model; and
- in the case of SMETS1 Device Models, those Device Models for which the Panel has received all the information required in accordance with the CPL Requirements Document (SEC Appendix Z) (which does not require any certification of SMETS1 Devices under the CPA or any other assurance scheme).

The Panel is not required to inform Suppliers when IVPs or MVPs expire, although general notifications to SEC Parties are issued as part of changes to the affected documents. SEC Parties can use this [form](#) to subscribe to our [SEC Modification](#) mailing list which will let you know when a SEC document is modified or due to be updated.

4.3 Updating the CPL

The processes for adding Device Types to the CPL are described in [SEC Appendix Z 'CPL Requirements Document'](#) supplemented by the [CPL Guidance Notes](#).

The CPL Guidance Notes show SMETS1 and SMETS2+ devices can be added to the CPL.

4.4 How can the DCC Systems aid matters

At key points, such as Change of Supplier (CoS), Suppliers need to establish details of the metering equipment at a particular location.

- As part of normal operations, the DCC systems check that Service Requests are applicable to the target Device and return a response code to the originator with the outcome of the checks. The version of GBCS is one of these items being checked and can help Users to establish which version of GBCS is supported by the Device.
- Authorised Users can send a 'Read Inventory' Service Request which returns all the details stored in the DCC Inventory about a Device. This allows them to establish which SMETS / CHTS version are recorded for the Device, and that these are aligned with the CPL.
- Users can also send a Service Request querying the firmware version of a Device. If the firmware version returned is different to that held in the Inventory, the Party can take remedial action.

If you have any questions, please contact SECAS by emailing our [SECAS Helpdesk](#) or call 020 7090 7755. Defined terms can also be found in our SEC Glossary [here](#).