

Change Proposal – BSCP40/01

CP No: 1174

Version No: 2.0

Title *(mandatory by originator)* **Changes to BSCP601 and Compliance Test Specification**

Description of Problem/Issue *(mandatory by originator)*

BSCP601 'Metering Protocol Approval and Compliance Testing' sets out the processes by which Meter Manufacturers, Meter Operator Agents, Suppliers Half Hourly Data Collectors (HHDC) and other Half Hourly Metering Equipment users can apply for Compliance Testing and Protocol Approval of Half Hourly Metering Equipment. The procedure covers the application process, submission of Metering Equipment, communications with the Compliance and Protocol Testing Agents and the issue and removal of certificates. The appendices to BSCP601 set out the tests that the Compliance Testing Agent (CTA) is required to undertake on submitted Metering Equipment in order to comply with the relevant Codes of Practice.

The purpose of this procedure is to ensure that all Half Hourly Metering Equipment used for Settlement meets the relevant minimum requirements as set out in the applicable Codes of Practice and that the Metering Equipment uses an approved communication protocol so that HHDCs can collect metered data for onward processing.

Following a recent review of the processes surrounding BSCP601, BSCCo has identified a number of areas within the documentation that require alteration or enhancement:

Issue 1: Electronic Meters have two types of software. Software that is imbedded in a silicon chip is referred to as firmware which controls the Meter's metrology (i.e. basic function and accuracy). Memory resident software controls the remaining aspects of the Meter such as display sequence, integration period and passwords, etc. Both software and firmware functions are required to be verified in order that a Meter can be determined to be compliant.

BSCP601 currently requires that the CTA notes only the firmware version used by the Metering Equipment and Manufacturers are required to inform BSCCo of any updates to that firmware that may affect Settlement data. There are no requirements for the CTA to note the software version used to communicate with the Metering Equipment and for Meter manufacturers to inform BSCCo of any software version updates that may affect Settlement data.

Issue 2: When Metering Equipment is submitted for testing by the CTA in accordance with the appropriate test schedule each submitted sample must complete all the tests set out in therein. Since the schedule includes tests for functions which are attributable to Meters only, Meters and Outstations, and Outstations only, this places an unnecessary burden of cost and time on applicants who wish to submit Meters only or Outstations only for testing.

Issue 3: The Compliance and Protocol Approval Certificates in BSCP601 each contain a Table of Observations to be completed by the CTA. However, since the test requirements are clear and unambiguous, an item of Metering Equipment can only ever be regarded as having either passed or failed the necessary tests, with no allowance being made for partial success or failure.

Issue 4: BSCP601 currently requires Metering Equipment to be approved by the Panel following successful

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testing, with the test results and any additional observations being provided by the CTA to help inform its Panel's decision. However, legal advice has indicated that the Panel approval steps currently described in BSCP601 instead relate only to the issuing of compliance certificates by ELEXON following the successful test of Metering Equipment.

Issue 5: The testing carried out by the CTA is detailed in separate test specifications, however these documents are not formally referenced in the text of BSCP601 and so it is unclear where this information is available. Furthermore, the specification for protocol testing it is incomplete and provides little guidance for participants.

Proposed Solution(s) (*mandatory by originator*)

The following solutions are proposed to address these issues:

Issue 1: References to firmware versions that currently exist in BSCP601 should also include references to software versions.

Issue 2: The tests contained within the Generic Test Specification should be properly identified as being relevant to Meters, Outstations, or both Meters and Outstations so it is clear which tests are required to be carried out for a given piece of Metering Equipment presented to the CTA. In addition, minor corrections are required to some test references and descriptions.

Issue 3: The Compliance and Protocol Approval Certificates should be revised by removing the 'Table of Observations' and altering the associated text to remove references to 'minor deviations' from the BSCP601 requirements.

Issue 4: The Compliance and Protocol Approval processes in BSCP601 (sections 2.1-2.3) should be revised by removing the Panel approval steps, allowing ELEXON to manage the process to its conclusion by issuing certificates following confirmation of a successful test by the CTA. ELEXON would however provide the Panel with updates on testing activities, including details of any certificates issued and any additions to the Approval List.

Where issues are raised against existing Approvals (section 2.4) and are substantiated by ELEXON, these would continue to be referred to the Panel as the issue may result in a dispensation being sought or a recommendation being made to remove a piece of Metering Equipment from the Approval List, both of which would require a Panel decision.

The opportunity should also be taken to clarify that in order to carry out its role properly, the CTA chosen by BSCCo must be accredited by an appropriate body, such as the UK Accreditation Service (UKAS).

Issue 5: The appendices section of BSCP601 should be updated to reference the Compliance test specifications and their availability on the BSC Website. A note should be added to explain that for Protocol testing, test schedules will be developed by BSCCo and the Compliance Testing Agent for each Applicant, based on the requirements of the relevant Codes of Practice. The incomplete Protocol test specification should therefore be removed as an appendix to BSCP601.

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Suggested drafting is included in an attachment to this CP.	
<p>Justification for Change <i>(mandatory by originator)</i></p> <p>Issue 1: The changes will ensure that BSCCo are kept abreast of Metering Equipment software developments that could affect Settlements and therefore enable appropriate actions to be taken.</p> <p>Issue 2: The changes to the test specification will simplify the process for achieving Compliance without jeopardising Settlements and could encourage more manufacturers to submit Metering Equipment for approval. More competition in the supply of HH Meters should reduced Registrant (and hence Party) costs for Meter installation.</p> <p>Issue 3: The removal of the Table of Observations is a reflection of the nature of the test results, which do not include partial success or failure and so in practice are not qualified by additional observations of slight deviations from the test requirements.</p> <p>Issue 4: The changes to the Approval process will streamline the procedure and help clarify the purpose of the CTA testing and the roles and responsibilities of the CTA itself.</p> <p>Issue 5: The changes will formalise the existence of the Compliance Test Specifications and clarify the process by with Protocol test schedules are produced.</p>	
<p>Is the Change being proposed a Housekeeping Change? <i>(optional by originator)</i></p> <p>N¹</p>	
<p>Configurable Items Potentially Affected by Proposed Solution(s) <i>(optional by originator)</i></p> <p>BSCP601 'Metering Protocol Approval and Compliance Testing'; Generic Test Specification for Codes of Practice One, Two, Three and Five</p>	
<p>Impact on Core Industry Documents or System Operator-Transmission Owner Code <i>(optional by originator)</i></p> <p>None</p>	
<p>Related Changes and/or Projects <i>(mandatory by BSCCo)</i></p>	

¹ The relevant Panel Committee will decide whether a Change Proposal can be progressed as a Housekeeping Change Proposal.

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Requested Implementation Date *(mandatory by originator)*

At next suitable release

Reason:

Agreed Release/Implementation Date *(mandatory by BSCCo)*

Originator's Details:

BCA Name

Organisation.....ELEXON

Email Address.....ccc@elxon.co.uk

Date.....4 August 2006

Attachments: Y (If Yes, No. of Pages attached: 12)