

Change Proposal – BSCP40/02

CP No: 1264

*Version No: 1.0
(mandatory by BSCCo)*

Title *(mandatory by originator)*

Clarification of Password Requirements in the Codes of Practice

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

There is a current discrepancy amongst the existing Codes of Practice (CoP) with regard to the password requirements for Half Hourly (HH) metering as is explained below.

The following requirements exists in the text of:

1. the latest Issue of CoP 1 (Section 3.23), CoP 2 (Section 3.23), CoP 3 (Section 3.23) and CoP 5 (Section 3.22):

*‘Password’ means a string of characters of length no less than six and no more than twelve characters, where each character is a case **insensitive** alpha character (A to Z) or a digit (0 to 9) or the underscore character (_). Passwords must have a minimum of 2,000,000 combinations, for example six characters if composed of any alphanumeric characters or eight characters if composed only of hexadecimal characters (0 to F).*

2. The latest issue of CoP 6 (Section 4.15):

*Password means a string of characters length 6 characters, where each character is a case **sensitive** alpha character (A to Z) or a digit (0 to 9) or the underscore character (_).*

3. A similar requirement exists in Code of Practice 7.

It is therefore not possible for a HH meter to be compliant with the differing password requirements within Codes of Practice 1, 2, 3 & 5 and Code of Practice 6 & 7.

Furthermore, in light of the recent CP1261 “Introducing Metering Code of Practice 10 to facilitate smart metering in the HH Market” and to ensure the above discrepancy is not repeated in any new Code of Practice, this CP is proposing to clarify the password requirements for all existing Codes of Practice.

Proposed Solution *(mandatory by originator)*

This document suggests that this discrepancy highlights an inconsistency in the rationale behind password case sensitivity, and that in its current state this criterion adds little value. There is also an argument to suggest that case sensitive passwords offer greater password protection, and more potential combinations. Therefore, this proposal suggests removing the password requirements around case sensitivity, leaving it to the Meter Manufacturers and Meter Operators as to whether they wish to develop additional security or not.

It is argued that removing this obligation presents no additional risk to Settlement providing the Half Hourly Meter Operator Agent (HHMOA) populates the Meter Technical Details (MTDs) correctly, and the Half Hourly Data Collector (HHDC) processes the MTDs correctly. In this respect it is subject

to the same risks of misrepresentation or error that already exist with the population and processing of MTDs by both agents.

The enclosed attachments outline the proposed changes to the CoP documentation and BSCP601 'Meter Protocol Approval and Compliance Testing'

Justification for Change *(mandatory by originator)*

This proposal suggests that the discrepancy in the CoPs highlights an inconsistency in the rationale behind password case sensitivity, and that in its current state this criterion hinders cost effective development of meter firmware which is compliant with both the HH CoPs and CoPs 6 & 7. Under the current obligations it would not be possible to develop a meter to be compliant with all of the CoPs. The solution above clarifies the requirement for password criteria across all existing HH CoPs and CoPs 6 & 7.

It is anticipated this proposal will not materially impact existing metering systems, or the development of future metering systems, as the proposed solution allows for both case sensitive and insensitive passwords to be used. It is also argued that altering the obligation in this manner presents no additional risk to Settlement providing the HHMOA populates the MTDs correctly, and the HHDC processes the MTDs correctly. In this respect it is subject to the same risks of misrepresentation or error that already exist with the population and processing of MTDs by both agents.

Moreover, it attempts to future proof the development of security regimes and will prevent a similar discrepancy from occurring in any future CoP which may be borne out of AMR, SMART or HH developments. The clarification will also allow for a more fluid and diverse Supplier product range as it creates an opportunity for HH compliant metering to be used on CoP6 & 7 sites by removing the barrier of password inconsistency, which would previously made this option an impossibility.

To which section of the Code does the CP relate, and does the CP facilitate the current provisions of the Code? *(mandatory by originator)*

Section L 3.2

Yes the CP does facilitate the current provisions of the Code.

Estimated Implementation Costs *(mandatory by BSCCo)*

Configurable Items Affected by Proposed Solution(s) *(mandatory by originator)*

Code of Practices 1, 2, 3, 5, 6 and 7

BSCP601 'Meter Protocol Approval and Compliance Testing'

Impact on Core Industry Documents or System Operator-Transmission Owner Code *(mandatory by originator)*

None

Related Changes and/or Projects (*mandatory by BSCCo*)

CP1261 'Introducing Metering Code of Practice 10 to facilitate smart metering in the HH'

Requested Implementation Date (*mandatory by originator*)

Earliest Release Date – June 2009 Release

Reason: We believe this is a document only change which could be implemented in the next available release

Version History (*mandatory by BSCCo*)

Originator's Details:

BCA Name *Louise Williams*

Organisation *RWE NPower*

Email Address *Electricity.codes@npower.com*

Telephone Number *01905 340416*

Date *19th September 2008*

Attachments: Y (If Yes, No. of Pages attached: 3)

Attachment A: Redline changes to Codes of Practice 1, 2, 3, 5, 6 and 7 (2 pages)

Attachment B: Redline changes to BSCP601 'Meter Protocol Approval and Compliance Testing' (1 page).