

Change Proposal – BSCP40/02	CP No: 1374 <i>Version No: v1.0</i> <i>(mandatory by BSCCo)</i>
Title <i>(mandatory by originator)</i> Pre-site audit visits - Technical Assurance of Metering	
Description of Problem/Issue <i>(mandatory by originator)</i> <p>The Technical Assurance Agent (TAA) is the BSC Agent who assess compliance, in relation to Half Hourly Metering Systems (HHMS), of Parties with the requirements of Section L of the Balancing and Settlement Code (BSC), the Codes of Practice (CoPs) and BSC Procedures (BSCPs). The TAA does this by carrying out audits of HHMS on a sample basis. The results of the audits are fed back to the Performance Assurance Board (PAB) and BSC Panel to give them a view of the health of the HHMS population.</p> <p>The TAA selects a sample of Supplier Volume Allocation (SVA) and Central Volume Allocation (CVA) registered HHMS each year to carry out audits on and the process is set out BSCP27¹.</p> <p>Under BSCP27 the TAA is required to notify the relevant participants (Registrants, Half Hourly Data Collectors (HHDC), and Meter Operators Agents (MOA)) of upcoming site visits at least 20 Working Days before the on-site audit inspection is carried out.</p> <p>If non-compliances are discovered during a visit the TAA issues a non-compliance to the relevant participants. Once a non-compliance has been identified the relevant Registrant of the HHMS has to submit a rectification plan, or resolve the issue within 10 working days.</p> <p>The TAA has noted that during the time between the notification and the actual visit some SVA sites have been visited by MOAs and work carried out on the HHMS (e.g. a Meter has been replaced). The TAA believes that this is potentially skewing the results of the audits and potentially preventing non-compliances from being identified.</p> <p>Meter changes or other updates to Metering Equipment during this period can also <i>create</i> non-compliances as the new Meter Technical Details (MTDs) provided on-site by the MOA will differ from those provided by the HHDC immediately after receiving notification of the visit. It is the HHDC rather than the MOA that is responsible for resolving the resulting non-compliance.</p> <p>The PAB has previously written to Suppliers requesting that they discourage MOAs from this practice except where emergency work is required. However the issue was again noted in the TAA’s annual report to the BSC Panel, and in the operational reports since. The PAB asked the Technical Assurance of Metering Expert Group (TAMEG) to consider the issue and recommend a solution. The TAMEG considered and debated the issues and recommended that the practice of MOAs visiting sites after being notified of the visit that have been selected for a TAA audit should not happen, except where there is genuine need (e.g. emergency work or other planned work).</p> <p>There is currently nothing in BSCP27 that prevents participants from carrying out pre-audit site visits and making changes during the notification period. Nor is there any way of letting the TAA know of any intention to visit the site for genuine reasons (e.g. safety reasons or to fix a fault).</p>	

¹ ‘Technical Assurance of Half Hourly Metering Systems for Settlement Purposes’

Proposed Solution *(mandatory by originator)*

This CP proposes to make it a requirement for the MOA to inform the TAA if it needs to visit a site during the notification period. This means that the TAA will have a record of visits and any work that has been conducted that could potentially alter their findings. The details of the notification shall include the reasons for the visit and any proposed visit dates. Additionally, emergency work may be notified to the TAA after the event giving the reasons for the visit and the visit date.

Justification for Change *(mandatory by originator)*

These pre-audit site visits by MOAs can distort the findings of the Technical Assurance of Metering (TAM) technique. The results are collated to give the PAB and BSC Panel a view of the health of the HH market.

Resources are allocated dependant on the level of risk to Settlement, in line with the Performance Assurance Framework and its processes. The findings from the TAM technique help to provide information to assess the areas of risk. Without a clear picture of the common non-compliances related to HHMS it is difficult to know which area to target for improvement. Pre-audit visits can make things either look better or worse than they really are and therefore appropriate action may not be taken to make improvements to Industry processes.

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

Estimated Implementation Costs *(mandatory by BSCCo)*

3 ELEXON man days
£11,100 to update the TAA Management Tool (TAAMT) software

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

N/A

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

N/A

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

N/A

Requested Implementation Date *(mandatory by originator)*

November 2012

Reason:

The sooner this change is implemented, the sooner the benefits will be achieved.

Version History (*mandatory by BSCCo*)

V.1.0

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Attachments: Yes
BSCP27 redlining (9 pages)