

Change Proposal – BSCP40/01	CP No: 1136 Version No: 1.0
Title <i>(mandatory by originator)</i> Extension of related common MTCs	
Description of Problem/Issue <i>(mandatory by originator)</i> The Market Domain Data (MDD) published to market participants includes details of the Meter Timeswitch Codes (MTCs) supported by each Licensed Distributor’s Supplier Meter Registration Service (SMRS). These MTCs fall into two categories: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ‘Common Codes’ have essentially the same meaning on every network that supports them. For example, MTC 801 is always used for Non Half Hourly unrestricted 1-rate non-programmable credit meters.¹ • ‘Distribution Business Specific Codes’ may have an entirely different meaning in each SMRS system that supports them. For example, MTC 1 is supported by many different SMRS systems, but has an entirely different meaning in each one. Historically, the requirement for Distribution Business Specific Codes arose because the MTC concept was implemented in such a way that each code contained information about exact switching times (within the MTC Description), and these varied from one Distributor network to another. <p>Currently, there are two separate mechanisms for distinguishing common codes from LDSO Specific codes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • MDD specifies an ‘MTC Common Code Indicator’ (J1614) for each MTC, which is set to ‘T’ for a Common Code and ‘F’ for a Distribution Business Specific Code • In addition, specific ranges of codes are reserved for Common and Distribution Business specific codes. There are two ranges of MTC values that are considered ‘common’. One range (800-999) covers normal metering – the other (500-509) is for ‘related MPAN’ use. <p>Related MPANs are required when on a single supply there are, at any time, more than one settlement register advancing simultaneously. They typically support domestic supplies to electricity only premises where off-peak load is being registered (for night storage heaters) at the same time as the rest of the premises is on normal rate.</p> <p>Accepted industry practice appears to be that Licensed Distributors should take responsibility for defining in MDD the set of MTCs that their SMRS will accept as valid², and IPNL has therefore raised MDD Change Proposals to incorporate into MDD MTC data for the ‘IPNL’ Distributor Id. In doing so, IPNL’s strong preference has been to use common codes rather than Distributor specific codes wherever possible. As an independent DNO who expects to act within many GSP Groups, the use of Distributor specific codes would risk causing confusion amongst Suppliers and their Agents.</p> <p>For the unswitched MPAN in a related pair, IPNL has been able to make use of existing common codes 500 and 501. However, for the switched MPAN, it has proven impossible to use common codes, for the following reasons:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There are no existing common codes for switched MPANs. The range 500-509 includes two codes for unswitched MPANs, four codes for Unmetered Supplies, and one code described as ‘Unmetered Reserved - Site Specific’. • IPNL is unable to create common codes for this purpose. There are only three unused values in the range 500-509, which is insufficient: at least four are required, as described below. Although the data structure of MDD implies that any MTC can be set up as ‘common’, the MDDM system that Elexon’s agent uses to publish MDD includes automated validation that MTC data is consistent with the historically agreed common ranges. 	

¹ Note that a ‘common’ code cannot necessarily be used in every Distributor’s SMRS system. However, it should have the same meaning in all SMRS systems that do accept it.

² Note that Licensed Distributors do not appear to be under any obligation to take on this responsibility, and indeed it could be left to Suppliers (given that it is Suppliers who choose which MTC value to register for a given MPAN, and BSCP509 allows Suppliers as well as Distributors to define MTC data).

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The very small range of common MTCs for related MPANs is a significant issue for independent DNOs who expect to act within many GSP Groups, and therefore wish to use common MTCs as far as possible, to avoid confusion. Of the 500 to 509 range, there are only three left unused, which is not enough to reflect the variety of generic metering types possible.

This CP seeks to relax the restrictions on the establishment of 'common' MTCs, with specific regard to the needs of related MPAN metering, and allow any impact on Supplier systems to be assessed.

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

For the time being, IPNL has requested, through a MDD CR, new MTCs for related MPANs in one of the few gaps in the total related MPAN range, described as 'Generic related timeswitched/teleswitched programmable/non-programmable' – ie 4 new codes (780, 781, 782, 783). These new MTCs have been set up as Distributor specific for the time being. It is anticipated that there may be reason to double this number of codes if communications attributes become a variable. This would also require further related codes for the unswitched MPAN in the related pair – currently using 500 or 501.

This CP is based on the premise that it is not necessary for all MPANs on a given MTC to have the same (or extremely similar) switching times. The detailed switching times can be determined from the Standard Settlement Configuration, and it is unnecessary and inefficient to code the same information into the MTC. The four new codes that have been proposed by IPNL are therefore intended for use with a range of different switching times and not one particular set.

This CP seeks to:

- Amend the Market Domain Data Management (MDDM) software used by the Supplier Volume Allocation Agent (SVAA) to allow common related MPANs to be created outside the existing 500-509 range; and
- Convert the existing codes 780, 781, 782 and 783 (which will become effective on 3 June 2005) from Distributor specific codes to common codes, so that the industry can take advantage of them without confusion. This means that the MTC Common Code Indicator for these codes will change from 'F' to 'T', and the MTC attributes (i.e. MTC Meter Type Id, MTC Payment Type Id, Meter Timeswitch Code Description, MTC Communication Indicator, MTC Type Indicator and MTC TPR Count) will migrate from the Distributor-specific MPA record (on the D0269/D0270 data flow) to the MTC record.

Three possible options have been identified for changing the MDDM software (and associated processes):

Option 1:

In order to minimise impact, the concept of agreed ranges of 'common' codes is not changed, but the actual ranges are altered within the MDDM system. The entire range from 780 to 799 inclusive would be reserved for related 'common' codes, so that they are contiguous with the existing 'common' (not related) range that starts at 800.

This will mean that the necessary changes to 'common' ranges will be an extension downwards from 800 to 780 of the lower end point of the existing high 'common' range, while maintaining the existing ranges for related and normal metering.

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<p>Option 2: The concept of agreed ranges of ‘common’ codes is removed from the MDDM system, and replaced by strict use of the MTC Common Code Indicator for each MTC to determine whether it is ‘common’ or not. New MTCs (if not already in use either as ‘common’ or Distributor specific) could be created as ‘common’ or Distributor specific without any range restrictions.</p> <p>Option 3: The concept of agreed ranges of ‘common’ codes is not changed, but is removed from the MDDM system validation. Instead, MDD data entry would rely on a manual validation check (which would be defined in the BSCP509 process) to check that new MTCs fall within the appropriate ranges. Under this option, the predefined ranges would effectively be 'softcoded' rather than 'hardcoded'. This would potentially allow SVG to change them as required without the expense of further software changes.</p>	
<p>Justification for Change (<i>mandatory by originator</i>)</p> <p>Currently it is not possible to create common codes for switched related MPANs, and each new DNO will therefore have no choice but to create their own Distributor specific codes. This is inefficient, and imposes an additional and unnecessary administrative burden on new DNOs. The unnecessary proliferation of MTCs it leads to will also be inconvenient and potentially confusing for Suppliers.</p> <p>Note that nothing in this CP is intended to force other Distributors to support the new common codes for switched related MPANs. All Distributors will have the option of supporting the new codes (in which case they will need to raise an MDD CR in accordance with BSCP509 to create appropriate ‘Meter Timeswitch Class for Distributor’ data), but some may opt instead to continue supporting Distributor Specific codes only for MPANs of this type.</p>	
<p>Is the Change being proposed a Housekeeping Change? (<i>optional by originator</i>)</p> <p>No.</p>	
<p>Configurable Items Potentially Affected by Proposed Solution(s) (<i>optional by originator</i>)</p> <p>All three of the options identified above would require changes to the MDDM software:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Option 1 would require the validation of MTC data against predefined ranges to be amended, so that the range 780 to 799 inclusive became available for Common Related codes. • Options 2 and 3 would require the validation of MTC data against predefined ranges to be removed or disabled, so that the MTC Common Code Indicator and MTC Related Metering System Indicator can be set as required for each new MTC, irrespective of which ‘range’ it falls into. 	
<p>Impact on Core Industry Documents or System Operator-Transmission Owner Code (<i>optional by originator</i>)</p> <p>None identified.</p>	
<p>Related Changes and/or Projects (<i>mandatory by BSSCo</i>)</p>	

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Requested Implementation Date (mandatory by originator) Earliest possible release. Reason: To provide the benefits as soon as possible.	
Agreed Release/Implementation Date (mandatory by BSCCo)	
Originator's Details: <i>BCA Name.....Greg Smyth.....</i> <i>Organisation...IPNL.....</i> <i>Email Address.....greg.smyth@inexus.co.uk.....</i> <i>Date...20 May 2005.....</i>	
Attachments: No (If Yes, No. of Pages attached:.....) <i>(delete as appropriate)</i>	