CP936

ATTACHMENT A - EFFECTIVE DATE MISMATCHES

There are a number of situations that can give rise to a mismatch between effective dates, but where such mismatch has no adverse affect on settlement. If, however, the agent receiving a flow(s) containing mismatched effective dates rejects the flow(s) on this basis, this can result in delays to the change of agent (and change of Supplier) process.

Three examples are given below.

Standard Settlement Configuration - Meter Technical Details Effective Dates

The Non Half-Hourly Meter Technical Details (D0150) flows contains the effective date of the Meter Technical Details (MTD) [item J1254] and the effective date of the Metering System's Standard Settlement Configuration (SSC) [item J0300]. Some NHH Data Collectors validate that the effective date of the MTD is no earlier than the effective date of the SSC on the same flow. This should be the case on an on-going, operational basis, since a change of SSC implies a change of MTD, but a change of MTD need not include a change of SSC.

However, at market start-up, Meter Operators typically used a "dummy" effective from date for the SSC (most commonly 01/04/1996), whilst using "actual" effective dates for MTD based on data from legacy systems. In the majority of cases the date of the last change to the MTD will be earlier than the SSC effective date. Thus, when the MTD is transferred on change of agent and there has been no change to the MTD since market start up, the D0150 may fail validation. Instances have been reported of as many as 13,000 D0150s being rejected on this basis.

Alignment of Supplier originated data items with Registrations

All Metering System data items of which the Supplier is the originator (e.g. SSC, Profile Class) are associated with Supplier Registrations (rather than Metering Systems) in SMRS. For example, on change of Supplier, a Metering System is assigned to a SSC with an effective date of the Supply Start Date (SSD), irrespective of whether the SSC has changed. It is understood that a number of NHHDCs have adopted the same approach, although there is no explicit requirement for them to do so, whilst other NHHDCs and Meter Operators align effective dates to the actual date of the change. This can lead to effective date mismatches between the Metering System EAC/AA Historical Data (D0152) and the D0150 on change of NHHDC.

New connections where metering is installed after the Supply Start Date

A third situation in which effective date inconsistencies can arise is in the case of a new connection, where metering is installed later than the SSD. The Meter Operator is likely to hold the actual installation date (rather than SSD) as the effective date of the MTD and SSC. Depending on how the period between the SSD and meter installation date is treated by the NHHDC in terms of SSC effective dates, readings and Annualised Advances (AA), this could lead to an effective date inconsistency when data is transferred on change of agent.

There are alternatives for resolving each of the effective date inconsistencies described above, including a) bulk data changes, b) aligning agency systems and c) amending validation routines to take into account all the various circumstances in which MTD and SSC effective dates can "legitimately" vary (both within and across) systems. The simplest solution, however, is to ignore any effective date inconsistencies where both dates are on or before the start of the latest registration. This will have no impact on settlement and does not rely on agents making any assumptions about the functionality of other agents' system.