

CP1417 ASSESSMENT CONSULTATION

About this document

This is an Assessment Consultation document, which provides details of the background, solution, potential impacts and costs associated with [CP1417 'Reading validation for smart Meters'](#). This document is for information only, to be used in line with the Consultation Response form, to which this document is attached.

1. Why Change?

Background

Balancing and Settlement Code Procedure (BSCP) [504](#) 'Non Half Hourly Data Collection for SVA Metering Systems Registered in SMRS' Appendix 4.1 currently sets out a number of checks which are carried out by the Non Half Hourly Data Collector (NHHDC) when visiting a metered site.

[CP1253 'Remote Reading Assurance'](#), implemented in February 2009, identified a sub-set of the site visit checks that could also be performed remotely for advanced Meters. A joint BSC–Master Registration Agreement (MRA) working group, looking at consequential changes arising from the mass roll-out of smart metering, reviewed the list of remote checks. The group concluded that the detailed list of checks to be carried out remotely (the second list in BSCP504 4.1) should only apply to advanced Meters. However, in relation to smart Meters, as some of the validation checks made by NHHDCs can be made by Suppliers, the group considered that pre-validation checks by Suppliers should be allowable.

What is the issue?

Meters complying with the Smart Metering Equipment Technical Specifications (SMETS) will have a function to remotely disable a customer's supply. This functionality is also available in a sub-set of advanced Meters. However, remote disablement does not prevent Meters being read, so may lead to zero Meter advances. The NHHDC validation requirements in BSCP504 do not recognise remote disablement as a valid cause of zero Meter Advances. This will lead to valid readings being rejected.

NHHDCs are required to inform the Meter Operator Agent (MOA) of any error flags received from the Meter. The NHHDC will not be aware of error flags received from smart Meters serviced by the Data and Communications Company (DCC), so an equivalent requirement is needed for Suppliers.

2. Solution

Proposed solution

CP1417 proposes to amend BSCP504 4.1 to place a high-level requirement on Suppliers to check for faults and prevent clock-drift when remotely contacting Meters.

BSCP504 4.2 also needs amending to:

- Allow the Supplier to carry out pre-validation checks;
- Add remote disablement to the list of valid conditions giving rise to zero Meter Advances; and
- Add an equivalent obligation for Suppliers to act upon error flags from remotely read Meters.

A mechanism will be required for the Supplier to notify the NHHDC of readings from remotely disabled sites, so that zero advances do not fail validation. It is proposed that this could be achieved by a separate Data Transfer Catalogue (DTC) change (in parallel to this CP) for example by introducing a new code in the valid set for J0024 'Site Visit Check Code' data item or by introducing a new data item.

The changes will prevent valid zero Meter Advances for remotely disabled Meters being incorrectly rejected by the NHHDC. It is expected that Suppliers will be sufficiently incentivised to respond to fault alerts from smart Meters for

CP1417 ASSESSMENT CONSULTATION

there not to be a need for detailed requirements for smart Meters, but this will need to be reviewed once the smart roll-out gathers momentum. A high-level equivalent to the remote checks performed by NHHDCs on advanced Meters should suffice in the interim. Additionally, any requirements relating to maximum demand checks will not apply to the smart Meters being read by Suppliers via the DCC.

CPC Consultation Question

Do you agree with the proposed changes?

Please provide your rationale

3. Impacts and costs

Central impact and costs

This CP will require an update to BSCP504 to implement the proposed solution. You can find the proposed changes in Attachment B. No system changes will be required for this CP.

Central impacts	
Document impacts	System impacts
BSCP504	<i>None identified</i>

The central implementation costs for CP1417 will be approximately £240 (1 man day) for ELEXON to implement the relevant document changes. There are no BSC Agent costs or impacts.

BSC Party and Party Agent impacts

The changes to BSCP504 will have an impact on Suppliers and NHHDCs.

BSC Party & Party Agent impacts	
BSC Party/Party Agent	Impact
Suppliers	Changes will be required to implement the solution.
NHHDCs	

CPC Consultation Question

Is your organisation impacted?

If 'yes', please answer the following questions:

(a) How is your organisation impacted?

Please provide a description of the impact(s) on your organisation and any activities which you will need to undertake between the approval of CP1417 and CP1417 Implementation Date (including any necessary changes to your systems, documents and processes). Where applicable, please state which of the roles that you operate as will be impacted and any differences in the impacts between each role.

CP1417 ASSESSMENT CONSULTATION

CPC Consultation Question

(b) What are the associated costs on your organisation to implement this change?

Please provide details of these costs, how they arise and whether they are one off or on-going costs.

4. Implementation approach

Proposed Implementation Date

CP1417 is proposed for implementation on **26 February 2015** as part of the February 2015 BSC Systems Release so that the changes are implemented at the same time as other smart Metering consequential changes and in good time for the initial live operation of the DCC, which is planned for December 2015.

CPC Consultation Question

Do you agree with the implementation approach?

Please provide your rationale.

5. SVG initial views

We presented CP1417 to the SVG for comment at its meeting on 1 July 2014 (SVG161/04).

An SVG Member queried what is meant by 'place a high-level requirement on Suppliers to prevent clock-drift when remotely contacting Meters' in the proposed solution. ELEXON advised that this will be controlled via the DCC's clock and the clock within the Meter itself. The same SVG Member queried whether this would be carried out using a service request. ELEXON was unable to confirm whether the Supplier needs to send a specific service request to synchronise the Meter clock or whether the DCC would address this automatically as part of other service requests. ELEXON advised that in effect, the intention is to relieve the NHHDC of the obligation and instead control the clock via the DCC and the Meter.

Appendices

None

Attachments

Attachment A: CP1417 Proposal Form v1.0

Attachment B: BSCP504 proposed redlining v0.1

For more information, please contact;

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