Change Proposal – BSCP40/02

CP No: 1254

Version No: 1.0 *(mandatory by BSCCo)*

Title (mandatory by originator)

Prevention of Unauthorised Access to Smart Meters and Automated Meter Readings (AMR)

Description of Problem/Issue (mandatory by originator)

This CP has been raised on behalf of the Smart Metering Expert Group.

AMR / smart meters are already being introduced in the Non-Half Hourly (NHH) market. The roll out of this type of metering is set to increase over the next few years.

Meters with remote access are open to the risk of unauthorised access to meter reading data and / or the meter configuration and of insecure communication methods.

This issue was identified during the BSC Smart Metering Review. The BSC requirements and the proposed solution were considered and agreed by the Smart Metering Expert Group.

Proposed Solution (mandatory by originator)

The NHH CoP8 (Code of Practice for the Metering of Import active energy via low voltage circuits for Non-Half Hourly settlement purposes) and CoP9 (Code of Practice for the Metering of Import and Export active energy via low voltage circuits for Non-Half Hourly settlement purposes) should include a requirement for an appropriate security regime to be in place for programmable meters.

A similar requirement should be included in PSL100 'Generic Non Functional Requirements For Licensed Distribution System Operators And Party Agents' to ensure that there is adequate assurance around communication methods. This will minimise the risk that Settlement data could be changed through malicious activity.

Justification for Change (mandatory by originator)

This change will mitigate the risk of erroneous data entering Settlement due to meters or their data being accessed, reconfigured or changed without appropriate authorisation. It is possible that large groups of meters could be accessed unless an appropriate security regime is put in place.

The Energy Retail Association (ERA) has proposed a functional requirement for smart meters to prevent unauthorised access, so the proposed change would be consistent with the ERA work.

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 S – Supplier Volume Allocation, yes

Estimated Implementation Costs (mandatory by BSCCo)

The estimated ELEXON implementation cost is 2.25 man days, which equates to £495.

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

PSL100 'Generic Non Functional Requirements For Licensed Distribution System Operators And Party Agents'

Code of Practice 8 'Code of Practice for the Metering of Import Active Energy via Low Voltage Circuits for Non-Half Hourly Settlement Purposes'

Code of Practice 9 'Code of Practice for the Metering of Import and Export Active Energy via Low Voltage Circuits for Non-Half Hourly Settlement Purposes'

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

None

Related Changes and/or Projects (mandatory by BSCCo)

This is one of a series of Change Proposals raised on behalf of the BSC Smart Metering Expert Group. The other changes are CP1251, CP1252, CP1253 and CP1261.

Requested Implementation Date (mandatory by originator)

February 2009

Reason:

The Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform (BERR) response to the Energy Billing and Metering consultation details an amendment to the Energy Bill which will require AMR metering for larger business customers to be rolled out over the next five years. If the requirements are not in place as early as possible, there is a risk of legacy issues and/or greater costs to industry.

Version History (mandatory by BSCCo)

None

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Attachments: Yes

CP1254 Attachment A – Redline changes proposed to CoP8 'Code of Practice for the Metering of Import Active Energy via Low Voltage Circuits for Non-Half Hourly Settlement Purposes' (2 Pages)

CP1254 Attachment B – Redline changes proposed to CoP9 'Code of Practice for the Metering of Import and Export Active Energy via Low Voltage Circuits for Non-Half Hourly Settlement Purposes' (2 Pages)

CP1254 Attachment C – Redline changes proposed to PSL100 'Generic Non Functional Requirements for Licensed distribution system operators and Party Agents' (1 Page)