

CP Assessment Report

CP1417 'Reading validation for smart Meters'



Committee

Supplier Volume Allocation Group

Recommendation

Approve

Implementation Date

25 June 2015 (June 2015 Release)



Any questions?

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About This Document

This document is the Change Proposal (CP) 1417 Assessment Report which ELEXON will present to the Supplier Volume Allocation Group (SVG) at its meeting on 2 September 2014. The SVG will consider the proposed solution and the responses received to the CP Consultation before deciding whether to approve CP1417.

There are three parts to this document:

- This is the main document. It provides details of the solution, impacts, costs and proposed implementation approach. It also summarises the SVG's initial views on the proposed changes and the views of respondents to the CP Consultation.
- Attachment A contains the proposed redlined changes to deliver the CP1417 solution.
- Attachment B contains the full responses received to the CP Consultation.

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, has since 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 section 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.

Proposed solution

[CP1417 'Reading validation for smart Meters'](#) proposes to amend BSCP504 section 4.1 to place a high-level requirement on Suppliers to check for faults and prevent clock-drift when remotely contacting Meters.

BSCP504 section 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 the J0024 'Site Visit Check Code' data item or by introducing a new data item.

Proposer's rationale

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 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.

Proposed redlining

The proposed redlining to BSCP504 to deliver CP1417 can be found in Attachment A.

3 Impacts and Costs

Central impacts and costs

Central impacts

CP1417 will require an update to BSCP504 to implement the proposed solution. You can find the proposed changes in Attachment A. No central system changes will be required for this CP.

Central Impacts	
Document Impacts	System Impacts
<ul style="list-style-type: none">BSCP504	<ul style="list-style-type: none">None

Central costs

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 & Party Agent impacts and costs

Participant impacts

CP1417 will impact Suppliers and NHHDCs. Seven of the nine respondents to the CP Consultation indicated an impact. Respondents advised that changes would need to be made to both their systems and processes in order to implement the solution. One respondent noted that this will be particularly important if responsibility for checking clock-drift moves from the NHHDC to the Supplier. One respondent also commented that they would need to put in place processes that would allow pre-validation checks to take place.

BSC Party & Party Agent Impacts	
BSC Party/Party Agent	Impact
Suppliers	Changes to systems and processes will be required to implement the solution
NHHDCs	

Participant costs

Three of the nine respondents to the CP Consultation indicated that there would be costs associated with CP1417. Two respondents indicated that this would involve a medium cost whilst one respondent indicated a low cost. Another respondent commented that they were unable to provide details on associated costs for delivering the change at this time.

Attachment B contains the full responses made by participants on the expected impacts and costs for CP1417.

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4 Implementation Approach

Recommended Implementation Date

CP1417 was originally targeted for implementation on 26 February 2015 as part of the February 2015 BSC Systems Release. This was so the changes could be 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.

Seven of the nine respondents to the CP Consultation agreed with this proposed Implementation Date, whilst two respondents disagreed. One respondent commented that as this change requires significant review and analysis of processes before the full extent of the proposed changes can be understood, they would prefer [CP1415 'Reading submission frequency for smart Meters'](#), [CP1416 'Remotely disabled smart Meters'](#) and CP1417 to be implemented in the November 2015 Release in time for the DCC go live in December 2015. The respondent noted that other smart consequential changes have been agreed for the February 2015 Release, but could see no reason why these CPs have to be implemented at the same time. Given the volume of change currently underway to support smart, they believe this amended Implementation Date would give time to fully analyse the requirements and implement the changes.

The other respondent commented that implementing this change in February 2016 would be a more sensible approach and would not detrimentally impact the Smart programme. The same respondent also questioned whether the changes would need to be live for the testing and Initial Live Operation phase of the DCC.

Attachment B contains the full responses made by participants regarding the proposed Implementation Date.

ELEXON noted that the purpose of the change was to be 'ready in good time for the initial live operation of the DCC, which is planned for December 2015'. Taking respondents concerns and other already-approved industry changes for February 2015 into account (including Electricity Market Reform (EMR)), we believe that it would be more appropriate to implement CP1417 on **25 June 2015** as part of the June 2015 Release. This will allow participants more time to implement the changes and allow time to align the DTC change in support of CP1417.

5 Initial Committee Views

SVG's initial views

ELEXON 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.

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6 Industry Views

This section summarises the responses received to the CP Consultation. You can find the full responses in Attachment B.

Summary of CP1417 CP Consultation Responses				
Question	Yes	No	Neutral/ No Comment	Other
Do you agree with the CP1417 proposed solution?	9	0	0	0
Do you agree that the draft redlining delivers the intent of CP1417?	9	0	0	0
Will CP1417 impact your organisation?	7	2	0	0
Will your organisation incur any costs in implementing CP1417?	3	5	0	1
Do you agree with the proposed implementation approach for CP1417?	7	2	0	0
Do you have any further comments on CP1417?	3	6	0	0

Comments on the CP

Respondents to the CP Consultation unanimously agreed with the proposed changes. Respondents acknowledged that it is important that Suppliers should be permitted to perform all the validation checks as this allows them to address any issues prior to using the smart Meter to obtain information. They will then only have to ask MOAs to investigate genuine faults.

One respondent was unclear as to whether the change moves the obligation from the NHHDC to the Supplier, or ensures that where a Supplier chooses to directly read the Meter they carry out the same checks. The respondent highlighted that the redlining suggests the latter but the proposal suggests the former. The same respondent also commented that if it is the latter, and the obligations are only where the Supplier chooses to read the Meter directly, Suppliers could defer the need to implement changes until the DCC is introduced, which would require significant changes to be made.

ELEXON confirmed that the latter approach is correct in that the change ensures that where a Supplier chooses to directly read the Meter, they carry out the same checks. The requirements to ensure that the Meter and switches keep accurate time and to identify faults pass to the Supplier when the Meter is read remotely. In relation to smart Meters, as some of the validation checks made by NHHDCs can be made by Suppliers, pre-validation checks by Suppliers will therefore be allowable, although these are optional.

Comments on the proposed redlining

No comments were received on the proposed redlined text to BSCP504 for CP1417.

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7 Recommendations

We invite you to:

- **APPROVE** the proposed changes to BSCP504 for CP1417; and
- **APPROVE** CP1417 for implementation on 25 June 2015 as part of the June 2015 Release.

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Appendix 1: Glossary & References

Acronyms

Acronyms used in this document are listed in the table below.

Glossary of Defined Terms	
Acronym	Definition
BSC	Balancing and Settlement Code
BSCP	Balancing and Settlement Code Procedure
CP	Change Proposal
DC	Data Collector
DCC	Data and Communications Company
DTC	Data Transfer Catalogue
EMR	Electricity Market Reform
HH	Half Hourly
MOA	Meter Operator Agent
MRA	Master Registration Agreement
NHH	Non Half Hourly
SMETS	Smart Metering Equipment Technical Specifications
SVG	Supplier Volume Allocation Group

DTC data flows and data items

DTC data flows and data items referenced in this document are listed in the table below.

DTC Data Flows and Data Items	
Number	Name
J0024	Site Visit Check Code

External links

A summary of all hyperlinks used in this document are listed in the table below.

All external documents and URL links listed are correct as of the date of this document.

External Links		
Page(s)	Description	URL
2	BSCPs page of ELEXON website (BSCP504)	http://www.elexon.co.uk/bsc-related-documents/related-documents/bscps/
2	CP1253 webpage on ELEXON website	http://www.elexon.co.uk/change-proposal/cp1253-remote-reading-assurance/
3	CP1417 webpage on ELEXON website	http://www.elexon.co.uk/change-proposal/cp1417/

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External Links		
Page(s)	Description	URL
5	CP1415 webpage on ELEXON website	http://www.elexon.co.uk/change-proposal/cp1415/
5	CP1416 webpage on ELEXON website	http://www.elexon.co.uk/change-proposal/cp1416/
5	SVG161 page on ELEXON website	http://www.elexon.co.uk/meeting/svg-160-2/