

Change Proposal – BSCP40/02

CP No: 1253

*Version No: 1.0
(mandatory by BSCCo)***Title** *(mandatory by originator)*

Remote Reading Assurance

Description of Problem/Issue *(mandatory by originator)*

This CP has been raised on behalf of the Smart Metering Expert Group. A number of issues were identified regarding the provision of assurance relating to remote readings entering Settlement:

1. There is currently no requirement that readings retrieved remotely are the same as readings on the display of the meter.
2. There is a risk that inferior or inappropriate communications equipment (hardware or software) could give rise to erroneous data entering Settlements.
3. There is a risk that a meter which is being read remotely is not identified correctly by the Data Collector.
4. Currently a number of checks are carried out by the Non Half Hourly Data Collector (NHHDC) when visiting the site as defined in Appendix 4.1 of BSCP504 (Non-Half Hourly Data Collection for SVA Metering Systems Registered in SMRS). If a meter is read remotely, a site visit will not take place and certain checks will not be undertaken.

These issues were 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)*

1. A requirement should be included in BSCP504 to ensure that what is shown on the meter's display and what is entered into Settlement are the same. Note: Some DC's will retrieve all the digits stored by the meter (not just the ones displayed), but both the DC's and the Meter Operator should be aware of the number of digits being used.
2. There should be a clarification in BSCP504 that readings used for Settlement purposes should be passed from the meter to the DC (logically) unchanged and that suitable controls should be employed to ensure that the final (physical) format of data and the manner in which it is interpreted are consistent and accurate. The communication method would be covered by the Performance Assurance Framework (PAF), so assurance around the requirement would be included in the Self Assessment Document (SAD). It would be up to the agent as to how they obtained the assurance. Following the steps in BSCP601 'Metering Protocol Approval and Compliance Testing' could be one of a number of suitable methods, but the method will not be prescribed. It should be noted that CP1251 seeks to resolve a related issue, which may arise because of peripheral devices connected to the meter.
3. There should be a requirement in BSCP504 to ensure that the meter and register being read are identified correctly. The assurance for this requirement should be included in the SAD. The assurance method will not be mandated but, as an example, a check showing that the meter serial number received was the one expected would be satisfactory.
4. In order to ensure that the appropriate checks are carried out when a meter is read remotely,

Appendix 4.1 of BSCP504 would be split into two parts: one listing checks to be undertaken during a site visit and one listing checks to be undertaken when the meter is contacted remotely. The checks to be undertaken when the meter is contacted remotely would be:

- Number of Maximum Demand Register (MDR) Resets where appropriate;
- Zero reading on an MDR, if fitted;
- Any evidence of suspected faults to the SVA Metering Systems;
- Whether any timeswitch is set to the incorrect time; and
- Energisation Status (i.e. on/off).

A requirement for checking that the time and date of the meter are correct shall be added to both check-lists. NHH readings are all set to midnight, but if the date is incorrect when retrieving stored readings they will be inaccurate. This particularly affects Seasonal Time of Day (SToD) meters which record usage on different registers on different days of weeks or months. The NHHDC should be able to trim small time errors, however, larger errors should be reported to the Meter Operation Agent (MOA) as a meter fault. The NHHDC will be required to set their system to Co-ordinated Universal Time (UTC) time once a day, in line with the current obligation for Half Hourly Data Collectors (HHDC).

In addition there are a number of existing requirements that should be altered. In Appendix 4.2 of BSCP504 there is a requirement to inform the MOA of any error flags received from the Meter when it is read remotely. Error flags may also appear on a handheld device used to read a meter on site and these flags should also be reported to the MOA. In order for the requirement to apply to error flags received on handheld units, the word 'remotely' should be removed.

There is also a requirement in BSCP504 for remote readings to be given preference over other reading types, if two or more readings are received on the same day when selecting a final reading for a change of Distribution System Operators (section 3.2.7, footnote 44). At present there is no way of knowing whether a reading is remote and so this requirement should be removed.

Justification for Change *(mandatory by originator)*

These changes would provide assurance against erroneous data entering Settlement due to a number of potential risk areas around meter reading and data transfer. With the anticipated roll out of Automatic Meter Readings (AMR) / smart meters, these issues have the potential to affect a large number of meters. Assurance around communications software is necessary, as the same software could be used to read millions of meters allowing an opportunity for systematic error.

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 2.5 man days, which equates to £550.

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

BSCP 504 'Non Half Hourly Data Collection for SVA Metering Systems Registered in SMRS'

BSCP 537 'Qualification Process for SVA Parties, SVA Party Agents and CVA MOAs' Appendix 1: Self Assessment Document (SAD)

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, CP1254 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*)

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Attachments: Yes

CP1253 Attachment A – Redline changes proposed to BSCP504 'Non-Half Hourly Data Collection for SVA Metering Systems Registered in SMRS'. (11 Pages)

CP1253 Attachment B – Redline changes proposed to BSCP537 'Qualification process for SVA parties, SVA party agents and CVA MOAs'. (5 Pages)