

DCC Conclusions on Common Test Scenarios Document for SMETS1

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Classification: DCC Public



1 Introduction

On 25 March 2019 DCC ran a short consultation on our proposals for amending the testing requirements for seven alerts set out in the Common Test Scenarios Document (CTSD), which is Appendix R to the SEC. The consultation sought stakeholder views on amending these alerts so that they are no longer required as part of the mandatory testing required by Testing Participants under the CTSD.

The seven alerts were:

- DCC Alert - N19 - Firmware Distribution Failure - Firmware Distribution Device ID identification failure
- DCC Alert – N999 - DUIS Version Mismatch
- Response Code Test - E64 - Verify that the User ID in the Service Request is that which was previously notified to DCC, where a specific User ID is required to be used
- DCC Alert - N1- Device Status Change - Electricity Smart Meter Decommission or Withdrawal
- DCC Alert - N2 - Device Status Change - Gas Smart Meter Decommission or Withdrawal
- DCC Alert - N16 - Device Identity Confirmation
- DCC Alert - N24 - Update HAN Device Log Result - Successful Communications Hub Function Whitelist Update

These alerts were included in V1.4 of the CTSD for the purposes of introducing them as part of SMETS1. DCC proposed to:

1. Remove DCC Alerts N19, N999 and Response Code Test E64 from V1.4 of the CTSD; and
2. Amend DCC Alerts N1, N2, N16 and N24 to make clear that they are mandatory to SMETS2+ only.

As the CTSD is a subsidiary document to the SEC, we – on behalf of the Secretary of State – also consulted on the date of re-designation of the CTSD, which is the point that the proposed changes would formally take effect in the regulatory framework. We proposed this date should be 15 April 2019.

2 Summary of responses

DCC received two responses to the consultation, both from Large Supplier Parties. Both respondents were generally supportive, with one stating no objections to the proposed changes.

Both respondents raised concerns regarding the duration of the consultation, although one did note that they understood the driver for the duration, given the limited scope of the contents. One respondent sought confirmation that DCC has, itself, tested the relevant alerts against Device Model Combinations as part of its own testing, noting the importance that the process should be tested at least once to ensure that DCC systems do successfully generate the relevant alerts for SMETS1.

The other respondent noted the importance of providing clarity to users in terms of these alerts, and testing requirements more generally. In their view, DCC should provide guidance to industry

on the expectation for test artefacts content in light of this consultation scope, and that the SMETS1 User guide for the User Testing Services Test Phase needs to be aligned to the result of this consultation. The other respondent set out a series of specific questions relating to additional tests in the scope of the CTSD, enquiring whether these should also be descoped, or otherwise that guidance should be provided explaining how to manage these during testing.

Neither respondent expressed a clear preference regarding the proposed date of designation, although one noted that until designation, the requirement to undertake these tests would be binding, as they would not be codified in the SEC. They noted the proposal meant opening Eligibility Testing on scope that cannot be completed and that therefore Eligibility Testing exit would not be possible for any Testing Participant until 15 April at the earliest. They stated that this was far from ideal and should be reviewed for future releases to prevent re-occurrence.

3 Conclusions and next steps

In light of the support from respondents, **we will submit the amended CTSD, as proposed in the consultation, to BEIS for incorporation into the SEC.**

We would like to draw attention to the fact that in the track change version of the CTSD submitted to BEIS (Attachment A), we have added 'Mandatory SMETS2+' under Section 8.1.23 of the CTSD for Alert N16. This was not in the tracked changed document that we consulted on, however our consultation did seek views on amending DCC Alerts N16 to make clear that this is mandatory to SMETS2+ only. The amendment to the document is to ensure all N16 Alerts are Mandatory SMETS2+ only.

We share respondents' views that the duration of this consultation was far from ideal. DCC would not normally seek to undertake a consultation over such a short timescale, but it was our view in this instance that the limited scope of proposed changes, and that they removed, as opposed to introduced, testing obligations on Testing Participants, meant that a shorter consultation window was the correct approach in light of the overall programme timetable.

As one respondent noted, the regulatory requirements are such that until the CTSD is amended, Testing Participants would not be able to exit Eligibility Testing, and this was a key driver for such a short timetable on this occasion. We fully support the suggestion of a review to make this less likely to happen again.

In terms of whether these tests have been undertaken at least once by DCC, we can confirm that the E64, N1, N2, N16 and N24 Alerts have previously been tested by DCC. N999 will be tested as part of Migration Testing. There is no reliable method to generate the N19 alert for SMETS1. We would be happy to discuss with stakeholders what additional steps we can take to provide additional assurance that these Alerts will function as intended in the production environment.

We agree with the proposal put forward by one respondent that the guide for Testing Participants should be clearly updated to ensure that testing requirements in relation to SMETS1 Eligibility Testing, and the scope of the CTSD are clear. We will update our guidance accordingly and expect to do so in the next few business days.

In relation to queries on other tests and how they should be handled, our SMETS1 User guidance (section 6.2) provides a workaround that will allow Testing Participants to run the following Service Reference Variants/ Service Requests:

- 8.11 – Update Device Han (Join or Remove)
- 8.1.1 - Commission Device
- 12.2 – Device Pre-Notification
- 8.3 – decommission of Device – this is being run against the IHD/PPMID rather than the ESME or GSME

The workaround that applies to these Service Requests is being run as part of the Pre-User Testing Services (Pre-UTS) testing DCC is undertaking to confirm that it functions as expected. Pre-UTS testing is covering outstanding alerts that are in the CTSD but that were not part of SIT. The SMETS1 User guidance provides advice on how to run N57, E11, E13, E19, E60 and E61 alerts. Our guidance will be updated in the next few business days with any lessons learnt from the testing of these alerts being carried out in either Pre-UTS or as part of Eligibility Testing.

As noted above, as these alerts cannot be tested, Eligibility Testing exit would not be possible for any Testing Participant until 15 April at the earliest. We consider that the re-designation of the CTSD as soon as possible is important, and **we therefore recommend to BEIS that they re-designate on 15 April as proposed**. This consultation, and copies of the changed marked CTSD have been submitted to BEIS to enable them to consider our recommendations.