

Consultation

November 2019 SEC Release Test Approach Document

Consultation opens: 23 May 2019
Consultation closes: 6 June 2019

Date: 21 May 2018

Classification: DCC Public



1 Introduction

A SEC Release Testing Approach Document defines the approach to testing changes to DCC Systems which arise as a result of a SEC Release. This consultation is seeking views on the draft November 2019 SEC Release Testing Approach Document.

The draft SEC Release Testing Approach Document provided alongside this consultation document defines the approach to testing to be undertaken by both DCC and Testing Participants, and will be used to develop the SEC Release Implementation Document for the November 2019 release in accordance with Section D of the SEC.

The November 2019 SEC Release Testing Approach Document sets out:

- The testing objectives for that release, including the assurance to be achieved;
- The testing strategy that will be followed;
- The consequences of the testing strategy, including costs and risks in business terms; and
- Any requirement to undertake User testing, along with how the DCC shall support Users to undertake testing.

The closing date for this consultation is 6 June 2019.

2 Scope

The November 2019 release will modify the DCC Total System to accommodate the changes detailed in the table below:

SEC Modification reference	Implementing Party	Description
SECMP0023	DSP	Correct Units of Measure for Uncontrolled Gas Flow Rate
SECMP0025	DSP	Electricity network party access to Load Switching information
SECMP0039	DSP	Communications Hub returns notification mechanism for Other SEC Parties
SECMP0060	DSP	Amend Requirements to remove "Pending" devices from SMI
SECMP0062	DSP	Northbound Application Traffic Management-Alert Storm Protection
SECMP0018	DSP	Standards Electricity Distributor Configurations Settings (Document changes only)
SECMP0055	DSP	Incorporation of multiple Issue Resolution Proposals into the SEC (Document changes only)
N/A	DSP	Amendments to Anomaly Detection Attributes

N/A	DSP	Suppression of duplicate Power Outage Alerts generated by the DCC solution
N/A	DSP	Contract Change DSP Contract Schedule 2.1

SECMP0023, SECMP0025, SECMP0039 and SECMP0060 have been approved for implementation, with the remaining Modification Proposals pending approval. The inclusion of any Modification Proposals which have not yet been approved is dependent on them being formally approved for implementation. The November 2019 SEC Release Test Approach Document will be reviewed and may be revised when the final scope is determined. Until this decision, all pending changes will be considered in scope.

The elements below form the high-level areas of change which will be applied in the November 2019 release:

- DUIS uplift to version 3.1; and
- New DSP functionality introduced as part of November 2019 release using a Communications Hub manufactured to support GBCS 3.2. Some specific considerations for testing of November 2019 Release new functionalities include:
 - SRV 1.6 – Update payment mode Disablement Threshold Meter Balance Elec is lower a lower limit and should be an upper;
 - SRV 6.13 Read Event or Security Log;
 - SRV 7.7 Read Auxiliary Load Switch Data to enable them to read Auxiliary Load Control Scheduler (ALCS) data;
 - SRV 6.14.2 Update device configuration from ESME indicating change in the ALCS configuration;
 - SRV 8.14.3 Communications Hub Status Update – Fault Return;
 - SRV 8.14.4 Communications Hub Status Update – No Fault Return; and
 - Regression of existing functionality using both SMETS1 and SMETS2 Devices.

3 Overview of approach

The approach to testing of the November 2019 Release will include several defined Test Phases which will be conducted sequentially. Test Phases will be undertaken in appropriate test environments. Any testing which can be reasonably and cost-effectively undertaken prior to SIT should be undertaken during PIT. The SIT Phase will include DCC Service Provider User Acceptance Testing activity, which will operate concurrently with Solution Testing.

DCC shall provide a UIT service that allows each User to test the interoperability of its User Systems with the Modified DCC Total Systems (including via the Self-Service Interface), and to simultaneously test the interoperability of User Systems and Devices with the Modified DCC Total Systems. UIT shall be made available on the same basis as the Testing Services provided in accordance with Section H14.

Each Test Phase will be subject to defined test scenarios where appropriate, with business scenarios to be used as the basis of testing. The documentation supporting each test phase will specify the detailed testing to be employed during that test phase. Test scenarios may, within the context of the individual Test Phases, be represented by defined sequences of Service Requests or other relevant activities.

Progression through Testing Phases for the November 2019 Release will be gated using generic and specific Entry and Exit Criteria. The Test Phase Approach Documents will provide detail of the evidence to be gathered. DCC will continue to assure Service Provider testing using the processes and activities established for earlier releases, which may include methods determined by the individual Test Phase Approach Documents.

4 Next steps and approval

The SEC requires that the Panel review this document, along with any subsequent amendments. Because this SEC Release Testing Approach Document will be used to develop the November 2019 SEC Release Implementation Document, DCC considers that it will require implicit Panel approval as part of that document in accordance with D10.15.

DCC will discuss the draft SEC Release Testing Approach Document with the Testing Advisory Group (TAG) SEC Sub-committee during its meeting on 29 May and will seek feedback from members of that group.

Once this consultation closes on 6 June 2019, DCC will consider all responses received and make any amendments to the SEC Release Testing Approach Document which are required. We will return to the TAG to discuss any amendments made to the SEC Release Testing Approach Document and seek the group's informal ratification of that document.

We expect that the SEC Release Testing Approach Document will be incorporated into the SEC Release Implementation Document for the November 2019 release and presented to the Panel for approval during its July meeting.

5 Questions for respondents

We are seeking stakeholders' views on the following questions:

Q1.	Do you support the overall approach and scope of the SEC Release Testing Approach Document for the November 2019 release? Please provide a rationale for your views.
Q2	Do you have any other comments on the draft SEC Release Testing Approach Document for the November 2019 release? Please provide details and any rationale.

6 How to respond

Please provide responses by **17:00 on 6 June 2019** to DCC at consultations@smartdcc.co.uk.

Consultation responses may be published on our website www.smartdcc.co.uk. Please state clearly in writing whether you want all or any part, of your consultation to be treated as confidential. It would be helpful if you could explain to us why you regard the information you have provided as confidential. Please note that responses in their entirety (including any text marked confidential) may be made available to the Department of Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy (BEIS) and the Gas and Electricity Markets Authority (the Authority). Information provided to BEIS or the Authority, including personal information, may be subject to publication or disclosure in accordance with the access to information legislation (primarily the Freedom of Information Act 2000, the Data Protection Act 2018 and the Environmental Information Regulations 2004). If BEIS or the Authority receive a request for disclosure of the information we/they will take full account of your explanation (to the extent provided to them), but we/they cannot give an assurance that confidentiality can be maintained in all circumstances. An automatic confidentiality disclaimer generated by your IT system will not, of itself, be regarded by us as a confidentiality request.

7 Attachments

Attachment 1: Testing Approach Document for November 2019 SEC Modification Release