

Consultation

June 2020 SEC Release Testing Approach Document



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Classification: DCC Public
Respond by: 16:00 on Monday, 2 March 2020

Table of Contents

1	Introduction	3
2	Scope of Release.....	3
3	Overall approach	4
4	Next steps and approval	4
5	Questions for respondents.....	5
6	How to respond	5

1 Introduction

A SEC Release Testing Approach Document (TAD) 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 June 2020 SEC Release TAD.

The draft SEC Release TAD provided alongside this consultation document defines the approach to testing to be undertaken by both DCC and Testing Participants, and will be used to further develop the SEC Release Implementation Document for the June 2020 Release in accordance with Section D10.18 to D10.20 of the SEC.

The draft June 2020 SEC Release TAD 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 Monday, 2 March 2020.

2 Scope of Release

Two Modification Proposals have been approved for inclusion in this Release:

- SECMP0053 'Amend Target Response Times for Service Requests Critical to Installation and Commissioning Processes' will reduce the Target Response Times for time-critical Service Requests relating to the installation and commissioning process. The technical changes for this modification have previously been delivered so this Release only covers the Target Response Time (SLA).
- SECMP0062 'Northbound Application Traffic Management – Alert Storm Protection' proposes to put in place a traffic management system for Alerts issued by Devices to protect the DCC System and Service Users against alert storms originating from a single Device. SECMP0062 is being implemented in two parts, with the first part of the solution, the mechanism for throttling Alerts, being implemented in this Release. The second stage of the solution will be implemented in the November 2020 Release and will cover the changes to allow Users to be notified of throttled Alerts via the metadata in the Alerts that are allowed through.

The following Modification Proposals will be included in this Release if a decision to approve is received by the respective cut-off dates. However, they are not system impacting so are outside of the scope of this TAD.

- MP079 'Provisions for withdrawing modifications' proposes to grant the SEC Panel the power to withdraw Modification Proposals if feedback from the Change Sub-Committee (CSC) and the Working Group suggest this is the appropriate course of action.
- MP084 'Other User Panel Seating Amendment' proposes to create a seat on the SEC Panel to ensure representation from the Other Users sub-set of the Other SEC Parties category.

- MP088 'Power to raise modifications' proposes to expand the list of Parties that can raise Draft Proposals to include SECAS, the SEC Panel and Sub-Committees.

The following DCC Change Request is being targeted for implementation alongside this SEC Release:

- CR1088 'DCC Production Proving' DSP Change. Production Proving proposes that the DCC should undertake production proving activities. This involves conducting tests using production meters and other Devices in the live production environment. The key benefit of this activity is to provide additional assurance of the smart metering production network, systems and Devices.

The change included in the scope of the June 20 Release is the DSP aspect of CR1088. This change will enable the production proving function to create user roles within the DSP using a Production Proving specific XML signing role. The changes also enable the Production Proving function to use specific registration data provided by an RDP for both Gas and Electric.

Whilst this change is not a SEC modification, it is captured by the TAD.

Progression through Testing Phases for the June 2020 Release will be gated using generic and specific Entry and Exit Criteria. The Solution Test Plans 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.

3 Overall approach

The approach to testing of the June 2020 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 of the SEC.

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.

4 Next steps and approval

The SEC requires that the Panel review this document, along with any subsequent amendments. Because this TAD will be used to further develop the June 2020 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 TAD with the Testing Advisory Group (TAG) SEC Subcommittee during its meeting on 12 February 2020 and will seek feedback from members of that group.

Once this consultation closes on 2 March 2020, DCC will consider all responses received and make any amendments to the SEC Release TAD which are required. We will return to the TAG to discuss any amendments made to the SEC Release TAD and seek the group's informal ratification of that document.

We expect that the TAD will be incorporated into the SEC Release Implementation Document for the June 2020 Release and presented to the Panel for approval during its meeting in March 2020.

5 Questions for respondents

DCC would like stakeholders' views on the following consultation questions:

Q1	Do you support the overall approach and scope of the SEC Release TAD for the June 2020 Release? If not, please provide a rationale for your response.
Q2	Do you have any other comments on the draft SEC Release TAD for the June 2020 Release? Please provide details and any rationale.

6 How to respond

Please provide responses by **16:00 on 2 March 2020** to DCC at david.whitley@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.

If you have any questions about the consultation documents, please contact DCC via consultations@smartdcc.co.uk