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| Date issued: | 28 April 2020 |
| Deadline for response comments: | 19 May 2020 |
| Classification: | DCC Public |

Consultation

**On changes to the DCC User Interface Specification (DUIS) and Message Mapping Catalogue (MMC) ahead of the November 2020 SEC Release**

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# Introduction

The Data and Communications Company (DCC) is committed to a safe and secure smart metering environment to allow all electricity and gas consumers in Great Britain to enjoy the benefits of being in control of their energy usage.

A critical element of smart metering is the management of communications to and from smart metering devices (via the DCC User Interface). Two Smart Energy Code (SEC) Subsidiary Documents set out the technical requirements for this:

* The **DCC User Interface Specification (DUIS)** sets out the technical details of the DCC User Interface, which is the means by which Users interact with Devices. Communications from Devices are received by the User via the DCC User Interface, in a format as set out in the Great Britain Companion Specification (GBCS).
* The **Message Mapping Catalogue (MMC)** specifies the translation of data created by Devices in GBCS format, into a format that is standardised and interpretable (the “MMC Output Format”).

## Consultation Purpose

The purpose of this consultation is twofold:

* Firstly, DCC is proposing changes to the DUIS and MMC to deliver against two recent Department of Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy (BEIS) proposals to change the SEC. These changes will be directed by the Secretary of State using powers to modify the SEC under Section 88 of the Energy Act 2008. We are seeking consultation feedback on the technical changes to DUIS and MMC that are needed to give effect to these proposals.
* Secondly, DCC is seeking consultation feedback on the technical changes to the DUIS in order to deliver a defect fix.

In addition, this document raises awareness of several necessary technical amendments to the DUIS and MMC that are required to enable delivery of the modifications that have already been accepted, or are proposed to be included, in the [November 2020 SEC Release](https://smartenergycodecompany.co.uk/november-2020-sec-release/). For the avoidance of doubt, DCC is not seeking feedback on these changes but is highlighting them for industry awareness.

Both the DUIS and the MMC are highly technical documents, including code and diagrammatic guidance for users. On this basis we have appended two release notes to this consultation (one for DUIS, and one for MMC) to provide technical guidance for those who use the DUIS and MMC at a technical level and provide further in-depth change summaries. The release notes accompany but do not form part of the proposed changes to the DUIS and MMC – both of which will be version 4.0 (v4.0). To provide a complete picture of the new document versions, the release notes also list all changes made to DUIS v4.0 required for the November 2020 SEC Release.

**The closing date for responses to this consultation is 19 May 2020.**

## Overview of the changes to the DUIS and MMC on which DCC is seeking feedback

This section provides an overview of the changes to the DUIS and MMC on which DCC is consulting. It also outlines where the technical changes being proposed to the DUIS and MMC can be found in the release notes accompanying this consultation.

### BEIS mandated changes

The DCC is proposing the following changes to the DUIS and MMC relating to SMETS1 and SMETS2 to deliver against recent BEIS proposals to change the SEC.

Changes related to SMETS1

**Change Re-scaling of Gas Flow rate in SRV to match SMETS2**

This change was identified through the BEIS led Technical and Business Design Group (TBDG). This change is required to Service Request Variant (SRV) 6.7 which is safety impacting. In the absence of the change proposed, it would not be possible to set a practical open valve threshold flow on a gas meter, which is there to cut off supply should there be an open pipe. The change, once implemented, would also match SMETS2 operation with SRV6.7.

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| Change to the DUIS and the MMC | Explanation of change | Relevant section of the release notes |
| Change Re-scaling of Gas Flow rate in SRV to match SMETS2 | This change is to alter the scaling and XML format of the Uncontrolled Gas Flow Rate to match that in DUIS 3.1 for SMETS 2 devices by supporting the XML data item UncontrolledGasFlowRateDecimal for SMETS1 devices. | DUIS release note: Section 3.2 |

It should be noted that not all the SMETS1 GSMEs may be capable of supporting this functionality, and any variations of this nature will be consulted on and included in an updated version of SEC Appendix AM - SMETS 1 Supporting Requirements.

Changes related to SMETS2

**Change required to support proportional load control functionality**

These changes are required to support BEIS’ decision to proceed with the implementation of proportional load control functionality following its consultation on the Great Britain Companion Specification (GBCS) and Communications Hub Technical Specifications (CHTS) associated with the implementation of proportional load control.

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| Change to the DUIS and the MMC | Explanation of change | Relevant section of the release notes |
| Auxiliary Proportional Controllers | This change is to add proportional load control functionality to the Smart Metering System (SMS). It will build on existing load control functionality provided by Auxiliary Load Control Switches (ALCs) and HAN Connected Auxiliary Load Control Switches (HCALCS) by enabling more precision and flexibility in the control of load for consumers. This new control functionality is being implemented through the designation of an additional Electricity Smart Meter Equipment (ESME) capability called Auxiliary Proportional Controller (APC) and an additional device called a Standalone Auxiliary Proportional Controller (SAPC). Unlike HCALCs and ALCs, which only provide binary levels of load control (on or off), SAPCs offer multiple levels of control. N58 alert structure changes have been updated to include two additional optional data items “ESMEVariant” and “DeviceGBCSVersion”. | DUIS release note: Section 5.  MMC release note: Section 3. |

### Defect fixes

The table below outlines changes that DCC is proposing to the DUIS as a result of necessary defect fixes.

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| Change to the DUIS and the MMC | Explanation of change | Relevant section of the release notes |
| Change to Install Code Length 8.11, 2nd part to reinstall the validation for SMETS 2 | Part one was a small consequential change made to DUIS v3.1 to address a design fix made to DUIS v3.0 which allows the shorter install code for both SMETS1 and SMETS2 by way of a schema change. This left SMETS2 devices exposed to the possibility that users might attempt to send an install code that is not 16 characters long to those devices, resulting in an unknown error. The proposed DUIS change is part two of the defect fix which ensures that Users will receive a known and consistent error response if sending an install code on an 8.11 service request of less than 16 bytes to SMETS2 devices. | DUIS release note: Section 4.1 |
| DUIS inconsistency for GCS01a | During the review of changes made for Auxiliary Proportional Controllers, an inconsistency was discovered for SR1.1.1 for GCS01a between the DUIS, its Schema and the GBCS. DUIS schema support a Maximum inclusive value of 281,474,976,710,656 for data item sr:GasThresholdType, which is inconsistent with the GBCS defined maximum value of 281,474,976,710,655. A change of the schema and DUIS is introduced to align with GBCS. | DUIS release note: Section 4.2 |

## SEC Modifications that also require amendments to the DUIS and MMC

As described earlier in this document, changes to the DUIS and MMC are also needed to support several changes to the SEC that will be (or that may be) in force following the November 2020 SEC Release. This includes modification proposals that have been approved and those that will be included in the November 2020 SEC Release, if a decision to approve is received by the respective cut-off dates.

As highlighted earlier in the consultation, DCC is not seeking feedback on these changes but is highlighting them for industry awareness.

The following table outlines where in the release notes accompanying this consultation document you can find the necessary technical amendments to the DUIS and MMC, and what modification proposal they relate to.

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| Status of SEC Modification | SEC Modification title | Relevant section of release notes |
| Approved | SECMP0062 – Northbound Application Traffic Management – Alert Storm Protection part 2 | DUIS release note:  Section 2.1 |
| Approved | SECMP0081 – Alignment of DUIS and CHISM to reflect current DCC Processing | DUIS release note:  Section 2.3 |
| Approved | SECMP093 – Implementing IRP511 and CRP535 to support GBCS v3.2 devices. | DUIS release note:  Section 2.4  MMC release note:  Section 2 |
| Proposed | SECMP0067 – Service Request Traffic Management | DUIS release note:  Section 2.2 |

## Questions for consultation respondents

DCC is seeking responses to the following questions. In each case, please provide the rationale for any views expressed:

**BEIS mandated changes related to SMETS1**

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| **Question 1** | Do you agree the changes we are proposing to the DUIS regarding the Change Re-scaling of Gas Flow rate in SRV6.7 for SMETS1? If not, please provide your rationale. |

**BEIS mandated changes related to SMETS2**

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| **Question 2** | Do you agree with the changes we are proposing to the DUIS and MMC regarding Auxiliary Proportional Controllers? |
| **Question 3** | Do you agree with the proposed N58 alert structure changes, which have been updated to include two additional optional data items “ESMEVariant” and “DeviceGBCSVersion”, as outlined in section 5.1 of the DUIS release note? If not, please provide your rationale. |

**Defect fixes**

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| **Question 4** | Do you agree with the proposed DUIS change regarding the defect fix to Install Code Length 8.11, 2nd part to reinstall the validation for SMETS2? If not, please provide your rationale. |
| **Question 5** | Do you agree with the proposed DUIS change regarding the defect fix ‘DUIS inconsistency for GCS01a’? If not, please provide your rationale. |

**General question**

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| **Question 6** | Are you aware of any possible consequential changes that may be required to the SEC if these changes to the DUIS and MMC are made? |

# Next steps and implementation dates

Following the consultation, and any updating of the documents following feedback received from consultation comments, the documents will be submitted to the Secretary of State for consideration for designation alongside the SEC November 2020 Release.

The changes to the DUIS and MMC will come into force on the same day as the November 2020 SEC Release. The implementation timeline for the November 2020 SEC Release can be found on the SECAS website.

As outlined on the SECAS website, a final decision on the implementation date will be taken to the May 2020 SEC Panel. This is to allow for scope candidates to be fully approved by the SEC Change Board, Ofgem, and BEIS, and to ensure enough time is allocated for User Testing.

It should be noted that DCC, in collaboration with BEIS and supported by industry stakeholders is also considering changes to the DUIS and MMC to support the implementation of functionality to support pending SMETS1 capability releases. These are currently being developed and will be consulted on separately.

# How to respond

This consultation closes on **Tuesday 19 May 2020.** Please email your response to [consultations@smartdcc.co.uk](mailto:consultations@smartdcc.co.uk).

Consultation responses may be published on our website [www.smartdcc.co.uk](http://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 the responses in their entirety (including any text marked confidential) may be made available to 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, but we/they cannot give assurance that confidentiality can be maintained in all circumstances. An automatic confidentiality disclaimer generated by your IT system will not be regarded as a confidentiality request.

If you have any questions in relation to this consultation, please contact DCC via consultations@smartdcc.co.uk.