



Consultation

November 2020 DCC Testing Approach Document

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1. Introduction

The November 2020 SEC Release includes both SEC modifications and BEIS directed changes. Under Section D10.18 of the SEC, DCC has an obligation to produce a SEC Release Testing Approach Document which defines the approach to testing changes to DCC Systems which arise as a result of a SEC Release. However, this obligation is limited to the SEC modification elements of the release. Since this release includes BEIS directed changes as well as SEC modification changes, the document is referred to as “November 2020 DCC Testing Approach Document” in this consultation and the SEC Variation Testing Approach Document for November 2020 SEC Release (SVTAD November 2020). The draft November 2020 DCC Testing Approach Document published alongside this document has been produced to satisfy the requirements set out in Sections D10.18 – D10.20 of the SEC as well as the requirements set out in the SVTAD November 2020.

The SVTAD November 2020 is a high-level framework for the testing for the BEIS directed changes. A draft SVTAD November 2020 has been published and the DCC is currently consulting on the document¹. The SVTAD November 2020 requires a production of a Testing Approach Document to contain the detailed testing approach. To make testing easier for Parties, we produced a single test approach, the November 2020 DCC Testing Approach Document, which includes details of the actual tests required for both types of changes.

This consultation is seeking views on the draft November 2020 DCC Testing Approach Document. The draft November 2020 Testing Approach Document published alongside this consultation document defines the approach to testing to be undertaken by both DCC and Testing Participants.

SEC modification elements will be used to further develop the SEC Release Implementation Document for the November 2020 SEC Release in accordance with Section D10.18 to D10.20 of the SEC.

The draft November 2020 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 Wednesday, 10 June 2020.

¹ <https://www.smartdcc.co.uk/customer-hub/consultations/open-consultations/>

2. Scope of Release

2.1. SEC Modifications

2.1.1. Approved modifications (DCC Systems impacting)

The following modifications have been approved for inclusion in this Release:

- SECMP0062 'Northbound Application Traffic Management – Alert Storm Protection' will 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 the June 2020 SEC Release. The second stage of the solution will be implemented in this 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.
- MP093 'Implementing IRP511 and CRP535 to support GBCS v3.2 devices' proposes to fully deliver the functionality of two resolution proposals, IRP511 'Set Clock Alerts Refs in Alert Tables Incorrect' and CRP535 'Restoring Removed Devices from the HAN'. These had been intentionally left out of the November 2019 SEC Release in order to reduce any potential impact on testing for the Initial Operating Capacity (IOC).

2.1.2. Non system impacting modifications

MP081, MP112 and MP120 have been approved and will be implemented in the November 2020 SEC Release.

Any further modifications that do not impact on DCC Systems will be added to the scope of this release by the SEC Panel in May 2020.

2.2. BEIS Q4 2020 Package of Changes

The following BEIS changes are also being targeted for implementation in the November 2020 SEC Release. These changes were directed by the Secretary of State using powers to modify the SEC under Section 88 of the Energy Act 2008. The "BEIS Q4 2020 Package" includes the following changes to gas and electricity supply licences, the Smart Meter Communication Licences and to the Smart Energy Code (including Schedules and SEC Subsidiary Documents) that are required to support the following:

- i. the changes referred to in section 7 of the BEIS consultation on "changes to Standard Conditions of Gas and Electricity Supply Licences, conditions of the DCC Licence, the SEC, the UNC and the MRA", published on 14 January 2020 (which essentially propose to amend the SEC to introduce a new type of Organisation Certificate with a Remote Party Role of "xmlSign");

- ii. the changes referred to in chapters 3 and 4 of the BEIS consultation on “the DCC’s provision of an enrolment service for EDMI SMETS1 meters; changes to DCC, Electricity and Gas Supply Licence Conditions; and changes to the SEC, BSC and UNC”, published on 6 April 2020 (which propose to amend the SEC to introduce functionality to support Standalone Auxiliary Proportional Controllers (SAPCs) and Auxiliary Proportional Control (APC) functionality for Electricity Smart Metering Equipment (ESME) and further arrangements relating to the Issuing of Organisation Certificates with a Remote Party Role of “xmlSign”);
- iii. the associated changes to SEC Schedules and Appendices required to support the above changes. This includes an additional SMETS document as well as additional Versions of CHTS and GBCS, respective draft versions 5.0, 1.4 and 2.1, which have been consulted upon by BEIS and are available on the SECAS website. It also includes modified versions of:
 - SEC Appendix B (SMKI Organisation Certificate Policy) a draft of which was included in the Government consultation of 6 April 2020.
 - SEC Appendix D (SMKI Registration Authority Policies and Procedures) a draft of which was included in the Government consultation of 6 April 2020.
 - SEC Appendix E (DCC User Interface Services Schedule) A draft of which the Government plans to consult upon in May 2020. It is expected that this will simply reflect the DCC User eligibility rules set out in DUIS Draft 4.0 published for consultation by the DCC.
 - SEC Appendix J (Enduring Testing Approach Document) - changes to which are being developed by the DCC.
 - SEC Appendix K (SMKI and Repository Test Scenarios Document) – it is yet to be confirmed whether any changes are needed to this document to support the introduction of the XML signing certificates.
 - SEC Appendix M (SMKI Interface Design Specification) a draft of which was included in the Government consultation of 6 April 2020.
 - SEC Appendix R (Common Test Scenarios Document) - changes to which are being developed by the DCC and consulted on during May 2020.
 - SEC Appendix AB (Service Request Processing Document) – minor changes to which the Government proposes to consult upon in May 2020. The changes will simply reflect the fact that SAPCs are treated as if they are ESMEs for the purposes of this document.
 - SEC Appendix AC (Inventory, Enrolment and Decommissioning Procedures) – changes to which the Government proposes to consult on in May 2020. Again, these changes will reflect the fact that SAPCs are treated as if they are ESMEs.

There are also new versions of the following (which include Government driven changes):

- SEC Appendix AD (DCC User Interface Services Schedule) – DCC is currently consulting on draft version 4.0 of this document.
- SEC Appendix AF (Message Mapping Catalogue) – again DCC is currently consulting on draft version 4.0 of this document.

- iv. the release will also include the following Government led changes:
 - changes set out in DCC CR 1277 to reinstate validation of install code lengths for SMETS1 and SMETS2+ Devices included in Service Reference Variant (SRV) 8.11; and
 - changes set out in CR 1233 relating to the capture in the service audit trail of out of sequence Responses for future dated commands.

2.3. Defect fixes

The November 2020 SEC Release also includes technical changes to the DUIS in order to deliver a defect fix. Details are provided in the DUIS and MMC consultation mentioned above.

Progression through Testing Phases for the November 2020 SEC 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.

2.4. DCC Changes – CR1088

DCC is also considering including one of its own changes as part of the release. CR1088 will introduce a new XML Signing Role to be used when setting up a new service user in the production proving process within the DSP. The Production Proving process will utilise specific Production Proving Key Material and Production Proving Registration Data on a Production version of an ESME and GSME.

3. Overall Approach

The approach to testing of the November 2020 SEC 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.

The DCC will 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-A and UIT-B will 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

For elements relating to SEC modification changes, the SEC requires that the Panel review this document, along with any subsequent amendments. Because the November 2020 DCC Testing Approach Document will be used to further develop the November 2020 SEC Release Implementation Document, DCC considers that it will require implicit Panel approval as part of that document in accordance with D10.15.

It is proposed that the governance of the elements of the November 2020 DCC Testing Approach Document that apply to BEIS changes would need to be approved by the TAG. The Panel will decide Test Completion for BEIS directed changes. BEIS would resolve any disputes between the DCC and the TAG over content where it affected testing of functionality needed to support the BEIS directed changes.

The expected go-live date is 29 November 2020. However, this date may change with the support of the Panel and approval of Ofgem.

DCC will discuss the draft November 2020 DCC Testing Approach Document with the TAG during its meeting on 24 June 2020 and will seek feedback from members of that group.

Once this consultation closes on 10 June 2020, DCC will consider all responses received and make any amendments to the November 2020 DCC Testing Approach Document which are required. We will return to the TAG to discuss any amendments made to the November 2020 DCC Testing Approach Document and seek the group's explicit approval of the BEIS directed changes and informal ratification of the entire document.

We expect that the November 2020 DCC Testing Approach Document will be incorporated into the SEC Release Implementation Document for the November 2020 SEC Release and the SEC Modification elements presented to the Panel for approval during its meeting on 19 June 2020 (or a later date agreed with the Panel).

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 November 2020 DCC Testing Approach Document? If not, please provide a rationale for your response.
Q2	Do you have any other comments on the draft November 2020 DCC Testing Approach Document? Please provide details and any rationale.

Please provide responses by **16:00 on 10 June 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