

DCC Consultation Response

Consultation on proposed
changes to the Intimate
Communications Hub Interface
Specification

Version: 1.0

Date: 01.06.2021

Author: DCC Regulations

Classification: DCC Public

Table of Contents

1. Introduction	3
1.1. Structure of this document	3
2. Feedback on changes to ICHIS	3
2.1. Responses to consultation questions	3
3. DCC Conclusion/Next Steps.....	5

1. Introduction

On 5 February 2021, DCC issued a consultation to invite views on proposed amendments to the Intimate Communications Hub Interface Specification (ICHIS), which is a specification required under H12 of the Smart Energy Code (SEC).

The amendments focussed on changes to:

- Part C to clarify the risks and associated insulation testing with the power supply from the ICHIS Host to the ICHIS Device;
- updates to the referenced standards to ensure they are current and appropriate for the ICHIS content; and
- minor housekeeping amendments.

The consultation closed on Friday 26 February 2021 and in total 6 organisations responded.

1.1. Structure of this document

This document comprises of the following sections:

- The questions that were asked, together with a summary of views of respondents and DCC's responses to these.
- DCC's conclusions/next steps.

2. Feedback on changes to ICHIS

2.1. Responses to consultation questions

Q1: Do you agree with the proposed new Appendix C and its content? Please provide rationale for your views.

Stakeholder's response

All of the respondents agreed with the proposed new Appendix C and its content. One respondent noted that it makes sense to reference the dielectric tests for Communications Hubs in the specification, whilst another respondent noted it defines a method to ensure device insulation level testing with an Electricity Smart Metering Equipment (ESME). One respondent also stated that the new testing requirements in Appendix C would be suitable for design validation of new Hosts being introduced into the production environment.

One respondent also suggested that a statement should be added, potentially in the introduction, about applicability of the revised ICHIS specifications. Once a Device or Host has successfully completed testing against an earlier ICHIS standard, which was the current at the time of design and approval for manufacture, then updates to ICHIS do not require these devices to be recertified.

DCC's response

DCC has included the new Appendix C in the ICHIS without further amendment.

DCC has also added a statement with regards to applicability of the revised ICHIS specifications, however, the statement notes that devices do not need to be "retested" rather than "recertified". This is to reflect that the ICHIS testing does not provide certification.

Q2: Do you agree with the changes made to Part C? Please provide rationale for your views.

Stakeholder's response

The majority of respondents agreed with the proposed changes made to Part C.

However, one respondent noted that some passages have been deleted that might have been applicable outside of the change in standards used. Specifically, a passage in C2.1.1 paragraph 3: "For the avoidance of doubt, not every combination of CH and Host needs to be tested, however each CH and Host manufacturer must be able to demonstrate compliance.". Similarly, the respondent noted the next paragraph would seem desirable to retain: "The tests shall be carried out only on a complete Installation with all covers fitted (except when indicated hereinafter) and terminal cover, the terminal screws being screwed down to the maximum applicable conductor fitted in the terminals."

Two respondents also noted that Part C2.5 requires rewording as they are uncertain of the proposal to include a statement that it is the responsibility of the Hot Shoe manufacturer to ensure safe operation of the installation. They therefore suggested that "installation" should be replaced with "Hot Shoe" or "Device". This would avoid ambiguity over the installer's general obligation to install equipment in a safe and satisfactory manner and would be consistent with C1.3 of the ICHIS, which states "it is the responsibility of the Host manufacturer to ensure safe operation of the Host."

DCC's response

With regards to retaining the two mentioned paragraphs in C2.1.1, DCC and the ICHIS Working Group consider that these should be removed. By stating that not every combination of CH and Host needs to be tested, DCC notes that this suggest that the specification requires two sets of testing. To avoid this ambiguity, DCC has removed the statement. Also, by retaining the reference to how the tests shall be carried out with covers, DCC notes that this may cause further confusion and considers that all testing requirements should be in Appendix C. Therefore, DCC has removed these paragraphs from C2.1.1 as originally proposed.

In relation to the comments received on C2.5, DCC agrees that "installation" should be replaced with "Hot Shoe" as this avoids ambiguity and is consistent with Part C of the ICHIS.

Q3: Do you agree with the proposed changes to the referenced standards? Please provide rationale for your views.

Stakeholder's response

All of the respondents agreed with the proposed changes to the referenced standards and welcomed the regular review to align with UK regulations.

One respondent noted one supplement that the latest version of ETSI EN 301 489-1 is version 2.2.3.

DCC's response

DCC notes that the latest version of ETSI EN 301 489-1 is version 2.2.3 and agrees that this should be reflected in the ICHIS.

3. DCC Conclusion/Next Steps

DCC has updated and published the ICHIS (version 2.3) on the [Document Centre](#) of the DCC Website.