



SEC Release Conclusions on the June 2024 Testing Approach Document

DCC Conclusions on the consultation issued on the draft
Testing Approach Document for the June 2024 SEC Release

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1. Introduction and context

1. The Data Communications Company (DCC) is Britain's digital energy spine, supporting the transformation of the energy system. DCC is licensed by the Government and regulated by the energy regulator Ofgem to connect smart meters in homes and small businesses across Great Britain to a single secure, digital network. DCC supports the roll-out of second-generation (SMETS2) smart meters, as well as the migration of existing first-generation (SMETS1) meters onto our network.
2. The Smart Energy Code (SEC) is the agreement that defines the rights of parties involved in the management of smart metering in Great Britain. Changes to the SEC are managed via the SEC Modification Process and then implemented as part of a SEC Release. There are three scheduled SEC Releases a year: February, June and November, the latter two can impact DCC Systems.

1.1. Background

3. Under SEC Section D10.18, DCC has an obligation to produce a SEC Release Testing Approach Document (TAD) which defines the approach to testing changes to DCC Systems arising from a SEC Release.
4. In November 2023 DCC issued a consultation¹ seeking comments on the draft June 2024 DCC Testing Approach Document which has been produced to satisfy the requirements set out in SEC Sections D10.18 – D10.20.
5. DCC presented the consultation responses and amended draft TAD to the SEC Testing Advisory Group (TAG) on 10 January 2024 for approval. This document sets out the response and conclusions prior to publication.

2. Consultation responses

2.1. Responses

6. DCC received written responses from two parties, both of which are Energy Suppliers. In addition to the written responses, DCC received comments from stakeholders through engagement activities such as the SEC Testing Advisory Group (TAG).

3. Analysis of responses

7. DCC has analysed the feedback provided and views of stakeholders. This section presents DCC's analysis by question; with an overview of the responses on the topic and a DCC response.

3.1. Question 1

8. DCC sought views on the overall testing approach asking: **"Do you support the overall approach and scope of the draft June 2024 DCC Testing Approach Document? Please provide rationale for your views."**

Respondent Views

9. Both respondents supported the overall approach and scope outlined in the draft June 2024 TAD attached to the consultation. It was noted that the document followed the same approach and format as previous approved TADs. One respondent considered that it provides the necessary balance between delivering to the planned date and allowing for appropriate testing to be undertaken.

¹ [June 2024 SEC Release Testing Approach Document | Smart DCC](#)

DCC Response

10. DCC notes the support for the overall approach.

3.2. Question 2

11. DCC sought any additional comments on the TAD asking: **“Do you have any other comments on the draft June 2024 DCC Testing Approach Document? Please provide details and rationales for your views.”**.

Respondent Views

12. One respondent noted the intention to use emulators in the event no actual devices are available and considered that, whilst this is a pragmatic solution, they noted that it could introduce increased risk to end users.

DCC Response

13. Regarding the use of emulators, DCC notes that there is no new device impacting functionality being delivered in the June 2024 SEC Release. Therefore, DCC will utilise devices, and emulators where real devices are not available. The emulators that will be utilised have been tested and assured for the November 2023 SEC Release and GBCS v4.1.

14. DCC can confirm that its intention is not to move to testing solely with emulators in cases where there is no device impacting functionality. In such circumstances, emulators will however be used where they are effective and economic, and provided that overall integrity of the testing process is not compromised.

15. DCC therefore notes the comment received and confirms no changes have been made to the TAD.

3.3. General

16. Since the draft TAD (v1.0) was issued for consultation, part of CR4879² has been descoped and therefore Service Request Variant (SRV) 4.2 is now out of scope for testing for the June 2024 SEC Release.

17. The DCC has updated the TAD to state:

“This change introduces an IE S1SP Reading’s Cache solution to which will be used to hold data recently obtained from ESME devices for Service Requests 4.6.1, 4.8.1 and 4.8.3 and store the response in the cache for the Data Retention Period range of between twenty-five (25) and seventy-two (72) hours. Upon receipt of a SRV whereby the same SRV, Date and Time is within the cache then the response will be serviced from the cache without sending the request onto the device.”

4. TAG Decision

18. On Wednesday 10 January 2024, DCC presented the consultation responses and the proposed amendments to the June 2024 SEC Release TAD.

19. Following amendments and clarifications, TAG approved the TAD in accordance with SEC Section D10.20.

² CR4870 ‘DSP delivery of Capacity Uplift and Scheduling Associated with Market-wide Half Hourly Settlement (MHHS)’

5. Next Steps

20. Published alongside this consultation conclusion document is the approved version of the June 2024 SEC Release TAD (V2.0).

6. Attachments

Attachment 1: June 2024 SEC Release Testing Approach Document v2.0