

Meeting Session	Open
Paper Reference	SEG/20181003/03-03
Action	For Discussion

SIF 020 – Solution Options

This paper sets out the identified options to enable SPAA Parties and other impacted stakeholders to assess these and determine a preferred solution for this to be taken forward.

1. Background and Introduction.

- 1.1 Smart Energy Code (SEC) Modification Proposal (SECMP) 0006 'Specifying the number of digits for device display' will be implemented on 30 September 2018 and introduces a standardised number of register digits for SMETS2 compliant smart meters for the user display. This was originally raised to avoid causing confusion for consumers during a Change of Supplier (CoS) and/or Change of Tenancy (CoT) event.
- 1.2 For gas meters, the solution introduces a requirement for the device to display the reading in 8 decimal digits representing 1/1000th m³, with a decimal point being between the 3rd and 4th least significant digit (e.g. nnnnn.nnn) on the User Display (decimal places would not be accounted for in central systems). This is equivalent to what would be considered a 5 dial register in Market Domain Data (MDD) today and would be recorded as a 5 dial register reading in central systems.
- 1.3 This change is only relevant to the information displayed on the device itself, meaning remotely retrieved meter readings will not necessarily follow the same convention and may differ to those taken 'onsite' by a customer or a meter reader. For example, a gas meter register may 'clock' over from 99999.999 to 00012.123 but the remotely collected reading would be 100012.123. There is a risk that suppliers may interpret this differently which could cause issues with agreeing readings on Change of Supplier (e.g. Supplier X recognised the reading as 00012.123, with a round the clock count of 1, whereas, Supplier Y recognised the read as 100012.123, with a round the clock count of 0).
- 1.4 SPAA Issues Form (SIF) 020 was raised and discussed at the July SPAA Expert Group (SEG) to seek views on whether this is a concern for SPAA Parties and whether a solution is required. Subsequently, a Request for Information (RFI) was sent to all SPAA Parties to highlight the potential issue and elicit views on whether action is required.

- 1.5 Responses to the RFI were discussed at the September 2018 SEG where 3 potential solutions were identified. This paper sets out the identified options to enable SPAA Parties and other impacted stakeholders to assess these and determine a preferred solution for this to be taken forward.

2. Options

2.1 Option 1 – Do nothing

This option would require Suppliers to identify the correct number of digits in MDD for the installed meter and retrieve and submit the correct meter reading using their own methods.

2.2 Option 2 – Standardise SMETS2 meters as 5 digits in MDD and use the meter reading displayed on the device’s User Interface (physical display)

This option would require all SMETS2 meters to be standardised in MDD as 5 register digits. If an internal meter register reading exceeded 5 register digits, the Supplier would truncate the read to convert this to a 5 register digit meter reading, using standard methodology, and would pass this meter reading through to their Shipper for use in settlement. A guidance document would be produced for SPAA parties to explain the method that can be used to do this.

e.g. if a Supplier retrieved a meter reading of 110682.382, they would pass a reading of 10682 through to their Shipper.

Consumption Register	User Display	Supplier to Shipper to CDSP Meter Reading	Round the Clock Indicator
110682.382	10682.382	10682	1
132.687	00132.687	00132	0
222399.023	22399.023	22399	2

A DSC Change Proposal and/or UNC Modification may also be required to explore any consequential impacts on the UNC and/or central systems as a result of Suppliers potentially amending the meter readings passed through to the Shipper for settlement. As the guidance on how to truncate the meter readings would not be mandatory, Shippers would need to consider how they would treat meter readings that were rejected by the CDSP where they do not align with the dials/digits held on UK Link.

2.3 Option 3 – Set the number of register digits for SMETS2 meters to mirror the number of register digits on the internal consumption register

This option would require the number of register digits in MDD, for SMETS2 meters, to mirror the number of register digits on the internal consumption register that Suppliers would use to retrieve meter readings remotely via the DCC. Where a meter reading on the physical display was received and did not match that of the reading retrieved remotely, the Supplier would need to consider how this meter reading would be passed through to their Shipper for settlement.

Consideration would need to be given to how meters with no communication would be managed in this scenario as the only meter reading used for billing or settlement would be retrieved visually by reading the physical display.

Manufacturers of existing meters in MDD would also need to be approached to clarify the number of register digits on the internal consumption register to identify if a change to MDD would be required.

A DSC Change Proposal and/or UNC Modification may also be required to explore any consequential impacts on the UNC and/or central systems as a result of Suppliers potentially amending the meter readings passed through to the Shipper for settlement.

3. Benefits and drawbacks

Option	Benefits	Drawbacks
Option 1 – Do nothing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No immediate impact to industry governance or central systems. Parties can use their own preferred solution/method to mitigate any risks. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No common approach between Suppliers – potential impact to interoperability in the market. Potential higher levels of rejected readings and impact on settlement. Potential issues with agreed reads on CoS if Suppliers are using different methods.
Option 2 – Standardise SMETS2 meters as 5 digits in MDD and use the meter reading displayed on the device’s User Interface (physical display)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Readings used for billing/settlement will align with those on the meter display. Common approach will mitigate risk of rejected readings and issues with agreed reads. Existing SMETS2 meters installed are already recorded as 5 digits in MDD. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Potential system change for some parties. Potential subsequent UNC/DSC change required would follow its own governance route and is not guaranteed to align with this solution. Potential central system change required (to be determined if DSC Change Proposal is required).
Option 3 – Set the number of register digits for SMETS2 meters to mirror the number of register digits on the internal consumption register	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Remotely retrieved meter readings would match that in MDD. Common approach will mitigate the risk of rejected readings and 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Requires manufacturer engagement to clarify the number of digits for existing meters. This may result in changes to MDD for installed meters.

	issues with agreed reads.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Unclear how meter readings would be treated that are retrieved visually from the physical display in the case of no communications.• The assumption on the number of digits on the internal register could be incorrect when MDD is initially updated.
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4. Recommendation

4.1 The SPAA Expert Group is invited to:

- **CONSIDER** the suggested options and contents of this paper; and
- **RECOMMEND** a preferred solution; and
- **AGREE** the next steps.

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