

Overview of the Technical Assurance of Half Hourly Metering Systems

Introduction

This document provides a high level overview of the process of Technical Assurance of Half Hourly Metering Systems registered in Supplier Volume Allocation (SVA)¹ and Central Volume Allocation (CVA).

ELEXON manages the Performance Assurance Framework (PAF) that consists of a complementary set of preventative, detective and corrective techniques designed to mitigate against risks to the Balancing and Settlement Code (BSC) arrangements. The aim of the PAF is to provide independent, equitable, positive and consistent assurance regarding the integrity of Settlement, and to promote corrective actions to address any identified issues.

Technical Assurance is a PAF technique performed by the Technical Assurance Agent (TAA). The TAA is a BSC Agent contracted and managed by ELEXON to deliver the associated BSC and Code Subsidiary Document requirements.

Purpose

The purpose of the Technical Assurance technique is to provide assurance that Half Hourly Metering Systems installed for Settlement purposes correctly record energy consumed or generated. The technique is detailed in Section L7 of the BSC and in Balancing and Settlement Code Procedure (BSCP) 27 – ‘Technical Assurance of Half Hourly Metering Systems for Settlement Purposes’, which can be downloaded from www.elexon.co.uk.

The Technical Assurance Process

The TAA inspects a sample of Half Hourly Metering Systems registered in the SVA and CVA markets each year to determine if Half Hourly Metering Systems are compliant with the requirements of the BSC and the Metering Codes of Practice (which are also Code Subsidiary Documents).

Site Selection

The sample of Half Hourly Metering Systems is determined by the Performance Assurance Board (PAB), on behalf of the BSC Panel, and currently includes:

A representative sample of inspection visits	A representative sample selected by the TAA with an equal percentage of Meter Operator Agents (MOAs) and Suppliers.
Targeted inspection visits	When the TAA is required to target a Metering System where non-compliance is suspected.
Re-inspection visits	A random sample of Metering Systems checked to confirm that Category 1 non-compliances have been rectified.
A specific sample of inspection visits (SVA only)	A specific group or type of Half Hourly Metering Systems registered in the SVA market where the risk to Settlement of any non-compliance and the likelihood of a material non-compliance being identified is perceived to be high.

¹ SVA Half Hourly Systems registered as Measurement Class Id C (Half Hourly Metered at sites above 100Kw).

On selection of a Metering System, the TAA will notify the relevant Registrant², Meter Operator Agent (MOA) and Licensed Distribution System Operator (LDSO) of the scheduled inspection visit. The Registrant should make the arrangements for the scheduled visit to take place within the timescales outlined in BSCP27, liaising with the Customer, the MOA, LDSO and the Transmission Company to provide access as required. The Registrant should ensure that the MOA is in attendance on the day of the inspection and that the Meter Technical Details³ are provided to the TAA.

Inspection Visit

The inspection visit will cover the following areas:

- That Metering Equipment has been labelled in accordance with the Metering Codes of Practice;
- Consistency and correctness of Meter Technical Details held by interested parties against the Metering Codes of the Practice requirements and actual Metering System configuration;
- Appropriateness and accuracy of the Meter test certificate, the measurement transformer test certificate(s) and the Meter Equipment installation to verify the overall accuracy requirements of the Metering System;
- An Energy Measurement Check to verify that the Metering System is recording the correct amount of energy;
- General compliance of the Metering System with the Metering Codes of the Practice; and
- Estimating any Error associated with a Category 1 non-compliance that has a material impact on Settlement.

The TAA also undertakes a Consumption Data Comparison check to compare the energy recorded by the Meter during the inspection visit with the the consumption data held at the Half Hourly Data Collector (HHDC) or Central Data Collection Agent (CDCA). This is to ensure that the energy recorded at the Meter is consistent with the energy values entering Settlement.

The results of an inspection visit will be issued to the Registrant, MOA, LDSO (as appropriate) and the results of the Consumption Data Comparison Check will be issued to the Registrant, HHDC or CDCA and MOA (as appropriate).

² The Registrant is the person who has registered the Metering System in the Central Meter Registration Service (CMRS) or Supplier Meter Registration Service (SMRS).

³ Meter Technical Details are all the relevant technical details of a Metering System required to collect and correctly interpret metered data.

Non-Compliance

The TAA may issue one or more non-compliances for a Metering System. There are four categories of non-compliance:

Category 1	The non-compliance is currently affecting the quality of data for Settlement purposes;
Category 2	The non-compliance has the potential to affect the quality of data for Settlement purposes;
Observation	The non-compliance neither affects nor has the potential to affect the quality of data for Settlement purposes;
Non-Compliant (NC) – for the Consumption Data Comparison Check only	The energy recorded by the Meter is not consistent with consumption data held at the HHDC or CDCA.

Where a Metering System is determined to be non-compliant, the Registrant will be responsible for progressing the rectification of the non-compliance with the support of the MOA, HHDC or CDCA, and LDSO⁴. This is monitored by the PAB in conjunction with ELEXON and the TAA.

Appeals

A Registrant may appeal a non-compliance if it believes that the requirements for issuing a non-compliance have not been adhered to in relation to the Metering System⁵.

Rectification of Settlement Error

Following the identification of a Category 1 non-compliance, it may be the case that there is settlement error resulting from the non-compliance. Parties have an obligation to rectify any settlement error. If, for whatever reason, rectification of any settlement error can not be carried out in accordance with usual Settlement procedures, a Trading Query may be raised to rectify it.

On the identification of a Category 1 non-compliance, the Registrant responsible for the Metering System will be contacted, advised of the potential settlement error and will be asked to clarify how they plan to rectify this. In particular, ELEXON will recommend that the Registrant raises a Trading Query to rectify any resultant settlement error. ELEXON will provide guidance and technical support where necessary, in co-ordination with the Registrant's Operational Support Manager (OSM)⁶.

⁴ The Registrant should either rectify the non-compliance within 10 working days of receiving the notification or provide a rectification plan, which should detail the appropriate milestones and actions to achieve rectification.

⁵ For more information on the appeals process, please refer to BSCP27 and the 'Procedure for the Determination of Technical Assurance for Metering Appeals by the Performance Assurance Board,' which can be downloaded from www.elexon.co.uk.

⁶ For more information on the Trading Query and Trading Disputes process, please refer to 'Overview of the Trading Query and Trading Disputes Process' information sheet which can be downloaded from the website www.elexon.co.uk.

Next Steps

Monthly results will be monitored by ELEXON and incorporated into reports to the PAB. If the non-compliance persists, the Registrant or its appointed Agent may be further progressed within the PAB Escalation Process⁷.

Contact

For further information relating to Technical Assurance please contact technical.assurance@elexon.co.uk

⁷ For further information on the PAB Escalation Process, please refer to 'Overview of the PAB Escalation Process' information sheet which can be downloaded from www.elexon.co.uk.