4.3 CP Form

Change Proposal – BSCP40/02	CP No: 1979-B
	Version No: 1.0 (mandatory by BSCCo)

Title (mandatory by originator)

Creating an Approval Process for Managing New and Legacy Communication Types

Description of Problem/Issue (mandatory by originator)

Older metering communication types are quickly becoming redundant and are being replaced by newer communication types. Elexon are proposing to create an approvals process to allow for the managed end dating of older technologies, such as Public switched telephone network (PSTN), Circuit Switched Data (CSD) and later 2G, and the assessment of the validity of newer communications technologies, such as (but not exclusively) Narrow Band-Intern of Things (NB-IoT) and Category M (CAT-M).

Proposed Solution (mandatory by originator)

To establish an approvals process, similar to the existing Compliance and Protocol Approval procedure within <u>BSCP601</u> '<u>Metering Protocol Approval and Compliance Testing</u>', catering to the evolving metering communication technologies. This will streamline the introduction and education of innovative communications methods and the scheduled discontinuation of outdated ones.

As the new process is linked to the J0386 Data Item within the Retail Energy Code (REC) Energy Market Data Specification (EMDS), Elexon will raise a corresponding REC Change to amend the Communications Method Data Item (J0386) to remove the hard coded enumerations and instead state the valid set is defined under the BSC within the Communications Method Approval document, which can be found in Attachment C. This will align with the current process for managing the Outstation Type Data Item (J0471) but also remove the need to raise an EMDS change whenever an update to the valid set is required. It will also allow end dates to be assigned against communication types which is a critical feature of the process implemented under this CP.

The intention of this CP is to implement the foundational process for which Communication Methods can be more centrally managed. However to minimise the impact to participants it is not intended to act as a vehicle for the data cleanse of the values themselves. This activity will take place following implementation of this CP and the corresponding REC CP. This will allow a quicker and more efficient review of the current communication types. One exclusion to this will be the end-dating of CSD and PSTN as communication methods. This is due to these services becoming redundant by the end of 2025.

¹ https://bscdocs.elexon.co.uk/bsc-procedures/bscp601-metering-protocol-approval-and-compliance-testing-bscp-601

Justification for Change (mandatory by originator)

The evolution of metering communication systems underscores the need for timely updates. Legacy systems risk inefficiencies and potential security vulnerabilities. Implementing an approval process, modelled on BSCP601, ensures a standardised approach to introducing new technologies and managing the exit of old ones. Further justifications include:

- To allow for the centrally managed end-dating of redundant communications technologies in line with known deadlines for those technologies to become redundant and unreliable.
- To allow for the wider industry education of newer types of communication technologies.
- To create and expand the already existing central knowledge base of the evolution and attributes of newer communication technologies as they relate to Settlement Metering Equipment.
- To ensure transparency for all industry participants on the newer communications types available and the dates for which legacy communications must be removed.

To which section of the Code does the CP relate, and does the CP facilitate the current provisions of the Code? (mandatory by originator)

Section L

Estimated Implementation Costs (mandatory by BSCCo)

Document only, less than £1K

BSC Configurable Items Affected by Proposed Solution(s) (mandatory by originator)

BSCP601 'Metering Protocol Approval and Compliance Testing'

Impact on Core Industry Documents or System Operator-Transmission Owner Code (mandatory by originator)

N/A

Related Changes and/or BSC Releases (mandatory by BSCCo)

Issue 93 and a Change to be raised with REC

Requested Implementation Date (mandatory by originator)

5 Working Days after Committee approval.

Reason:

The risk of parties not changing to newer communications technologies is known within the industry and members of PAB are particularly concerned with this risk and are looking for change and direction ASAP.

Version History (mandatory by BSCCo)

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