4.3 CP Form

Change Proposal – BSCP40/02	CP No: CP1587 *Version No: V1.0* *(mandatory by BSCCo)*

Title (mandatory by originator)

Obsolete Metering Equipment

Description of Problem/Issue (mandatory by originator)

What is the issue?

There are types of Meter/Outstation that are no longer manufactured and 'unsupported' by the Meter/Outstation manufacturer. The BSC does not currently set out which Meter/Outstation Types are currently manufactured and whether supported or not in the Code of Practice (CoP) Compliance Protocol Approvals list.

There is also no process in BSCP601[1] for Elexon to check with Meter/Outstation manufacturers whether an approved Meter/Outstation Type is manufactured and supported, and where not manufactured or supported take any action to prevent continued installation of the relevant Meter/Outstation Type.

There is a risk to Settlement where Meters/Outstations are installed, or continued to be left in service, where they are no longer supported or spares are available. An example of this risk would be where a Meter/Outstation becomes faulty with no spare available and, for a rack mounted metering panel it can take significant time to replace the entire metering panel, the circuit is reliant on one Meter/Outstation which is of a similar age to the faulty Meter/Outstation until the metering panel can be replaced. There have been examples where the remaining Meter/Outstation has gone faulty and data needs to be estimated.

The same issue applies to Data Collectors where they can no longer support a protocol for a particular Meter/Outstation Type or wish to withdraw from the market. The BSC does not currently set out which Data Collectors currently can support a particular Meter/Outstation Type, only that they have achieved protocol approval at some point, which is in the CoP Compliance Protocol Approvals list.

There is also no process in BSCP601 for Elexon to remove a Data Collector from the approved list where they inform Elexon that they can no longer support a particular Meter/Outstation Type or are exiting the market. In this scenario there is a risk of erroneous appointments of a Data Collector that does not have a compliant Protocol.

Since CP1174[2] was implemented in June 2007, if compliance testing or protocol approval testing is successful, Elexon can issue a Certificate of Compliance or Protocol Approval to an applicant. Prior to June 2007 Elexon had to seek a decision from the relevant BSC Panel Committee before issuing Certificates of Compliance or Protocol Approval to an applicant. Elexon still has an

[1] BSCP601: Metering Protocol Approval and Compliance Testing
[2] CP1174: Changes to BSCP601 and Compliance Test Specification

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obligation under BSCP601 to notify the Panel[3] of certificates issued and updates to the Compliance Approval and Protocol Approval list. BSCP601 also places an obligation on Elexon to notify Parties and Party Agents of new approvals. Elexon does this via a Newscast article. There is an administrative burden placed on Elexon in producing a paper for the relevant BSC Panel Committee.

Background

The metering CoPs detail the technical requirements for Metering Systems. This includes a requirement that the Outstation data shall be to a format and protocol approved by the Panel in accordance with BSCP601. The BSCP601 process is defined to ensure that Metering Equipment and Asset Metering Equipment is designed and manufactured to the requirements of the relevant CoP. Each Compliance Approval is specific to that Metering Equipment, or Asset Metering Equipment, tested including type reference and any firmware and software versions. Metering Equipment and Asset Metering Equipment firmware and software updates not affecting Compliance need not be re-approved.

The Issue 93[4] group discussed an aspect with the intent of defining a process to deal with obsolete equipment in BSCP601.

The Workgroup highlighted the need for this requirement to trigger a recognition of a higher risk of failure at end of life and potentially a non-compliance. The exact mechanism for initiating Metering Equipment change was not determined. The Workgroup agreed that at the lower end of the market, Meters are a consumable item and can promptly be replaced on failure. In the higher volume Supplier Volume Allocation (SVA) and Central Volume Allocation (CVA) market, changing Metering Equipment can result in long replacement lead times. Using Metering Equipment that is no longer manufactured and supported poses a risk to Settlement where the product is reaching end of life and replacing an entire metering panel to use Metering Equipment from a different manufacturer can take up to six months to complete the works.

The conclusion from the Issue 93 workgroup provided the below recommendations that were noted and agreed by the workgroup:

- Process to be added to BSCP601 to check and confirm (yearly) where a manufacturer has stopped supporting a Meter Type;
- Process to be added to BSCP601 to withdraw a Certificate of Compliance for unsupported Meter/Outstations Types;
- Process to be added to BSCP601 to withdraw Protocol Approval where a Data Collector no longer can support an approved Protocol;
- Process to be added to give a transition period to remove unsupported Meter/Outstation Types; and
- Raise a Metering Dispensation to allow unsupported Meter/Outstation Types to be installed where a fault occurs and the Meter/Outstation type is still in the transition period for removal.

The recommendations were presented to, and noted by, the BSC Panel on 8 September 2022[5],

[3] the BSC Panel has delegated responsibility for BSCP601 to its BSC Panel Committees, the Supplier Volume Allocation Group and the Imbalance Settlement Group
[4] Issue 93 'Review of the BSC metering Codes of Practice'
[5] BSC Panel 330/08

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In addition, Elexon proposes to remove the requirement to present an information paper to the Supplier Volume Allocation Group and the Imbalance Settlement Group. This was raised at the Panel sub-committee meetings of 6 June 2023 (SVG/268 and ISG/266) and the committees were agreeable to remove the requirement for an information paper and to propose a more efficient method of notification.

Proposed Solution (mandatory by originator)

This CP will look to amend sections 1.1 (Scope and Purpose of the Procedure), 1.2 (Main Users of Procedure and their Responsibilities) and 1.3 (Use of the Procedure) to define the new process and obligations on stakeholders.

This CP will also remove the obligation to notify the Panel sub-Committees, via an information paper, of certificates issued and updates to Compliance and Protocol Approval list in sections 2 'Interface and Timetable Information' for parts 2.1, 2.2 and 2.3 and rely on the weekly Newscast to inform industry of new, or updates to existing, Compliance and Protocol Approvals. The obligation to produce a paper where an issue has been identified with a Compliance or Protocol Approval will remain in section 2.4.

This CP will also add processes (2.5 and 2.6) in section 2 'Interface and Timetable Information' to confirm whether Meter/Outstation Types are still manufactured and/or supported, and where confirmation that a Data Collector can no longer support a Protocol, to notify Parties and Party Agents. In the case of unsupported Meter/Outstation Types give a transition period to remove unsupported Meter/Outstation Types.

Should this CP be approved Elexon will raise a Metering Dispensation to allow unsupported Meter/Outstation Types to be installed where a fault occurs and the Meter/Outstation Type is still in the transition period for removal.

Justification for Change (mandatory by originator)

This CP will provide a process to confirm whether Meter/Outstation Types are still manufactured and supported. It will also provide a transition period to remove unsupported assets and mitigate the risk to Settlement of faults on Meters/Outstations occurring which prevent actual data being submitted into Settlement. This CP will establish a process to remove Data Collectors who can no longer support a Protocol for a particular Meter/Outstation Type which will reduce erroneous appointments to Data Collectors who cannot support a particular Meter/Outstation Type.

Additionally, this CP will reduce the administrative burden on Elexon preparing and presenting a committee information paper where there is already a more effective means, via Newscast, to inform industry of Compliance and Protocol Approval updates.

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 'Metering'

Estimated Implementation Costs (mandatory by BSCCo)

<£2,000

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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) No impact identified
Related Changes and/or BSC Releases (mandatory by BSCCo) Issue 93 'Review of the BSC metering Codes of Practice'
Requested Implementation Date (mandatory by originator) 29 February 2024, as part of the February 2024 release.
Reason: To allow enough time to consult the industry, update the relevant documents and implement this change as early as possible.
Version History (mandatory by BSCCo)
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Attachments: Yes. BSCP601j

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