

CP Progression Paper

Obsolete Metering Equipment

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About This Document

You can find the definitions of the terms and acronyms used in this document in the [BSC Glossary¹](#).

This document provides information on a new Change Proposal (CP) and outlines our proposed progression timetable for this change, including when it will be issued for CP Consultation in the next suitable Change Proposal Circular (CPC) batch.

We are presenting this paper to the ISG and SVG on 7 November 2023 to capture any comments or questions from Committee Members on this CP before we issue it for consultation.

There are three parts to this document:

- This is the main document. It provides a summary of the solution, impacts, anticipated costs, and proposed implementation approach, as well as our proposed progression approach for this CP.
- Attachment A contains the CP proposal form.
- Attachment B contains the proposed redlined changes to deliver the CP solution



Committee

Imbalance Settlement Group (ISG) and Supplier Volume Allocation Group (SVG)



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¹ <https://www.elexon.co.uk/glossary/?show=all>



Not sure where to start?

We suggest reading the following sections:

- Have 5 minutes?
Read section 1
- Have 15 minutes?
Read sections 1, 4, 5 and 6
- Have 30 minutes?
Read all sections
- Have longer? Read all sections and the annexes and attachments

Why change?

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](#)² 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 unavailable. Similar issues apply 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.

Elexon still has an obligation under BSCP601 to notify the Panel³ 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.

Solution

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.

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² [BSCP601: Metering Protocol Approval and Compliance Testing](#)

³ the BSC Panel has delegated responsibility for BSCP601 to its BSC Panel Committees, the Supplier Volume Allocation Group and the Imbalance Settlement Group

Impacts and costs

This will impact all Agents and BSC Parties who install Meters and who own the Meters. There may also be an impact on Half Hourly Data Collectors (HHDCs) applying for Protocol Approvals for new Meters that have been installed that they may not have a Protocol Approval for.

Implementation

We recommend an implementation date of 29 February 2024 as part of February 2024 release.

2. Why Change?

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 [BSCP601⁴](#) 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 replacement 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 [CP1174⁵](#) 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. There is an administrative burden placed on Elexon in producing a paper for the relevant BSC Panel Committee. Elexon still has an obligation under BSCP601 to notify the Panel⁶, via a paper, 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.

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⁴ [BSCP601: Metering Protocol Approval and Compliance Testing](#)

⁵ [CP1174: Changes to BSCP601 and Compliance Test Specification](#)

⁶ the BSC Panel has delegated responsibility for BSCP601 to its BSC Panel Committees, the Supplier Volume Allocation Group and the Imbalance Settlement Group

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 93⁷](#) Workgroup discussed an aspect with the intent of defining a process to deal with Obsolete Metering 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 2022⁸,

In addition, Ellexon 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.

⁷ [Issue 93 'Review of the BSC metering Codes of Practice'](#)

⁸ [BSC Panel 330/08](#)

3. Solution

Proposed solution

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.

Proposer's rationale

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.

Proposed redlining

The proposed redlined changes to BSCP601 can be found in Attachment B.

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4. Impacts and Costs

BSC Party & Party Agent impacts and costs

BSC Party & Party Agent Impacts	
BSC Party/Party Agent	Impact
Distribution System Operators (DSO)	This will have an impact on all parties who install Meters and who own the Meters.
Generators	
Suppliers	
Meter Operators	This will have an impact on all agents who install Meters and who own the Meters.
Meter Operator Agents (MOAs)	
CVA MOAs	
HHMOAs	

Note, this may specifically impact on Metering Dispensation D/565 for the Prometer R/W Meter types and potentially the Honeywell/Elster A1700 and A1140 Meter types.

Central impacts and costs

Central impacts

This Change Proposal is limited to BSCP601. We do not anticipate any System Impacts.

Central Impacts	
Document Impacts	System Impacts
<ul style="list-style-type: none">BSCP601	<ul style="list-style-type: none">NA

Impact on BSC Settlement Risks

Impact on BSC Settlement Risks
No impact anticipated on BSC Settlement Risks. This CP should mitigate risk to Settlement as it will provide a transition period to remove unsupported assets.

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Impact on Market-wide Half Hourly Settlement (MHHS)

Impact on MHHS

There are no anticipated impacts on MHHS.

Central costs

The central implementation costs for this CP will be <£2k for BSCCo.

5. Implementation Approach

Recommended Implementation Date

The requestor has recommended that this is implemented as soon as possible. As this is a document only change to BSCP601, we therefore recommend an implementation date of 29 February 2024 as part of February 2024 release.

6. Proposed Progression

Progression timetable

The table below outlines the proposed progression plan for this CP:

Progression Timetable	
Event	Date
CP Progression Paper presented to ISG for information	7 November 23
CP Progression Paper presented to SVG for information	7 November 23
CP Consultation	13 November 23 – 8 December 23
CP Assessment Report presented to ISG for decision	9 January 24
CP Assessment Report presented to SVG for decision	9 January 24
Proposed Implementation Date	29 February 24

CP Consultation questions

We intend to ask the standard CP Consultation questions for this CP. We do not believe any additional questions need to be asked for this CP.

Standard CP Consultation Questions
Do you agree with the proposed solution?
Do you agree that the draft redlining delivers the proposed solution?
Will this CP impact your organisation?
Will your organisation incur any costs in implementing this CP?
Do you agree with the proposed implementation approach for this CP?

7. Recommendations

We invite you to:

- **NOTE** the proposed progression timetable for the CP; and
- **PROVIDE** any comments or additional questions for inclusion in the CP Consultation
- **NOTE** that this CP will be presented to:
- The ISG and SVG on 7 November 2023.