

Central Management Systems (CMS) Approval and Ongoing Operation

1. Introduction

As a Meter Administrator (MA), since the introduction of CMS¹ as part of the process for calculating Unmetered Supplies half hourly energy consumption data, we have worked with the majority if not all the approved CMS providers. In some cases, we have also provided support to CMS providers, guiding them through the approval process

As more CMS providers have entered the market and gained approval, we have become aware of some common issues with CMS that pose a potential risk to settlements in terms of half hourly energy calculation accuracy.

During our discussions with the CMS providers to resolve issues with live systems and also whilst assisting with CMS approval, we have become aware that there are misunderstandings surrounding the CMS requirements. This is both during the CMS approval process and then during the ongoing operation, post approval.

This paper seeks a review of the current Elexon guidance notes and test specifications to ensure clearer guidance to a CMS provider seeking approval, ensuring the CMS is fully compliant at “go live”. It also proposes that consideration is given to introducing a technical assurance concept to ensure ongoing compliance.

2. Rationale

This is a list of just some of the issues with CMS that we have encountered when operating a CMS Capable Equivalent Meter;

- Switching events in event logs recorded in Clock time rather than GMT
- Duplicate timed events
- Advice given to customer that there was no need to maintain or submit an inventory as the CMS would issue a control file
- Providing MA with access to event logs
- Recording events that occur on the Clock change day from GMT to BST and vice versa
- Inability to produce version 2 (or more) event logs for missing CMS Unit references
- Delay in production of event logs (Not always received on Day 1)
- Ambiguity of requirement when the CMS node loses power or communications, particularly mCMS

UMSUG members may have other aspects where the BSC requirements are not clear.

¹ For the purposes of this document any reference to CMS includes mCMS

3. Proposed Actions

3.1. Review of Guidance Documents and Test Specification

It is proposed that a sub-group of UMSUG is formed to review all guidance notes and the test specifications published by Elexon. The aim of the sub-group would be to review the documentation to ensure the requirements and test requirements were clear.

At present many documents refer the reader to a separate document to clarify a CMS requirement (e.g. BSCP520), bringing the requirements together in a single document might be clearer.

3.2. Technical Assurance of CMS

Half Hourly Metering Systems are subject to Technical Assurance, for Equivalent Meters this is carried out as part of the BSC Annual Audit. There is nothing in place to ensure that once a CMS has been approved for use in the calculation of settlement data, it remains compliant with the requirements, particularly where a third party has acquired a previously approved CMS or there are continual system upgrades.

It is proposed that consideration is given to regular checks (say every five years) to ensure continued compliance.

4. Recommendation

The UMSUG is invited to;

Establish a sub-group of the UMSUG that will:

- (i) review existing documents and prepare revised documents that improve clarity, and
- (ii) consider developing a process for regular checks on CMS compliance.

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