



UMS Operational Updates

Meeting Name	UMSUG 109
Meeting Date	16 April 2013
Purpose of paper	For Information
Summary	This Paper provides UMSUG with an update on progress made with the improvement work on the Charge Code application process agreed at UMSUG 107, and invites discussion on other operational issues that have arisen since the last UMSUG meeting.

1. Introduction

- 1.1 At UMSUG 107 ELEXON agreed to undertake updates and improvements to its Charge Code application process. The two on-going actions are:
- Investigate the feasibility of more technical expertise for UMSUG email review; and
 - Look at technical and funding issues for a Charge Code database.
- 1.2. This paper also provides an update on the duplicate Charge Code purge undertaken after UMSUG 107, summarises recent changes made to the UMS Charge Code application and review process, and invites discussion on two operational issues – 35/18 lux MLSD and test house requirements for Charge Code test data.

2. Charge Code Database

- 2.1 Work on a UMS database is in the requirements-gathering stage. ELEXON recognises the business need for a more robust way of validating and storing Charge Codes and Switch Regimes, and is currently exploring ways of delivering an appropriate solution.
- 2.2 At the point where an approach is agreed, we will inform UMSUG, and request their input on relevant aspects of the system's design.

3. Technical Expertise for UMSUG email review

- 3.1 ELEXON will be speaking to potential contributors to a Charge Code review mailing list for 'contentious or unusual' applications once recent changes to the UMS application and review process have been fully implemented.
- 3.2 As outlined previously, the contributors would be asked for their thoughts on applications where technical issues arise around test procedures and/or unusual equipment. By consulting with this mailing list before providing Charge Codes, ELEXON hopes to provide greater assurance that a given piece of equipment is



appropriate for an unmetered connection, and its associated Charge Code has been constructed accurately.

4. Duplicate Charge Codes

- 4.1. As noted previously, ELEXON have already implemented a series of checks which have significantly reduced the frequency of duplicate Codes in MDD.
- 4.2. All duplicate Codes have now been identified and end-dated/replaced as appropriate. Any dimmed Codes dependent on a duplicate full power Code have been replaced with Codes that continue to match them to their respective full power Codes.
- 4.3. We will start to put these revised Codes into the normal UMSUG/MDD review process from MDD 204 onward.

5. Recent Changes to the UMS Application and Review Process

- 5.1. ELEXON has recently made changes to the UMS application and review process. Appendix A details the changes made.

6. 35/18 Lux MLSD

- 6.1. Currently, Multi-level Static Dimming is only provided based on 70/35 lux on/off switching for photocells. All of the recent applications we have received for MLSD have initially been based on 35/18 lux.
- 6.2. Applicants and some UMSUG members have noted that 35/18 is now more common in new installations than 70/35.
- 6.3. ELEXON could provide MLSD on a 35/18 basis by using Switch Regime 808 (Electronic PEC 35/18) as the basis for the MLSD calculations instead of Switch Regime 821 (Electronic PEC 70/35), where appropriate. The 'Lux On' and 'Lux Off' columns for 35/18 MLSD Switch Regimes would be populated accordingly, to make the distinction clear.
- 6.4. ELEXON has not identified any issues with providing 35/18 MLSD in addition to 70/35, and invites UMSUG to highlight any issues it is aware of.

7. Test House Accreditation

- 7.1. At UMSUG 108, an UMSUG member and ELEXON noted potential issues with the OID's current requirements for test houses providing Charge Code test data.
- 7.2. ELEXON believes that ISO9001, which is our current certification requirement, does not provide any explicit assurance on technical competence, or more specifically, the testing of the electrical properties of



equipment. It is sometimes possible to infer competence based on the scope of the accreditation, but this is potentially inconsistent and difficult to document clearly.

- 7.3. The ISO9000 range of accreditation is focussed on process and quality management systems, and is purely an indication that a particular organisation subscribes to 'best practice' around managing whatever the accreditation covers. For example, an ISO9001 certificate for the production of LEDs might indicate that the company in question subscribes to a production management process that ensures efficiency and economy, but not that any test data the company produces in relation to the product they're producing is reliable. ISO9001 which explicitly includes 'testing' in its scope is focussed on the process used to test and its relationship to wider process, rather than the competence of the testers to perform such testing accurately.
- 7.4. ISO17025 (often referred to as 'laboratory accreditation') does focus on the competence of the organisation in performing testing. The independent test houses that ELEXON provides as examples to applicants are ISO17025 accredited, and our internal metering expertise has advised that ISO17025 would be a more appropriate standard to expect of test houses.
- 7.5. ELEXON do not believe that the financial impact of this change would be disproportionate to the risks associated with a lack of clarity on test house competence. The vast majority of smaller or one-off applicants already use independent, ISO17025 accredited test houses. Requests for us to accept ISO9001 accreditation usually come from larger manufacturers, who wish to perform testing in-house.
- 7.6. ELEXON invites discussion on the above. Appendix 1 contains a red-lined version of the relevant section of the OID, incorporating the proposed change to requirements.

8. Recommendations

The UMSUG is invited to:

- a) **NOTE** the updates on on-going actions;
- b) **DISCUSS** any issues with the implementation of 35/18 MLSD; and
- c) **RECOMMEND** to the SVG the proposed change to the OID, regarding Charge Code test data.

List of Appendices:

Appendix 1 – Red-Lined Changes to OID for Test House Accreditation.

Appendix 2 – Recent Changes to the UMS Application/Review Process.

For more information, please contact:

Max O'Connor, Settlement Analyst

max.oconnor@elexon.co.uk

020 7380 4041



Appendix 1 – Red-Lined Changes to OID for Test House Accreditation

3. How do I apply for a Charge Code?

3.1 Considerations in respect of Charge Code applications

In order to apply for a Charge Code, please contact ELEXON's Unmetered Supplies Operations ums.operations@elexon.co.uk.

Further guidance and application checklist can be found on the ELEXON website ([An overview of the ums charge code process.pdf](#) and [Unmetered Supplies](#)).

The applicant shall ensure the provision of the following information or necessary conditions are met:

- Test Data shall be provided along with a clear description of typical operation and installation of the equipment. e.g. brochures, explanation of equipment operation, etc;
- Photographs of the equipment should be included, including a photograph of the assembled unit;
- Testing shall be carried out by an ISO 17025 accredited test house or other test house agreed by BSCCo, and ~~that~~ the scope of the accreditation **will include** the testing of the electrical properties of equipment ~~(or other supporting evidence that the testing party is suitably qualified);~~

Appendix 2 – Recent Changes to the UMS Application/Review Process

We are intending to change the application and review process as follows, from MDD 203 onwards:

- Restricting the number of applications we process in a given month. We have tended to process all of the applications we receive by the published deadline for the next MDD cycle. However, the number of applications we deal with has increased over the last 2 years, to the point where some months involve so many applications that a significant strain is placed on our resourcing, and on UMSUG's ability to review the codes and regimes we propose in advance of MDD IA. Restricting the number of applications we deal with will allow us to better forecast workload, commit appropriate levels of resourcing, and provide greater assurance around the quality of approved codes and regimes. We are intending to set an initial limit of 10 Charge Code applications per month, which is a figure based on the average of applications processed per MDD round over the last year. Further CC applications in a given month will be processed for the next MDD round. MLSD applications will be counted toward this limit, but single step Switch Regime applications will not;
- Replacing the weekly UMSUG emails with one consolidated monthly email, sent out a week in advance of the relevant MDD IA date. UMSUG feedback highlighted concerns over comments not being addressed prior to MDD IA. A monthly email will be sent out a week before MDD IA, which will include the 10 CC applications for that month. The weekly email often takes us 3-4 hours to put together each week, and we are conscious that it is a lot of information for UMSUG to work through on a weekly basis. Time spent on weekly emails would be better spent doing further checks on all applications before they go out to UMSUG.



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ELEXON will either address all comments on the new monthly email before the MDD IA date (and notify UMSUG of the fact) or note which comments remain to be addressed inside of the MDD IA timescales; and

- Work on a database for Charge Codes and Switch Regimes is on-going.