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01	Initial Assessment Report
02	Preliminary Change Report
03	Final Change Report

INITIAL ASSESSMENT REPORT

R0015 – REMOTE COMMUNICATION OBLIGATIONS FOR ELECTRICITY ADVANCED METERS

DOCUMENT VERSION	2.0
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DOCUMENT APPROVAL STATUS	APPROVED BY REC CHANGE PANEL
RESPONSIBLE COMMITTEE	METERING EXPERT PANEL

CHANGE OVERVIEW

This Proposal seeks to introduce an explicit obligation under the REC regarding the provision of active remote communications for electricity Advanced Meters. This supports an effective transition for the Advanced Meter segment, ahead of the Market-wide Half Hourly Settlement (MHHS) Programme migration deadlines.

	High Impact: Energy Suppliers, Metering Equipment Managers, Half Hourly Data Collectors
	Medium Impact: N/A
	Low Impact: REC Performance Assurance

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LEAD ANALYST
Ann Perry
EMAIL

TECHNICAL LEAD
Michael Taylor
EMAIL

ASSURANCE LEAD
Eliana Campbell
EMAIL

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1 SUMMARY

The Code Change and Development Group (CCDG) is one of three industry working groups supporting Ofgem's Significant Code Review on Electricity Settlement Reform.

The CCDG believes that a key enabler of an effective transition to Market-wide Half Hourly Settlement for the Advanced segment will be to set explicit Half Hourly (HH) Settlement and remote communications obligations for Current Transformer (CT) and Whole Current (WC) Advanced Meters ahead of the migration to Market-wide Half Hourly Settlement.

The CCDG has made the following recommendations in respect of electricity Advanced Meters (Recommendation 3 within their consultation 'Code Change and Development Group Transition Consultation on Market-wide Half Hourly Settlement'):

- For CT Advanced Meters settling Non-Half Hourly (NHH), a period of mandatory Change of Measurement Class (CoMC) activity running from October 2022 to October 2023; and
- Where possible, Whole Current (WC) Advanced Meters settling NHH are moved to settle HH via CoMC by October 2024. This will simplify the migration process but should not be mandated.
- For all Advanced Meters (CT and WC) settling NHH, the mandatory CoMC activity should be supported by an obligation to ensure that remote communications are fitted and working, for CT Metered MPANs by October 2023, and for all Advanced Meters by October 2024.

This Proposal seeks to introduce an explicit obligation under the REC, regarding the provision of active remote communications for Advanced Meters. The proposer put forward an implementation date of March 2023 for CT Advanced Meters and for all Advanced Meters by October 2024. This would see active remote communications in place ahead of the CoMC activities.

Currently, neither the Balancing and Settlement Code (BSC) nor Retail Energy Code (REC) explicitly requires the provision of remote communications to any Supplier Volume Allocation (SVA) Metering Systems.

2 PROBLEM STATEMENT

The Balancing and Settlement Code (BSC) is seeking to mandate the Half-Hourly Settlement of electricity Advanced Meters ahead of the transition to Market-wide Half Hourly Settlement. In order to support this transition, these meters will need to support remote communications to allow half hourly consumption data to be collected. There is currently no explicit requirement for Energy Suppliers and/or Metering Equipment Managers to ensure these meters have working remote communications, which could impact the successful migration of these meters to the new arrangements.

3 USER STORIES

REF.	USER STORIES
CONSUMER USER STORIES	
C1	As an electricity consumer with an Advanced Meter, I want my usage data to be accessed remotely from my meter, to reduce the need for on-site visits and ensure that I receive timely and accurate bills.
MARKET PARTICIPANT USER STORIES	
M1	As the Market-wide Half Hourly Settlement (MHHS) Programme I want to see an effective, early migration of NHH settled Advanced Meters to HH settled, to reduce the risk of missed migration deadlines and ensuring sufficient time to resolve 'problem' sites ahead of the MHHS migration deadline.
M2	As an Energy Supplier I want to obtain usage remotely, reducing the need for on-site metering reading activity, enabling me to settle and bill accurately.
M3	As a Metering Equipment Manager (MEM), I need to understand any changes to obligations that may impact my business, so I can engage in the change process and plan any required changes to my systems, processes and organisation.

4 IMPACTS

REC PARTIES AND SERVICE USERS
Metering Equipment Managers
Energy Suppliers
Half Hourly Data Collectors

RECCO AND REC CODE MANAGER
REC Performance Assurance

CONSUMERS
Electricity Consumers

REC DOCUMENTS / PRODUCTS
Schedule 14 – Metering Operations
Category 3 document - Performance Assurance Report Catalogue (PARC)
Category 3 document - Performance Assurance Techniques (PAT)

The proposal to introduce explicit obligations regarding the provision of active remote communications for Advanced Meters would result in legal text changes to Schedule 14 – Metering Operations.

The Standard Licence Conditions already require the installation and maintenance of Advanced Meters by the end of 2021, therefore the impact from new obligations would relate to the activation and maintenance of remote communications.

Although the Proposer has proposed obligations to be placed solely on the MEMs, a holistic view will be taken to ensure both Energy Suppliers and MEMs have appropriate obligations placed upon them.

There may be a crossover between the Energy Supplier's responsibility to ensure an appropriate meter is installed, and the requirements of the MEM to meet any new obligation on the provision of active remote communications.

With the introduction of new obligations, the impact on Performance Assurance will be defined, to ensure any new obligation can be measured, assured and enforced.

The solution development activity will consider already installed Advanced Meters as well as new and replacement Advanced Meters.

4.1 CROSS CODE IMPACTS

BSC Modification P432 (Half Hourly Settlement for CT Advanced Metering Systems) has been raised to take forward the CCDG recommendations on HH Settlement ahead of MHHS migration deadlines.

Although the REC and BSC changes are independent, inasmuch as they are not mutually dependent on each other for approval, they are complimentary. Therefore, there will be a need for ongoing engagement through the development and progression of the REC Change Proposal.

5 CHANGE PATH AND RESPONSIBLE COMMITTEE

CHANGE PATH	SELF-GOVERNANCE
RESPONSIBLE COMMITTEE	METERING EXPERT PANEL

This Change Proposal proposes updates to Schedule 14 – Metering Operations, which is under the responsibility of the Metering Expert Panel.

Therefore, we propose that the Responsible Committee for this Change Proposal should be the Metering Expert Panel.

We believe that self-governance is the appropriate change path for this Change Proposal. This will be validated once the solution options have been defined and the materiality will be reviewed against the threshold for Authority determination.

6 PRIORITY STATUS AND URGENCY

PRIORITY STATUS	HIGH
URGENCY	STANDARD

The Priority Status for this Change Proposal is 'High' based on a 'Weighted Significance' score of 1 and an 'Urgency' score of 3. This is broken down as below:

Significance:

Strategic Direction – a score of 2 as this change supports the achievement of the Market-wide Half Hourly Settlement Programme

Cost Benefits/Value – a score of 1 because there are expected to be minor financial benefits for REC Parties, seen through the use of remote communications to receive readings/usage data from Advanced Meters, rather than via on-site visits.

Consumer Impacts – a score of 1 to reflect that minor improvement to Consumer experience would be seen through the implementation of this change, reducing consumer billing issues through the receipt and use of readings/usage data received via remote communications

Operational Efficiency – a score of 2 to reflect the introduction of a more efficient meter reading process, this will make the receiving and validation of data more efficient. Efficiencies and benefits will also be seen from active remote communications being in place ahead of the CoMC activity.

Urgency:

This Change Proposal has been given an urgency score of 3 to reflect the need for it to be progressed imminently for it to achieve its required timetable.

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PRIORITISATION MATRIX

Significance	Score	Weighting
Legal/Regulatory Compliance	0	30
Strategic Direction	2	20
Cost Benefits / Value	1	10
Consumer Impacts	1	30
Operational Efficiency	2	10

Urgency

3	N/A	13	23	33
2	02	12	22	32
1	01	11	21	31
0	00	10	20	N/A

Significance

Weighted Significance Score	1
Urgency	3
Overall Priority Score	**13**

Effort	0 - Minimal

Priority Score	Priority Status
23 - 33	Critical
13 - 22	High
11 - 21	Medium
00 - 10	Low

PRIORITY STATUS
High

7 SUMMARY OF CHANGE PROPOSAL PLAN

The solution to this Change Proposal has not been fully defined, therefore a period of solution analysis and development will be required.

Following the solution development activity, the Code Manager will review the Change Proposal Plan to confirm the planned activity and timelines remain appropriate for the proposed solution.

An impact assessment period of 15 Working Days (WD) has been included within the plan, this will give impacted stakeholders sufficient time to assess the proposed solution and respond to the impact assessment. A consultation period of 15 WD has also been included, this will follow the approval of the Preliminary Change Report.

	FROM	TO
SOLUTION ANALYSIS AND DEVELOPMENT	04/01/2022	27/02/2022
PARTY IMPACT ASSESSMENT	28/02/2022	21/03/2022
PRELIMINARY CHANGE REPORT ISSUED	29/04/2022	29/04/2022
CONSULTATION ISSUED	18/05/2022	18/05/2022
FINAL CHANGE REPORT ISSUED	01/07/2022	01/07/2022
RESPONSIBLE COMMITTEE DECISION	13/07/2022	13/07/2022
APPEAL WINDOW CLOSURE	29/07/2022	29/07/2022

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8 GLOSSARY

TERM	DEFINITION
Advanced Meter	has the meaning given to it in the Gas Supply Licence (for gas) or the Electricity Supply Licence (for electricity) Electricity Advanced Meter as defined in SLC12.9: an advanced meter is an Electricity Meter that, either on its own or with an ancillary device, and in compliance with the requirements of any relevant Industry Code: (a) provides measured electricity consumption data for multiple time periods, and is able to provide such data for at least half-hourly time periods; and (b) is able to provide the licensee with remote access to such data.
Balancing and Settlement Code	means the Balancing and Settlement Code, as defined in the Electricity Supply Licences.
Energy Supplier	means a person which is either or both an Electricity Supplier and/or a Gas Supplier.
Half Hourly	refers to electricity being traded and/or settled on a half hourly basis.
Measurement Transformer [Current Transformer]	means either a Current Transformer (CT) or a Voltage Transformer (VT) or a device carrying out both such functions, whose purpose is to enable the Metering Equipment to operate at a more convenient current and/or voltage than otherwise present.
Metering Equipment Manager (MEM)	means, as applicable, either: (a) for electricity, the Meter Operator Agent (as defined in the BSC) Appointed by an Electricity Supplier; or (b) for gas, the Meter Asset Manager (as defined in the UNC) Appointed by the Gas Supplier.
Non-Half Hourly	refers to electricity being traded and/or settled on a basis other than Half Hourly
Retail Energy Code (REC)	means this Code, including its Schedules and the Technical Specification, maintained pursuant to the electricity supply licences granted under the Electricity Act 1989 and the gas supply licences granted under the Gas Act 1986, as such code is modified from time to time in accordance with its provisions
Subject Matter Expertise	means the individual(s) or organisation(s) contracted by RECCo and selected by the Code Manager for the purposes of analysing Change Proposals.
Supplier Agent	means a Data Aggregator, a Data Collector or a Metering Equipment Manager.
Supplier Volume Allocation (SVA)	As defined within the BSC: means the determination of quantities of Active Energy to be taken into account for the purposes of Settlement in respect of Supplier BM Units;
Working Day (WD)	means any day other than a Saturday, a Sunday, Christmas Day, Good Friday or a day that is a bank holiday in either or both England and Wales within the meaning of the Banking and Financial Dealings Act 1971.