RETAIL ENERGY CODE

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

PRELIMINARY CHANGE REPORT

R0002 – REVIEW OF DATA SPECIFICATION CATEGORY IN REC BASELINE STATEMENT

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RESPONSIBLE COMMITTEE	CHANGE PANEL

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CHANGE OVERVIEW

This proposal seeks to formally designate parts of the Data Specification as Category 2 documents in the REC Baseline Statement, so these are subject to formal change control set out in the REC Change Management Schedule.

CODE MANAGER'S RECOMMENDATION

The Code Manager recommends Change Proposal R0002 is **APPROVED** for implementation on 4th November 2021.

	High Impact: None
	Medium Impact: None
	Low Impact: All REC Parties and Market Participants listed as a Market Data Service in the Data Specification

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BACKGROUND

1 SUMMARY

The introduction of the Data Specification as part of REC V2.0 was consulted on by Ofgem in their consultation on REC V2.0 and Retail Code Consolidation and confirmed in their decision published on 30th April 2021. The intention was for this to be included in the Switching Programme Change Request to make the required changes to the REC for Retail Code Consolidation.

Unfortunately, the Data Specification was not included in CR-D092 or CR-D099, which were the Switching Programme CR's that gave effect to REC V2.0. Therefore, the Data Specification was not formally designated as part of REC V2.0 and has temporarily been added to the REC Baseline Statement as a Category 3 product.

This means that changes to the Data Specification, including changes to Market Messages and Data Items used by Market Participants to interface with other businesses and Service Providers, are not subject to the process set out in the REC Change Management Schedule.

Changes to these artefacts can have significant impacts to the systems and processes of Market Participants and Service Providers. These changes should follow a robust and thorough assessment to ensure these impacts are identified and considered, and the most appropriate solution is considered. The Category 3 change process is not appropriate for this, as changes to Category 3 products as a rule should not cause a material impact to parties and stakeholders.

The formal REC change process will provide the formal engagement mechanisms for industry stakeholders and required controls for changes to the Data Specification, as originally intended by the Switching Programme.

2 PROBLEM STATEMENT

The Data Specification was not included in the Switching Programme Change Requests that gave effect to REC V2.0. Therefore, the Data Specification was not formally designated as part of REC V2.0 and has temporarily been added to the REC Baseline Statement as a Category 3 product.

This means that changes to the Data Specification, including changes to Market Messages and Data Items used by Market Participants to interface with other businesses and Service Providers, are not subject to the process set out in the REC Change Management Schedule.

Changes to these artefacts can have significant impacts to the systems and processes of Market Participants and Service Providers. These changes should follow a robust and thorough assessment to ensure these impacts are identified and considered, and the most appropriate solution is considered. The Category 3 change process is not appropriate for this, as changes to Category 3 products should not cause a material impact to REC Parties and stakeholders.

3 USER STORIES

REF.	USER STORIES
MARKET PARTICIPANT USER STORIES	
M1	As a Market Participant, I need to understand any changes to Market Messages I send and receive that may impact my business, so I can engage in the change process and plan any required changes to my systems and processes.
M2	As the REC Code Manager, I need to ensure that proposals to amend the Data Specification are subject to appropriate scrutiny and impact assessment, so that impacted stakeholders can appropriately engage with the proposal and understand the impacts to their business.

PROPOSAL

4 SUMMARY OF ANALYSIS UNDERTAKEN

There are currently nine products listed in the REC Baseline Statement that are related to the Data Specification. Four of which (the Standards Definition, Market Message Catalogue, Data Item Catalogue and Data Access Matrix) are the core components of the Data Specification that were included in Ofgem's consultation on REC v2.0 and Retail Code Consolidation[1]. The other five products relate to the gas Market Domain Data tables previously governed under the Supply Point Administration Agreement (SPAA).

The Code Manager has assessed each of these products, and determined that only the Standards Definition, Market Message Catalogue, Data Item Catalogue and Data Access Matrix should be designated as part of the REC itself, as Category 2 products. The intention of this Change Proposal is to reflect the original intention of the Switching Programme, and not to expand the scope at this stage.

Changes to Market Domain Data tables are often required at short notice, and don't require the same level of assessment and scrutiny as changes to the REC itself. These changes will need to follow an expedited process, whilst still being subject to appropriate scrutiny. These are currently designated as Category 3 products under the maintenance of the Technical Expert Panel, which ensures that they are subject to formal change control but follow an expedited change process to allow changes to be made to these products as needed. The Code Manager will work with the Technical Expert Panel to agree what the appropriate change control process for these products should be under the Category 3 change process, separately to this Change Proposal.

[1] https://www.ofgem.gov.uk/publications/retail-energy-code-v20-and-retail-code-consolidation

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5 KEY RISKS, ASSUMPTIONS, ISSUES AND DEPENDENCIES

5.1 RISKS AND ISSUES

No.	RISK	NOTES	MITIGATION
R1	An Alternative Change Proposal may prevent the required timetable from being achieved.	In the event that a valid Alternative Change Proposal requires assessment, this could impact the timetable for progression.	The deadline to submit an Alternative Change Proposal was prior to the publication of this report, therefore this is no longer a live risk.

5.2 ASSUMPTIONS AND DEPENDENCIES

No.	ASSUMPTION	NOTES	HOW/WHEN TO VALIDATE
A1	The intention of the Switching Programme was to designate the Data Specification as part of the REC, but this was missed from the formal Change Requests.	It was always the intention of the Switching Programme that the Data Specification would form part of the REC. The absence of this from the formal Change Request was an oversight rather than a deliberate intention or change of policy.	This will be validated in the consultation on this Preliminary Change Report.

No.	DEPENDENCY	NOTES	STATUS
D1	The Change Panel will need to be comfortable with the expedited timetable for progression in order to meet the required implementation date.	The Change Panel approved the proposed timetable at their meeting on 7th September 2021.	Closed

6 PROPOSED SOLUTION

This proposed solution is to formerly designate the following documents as part of the REC by amendment their Category in the REC Baseline Statement to Category 2:

- Data Item Catalogue
- Market Message Catalogue
- Data Access Matrix
- Standards Definition

7 DRAFT LEGAL TEXT

The legal text changes to deliver the proposed solution to R0002 can be found on the Change Proposal Page in the REC Portal.

8 PROPOSED IMPLEMENTATION DATE AND APPROACH

PROPOSED IMPLEMENTATION DATE	4th November 2021

PROPOSED IMPLEMENTATION APPROACH	BIG BANG

We propose this change is implemented in the next available standard REC release on 4th November 2021. This will align with the proposed implementation date for R0001 (Amendment to DCC Service Flag (DI51130) Data Item), which proposes to amend the Data Item Catalogue as part of the formal REC change process.

It will also ensure that any further Change Proposals raised to amend the Data Specification will follow the formal change process going forwards.

9 CHANGE PATH

CHANGE PATH	SELF-GOVERNANCE

10 RESPONSIBLE COMMITTEE

RESPONSIBLE COMMITTEE	CHANGE PANEL

11 BUSINESS CASE ASSESSMENT

There is no additional cost or impact identified from this change, and this reflects the original policy intention of the Switching Programme in designating REC v2.0. The REC Code Manager mobilised under the assumption that these products will be Category 2 products so there are no additional costs to the Code Manager in the operation of the change process.

Market Participants and Service Providers rely on the Data Specification to develop their systems and process to interface with industry systems and other Market Participants. Changes to these products can have significant impacts to these stakeholders and to consumers, as these underpin the processes for switching, billing, settlement, metering and other core industry processes. These products existing outside of the formal REC change process presents

significant risk to the ability of REC Parties and Service Providers to comply with their obligations, and to interoperability in the market as a whole.

We are therefore satisfied that a positive business case exists for correcting this and implementing this Change Proposal.

12 CASE FOR CHANGE

The Code Manager considers that there is a positive case for change to implement this Change Proposal, on the basis that:

- The proposed solution is fully formed and appropriately resolves the problem statement.
- There are no identified additional costs to the market in implementing the proposed solution.
- The impact of not implementing this solution would cause detriment to Market Participants, as it would be possible for changes to be made to the Data Specification without being subject to the full assessment and scrutiny of the REC change process.
- A positive business case can be made, as detailed in section 11 of this report.

13 CODE MANAGER'S RECOMMENDATION

Based on the evidence in sections 11 and 12 of this report, the Code Manager considers a positive business case can be made for implementing this solution and recommends that the Change Panel:

- **APPROVE** the proposed change solution;
- **APPROVE** the proposed implementation approach; and
- **APPROVE** the proposed implementation date of 04 November 2021.

14 CONSULTATION PLAN AND NEXT STEPS

The consultation on this Preliminary Change Report for R0001 will be published on the REC Portal on **14 September 2021** and will close on **20 September 2021**.

Following consultation, the Code Manager will produce an updated version of this Preliminary Change Report (referred to as the Final Change Report). This will include the outcome of the consultation, setting out a summary of the consultation submissions and the Code Manager's response.

The Final Change Report will be issued to the Change Panel to make its determination.

15 APPENDIX

CHANGE PROPOSAL	Change Proposal Page
LEGAL DRAFTING	Change Proposal Page