



**Consultation on a Proposal to Remove the
0x8F75 Alert from the Traffic
Management Mechanism Document**

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Respond by: 28 September 2023

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1. Introduction and Context

1. The Data Communications Company (DCC) is Britain's digital energy spine, supporting the transformation of the energy system. DCC is licensed by the Government and regulated by the energy regulator Ofgem to connect smart meters in homes and small businesses across Great Britain to a single secure, digital network. DCC supports the roll-out of second-generation (SMETS2) smart meters, as well as the migration of existing first-generation (SMETS1) meters onto our network.

1.1. Background

2. SECMP0062¹, implemented in May 2020, introduced a mechanism for the management and throttling of Alerts deemed spurious, thus reducing the volume of unnecessary Alerts sent across the Smart Metering network and handled by the DCC Total System.
3. The Traffic Management Mechanism Document was introduced by SECMP0062 and is a list of Alerts excluded from the throttling mechanism. Any Alert Code in the exclusion list will never be subject to Alert Storm protection meaning all Alerts with that code are communicated to recipients.
4. Distribution Network Operators (DNOs) have escalated to both the SEC Operations Group and DCC that they wish Alert 0x8F75 'Unauthorised Physical Access – Strong Magnetic field' to be removed from the exclusion list, and for that Alert to be subject to throttling as set by the existing configuration parameters. Their rationale is that the Alert 0x8F75 is unnecessarily repetitive and the volume being relatively high, as shown in section 5 of this document.
5. By removing the Alert 0x8F75 from the exclusion list, the Alert will be passed to SEC Parties and be subject to throttling using the existing parameters as defined in the Traffic Management Mechanism Document.
6. The Known Remote Party, and hence the Alert recipient for 0x8F75 are the Wide Area Network (WAN) Provider (for the Communications Hub Function (CHF) only) or (for Electricity Smart Metering Equipment (ESME) only) the Supplier and Network Operator.

1.2. Purpose of the consultation

7. DCC wishes to understand if the removal of Alert 0x8F75 from the Exclusion List would negatively impact any SEC Parties.
8. This consultation is expected to impact the following Parties:
 - Large Suppliers
 - Small Suppliers
 - Electricity Network Operators
9. If you believe a Party category is impacted which isn't listed above, please let us know.

¹ <https://smartenergycodecompany.co.uk/modifications/northbound-application-traffic-management-alert-storm-protection/>

2. Proposed Changes and Options

10. This question relates to the removal of Alert 0x8F75 'Unauthorised Physical Access – Strong Magnetic field' from the exclusion list, and hence this Alert will be subject to throttling when specific parameters are met. DCC are particularly interested where Parties believe there will be any negative impacts in throttling the number of Alerts sent from individual Devices.

Q1

Should the Alert 0x8F75 'Unauthorised Physical Access – Strong Magnetic field' be removed from the exclusion list, meaning this Alert will be subject to throttling when specific parameters are met? Please provide a rationale for your views.

3. Next Steps

11. Following the closure of this consultation, DCC will consider the responses from SEC Parties in regard to the 0x8F75 Alerts.
12. If there are a majority of Parties agreeing to the change, DCC will plan to change the configuration to match the wishes of Parties. This would take place in a subsequent Maintenance Release.
13. DCC will confirm the outcome at the Operations Group meeting at the beginning of November 2023.

4. How to Respond

14. Please provide responses by 17:00 on 28 September to DCC at consultations@smartdcc.co.uk.
15. Consultation responses may be published on our website www.smartdcc.co.uk. Please state clearly in writing whether you want all or any part, of your consultation to be treated as confidential. It would be helpful if you could explain to us why you regard the information you have provided as confidential. Please note that responses in their entirety (including any text marked confidential) may be made available to the Department for Energy Security and Net Zero (The Department) and the Gas and Electricity Markets Authority (the Authority). Information provided to The Department or the Authority, including personal information, may be subject to publication or disclosure in accordance with the access to information legislation (primarily the Freedom of Information Act 2000, the Data Protection Act 2018 and the Environmental Information Regulations 2004). If The Department or the Authority receive a request for disclosure of the information we/they will take full account of your explanation (to the extent provided to them), but we/they cannot give an assurance that confidentiality can be maintained in all circumstances. An automatic confidentiality disclaimer generated by your IT system will not, of itself, be regarded by us as a confidentiality request.
16. If you have any questions about the consultation documents, please contact DCC via consultations@smartdcc.co.uk.

5. Attachments

17. The following table shows the number of 0x8F75 Alerts recorded for each DNO (anonymised), for the dates 3 August 2023 to 9 August 2023. The Count column indicates the number of Devices applicable to each Network Operator. In total about 4.2million 0x8F75 Alerts were sent to the DNOs over this one-week period.

	# of Alerts	Alert Total	03/08/2023	04/08/2023	05/08/2023	06/08/2023	07/08/2023	08/08/2023	09/08/2023
One	22	980789	128755	128127	140047	144873	146429	151711	140847
Two	80	556894	88017	88451	79159	79914	78139	72946	70268
Three	87	1182467	182736	180720	169884	162442	154637	161762	170286
Four	35	209175	34331	28582	25302	31247	28789	28430	32494
Five	4	2456	47	69	163	514	1024	480	159
Six	7	341734	33084	44585	67032	65478	51559	40664	39332
Seven	2	23	3	1	6	2	2	9	0
Eight	8	630069	53100	95223	152624	152416	38170	59390	79146
Nine	59	315845	44631	43139	32732	33442	40563	48408	72930
Grand Total		4219452	564704	608897	666949	670328	539312	563800	605462