



SEC Release Consultation on the June 2025 Testing Approach Document

Your chance to comment on the draft Testing Approach
Document for the June 2025 SEC Release

Date: 10.10.2024

Respond by: 07.11.2024

Author: consultations@smartdcc.co.uk

Classification: DCC Public

Table of Contents

- 1. Executive Summary 3**
 - 1.1. Background 3**
 - 1.2. Purpose of the consultation 3**
- 2. Scope of SEC Release 4**
 - 2.1. Approved Modification Proposals (DCC Systems impacting) 4**
 - 2.2. Non-System Impacting Modification Proposals 4**
 - 2.3. DCC Change Requests 4**
- 3. Overall Testing Approach 4**
- 4. Next Steps 5**
- 5. How to Respond 5**
- 6. Attachments 6**

1. Executive Summary

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.
2. The Smart Energy Code (SEC) is the agreement that defines the rights of parties involved in the management of smart metering in Great Britain. Changes to the SEC are managed via the SEC Modification Process and then implemented as part of a SEC Release. There are three scheduled SEC Releases a year: February, June and November, the latter two can impact DCC Systems.

1.1. Background

3. Under SEC Section D10.18, DCC has an obligation to produce a SEC Release Testing Approach Document (TAD) which defines the approach to testing changes to DCC Systems arising from a SEC Release. The draft June 2025 DCC TAD published alongside this document has been produced to satisfy the requirements set out in SEC Sections D10.18 – D10.20.
4. The draft TAD defines the approach to testing to be undertaken by both DCC and Testing Participants. It sets out:
 - the testing objectives for that release, including the assurance to be achieved;
 - the testing strategy that will be followed; and
 - any requirements to undertake DCC User testing, along with how DCC will support Users to undertake testing.
5. The draft TAD has also been shared with the Testing Advisory Group (TAG) to be considered at the October 2024 TAG meeting. Any feedback provided by the TAG or through this consultation will be considered and any amendments will be made prior to seeking approval from the TAG in November 2024.

1.2. Purpose of the consultation

6. The purpose of this consultation is to invite views on the draft June 2025 TAD prior to seeking approval from the TAG in November 2024 and publishing a final version in December 2024.
7. This consultation is expected to impact the following the following Parties:
 - Large Suppliers;
 - Small Suppliers
 - Distribution Network Operators (DNOs); and
 - Other SEC Parties.

If you believe a Party category is impacted which isn't listed above, please let us know.

8. This consultation will close on Thursday 7 November 2024 at 17:00.

2. Scope of SEC Release

2.1. Approved Modification Proposals (DCC Systems impacting)

9. The following DCC System impacting modifications have been approved for inclusion in the June 2025 SEC Release:
- [MP239 'Enduring Solution for Resolving SMETS2 Device Certificate Misalignment Issue'](#)
 - [MP246 'DCC User access to metadata via the DCC Self-Service Interface \(SSI\)'](#)

2.2. Non-System Impacting Modification Proposals

10. The following non-DCC System impacting modification has been targeted for inclusion in the June 2025 SEC Release:
- [MP271 'Sub-Committee seats for Other Users, Meter Data Retrievers and Registered Supplier Agents'](#)

2.3. DCC Change Requests

11. There are currently two Change Requests (CRs) to be implemented alongside the June 2025 SEC Release that will deliver the two approved DCC System impacting modifications:
- CR5170 – Enduring Solution for Resolving SMETS2 Device Certificate Misalignment Issue (MP239).
 - CR5186 – DCC User access to metadata via the DCC Self-Service Interface (MP246).

Further detail on these CRs can be found in the June 2025 TAD.

3. Overall Testing Approach

12. The only DCC Service Provider in scope for the June 2025 SEC Release is the Data Service Provider (DSP).
13. The approach to testing of the June 2025 SEC Release will include several defined Test Phases which will be conducted sequentially. Test Phases will be undertaken in appropriate test environments.
14. The Pre-Integration Testing (PIT) phase covers individual testing by DCC Service Providers and includes Factory Acceptance Testing (FAT). This is scheduled to take place between October 2024 to February 2025.
15. The Systems Integration Testing (SIT) phase covers the end-to-end functionality with Devices (or emulators where not available) and will include Solution Testing by DCC Service Providers collectively.

The draft June 2025 TAD clarifies DCC's approach to regression testing in the SIT Test Phase. The document specifies three distinct test activities:

- System Regression Testing

- Functional Regression Testing
- Final Functional Testing Cycle¹

The SIT Test Phase is scheduled to take place between February 2025 and April 2025.

16. DCC will provide a User Integration Testing (UIT) service that allows each User to test the interoperability of its User Systems with the Modified DCC Total Systems and to simultaneously test the interoperability of User Systems and Devices with the Modified DCC Total Systems. The UIT environment shall be made available in accordance with SEC Appendix J (Enduring Test Approach Document (ETAD)). This is scheduled to take place between May 2025 and June 2025.
17. Each Test Phase will be subject to defined test scenarios where appropriate, with business scenarios to be used as the basis of testing. The documentation supporting each Test Phase will specify the detailed testing to be employed during that Test Phase. Test scenarios may, within the context of the individual Test Phases, be represented by defined sequences of Service Requests or other relevant activities.

Q1

Do you support the overall approach and scope of the draft June 2025 DCC Testing Approach Document? Please provide rationale for your views.

Q2

Do you have any other comments on the draft June 2025 DCC Testing Approach Document? Please provide details and rationales for your views.

4. Next Steps

18. This consultation will close at 17:00 on Thursday 7 November 2024.
19. Following the closure of this consultation, DCC will consider TAG comments and respondents' views. DCC will amend the June 2025 TAD as appropriate and will submit an amended version of the TAD to the TAG for its review and explicit approval in November 2024, as well as publishing its responses to the respondents.

5. How to Respond

20. Please provide responses by 17:00 on Thursday 7 November 2024 to DCC at consultations@smartdcc.co.uk.
21. 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

¹ The Final Functional Testing Cycle efficiently demonstrates repeatability replacing End of Cycle Testing.

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.

22. If you have any questions about the consultation documents, please contact DCC via consultations@smartdcc.co.uk.

6. Attachments

- Attachment 1: June 2025 SEC Release Testing Approach Document v1.0
- Attachment 2: June 2025 SEC Release TAD Response Template