



# Moving into Smart Metering: BSC Code of Practice Requirements

## Compliance with BSC Codes of Practice and Smart Metering

At the SVG meeting on 1 November 2011, the SVG considered the interaction between the BSC Codes of Practice (CoPs) and the Smart Metering Equipment Technical Specification (SMETS). The SVG also considered the BSC requirements for early smart Metering Systems which the Supplier chooses to settle on a Half Hourly (HH) basis<sup>1</sup>. The SVG agreed the recommendations in the paper and this document constitutes guidance to Suppliers choosing to settle early smart Metering Systems on a HH basis.

## Interaction between the SMETS and the CoPs

The SVG noted that in preparation for the Smart Meter rollout ELEXON has been considering which requirements Metering Systems will need to comply with both before and after the SMETS becomes effective. For example whether there are any requirements in the BSC CoPs that Suppliers will need to comply with over and above the requirements in the SMETS.

CoPs 8, 9 and 10 all refer to the requirements in Schedule 7 of the Electricity Act 1989 in relation to the accuracy of data and we believe the SMETS will not conflict with this. However there are additional requirements in CoP 10 for HH settlement that are not directly replicated in the SMETS e.g. specific password protection. It is our view that the requirements in the SMETS, although not directly comparable, will be more onerous than the current CoP 10 requirements. Therefore we believe that Suppliers will not need Metering Systems to comply with any requirements over and above those in the SMETS.

To allow Suppliers and meter manufacturers to have a clear view on which requirements they need to comply with, we believe that a reference should be added to Section L of the BSC stating that Smart Metering Equipment (as defined in the Electricity Supply Licence) should comply with the SMETS and that the requirements in the CoPs do not apply. We have therefore raised this in our response to the DECC consultation and have asked that consideration be given to the Secretary of State designating this amendment to the BSC to ensure that appropriate changes are made to coincide with the Licence changes<sup>2</sup>.

The SVG supported this view and noted that any changes to the BSC will undergo industry consultation at a later stage.

## Early Smart Meters

The SVG noted that some Suppliers have started installing smart meters ahead of the rollout and that meter manufacturers are producing meters that are expected to fully or partially comply with the SMETS. In the absence of a specific licence condition relating to the SMETS, these Metering Systems will need to comply with the relevant

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<sup>1</sup> Further information can be found in SVG Paper [129/07](#).

<sup>2</sup> For further information see the full [ELEXON response](#).



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CoPs. Where these Metering Systems are being used for NHH settlement this does not cause a problem as these early smart meters will be compliant with the minimal requirement in CoPs 8 and 9.

However where a Supplier elects to settle in the HH market the Metering Systems will need to comply with CoP10. As the requirements in CoP10 differ from the SMETS it is unlikely that any early smart meters will comply with the CoP10 requirements (as they will be manufactured to meet the SMETS instead).

The SVG agreed that it would not be beneficial for early smart meters to be forced to comply with CoP10 requirements which will no longer be required following the SMETS becoming effective. However there should be some controls in place to prevent Metering Systems being used for HH settlement which do not meet the more onerous requirements set out in the draft SMETS.

The SVG agreed that Suppliers and meter manufacturers who find themselves in this situation should contact ELEXON to discuss the possibility of seeking a Metering Dispensation. The SVG noted that any such Metering Dispensation would need to be considered on a case by case basis to ensure that the Metering Systems involved are adequate for HH settlement.

If you would like to discuss this issue further please contact Keith Campion on 0207 380 4011 or [keith.campion@elexon.co.uk](mailto:keith.campion@elexon.co.uk).