

Code Administrators Working Group (CAWG) Issues Log

Table of contents:

Do the current modification rules adhere to the principles set out in the November letter?	3
In what areas does each code work well / not so well?	4
How does small party, new entrant and consumer representation vary across the codes?	5
What aspects of the arrangements do small parties, new entrants and consumer representatives find to be a particular burden?.....	7
In which aspects are the codes sufficiently transparent or need to improve?.....	8
Should websites conform to agreed standards/principles?	9
Do small parties, new entrants and consumer representatives consider that enough assistance is available to them in order to participate [in code governance and modification processes]?	11
If further assistance would be helpful [to small parties, new entrants and consumer representatives], in what areas?	12
What role do code administrators play in developing or bringing forward proposals?	13
Should the Panel's ability to raise proposals be limited to housekeeping and governance?	15
Who should be responsible for the production of legal text?	17
When should legal text be produced?	19
Should legal text be consulted on [before a proposal is sent to the Authority]?	20
Should legal text be flexible (i.e. a "work in progress") until a decision to approve or reject is made)?.....	21
How long should consultation period be?	23
Should the Panel have discretion over how long the consultation period is for each proposal?.....	24
How should implementation dates be determined?.....	26
Should there be fast-track process for housekeeping / non-contentious modifications?.	27
What unnecessary process steps could be removed/made conditional on nature of proposal?.....	29
Should current customs and practice be codified?	30
How can the independence of the code administrator be assured?.....	31

Who should 'own' modification proposals during the process?	33
Should proposers have the right to withdraw proposals?	34
If proposers should have the right to withdraw proposals, up to what point should this right exist?	35
If proposers should have the right to withdraw proposals, should other parties be able to adopt the proposal at this point?	36
Are modification processes appropriate for urgent proposals?	37
Should all urgent proposals be subject to a minimum period of consultation?.....	38
Should proposer be able to speak at a panel where a recommendation is to be made on their proposal?	40
How should changes originating from outside the code [i.e. consequential changes that are "driven" by changes to licences, other codes or legislation] be dealt with?	42
Should consequential changes be assessed simply on the basis of consistency rather than assessing them against the relevant code objectives?	43
Is the membership of modification groups appropriate?	45
Should there be greater scope for consultancy support for modification/working groups?	47
Should alternative proposals be treated in a standard manner across all codes?	48
Should greater rationale/detail accompany panel recommendations?.....	50

Issue No:	Description:
5.1	<p>Do the current modification rules adhere to the principles set out in the November letter?</p> <p>(Reminder, these principles were:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) promote inclusive, accessible and effective consultation; 2) be governed by rules and processes that are transparent and easily understood; 3) be administered in an independent and objective fashion; 4) provide rigorous and high quality analysis of the case for and against proposed changes; 5) be cost effective; 6) contain rules and processes that are sufficiently flexible to circumstances that they will always allow for efficient change management; and 7) be delivered in a manner that results in a proportionate regulatory burden).

Code	Current Process	Pro's	Con's
UNC	[Please replace this text with examples of current process(es) you think deliver, or inhibit, those seven principles.]		
BSC	As above		
CUSC	As above		
Other codes	As above		

<p>Preference:</p> <p>As per presentation at first meeting</p>

Means of implementation:			
Custom and practice		Mod rules change	Licence modification
Details:			

Issue No:	Description:
5.1.1	In what areas does each code work well / not so well?

Code	Current Process	Pro's	Con's
UNC	[Please replace this text with examples of areas where you think this code demonstrates best / worst practice]		
BSC	As above		
CUSC	As above		
Other codes			

Preference:

Means of implementation:			
Custom and practice		Mod rules change	Licence modification
Details:			

Issue No:	Description:
5.2	How does small party, new entrant and consumer representation vary across the codes?

Code	Current Process	Pro's	Con's
UNC	Consumer Focus has no voting Panel seats; but can appoint two non-voting representatives. Can raise information provision mods only.		
BSC	Consumer Focus has 2 voting Panel seats, and can raise any kind of mod.		
CUSC	Consumer Focus has 1 voting Panel seat, and can raise any kind of mod.		
Other codes	<p>MRA- there is a seat at the MDB (change control body) for small suppliers and small distributors. Open invitation for consumer body to attend MEC</p> <p>SPAA – there is a small supplier and small transporter seat on the SPAA Executive . There is an open invitation for consumer bodies to attend the SPAA EC</p>	<p>Small suppliers and distributors rotate the representation between their constituent groups which seems to work well in ensuring each group is engaged with the MRA change process</p> <p>The small supplier seat is generally filled by a supplier with around 1,000,000 Meter Points as it has proved difficult to achieve representation from smaller parties. This doesn't appear to have been problematic to date.</p> <p>A small transporter regularly attends the SPAA EC and this has proved effective at ensuring that this particular constituency is kept</p>	

	<p>DCUSA – there is an iDNO seat on the DCUSA Panel and there is an open invitation for consumer bodies to attend</p>	<p>up to date with SPAA developments.</p> <p>The iDNO seat is utilised by one iDNO who feeds into the iDNO community any matter of specific interest to them.</p> <p>Smaller parties tend to attend working group's/send feedback to Panel's etc where there is a matter of specific interest to them.</p>	
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Preference:

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Means of implementation:

Custom and practice		Mod rules change	x	Licence modification	
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Details:

Within the MRA/SPAA/DCUSA – the agreements themselves provide the framework which supports a flexible approach to smaller party engagement.

Issue No:	Description:
5.2.1	What aspects of the arrangements do small parties, new entrants and consumer representatives find to be a particular burden?

Code	Current Process	Pro's	Con's
UNC	[Please replace this text with examples of any (governance, rather than market design) problems with this code that you think may inhibit these groups from participation]		
BSC	As above		
CUSC	As above		
Other codes	As above		

Preference:

Means of implementation:

Custom and practice		Mod rules change		Licence modification	
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Details:

Issue No:	Description:
5.2.2	In which aspects are the codes sufficiently transparent or need to improve?

Code	Current Process	Pro's	Con's
UNC	[Please replace this text with examples]		
BSC			
CUSC			
Other codes			

Preference:

See presentation given to first CAWG meeting

Means of implementation:			
Custom and practice		Mod rules change	Licence modification
Details:			

Issue No:	Description:
5.2.2.1	Should websites conform to agreed standards/principles?

Code	Current Process	Pro's	Con's
UNC	Not subject to external agreed standards / principles. Content is "open-to-all" – passwords not needed to access content.		
BSC	Same as UNC.		
CUSC	Same as UNC.		
Other codes	Where possible standardisation is advantageous as it makes the User Experience more straightforward. There are however some pieces of information which must remain at a "password" protected level e.g. contract manager contact details, financial matters relating to the administration of the agreements, commercial contract information.		

Preference:

It would be beneficial to have some standardisation to ensure that appropriate documentation is available to those who need it.

Means of implementation:				
Custom and practice	x	Mod rules change		Licence modification
Details:				
A best practice guideline could be produced which covers off website availability, structure and tone of change/modification proposal documentation. This would assist				

code administrators and users.

Issue No:	Description:
5.2.3	Do small parties, new entrants and consumer representatives consider that enough assistance is available to them in order to participate [in code governance and modification processes]?

Code	Current Process	Pro's	Con's
UNC	[Please replace this text with examples]		
BSC			
CUSC			
Other codes			

Preference:

Means of implementation:				
Custom and practice		Mod rules change		Licence modification
Details:				

Issue No:	Description:
5.2.3.1	If further assistance would be helpful [to small parties, new entrants and consumer representatives], in what areas?

Code	Current Process	Pro's	Con's
UNC	Informal assistance from code administrator prior to raising mods (i.e. chat through issues).		
BSC	Informal assistance from code administrator prior to raising mods (i.e. chat through issues). Periodic education seminars for new joiners to industry. Range of information sheets and publications on website. Plain English summary of the code maintained (as code requirement?).		
CUSC	Informal assistance available from NG as administrator.		
Other codes			

Preference:

Means of implementation:

Custom and practice		Mod rules change		Licence modification	
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Details:

Issue No:	Description:
5.3	What role do code administrators play in developing or bringing forward proposals?

Code	Current Process	Pro's	Con's
UNC	JO has drafted changes to the modification rule in line with governance workstream discussion – Party must then formally raise it. JO can request a consent to modify typo's etc.		
BSC	Asks Panel to raise housekeeping mods as needed. Provides informal support to proposers prior to submission (help with framing the issue etc).		
CUSC	NG can not raise mods as administrator but can and does as a CUSC party.		
Other codes	<p>MRA - where parties require assistance in developing changes e.g. from a technical perspective in relation to the MRA suite of products, the code administrator will provide this assistance.</p> <p>SPAA - code administrator plays no role in developing or bringing forward proposals unless tasked to do so by the SPAA EC. If a proposal is developed it would be sponsored by a SPAA EC Member.</p> <p>DCUSA - code administrator plays no role in developing or bringing forward proposals unless tasked to do so by the</p>		

	DCUSA Panel. If a proposal is developed it would be sponsored by a DCUSA Panel Member.		
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Preference:

Where a contract has been structured to place the emphasis of Parties developing change proposals it is appropriate that the administrator has minimal involvement in these changes.

Means of implementation:

Custom and practice		Mod rules change		Licence modification	
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Details:

Changing the way the administrator acts in relation to developing change proposals would probably be a change to the commercial contracts which exist between the Agreements and the service provider.

Issue No:	Description:
5.3.1	Should the Panel's ability to raise proposals be limited to housekeeping and governance?

Code	Current Process	Pro's	Con's
UNC	Panel cannot raise proposal in its own right – requires a 'sponsor'		
BSC	Panel can raise housekeeping mods, plus more material mods in limited circumstances specified within the code (i.e. to cater for changes to Fuel Security Code, the introduction of Euro).		
CUSC	Ambiguous if Panel can raise mods. Power to do so does exist ¹ but unclear in what circumstances it can be exercised.		
Other codes	<p>MRA – The MRA Executive Committee can sponsor changes, these tend to be as a result of consequential change rather than to effect technical solutions. However if MEC believe there to be a benefit to the MRA for the Committee to jointly sponsor a change this can happen.</p> <p>SPAA – the SPAA EC has no ability to propose changes – there has to be a Party Sponsor.</p> <p>DCUSA – the DCUSA Panel has no power to propose changes there has to be a Party Sponsor.</p>		

¹ Paragraph 8.15.1

Preference:

Means of implementation:

Custom and practice

Mod rules change

Licence modification

Details:

Issue No:	Description:
5.4	Who should be responsible for the production of legal text?

Code	Current Process	Pro's	Con's
UNC	The Transporters, who take it in turns.		
BSC	The code administrator, ELEXON.		
CUSC	National Grid.		
Other codes	<p>MRA – Change Proposers produce legal text which is sense checked by the Administrator. External legal review of proposer text can be procured by MEC as and when required.</p> <p>SPAA – legal text is produced by the proposer of the change.</p> <p>DCUSA – legal text is generally drafted by Working Group's or Change Proposer's and is then sent to an external legal advisor for review. On occasion external legal text is procured on a stand alone basis.</p>		

Preference:

Where possible legal text should be procured externally in the first instance only when change proposer's have been unable to provide draft text or where a change is complex enough to require procured legal text.

Means of implementation:

Custom and practice		Mod rules change	x	Licence modification	
Details:					

Issue No:	Description:
5.4.1	When should legal text be produced?

Code	Current Process	Pro's	Con's
UNC	If a GT proposal included from the outset, otherwise at panel or Authority request		
BSC	For housekeeping or self evident proposals, during the Report Phase. For other proposals, during the Assessment Procedure.		
CUSC	Prior to the Company consultation.		
Other codes	MRA/SPAA/DCUSA – legal text is provided in advance of formal industry consultation.		

<p>Preference:</p> <p>Legal text should always be provided alongside the formal change proposal,</p>

Means of implementation:				
Custom and practice		Mod rules change	x	Licence modification
Details:				

Issue No:	Description:
5.4.1.1	Should legal text be consulted on [before a proposal is sent to the Authority]?

Code	Current Process	Pro's	Con's
UNC	This rarely happens. Often legal text is only produced after an FMR is sent to the Authority, at the Authority's request.		
BSC	In principle, this step is not 100% guaranteed ² . But generally legal text is consulted on at least once (in the Report Phase) and often several times (where a mod has gone to a work group).		
CUSC	If a mod goes to WG, the WG usually agree the legal text. It is then consulted upon during the Company (panel) consultation.		
Other codes	MRA/SPAA/DCUSA – legal text is normally consulted upon.		

<p>Preference:</p> <p>Yes as this is the contractual change that parties utilise to assess the impact of a proposed change upon their systems and processes</p>

Means of implementation:			
Custom and practice		Mod rules change	Licence modification
Details:			

² The BSC does provide that the Panel may consult the Authority on whether legal text is needed for a mod, but the Panel has shown no appetite to make such requests, and it is unlikely that the Authority would accede to any such request on any proposal that had a credible chance of being approvable.

Issue No:	Description:
5.4.2	Should legal text be flexible (i.e. a "work in progress") until a decision to approve or reject is made)?

Code	Current Process	Pro's	Con's
UNC	Legal text generally isn't developed during the industry process and is often only provided at the Authority's request after the Panel recommendation. Legal text is effectively flexible up to point of Authority decision.		
BSC	Legal text is flexible up to the point when FMR sent to Authority. After that point it cannot be changed.		
CUSC	Same as BSC		
Other codes	MRA/SPAA/DCUSA Wherever possible legal text should be considered to be final when it is issued for consultation, however if issues with the legal text are discovered prior to Authority consent being granted/denied Code Panels should have the ability to reconsult on the legal text.		

Preference:
The modification/change rules should reflect the requirement for a certain degree of flexibility.

Means of implementation:					
Custom and practice		Mod rules change	x	Licence modification	
Details:					

Issue No:	Description:
5.5	How long should consultation period be?

Code	Current Process	Pro's	Con's
UNC	Ordinarily 15 working days, can be varied by the panel.		
BSC	Not prescribed within the code. Working practice varies from a few days to a couple of weeks during Definition or Assessment Procedure, normally about a fortnight during Report Phase.		
CUSC	The WG phase incorporating consultation can be no longer than 4 months – unless extension approved, consultation element usually between 3 and 4 weeks. Company consultation usually 2 weeks.		
Other codes	The consultation period is between 10 and 15 days across the MRA, SPAA, DCUSA. The Executive Committees/Panels have the flexibility to increase or shorten consultation timescales as they see fit.		

Preference:

There needs to be flexibility to allow shortened/lengthened timescales to be provided for.

Means of implementation:				
Custom and practice		Mod rules change	x	Licence modification

Details:

Issue No:	Description:
5.5.1	Should the Panel have discretion over how long the consultation period is for each proposal?

Code	Current Process	Pro's	Con's
UNC	Full discretion. Often ties in with concurrent consultations.		
BSC	Full discretion. Usually varies from a few days to a couple of weeks. Complexity, public holidays and the volume of other work the industry and ELEXON has on may influence this duration.		
CUSC	Full discretion subject to a minimum of 10wd for housekeeping amendments.		
Other codes	Full discretion		

Preference:

Means of implementation:

Custom and practice		Mod rules change	x	Licence modification	
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Details:



Issue No:	Description:
5.6	How should implementation dates be determined?

Code	Current Process	Pro's	Con's
UNC	Can be day after Authority approval. Systems implementation often divorced from mod process – determined by consensus at UK Link committee after direction to implement issued.		
BSC	Determined by Panel prior to an Authority decision. Panel recommendation is generally based on mod group recommendation, which in turn is influenced by the results of industry impact assessments.		
CUSC	Date recommended by NG and included in consultation. Where respondents disagree with NG recommendation, date determined by the Panel.		
Other codes	MRA/SPAA/DCUSA Implementation Dates are normally Release related e.g. Feb, June and November and are suggested by the Proposer of the change which Parties vote on. The Executive Committees/Panel then pass a recommended implementation date onto the Authority.		

Preference:

Means of implementation:

Custom and practice		Mod rules change	x	Licence modification	
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Details:

Issue No:	Description:
5.7	Should there be fast-track process for housekeeping / non-contentious modifications?

Code	Current Process	Pro's	Con's
UNC	Consents process available for housekeeping changes. Does not need to be assessed against code objectives.		
BSC	Raised by Panel on ELEXON request, proceeds directly to Report Phase. Recommendation and Ofgem decision made against code objectives.		
CUSC	Where Panel agree a mod is HK, then mod is posted on NG website for minimum 10 business days. HK report drafted and submitted to Ofgem for decision. Licence drafting under CUSC similar to UNC, so consent process possible, but never used in practice.		
Other codes			

Preference:

Yes. You always need the ability to do something quickly. This mostly happens when there is something manifestly wrong in the code or there is a mistake in the drafting. In these circumstances you need to make a correction quickly in order to preserve an orderly market.

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Means of implementation:			
Custom and practice		Mod rules change	Licence modification
Details:			

Issue No:	Description:
5.7.1	What unnecessary process steps could be removed/made conditional on nature of proposal?

Code	Current Process	Pro's	Con's
UNC	[Please replace this text with examples of steps in the mod process you think could be optional or removed (please specify which) for this code]		
BSC	As above		
CUSC	As above		
Other codes	As above		

Preference:

Means of implementation:

Custom and practice		Mod rules change		Licence modification	
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Details:

Issue No:	Description:
5.8	Should current customs and practice be codified?

Code	Current Process	Pro's	Con's
UNC	[Please replace this text with any examples of working practices you think should be codified, or otherwise formalised]		
BSC	As above		
CUSC	As above		
Other codes	As above		

Preference:

Means of implementation:			
Custom and practice		Mod rules change	Licence modification
Details:			

Issue No:	Description:
5.9	How can the independence of the code administrator be assured?

Code	Current Process	Pro's	Con's
UNC	Joint Office staff are on secondment from NG, JGA stipulates they should act independently.		
BSC	ELEXON is 100% owned but uncontrolled subsidiary of NG ("at arms length"). Neutral in sense that non-affiliated and not-for-profit, but may be affected by mods insofar as they affect their scope, processes, and credibility.		
CUSC	NG are CUSC party and sole administrator of the CUSC.		
Other codes	The MRA, SPAA, DCUSA and Data Transfer Agreement are administered by companies owned by the signatories – this means that the corporate structure of the agreement requires the administrator to act in the best interests of the Agreement and the parties to it under direction from Exec Committees and Panels.		

Preference:

Corporate ownership by the parties to Codes ensures that the best interests of the Parties are at the forefront of the administrators mind. The corporate structure which underpins this approach supports the delivery of cost effective and robust code management services.

Means of implementation:					
Custom and practice		Mod rules change		Licence modification	x
Details:					
Licence Modification supported by commercial contract.					

Issue No:	Description:
5.10	Who should 'own' modification proposals during the process?

Code	Current Process	Pro's	Con's
UNC	The proposer		
BSC	'Rights, IPRs and moral rights' assigned to code administrator, ELEXON ³ .		
CUSC	Rights, IPRs and moral rights' assigned to all CUSC parties ⁴		
Other codes	MRA/SPAA/DCUSA Proposer owns the proposal, although under DCUSA Working Group's can propose alternatives.		

Preference:

The proposer should retain ownership of change and modification proposals throughout the process.

Means of implementation:				
Custom and practice		Mod rules change	x	Licence modification
Details:				

³ BSC F2.1.11

⁴ CUSC 8.15.7

Issue No:	Description:
5.11	Should proposers have the right to withdraw proposals?

Code	Current Process	Pro's	Con's
UNC	Allowed, no time constraint.		
BSC	Allowed, subject to time constraint.		
CUSC	Allowed, no time constraint		
Other codes	MRA/SPAA/DCUSA allowed prior to submission to the Authority		

<p>Preference:</p> <p>Proposers should have the right to withdraw proposals at any time</p>

Means of implementation:				
Custom and practice		Mod rules change	x	Licence modification
Details:				

Issue No:	Description:
5.11.1	If proposers should have the right to withdraw proposals, up to what point should this right exist?

Code	Current Process	Pro's	Con's
UNC	Can be withdrawn at any point to submission of FMR to the Authority.		
BSC	Can only be withdrawn up to the point where first presented to Panel ⁵ (for it to consider whether to send to WG or straight to report).		
CUSC	Can be withdrawn at any point.		
Other codes			

Preference:

Means of implementation:

Custom and practice		Mod rules change		Licence modification	
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Details:

⁵ BSC F2.1.12.

Issue No:	Description:
5.11.2	If proposers should have the right to withdraw proposals, should other parties be able to adopt the proposal at this point?

Code	Current Process	Pro's	Con's
UNC	Allowed.		
BSC	Not allowed.		
CUSC	Allowed. Must do so within 5 BD following withdrawal.		
Other codes	MRA/SPAA/DCUSA Allowed		

<p>Preference:</p> <p>Other parties should have the ability to take forward a withdrawn proposal</p>

Means of implementation:				
Custom and practice		Mod rules change	x	Licence modification
Details:				

Issue No:	Description:
5.12	Are modification processes appropriate for urgent proposals?

Code	Current Process	Pro's	Con's
UNC	[Please replace this text with examples of where you think the urgency procedures could be improved]		
BSC			
CUSC			
Other codes	MRA/SPAA/DCUSA – the Executive Committees/Panels control the timescales associated with urgent proposals – however these are rare events under these agreements.		

Preference:

Mod Rules should be flexible enough to allow EC/Panel discretion in terms of reducing consultation timescales etc. There should be guidance documented which defines the urgency criteria that parties must demonstrate is in existence.

Means of implementation:				
Custom and practice		Mod rules change	x	Licence modification
Details:				

Issue No:	Description:
5.12.1	Should all urgent proposals be subject to a minimum period of consultation?

Code	Current Process	Pro's	Con's
UNC	Urgency timetable is determined by Authority, although fed into by the views of the UNC Panel. No minimum period.		
BSC	Urgency timetable is determined by Authority, although fed into by the views of the BSC Panel.		
CUSC	Urgency timetable is determined by Authority, although fed into by the views of the CUSC Panel.		
Other codes	MRA – urgency timetable is determined by MEC SPAA – urgency timetable is determined by SPAA EC DCUSA – urgency timetable is determined by the DCUSA Panel	This provides flexibility and allows Panel to progress urgent change without unnecessary delay.	

Preference:

For the MRA/SPAA/DCUSA allowing the Panel control over the progression of urgent change allows a speedier consideration of the issue in question and a potentially faster route to consultation. I can't see why the BSC/UNC and CUSC Panels could not take on this role.

Means of implementation:				
Custom and practice		Mod rules change	x	Licence modification
Details:				



Issue No:	Description:
5.13	Should proposer be able to speak at a panel where a recommendation is to be made on their proposal?

Code	Current Process	Pro's	Con's
UNC	No specific rule – allowed at Panel/Chairs discretion		
BSC	Proposer is allowed to present when mod is raised, but has no guaranteed right to speak when final recommendations are made. Rules appear to allow for the Chair to give permission for floor to speak ⁶ .		
CUSC	As BSC		
Other codes	MRA/SPAA/DCUSA – proposer is generally at the initial meetings where the change is discussed and as the owner of the change is actively involved in its progression.		

Preference:

Proposers should be entitled to speak at the Panel/EC Committee where the direction of their proposal is being determined.

Means of implementation:

Custom and practice		Mod rules change	x	Licence modification	
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Details:

⁶ BSC B4.5.1 http://www.elexon.co.uk/documents/BSC_and_Related_Documents/BSC_-_Live_Version/Section_B_v14.0.pdf



Issue No:	Description:
5.14	How should changes originating from outside the code [i.e. consequential changes that are “driven” by changes to licences, other codes or legislation] be dealt with?

Code	Current Process	Pro’s	Con’s
UNC	Less of an issue as UNC a more holistic code. All material changes must be assessed against relevant objectives and follow normal mods route – changes can be directed by SoS where specific powers to do so.		
BSC	Some major statutory changes may be enacted by Secretary of State (i.e. BETTA). But most changes enacted by normal mods route. Timing varies – sometimes coterminous FMRs and decisions are possible, more often there is a lag as one or more codes “catch up”.		
CUSC	As BSC		
Other codes			

Preference:

Means of implementation:			
Custom and practice		Mod rules change	Licence modification
Details:			

Issue No:	Description:
5.14.1	Should consequential changes be assessed simply on the basis of consistency rather than assessing them against the relevant code objectives?

Code	Current Process	Pro's	Con's
UNC	Depends on nature of changes. Housekeeping can be dealt with under consents route. More material changes assessed against objs.		
BSC	All mods must be assessed against code objectives.		
CUSC	All mods must be assessed against code objectives.		
Other codes	MRA/SPAA/DCUSA all changes of this nature are assessed in the same way as standard change proposals		

Preference:
<p>Must be subject to the full rigours of the code being changed. However, most changes that span codes are identified as such and change proposals for each drawn up in parallel. Although the timing of changes can run serially, the background work is often done earlier so that any conflicting issues are identified and resolved ahead of the first change. This has never been a problem in practice.</p> <p>They should be consulted upon in a similar way to standard change proposals/modifications i.e. they should be communicated to code parties to ensure that suggested changes being made to accommodate legislative change for example have been applied to the correct section of the agreement.</p>

Means of implementation:				
Custom and practice		Mod rules change	x	Licence modification
Details:				



Issue No:	Description:
5.15	Is the membership of modification groups appropriate?

Code	Current Process	Pro's	Con's
UNC	Panel may approve composition. Must be at least 2 Users and 2 GTs. Proposer has right to appoint one individual. Non code Parties may become member by invitation. In practice, open door policy.		
BSC	Selected by Panel upfront from standing lists of volunteers who are considered to have relevant technical expertise. Must have at least five members. Proposer, NG and ELEXON have automatic membership rights. Others can attend, but cannot vote ⁷ . The code compels members to impartiality – this does not apply to attendees.		
CUSC	Selected by Panel upfront from standing lists of volunteers who are considered to have relevant technical expertise. Must have at least five members. Proposer, NG have automatic membership rights. Others can attend, but cannot vote.		
Other codes	Any SPAA,MRA,DCUSA Party can become a modification/working/standing group member, non agreement party's may attend at the discretion of the group chairman. Unlikely that any industry representative would	This ensures that working groups are inclusive and representative of a wide range of industry representatives.	

⁷ Although it should be noted that the code appears to envisage that mod groups could conduct business without the need for formalised voting processes, i.e. F2.4.18 '[...] if the Group's terms of reference provide for voting [...]' (which suggests that the need for groups to vote was not considered self-evident when the code went live). In practice, voting does take place to determine recommendations, whether to progress an alternative modification, and to resolve matters where there is no general consensus.

	<p>be refused access to the group. All of these groups reach agreement either by consensus or by majority of group members. They have no decision making powers and simply make recommendations either to their respective Panels or to the proposer of a change.</p>		
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Preference:

Any party to an agreement should be able to join a modification group, there is sense in limiting numbers per party to avoid unworkable group numbers. There would also be benefit in reviewing the role of "industry experts" in general. BSC mod groups can be difficult to manage when individuals cannot express their commercial opinion as they are meant to be there on an "independent basis". This slows down process and makes mod groups unnecessarily politically contentious. It would be far simpler if people could openly represent their companies interests.

Means of implementation:

Custom and practice		Mod rules change	x	Licence modification	
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Details:

Issue No:	Description:
5.15.1	Should there be greater scope for consultancy support for modification/working groups?

Code	Current Process	Pro's	Con's
UNC	None provided centrally – if desired, must be funded by the party that wants it.		
BSC	Provided on a case-by-case basis, usually only for high materiality or complex mods. ELEXON would seek Panel authorisation to spend funds.		
CUSC	Does not seem to be anything in the rules to prevent such support being taken on. However do not recall any occasions when such support has been employed. Unclear who would pay.		
Other codes	The ability to seek consultancy support is already there for the MRA, SPAA and DCUSA however all requests for such support require the approval of the respective Panels. The majority of analysis work is carried out by Parties to reduce the financial burden on the agreements.		

Preference:
EC's/Panels/Boards should control budgetary spend in relation to consultants.

Means of implementation:				
Custom and practice		Mod rules change	x	Licence modification
Details:				

Issue No:	Description:
5.16	Should alternative proposals be treated in a standard manner across all codes?

Code	Current Process	Pro's	Con's
UNC	Uncapped number of alternatives allowed. Do not require majority support to raise. Alts must be raised within defined time-window of 5 days from original going out to consultation		
BSC	Only one alternative allowed – if more competing concepts then further mods must be raised. WG by majority has to consider the alt better than the original if they are to develop it. Alt can be raised at any time whilst still with WG.		
CUSC	Uncapped number of alternatives allowed. Respondents can only raise consultation alternative requests during the WG consultation and WG has complete discretion whether a request is formally taken forward as an alternative – WG chair has an over-riding discretion.		
Other codes			

Preference:

A uniform arrangement would be preferable. Probably more important to avoid extremes i.e. unlimited variants (CUSC) and only 1 variant that must be better than the proposed (BSC).

Means of implementation:

Custom and practice		Mod rules change		Licence modification	
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Details:

Issue No:	Description:
5.17	Should greater rationale/detail accompany panel recommendations?

Code	Current Process	Pro's	Con's
UNC	Both licence and rules require 'factors which justify' the Panel's recommendation – reference to Relevant Objectives not stipulated.		
BSC	Obligation under rules is specifically upon the Modification Group rather than Panel to justify opinion against relevant objectives ⁸ .		
CUSC	Only details of the outcome of the recommendation vote need to be provided in the FMR. Panel members can submit views as panel members during the consultation. This rarely happens.		
Other codes			

Preference:

Means of implementation:

Custom and practice		Mod rules change		Licence modification	
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Details:

⁸ See Clause F 2.6.4

