

Modification proposal:	Supply Point Administration Agreement Change Proposal (SCP) 426: 'Introduction of SPAA Data Flow Catalogue' (SCP426)		
Decision:	The Authority ¹ has decided to approve ² modification ³ SCP426		
Target audience:	SPAA Parties, SPAA Panel and other interested parties		
Date of publication:	26 July 2018	Implementation date:	02 November 2018

Background

Several inter-supplier data flows relating to processes governed under the SPAA are now commonly, if not mandatorily, communicated via the Data Transfer Network (DTN), which was originally established in order to facilitate communication between parties in the electricity industry. These processes include:

- Schedule 10: Procedure for resolution of erroneous transfers (RET);
- Schedule 11: The procedure for Agreement of change of Supplier Reading and the resolution of disputed change of supplier readings (SAR); and,
- Schedule 20: The Procedure for Domestic Supplier to Supplier use of the "Notification of Old Supplier Information (NOSI)" Flow during Registration.

The Change Proposal

In order to ensure that data flowing across the DTN is managed consistently, SPAA SCP426 proposes to introduce the Supplier Data Flow Catalogue (DFC), which will be maintained as a SPAA product. The DFC is intended to replicate the governance that is provided in electricity by the Data Transfer Catalogue (DTC), ensuring consistency of definitions and approach, thereby mitigating issues that might otherwise arise.

In addition, obsolete references to data being communicated via BISCUIT⁴ flows and CSV processing will also be deleted, as they are no longer relevant.

Change Boards recommendation

At the 8 May 2018 meeting of the SPAA Change Board, all parties who declared an interest voted in favour of implementing SCP426.

Our decision

We have considered the views of the Change Board and the Change Report and have concluded that:

¹ The terms 'the Authority', 'Ofgem' and 'we' are used interchangeably in this document. Ofgem is the Office of the Gas and Electricity Markets Authority. This decision is made by or on behalf of GEMA.

² This document is notice of the reasons for this decision as required by section 38A of the Gas Act 1986.

³ 'Change' and 'modification' are used interchangeably in this document.

⁴ Basic Inter-Supplier Communications Using Internet Technology (BISCUIT).

⁵ Change Board is established and constituted pursuant and in accordance with the SPAA.

- implementation of SCP426 will better facilitate the achievement of the relevant objectives of the SPAA;⁶ and
- consenting to the modification being made is consistent with the our principal objective and statutory duties.⁷

Reasons for our decision

We note the strong support for this proposal, with each of the supplier parties who voted supporting its implementation, though there were few comments to explain the reasons for this support. We agree with the proposer and the Change Board, that SCP426 should be assessed against SPAA objectives (a) and (c), and that it would have a neutral impact on the other SPAA objectives.

(a) Development, maintenance and operation of an efficient, coordinated and economical change of supplier process.

Whilst the inter-supplier flows governed by SPAA have been capable of communication via the DTN for some time, the absence of a clear data catalogue, as used elsewhere in the industry, risks inconsistency of use. This may hamper the effectiveness of the relevant processes, particularly if any differences of interpretation between suppliers requires manual intervention in order to resolve them. To the extent that the three processes initially identified as being supported by the DFC all relate to the change of supplier process, we agree that the implementation of this change proposal and availability of a common data catalogue will further facilitate relevant objective (a).

(c) the promotion of efficiency in the implementation and administration of the supply point administration arrangements

As above, we consider that the existence of the DFC will facilitate more effective communications. Whilst these benefits have been captured under relevant objective (a), we note the potential for the DFC to expand and encompass data items that are relevant to wider industry communications. We therefore also consider that SCP426 and the existence of the DFC as a SPAA Product will further relevant objective (c).

Decision notice

In accordance with Standard Licence Condition (SLC) 30 of the Gas Supplier licence, the Authority hereby approves modification proposal SCP426: '*Introduction of SPAA Data Flow Catalogue*'.

Rachel Clark
Programme Director, Consumers and Markets

Signed on behalf of the Authority and authorised for that purpose

⁶ As set out in Standard Licence Condition (SLC) 30.5 of the Gas Supplier Licence.

⁷ The Authority's statutory duties are wider than the matters that the Change Board must take into consideration and are detailed mainly in the Gas Act 1986.