

## CP Consultation

### CP1587 'Obsolete Metering Equipment'

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#### Committee

Imbalance Settlement  
Group (ISG) and  
Supplier Volume  
Allocation Group (SVG)



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#### About This Document

You can find the definitions of the terms and acronyms used in this document in the [BSC Glossary](#)<sup>1</sup>.

The purpose of this Change Proposal (CP) Consultation is to invite BSC Parties, Party Agents and other interested parties to provide their views on the impacts and the merits of CP1587. The ISG and SVG will then consider the consultation responses before making a decision on whether or not to approve CP1587.

There are four parts to this document:

- This is the main document. It provides details of the solution, impacts, costs, and proposed implementation approach. It also summarises the ISG and SVG's initial views on the proposed changes.
- Attachment A contains the CP proposal form.
- Attachment B contains the proposed redlined changes to deliver the CP1587 solution
- Attachment C contains the specific questions on which we seek your views. Please use this form to provide your response to these questions, and to record any further views or comments you wish to be considered.



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<sup>1</sup> <https://www.elexon.co.uk/glossary/?show=all>



We suggest reading the following sections:

- Have 5 minutes?  
Read section 1
- Have 15 minutes?  
Read sections 1, 4, 5 and 6
- Have 30 minutes?  
Read all sections
- Have longer? Read all sections and the annexes and attachments

### Why change?

There are types of Meter/Outstation that are no longer manufactured and 'unsupported' by the Meter/Outstation manufacturer. The BSC does not currently set out which Meter/Outstation Types are currently manufactured and whether supported or not in the Code of Practice (CoP) [Compliance Protocol Approvals](#)<sup>2</sup> list. There is also no process in [BSCP601](#)<sup>3</sup> for Elexon to check with Meter/Outstation manufacturers whether an approved Meter/Outstation Type is manufactured and supported, and where not manufactured or supported take any action to prevent continued installation of the relevant Meter/Outstation Type.

There is a risk to Settlement where Meters/Outstations are installed, or continued to be left in service, where they are no longer supported or spares are unavailable. Similar issues apply to Data Collectors where they can no longer support a protocol for a particular Meter/Outstation Type or wish to withdraw from the market. The BSC does not currently set out which Data Collectors currently can support a particular Meter/Outstation Type.

Elexon still has an obligation under BSCP601 to notify the Panel<sup>4</sup> of certificates issued and updates to the Compliance Approval and Protocol Approval list. BSCP601 also places an obligation on Elexon to notify Parties and Party Agents of new approvals. Elexon does this via a [Newscast](#)<sup>5</sup> article. There is an administrative burden placed on Elexon in producing a paper for the relevant BSC Panel Committee.

### Solution

CP1587 will look to amend sections 1.1 (Scope and Purpose of the Procedure), 1.2 (Main Users of Procedure and their Responsibilities) and 1.3 (Use of the Procedure) to define the new process and obligations on stakeholders.

CP1857 will also remove the obligation to notify the Panel sub-Committees, via an information paper, of certificates issued and updates to Compliance and Protocol Approval list in sections 2 'Interface and Timetable Information' for parts 2.1, 2.2 and 2.3 and rely on the weekly Newscast to inform industry of new, or updates to existing, Compliance and Protocol Approvals. The obligation to produce a paper where an issue has been identified with a Compliance or Protocol Approval will remain in section 2.4.

CP1587 will also add processes (2.5 and 2.6) in section 2 'Interface and Timetable Information' to confirm whether Meter/Outstation Types are still manufactured and/or supported, and where confirmation that a Data Collector can no longer support a Protocol, to notify Parties and Party Agents. In the case of unsupported Meter/Outstation Types give a transition period to remove unsupported Meter/Outstation Types.

### Impacts and costs

CP1587 will impact all Agents and BSC Parties who install Meters and who own the Meters. There may also be an impact on Half Hourly Data Collectors (HHDCs) applying for Protocol

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<sup>2</sup> <https://www.elexon.co.uk/guidance-note/cop-compliance-protocol-approvals/>

<sup>3</sup> [BSCP601: Metering Protocol Approval and Compliance Testing](#)

<sup>4</sup> the BSC Panel has delegated responsibility for BSCP601 to its BSC Panel Committees, the Supplier Volume Allocation Group and the Imbalance Settlement Group

<sup>5</sup> <https://www.elexon.co.uk/news-events/subscriptions/>

Approvals for new Meters that have been installed that they may not have a Protocol Approval for.

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## Implementation

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CP1587 is proposed for implementation on 29 February 2024 as part of the standard February 2024 release.

## 2. Why Change?

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### What is the issue?

There are types of Meter/Outstation that are no longer manufactured and 'unsupported' by the Meter/Outstation manufacturer. The BSC does not currently set out which Meter/Outstation Types are currently manufactured and whether supported or not in the Code of Practice (CoP) [Compliance Protocol Approvals](#) list.

There is also no process in [BSCP601](#)<sup>6</sup> for Elexon to check with Meter/Outstation manufacturers whether an approved Meter/Outstation Type is manufactured and supported, and where not manufactured or supported take any action to prevent continued installation of the relevant Meter/Outstation Type.

There is a risk to Settlement where Meters/Outstations are installed, or continued to be left in service, where they are no longer supported or spares are available. An example of this risk would be where a Meter/Outstation becomes faulty with no replacement available and, for a rack mounted metering panel it can take significant time to replace the entire metering panel, the circuit is reliant on one Meter/Outstation which is of a similar age to the faulty Meter/Outstation until the metering panel can be replaced. There have been examples where the remaining Meter/Outstation has gone faulty and data needs to be estimated.

The same issue applies to Data Collectors where they can no longer support a protocol for a particular Meter/Outstation Type or wish to withdraw from the market. The BSC does not currently set out which Data Collectors currently can support a particular Meter/Outstation Type, only that they have achieved protocol approval at some point, which is in the CoP Compliance Protocol Approvals list.

There is also no process in BSCP601 for Elexon to remove a Data Collector from the approved list where they inform Elexon that they can no longer support a particular Meter/Outstation Type or are exiting the market. In this scenario there is a risk of erroneous appointments of a Data Collector that does not have a compliant protocol.

Since [CP1174](#)<sup>7</sup> was implemented in June 2007, if compliance testing or protocol approval testing is successful, Elexon can issue a Certificate of Compliance or Protocol Approval to an applicant. Prior to June 2007 Elexon had to seek a decision from the relevant BSC Panel Committee before issuing Certificates of Compliance or Protocol Approval to an applicant. There is an administrative burden placed on Elexon in producing a paper for the relevant BSC Panel Committee. Elexon still has an obligation under BSCP601 to notify the Panel<sup>8</sup>, via a paper, of certificates issued and updates to the Compliance Approval and Protocol Approval list. BSCP601 also places an obligation on Elexon to notify Parties and Party Agents of new approvals. Elexon does this via a [Newscast](#) article.

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### Background

The metering CoPs detail the technical requirements for Metering Systems. This includes a requirement that the Outstation data shall be to a format and protocol approved by the Panel in accordance with BSCP601. The BSCP601 process is defined to ensure that Metering Equipment and Asset Metering Equipment is designed and manufactured to the requirements of the relevant CoP. Each Compliance Approval is specific to that Metering Equipment, or Asset Metering Equipment, tested including type reference and any firmware

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<sup>6</sup> [BSCP601: Metering Protocol Approval and Compliance Testing](#)

<sup>7</sup> [CP1174: Changes to BSCP601 and Compliance Test Specification](#)

<sup>8</sup> the BSC Panel has delegated responsibility for BSCP601 to its BSC Panel Committees, the Supplier Volume Allocation Group and the Imbalance Settlement Group

and software versions. Metering Equipment and Asset Metering Equipment firmware and software updates not affecting Compliance need not be re-approved.

The [Issue 93](#)<sup>9</sup> Workgroup discussed an aspect with the intent of defining a process to deal with Obsolete Metering Equipment in BSCP601.

The Workgroup highlighted the need for this requirement to trigger a recognition of a higher risk of failure at end of life and potentially a non-compliance. The exact mechanism for initiating Metering Equipment change was not determined. The Workgroup agreed that at the lower end of the market, Meters are a consumable item and can promptly be replaced on failure. In the higher volume Supplier Volume Allocation (SVA) and Central Volume Allocation (CVA) market, changing Metering Equipment can result in long replacement lead times. Using Metering Equipment that is no longer manufactured and supported poses a risk to Settlement where the product is reaching end of life and replacing an entire metering panel to use Metering Equipment from a different manufacturer can take up to six months to complete the works.

The conclusion from the Issue 93 workgroup provided the below recommendations that were noted and agreed by the workgroup:

- Process to be added to BSCP601 to check and confirm (yearly) where a manufacturer has stopped supporting a Meter Type;
- Process to be added to BSCP601 to withdraw a Certificate of Compliance for unsupported Meter/Outstations Types;
- Process to be added to BSCP601 to withdraw Protocol Approval where a Data Collector no longer can support an approved Protocol;
- Process to be added to give a transition period to remove unsupported Meter/Outstation Types; and
- Raise a Metering Dispensation to allow unsupported Meter/Outstation Types to be installed where a fault occurs and the Meter/Outstation type is still in the transition period for removal.

The recommendations were presented to, and noted by, the BSC Panel on 8 September 2022 (330/08)<sup>10</sup>.

In addition, Elexon proposes to remove the requirement to present an information paper to the Supplier Volume Allocation Group and the Imbalance Settlement Group. This was raised at the Panel sub-committee meetings of 6 June 2023 (SVG/268 and ISG/266) and the committees were agreeable to remove the requirement for an information paper and to propose a more efficient method of notification.

### 3. Solution

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#### Proposed solution

CP1587 will look to amend sections 1.1 (Scope and Purpose of the Procedure), 1.2 (Main Users of Procedure and their Responsibilities) and 1.3 (Use of the Procedure) to define the new process and obligations on stakeholders.

CP1587 will also remove the obligation to notify the Panel sub-Committees, via an information paper, of certificates issued and updates to Compliance and Protocol Approval list in sections 2 'Interface and Timetable Information' for parts 2.1, 2.2 and 2.3 and rely on

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<sup>9</sup> [Issue 93 'Review of the BSC metering Codes of Practice'](#)

<sup>10</sup> [BSC Panel 330/08](#)

the weekly Newscast to inform industry of new, or updates to existing, Compliance and Protocol Approvals. The obligation to produce a paper where an issue has been identified with a Compliance or Protocol Approval will remain in section 2.4.

CP1587 will also add processes (2.5 and 2.6) in section 2 'Interface and Timetable Information' to confirm whether Meter/Outstation Types are still manufactured and/or supported, and where confirmation that a Data Collector can no longer support a protocol, to notify Parties and Party Agents. In the case of unsupported Meter/Outstation Types give a transition period to remove unsupported Meter/Outstation Types.

Should CP1587 be approved Elexon will raise a Metering Dispensation to allow unsupported Meter/Outstation Types to be installed where a fault occurs and the Meter/Outstation Type is still in the transition period for removal.

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## Proposer's rationale

CP1587 will provide a process to confirm whether Meter/Outstation Types are still manufactured and supported. It will also provide a transition period to remove unsupported assets and mitigate the risk to Settlement of faults on Meters/Outstations occurring which prevent actual data being submitted into Settlement. CP1587 will establish a process to remove Data Collectors who can no longer support a protocol for a particular Meter/Outstation Type which will reduce erroneous appointments to Data Collectors who cannot support a particular Meter/Outstation Type.

Additionally, CP1587 will reduce the administrative burden on Elexon preparing and presenting a committee information paper where there is already a more effective means, via Newscast, to inform industry of Compliance and Protocol Approval updates.

### CP Consultation Question

Do you agree with the CP1587 proposed solution?

*Please provide your rationale.*

We invite you to give your views using the response form in Attachment C

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## Proposed redlining

The proposed redlined changes to BSCP601 can be found in Attachment B.

### CP Consultation Question

Do you agree that the draft redlining delivers the CP1587 proposed solution?

*If 'No', please provide your rationale.*

We invite you to give your views using the response form in Attachment C

## 4. Impacts and Costs

### BSC Party & Party Agent impacts and costs

BSC Party & Party Agent Impacts	
BSC Party/Party Agent	Impact
Distribution System Operators (DSO)	This will have an impact on all parties who install Meters and who own the Meters.
Generators	
Suppliers	CP1587 aims to prevent unsupported Meters being installed and will allow owners/managers of the Meters a transition period to change their unsupported Meters/Outstations when a fault occurs with the Meter.
Meter Operators	
Meter Operator Agents (MOAs)	
CVA MOAs	
HHMOAs	

Note, this may specifically impact on Metering Dispensation D/565 for the Prometer R/W Meter types and potentially the Honeywell/Elster A1700 and A1140 Meter types.

### Central impacts and costs

#### Central impacts

CP1587 is limited to BSCP601 with no anticipated System Impacts.

Central Impacts	
Document Impacts	System Impacts
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>BSCP601</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>NA</li></ul>

#### Impact on BSC Settlement Risks

Impact on BSC Settlement Risks
No impact anticipated on BSC Settlement Risks. CP1587 should mitigate risk to Settlement as it will provide a transition period to remove unsupported assets.

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## Impact on Market-wide Half Hourly Settlement (MHHS)

### Impact on MHHS

There are no anticipated impacts on MHHS.

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## Central costs

The central implementation costs for CP1587 will be <£2k for BSCCo.

### CP Consultation Questions

Will CP1587 impact your organisation?

*If 'Yes', please provide a description of the impact(s) on your organisation and any activities which you will need to undertake between the approval of CP1587 and the CP1587 Implementation Date (including any necessary changes to your systems, documents and processes). Where applicable, please state which of the roles that you operate as will be impacted and any differences in the impacts between each role.*

Will your organisation incur any costs in implementing CP1587?

*If 'Yes', please provide details of these costs, how they arise and whether they are one-off or on-going costs.*

We invite you to give your views using the response form in Attachment C



5. Implementation Approach

Recommended Implementation Date

CP1587 is recommended to be implemented as soon as possible. As this is a document only change to BSCP601, the implementation date of 29 February 2024 as part of February 2024 release is recommended.

CP Consultation Question
Do you agree with the proposed implementation approach for CP1587? <i>Please provide your rationale.</i>
We invite you to give your views using the response form in Attachment C

## 6. ISG's initial views

At their meeting on 7 November 2023 ([271/05<sup>11</sup>](#)) The ISG was invited to note the progression of the CP and provide any comments or additional questions for inclusion in the CP Consultation.

The ISG did not form a quorate committee and were therefore unable to meet to consider CP1587. As the purpose of the presentation was for information only (no decision required), this CP will continue to the consultation phase. Members have been invited to give their views on the CP1587 via email and any late feedback can be considered at their January meeting, when the ISG will be invited to come to a decision on CP1587.

## 7. SVG's initial views

At their meeting on 7 November 2023 ([273/04<sup>12</sup>](#)) the SVG was invited to note the progression of the CP and provide any comments or additional questions for inclusion in the CP Consultation.

The committee made no further comments nor suggested any additional consultation questions.

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<sup>11</sup> <https://www.elexon.co.uk/meeting/isg271/>

<sup>12</sup> <https://www.elexon.co.uk/meeting/svg273/>