

Modification proposal:	Supply Point Administration Agreement (SPAA) Change Proposal (CP) 08/117 (CP08/117): Cosmetic Amendments to SPAA Schedule 12 – BISCUIT Data Dictionary		
Decision:	The Authority ¹ directs that this proposal be made ²		
Target audience:	SPAA Parties and other interested parties		
Date of publication:	10 December 2008	Implementation Date:	February 2009 scheduled release

Background to the change proposal

The SPAA Expert Group carried out a review of SPAA Schedule 12 – ‘Biscuit Data Dictionary’ and as a result of this review a change proposal was raised. ‘BISCUIT’ stands for ‘Basic Inter-Supplier Communications Using Internet Technology’ and is the term used to define the data structures/formats and items needed to enable communication between suppliers during change of supplier processes. The BISCUIT Data Dictionary defines the key BISCUIT data items and flows with the intention of outlining a standard use of language between suppliers.

The modification proposal

This change proposal seeks to amend Schedule 12 in order to provide clarity on the purpose of the Schedule and update its content to remove any ambiguity for existing participants and new entrants to the market.

The Authority’s decision

The Authority has considered the issues raised by the change proposal and has taken into account responses to the SPAA consultation, as set out in the Change Report (CR), and the views of the subsequent SPAA Change Board held 16 October 2008. The Authority has concluded that:

1. implementation of the change proposal will better facilitate the achievement of the relevant objectives of the SPAA³; and,
2. directing that the change proposal be made is consistent with the Authority’s principal objective and statutory duties⁴.

Reasons for the Authority’s decision

We note that this proposal received unanimous support at the SPAA Change Board. The weighted voting results show that 100% of those parties able to vote support the

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.

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

³ As set out in Standard Condition 30 of the Gas Suppliers Licence, see: http://epr.ofgem.gov.uk/document_fetch.php?documentid=13010

⁴ The Authority’s statutory duties are wider than the relevant objectives and are detailed mainly in the Gas Act 1986.

implementation of this change proposal. The threshold for acceptance of change proposals is currently set at 65%.

One comment was submitted in relation to this change proposal, raising a concern that the change would result in adjustments needing to be made to the field lengths or headings in the schedule, which would require suppliers to make system changes. This would result in costs that they felt would outweigh the benefits of the change. However, it was further clarified prior to the change board that the change proposal was of a purely house-keeping nature and would not result in changes to the field lengths or headings. The concerned party therefore confirmed it supported the change and subsequently voted in favour of implantation at the change board.

This change proposal should ensure that there is clarity on the BISCUIT data items and flows and therefore should allow the processes under SPAA to function more efficiently and in a more transparent manner. The effective and timely communication between relevant parties is fundamental to the change of supplier processes. We therefore agree with the proposer and those respondents who considered that the implementation of CP08/117 will better facilitate relevant objective a) of the SPAA *'the development, maintenance and operation of an efficient, coordinated and economical change of supplier process'*.

Decision notice

In accordance with Standard Condition 30 of the Gas Suppliers Licence, the Authority, hereby directs that change proposal CP08/117: *'Cosmetic amendments to SPAA Schedule 12 – BISCUIT Data Dictionary'* be made.



Mark Feather
Director, Industry Codes and Licensing

Signed on behalf of the Authority and authorised for that purpose.