ELECTRICITY INDUSTRY METERING CODE 2005 COMMUNICATION RULES

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Electricity Industry Metering Code 2005
Communication Rules

Part 1 - PRELIMINARY

1.1 Commencement
These rules are provided in accordance with Part 6 of the Electricity Industry Metering Code 2005 (*Code*).

The rules come into operation following their approval by the Economic Regulation Authority ("**Authority**").

1.2 Application
These rules apply to *code participants*.

1.3 Definitions
Definitions to be applied to these rules are:

"**Build Pack**" is defined in clause 4.1 of these rules.

"**CSV**" means the acronym for comma-separated values, another name for the comma-delimited format of data representation.

"**FTP**" means acronym for file transfer protocol. FTP is used to upload file to server, and download files from a server, using the internet.

"**HTTP**" means acronym for hypertext transfer protocol. HTTP is the underlying protocol used to describe the formatting and transmission of messages across the internet.

"**SMTP**" means acronym for simple mail transfer protocol. It is the protocol used to send e-mail messages across the internet, from one server to another.

"**NEM12**" means the metering data file format used by the National Electricity Market, for the transfer of interval metering data.

"**NEM13**" means the metering data file format used by the National Electricity Market, for the transfer of basic metering data.

Unless the contrary intention is apparent, a term with a defined meaning in the *Code* has the same meaning in these rules.

PART 2 – OBJECTIVES

2.1 Objectives
The objectives of these rules are to:
  (a) establish the methods and protocols framework through which the communication of information and data between the *network operator* and a *code participant*, as required by, and in accordance with, the *Code*, will occur;

(b) enable means of communication that are cost effective, feasible and practicable to the *network operator* and all *code participants*; and

(c) provide certainty as to the method of communication to the *network operator* and all *code participants*; and

(d) provide sufficient flexibility to allow progressive improvement to the communication protocols and to react to changes in a dynamic and evolving market.

PART 3 – METHODS AND PROTOCOLS

3.1 Methods
There are two methods that can be used by the *network operator* and a *code participant* to exchange or provide information and data as required under the *Code*. These methods are:
(a) by way of the *network operator's* web portal; and
(b) by way of xml based, electronic business-to-business transactions.

{Note: automated business-to-business transactions by way of XML, will not be available until the *network operators* information systems can accommodate them}

3.2 Protocols
In order to use the above methods of communication, the *network operator* and a *code participant* require, dependent on the method used, the following protocols:
(a) HTTP, and/or its derivatives, and an appropriate browser, for the web portal;
(b) SMTP for email communications;
(c) XML, CSV and FTP, and/or their derivates, for business to business transactions;
(d) NEM12 and NEM13 file formats, for historical consumption data, the formats for which are defined in the Build Pack.

3.3 Validation
Communications will be validated in the following manner:
(a) web portal communications will be validated by the web portal, once a form has been submitted. Valid communications will be acknowledged. Invalid communications will be rejected, with an appropriate error message displayed on the web portal screen.
(b) communications via XML will be validated via the XML schema. Valid communications will receive a positive acknowledgement XML message. Invalid communications will receive a negative acknowledgement XML message.
In depth detail of validation processes will be provided in the Build Pack.

3.4 Registry data updates
The *registry* of the *metering database* will be updated by the *network operator*:
(a) when a new *metering point* is installed,
(b) as a result of data cleansing,
(c) following verification of a request by a *code participant.*
An update to the *registry* will result in the issuing of a standing data update notification to relevant *code participants*.

PART 4 – DOCUMENTS UNDER THE CONTROL OF THESE RULES

4.1 Required documentation

The "**Build Pack**" sets out specific details as to how the data and information exchange processes will be implemented, including information relating to the design and development of information systems to enable the communication processes to occur.

The Build Pack will comprise of the:

(a) Usage Guidelines, which will provide high-level detail of the Build Pack and an explanation of the intended use of each component;

(b) Process Description Guidelines, which will be a non-technical document that describes in detail the manner in which the communication processes will be carried out;

(c) System Interface Definitions, which will contain all relevant detail required by a *code participants* (in relation to aseXML messaging) to transact with the *network operator*;

(d) Web Portal User Guide, which will contain step by step instructions (including screen shots) on Web Portal operation;

(e) Web Portal Functional Specification, which will contain process flows, sequence diagrams and an explanation of the operation of the Web Portal;

(f) Infrastructure User Guide, which will cover how FTP (file transfer protocol) is setup and the infrastructure to be used by *code participants*;

(g) List of Codes and Events, which will contain all attribute and event codes; and

(h) Glossary, which provides definitions for the terminology used in the above documents.

4.2 Document development

Documents to be included in the Build Pack will be developed by the *network operator* in consultation with *code participants*.

4.3 Storage location

The documentation referred to in clause 4.1 of these rules will be:

(a) stored in a folder titled Build Pack on the *network operator's* web site; and

(b) accessible via a link from the *network operator's* web portal.

4.4 Time frame to publish

The *network operator* will *publish* the Build Pack within 60 business days following the approval of these rules, otherwise:

(a) the Authority will grant an extension of time; or

(b) the dispute resolution process in Part 6 will apply,

as appropriate to the circumstances.

PART 5 – CHANGE CONTROL MANAGEMENT FOR DOCUMENTS UNDER THE CONTROL OF THESE RULES

5.1 Overview

The Build Pack may be varied or amended from time to time by following the processes set out in this Part 5.

5.2 Trigger Events

The process in clause 5.3 will be triggered if:

(a) any changes are required to the Build Pack to give effect to any legislative provision or any provision of the *network operator's metrology procedure* ; or

(b) a review of the Build Pack is necessary to satisfy the objectives of the rules and/or *Code*; or

(c) the *network operator* receives a reasonable request from any person to amend the Build Pack, having regard to the objectives of the rules and/or the *Code;* or

(d) the *network operator* proposes a reasonable change request to amend the Build Pack, having regard to the objectives of the rules and/or the *Code*.

5.3 Approval process

The following process applies in relation to any proposed changes to the Build Pack resulting from a trigger event under clause 5.2:

(a) the *network operator* must *publish* a notice giving details of the proposed change;

(b) the *network operator* must then seek comment from all *code participants*, for a period of not less than 14 days;

(c) if no comment is received from a *code participant* within the time period specified in clause 5.3(b), then that *code participant* will be deemed to have agreed to the proposed change;

(d) the *network operator,* acting as a reasonable and prudent person, must actively engage with *code participants* to address any significant issues arising from the comments received under clause 5.3(b) with the aim of reaching a resolution that satisfies the objectives of the rules and/or *Code*;

(e) if resolution is reached in clause 5.3(d), the change will be deemed to be approved; and

(f) if resolution is not reached in clause 5.3(d), then the dispute resolution process under Part 6 will apply.

5.4 Implementation

On completion of the approval process, set out in clause 5.3 of these rules, the *network operator* will:

(a) test the proposed change in the *network operator's* test environment, to ensure there are no negative impacts on the information systems;

(b) in the case of business to business transactions, provide industry testing;

(c) once testing is satisfactorily completed, the *network operator* will negotiate an implementation date, acceptable to all *code participants* affected by the change. All parties must act reasonably when negotiating the implementation date;

(d) implement the change on the agreed date; and

(e) within one business day of the implementation, the *network operator* will *publish* details of the change.

5.5 Post Implementation

On completion of the implementation process, set out in clause 5.4 of these rules, the following post implementation process will apply:

(a) the *network operator* and *code participants* will have 3 business days to assess the performance of the change ;

(b) *code participants* will have a further 2 business days to make written submissions, containing issues relating to the performance of the change under (a), to the *network operator* ;

(c) the *network operator* and the relevant *code participants* will negotiate in good faith for a further 5 business days to resolve any issues included in a submission under (b); and

(d) in the event that a resolution cannot be achieved under (c), the *network operator* will, subject to Part 6, back out the change, pending appropriate modifications, after which the will be re-implemented in accordance with clause 5.4.

PART 6 – DISPUTE RESOLUTION

6.1 Dispute resolution

If any dispute or difference arises in respect of any matter under or in connection with these rules, the "dispute resolution procedure", detailed under Part 8 of the *Code*, will apply to that dispute.