

Form A – MIG Design Discussion Request

Discussion Request Number	Title	Priority
DR 0062	Read Date from Multifunction Meters	High

Name of Requesting Organisation	ESB Customer Supply
Contact name	Paul Quinn
Date Request sent to ESB MOIP	14 th March 2005

Detail of Discussion Request

Background

When a meter reader visits a site to capture a reading from an electro-mechanical (NQH) meter, the date he/she enters the read into the recording (handheld) device becomes the 'Read Date' populated in the 300 message. This is in accord with the agreed market design, and is appropriate for most NQH metering installations.

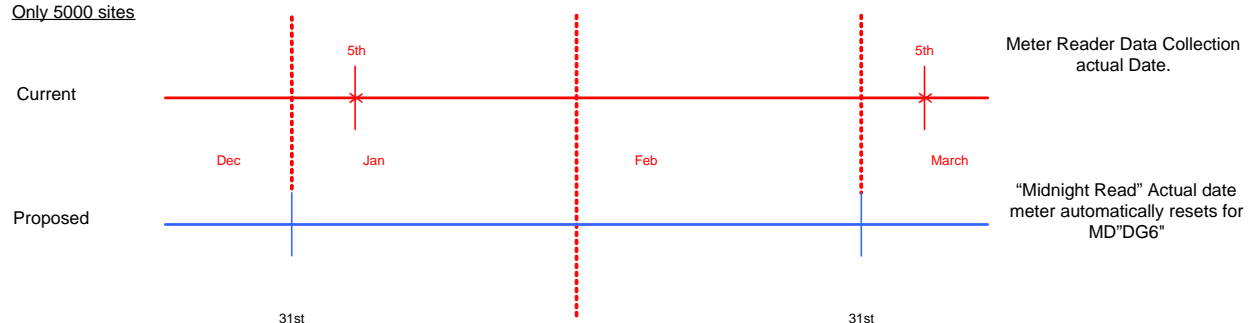
However, certain programmable/electronic meters, which are used as NQH meters, are configured to save the reading at midnight on a particular date (usually at every alternate month end, e.g. 00:00 31st. December). The meter reader usually collects this read several days after the device captured the midnight read. The 'Read Date' populated in the 300 message in this case is the date the meter reader captured the read from the device and not the date the 'midnight read' was taken.

See Fig 1 below:

Without the date of the 'midnight read' the supplier is obliged to maintain and decipher metering data for the purpose of ascertaining the actual read date reflected in the device. This places an overhead as this tracking (introduction of new device types, retirement of obsolete and other changes) is not supported in the market design and is seen as outside of the role of supplier.

Fig 1

Only 5000 sites



Proposal

For the relevant metering configurations the population of the 'Read Date' should reflect the actual date of the recording of the read not the date it was read by the Meter Reader.

Reason for Discussion Request	
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<p>From January 2005 this situation, without special intervention, has the following consequences for suppliers:</p>	
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| <ul style="list-style-type: none">• 5,000 LV MD installations impacted• Overstating the billing period duration• Potential to unnecessarily span price changes• Difficulties with Customer Loss / Win processing• Incorrect application of seasonal Retail tariffs | |
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<p>As a result complex interception/intervention must be performed to support correct customer billing.</p>	
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Current DUoS Impact:	
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<p>DUoS invoices are calculated using the meter read date as the end of billing period date. For meters which automatically store the reads on the 31st month, the DUoS invoice will at present show the charges (Standing & Capacity) for the period up to the <u>actual</u> read date of these readings i.e. end of billing period date or date read is taken by the Meter Reader. This can result in price change pro-ration where new prices are applied from start of calendar month. The proposed change would make the end of billing period the 31st or last day of the month and would avoid unnecessary pro-ration across a price change.</p>	
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Market Design Documents impacted by Request	
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<p>Market message Implementation Guide – Data Processing V 4.4</p>	
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Date of MIG where discussed	
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Change Request xref (if applicable)	
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