

iGT-UNC059 Development Group Report

Supply Point Registration - Facilitation of Faster Switching

10 March 2014

Background

At the Ofgem-led Change of Supplier Expert Group and other areas of industry and public debate, it is considered that the duration of a customer transfer from one supplier to another currently takes too long and this duration is considered to create a less than effective competitive market.

Suppliers have committed to take steps to reduce the time period for customers to switch to a new supplier as soon as practicable. To ensure the wholesale settlement processes support this faster switching initiative, the timescales for the relevant change of shipper process (commonly known as the confirmation period) as defined in the iGT UNC are to be reduced to a period of 2 Business Days following the Objection Deadline.

At the January iGT-UNC Panel, Panel Members agreed to send iGT059 to Development, with an aspiration to align its development with that of UNC477, the equivalent modification in the Large Transporter's UNC.

The Development Group met 4 times between January and March. These meetings were arranged to take place shortly after the meeting of the equivalent UNC477 Development Group. This allowed the iGT059DG to track the discussions and changes taking place in the UNC mod.

Further information can be found at:

<http://www.igt-unc.co.uk/Modifications/Open+Modifications/iGT059DG>

Summary of key discussions

Below is a summary of the key discussions that took place in the iGT059DG. For more detailed descriptions of the specific issues, please refer to the Development Group minutes.

Business Rules

Development Group members agreed that iGT059's business rules should align, as close as practically possible, with those of modification UNC477. Throughout the group's discussions, it became clear that there were two areas where alignment was not practical:

File SLAs. At least 2 iGTs still employ manual processes to send files relating to Transfer Status changes and Confirmation Cancellations. These iGTs would be unable to meet the SLAs proposed under UNC477. Given this and the fact the two iGTs responsible for at least 85% of iGT supply points do currently meet the SLA in the majority of cases, the SLAs proposed under iGT059 could be modified to take account of manual processes.

Meter Technical Details. Under UNC477, it is proposed that Xoserve will send the K14 file (containing Meter Technical Details) at the Confirmation Request Response stage. The group looked at whether there was an equivalent iGT flow and determined that there wasn't. Given the fact that this data wasn't being sent for iGT supply points (and that there was no obligation on the iGTs to do

so), the Group felt that iGT059 should not propose to introduce the provision of new Meter Technical Details as part of the Change of Shipper process.

Upon review, members agreed that all other aspects of the Business Rules should replicate those described in UNC477.

Legal text

The group considered legal text for iGT059 as part of its work. A copy of the Development Group's final legal text has been provided to the panel.

Truncated modification process

In order to progress iGT059 in line with UNC477, the proposer put forward the following timeline:

12 th March	Mod Proposal, DG Report and Legal Text sent to Secretariat.
19 th March	Panel agree to send iGT059 to consultation
20 th March	Secretariat circulate iGT059 consultation on a 12 day consultation
7 th April	Consultation closes. Drafting of DFMR commences.
10 th April	DFMR circulated to iGT-UNC Panel Members (short-notice business)
16 th April	Panel agree to send iGT059 to Ofgem for Authority Decision
End of May	Ofgem Decision expected
Q4 2014	Proposed Implementation

The Development Group asks that the panel consider whether the above timescales are viable for progressing iGT059 through the remainder of the modification process.

Implementation

The Development Group agreed that the modification's implementation date should align with the implementation of UNC477 (targeted for Q4 2014), in order to ensure all customers switch in the same timescales, regardless of GT type.

Recommendation to iGT UNC panel

The iGT059 Development Group recommends that:

- iGT059 is sent to consultation
- That the remainder of the modification process is truncated to reflect the timeline above

The panel is invited to consider:

- Whether to send iGT059 out to consultation
- Whether to adhere to the timeline above
- Whether to specifically ask respondents for their views on whether obligations around testing should be included in iGT059