

Industry Update – Latest News on the CRC, 500W ‘Rule’ and UMSUG

By James Everley from Power Data Associates

Carbon Reduction Commitment

On 30th June 2011 the Department for Energy and Climate Change (DECC) set out their initial views on simplifying the CRC (www.decc.gov.uk/en/content/cms/emissions/crc_efficiency/crc_efficiency.aspx). The key change being proposed for unmetered supplies is that from the 1st April 2014, **all unmetered energy** would be included in the scheme.

Although this will be an extra cost for local authorities, it is at least a positive step forward in ensuring that all methods of trading unmetered supplies are treated equally under the scheme.

There are currently three methods to trade unmetered energy:

- Dynamic Half Hourly (aka pseudo Half Hourly metering) – using PECU Array / CMS
- Passive Half Hourly – using calculated sunrise / sunset times
- Non Half Hourly – using published ELEXON annual hours

Currently only dynamic Half Hourly is included in the CRC. This unintentionally penalises those authorities seeking to invest in new carbon reduction technologies such as Central Management Systems.

The other slight change to the scheme would see no unmetered energy being used as part of a participants’ qualification for CRC. Currently dynamic Half Hourly does count towards qualification. Almost all local authorities will still qualify for the CRC through metered sites such as schools, offices, etc...

DECC will be consulting formally on the proposed changes early in the new year and if there are any developments we will endeavour to let readers know as soon as possible.



500W ‘Rule’

For many lighting authorities around the country some Distribution Businesses’ interpretation of the 500W rule has meant that any new connections over 500W must be metered, despite the additional costs, effort and in many cases the meters never actually being read once installed.

This issue has been prevalent for some years now, although due to the different approaches adopted by the Distribution Businesses it has not been viewed as an issue in all areas.

Good news comes from the National Measurement Office (NMO) who have taken over responsibility for this issue from Ofgem and now secured resource and funding to produce an official guidance note. The guidance note should be published in March 2012, engagement with stakeholders will take place in September and a consultation should be issued in early October.

It is important that industry puts forward clear concise arguments over the costs (direct and indirect) of metering everything over 500W with no discretion. The ILP, ADEPT, LEP and others will all be consulted by NMO, however if you would like to respond to the consultation directly, please see article in the NMO news for contact details: www.bis.gov.uk/nmo/news-and-events/news/2011/Jul/National-Measurement-News-July-2011 (page 5)



Update from UMSUG

Unmetered Supplies User Group (UMSUG) met on the 19th July (www.elexon.co.uk/pages/viewmeetings-umsug.aspx) and the following key points were raised:

Part Night Dimming – In response to lighting engineer requests, ELEXON is to introduce new part night dimming regime codes for both 35/18 and 55/28 lux photocells. Currently all part night dimming is based on 70/35 lux.

This means additional savings can be realised by engineers using these lower lux photocells with their part night dimming. The new codes are due September/October so keep an eye on the ELEXON switch regime spreadsheet.

Photocells – ELEXON has agreed to simplify the coding for electronic photocells. Due to the nature of how electronic photocells work, codes for photocells beginning 95... (latching relay) and 97... (part night cells) are to be withdrawn.

Instead lighting engineers should simply quote either the standard electronic 1 watt 94 0001 0000 100 charge code or else the 'new' standard electronic 0.25 watt 94 0001 1000 100 code, with the applicable switching regime.

All electronic photocells consume power 24/7, including part night and latching relays (which use power to monitor lux levels during the day). This change merely simplifies the coding and means that all electronic photocells will now begin 94... Again the changes should come into effect September/October.

Changes approved to the Operational Information Document (OID) – the OID provides advice and guidance on how to use charge codes and switch regimes, as well as explanations about how the charge codes are constructed and the testing procedures for new equipment.

At UMSUG changes were approved to provide further clarity over the siting and maintenance of PECU Arrays, as well as explaining how Multi Level Static Dimming equipment is viewed as working within the ELEXON process.

All these changes will be implemented in revisions to the OID, Charge and Switch Regimes over the next few months. www.elexon.co.uk/pages/chargecodesandswitchregimes.aspx

