

# DECISION PAPER

DATE:	03/01/2012
TO:	GAS RETAIL CONSULTATIVE FORUMS – VICTORIA, QUEENSLAND AND SOUTH AUSTRALIA
GMI:	N/A
SUBJECT:	2012 GAS RETAIL MARKET CHANGES – TESTING SCOPE. (VERSION 2.0)

## Background and context

This discussion paper has been developed by AEMO for consideration at the GRCFs in Victoria, Queensland and South Australia.

There are 5 separate gas retail market changes to take effect at various times throughout 2012 that may have system implications for Retailers (Users), Distributors (Network Operators) and AEMO. The changes to be applied relate to gas retail market transactions and are a combination of various delivery mechanisms such as aseXML and email and are either Retailer to Distributor (or vice versa) known as business to business (B2B) or Business to Market Operator (or vice versa) known as Business to Market operator (B2M).

As with any change applied to systems it is important to undertake an appropriate testing program to mitigate risks associated with implementation.

The following is a list of the testing options and definitions that AEMOs predecessor businesses considered as appropriate testing approaches in the past.

- Bi lateral Testing

Bi-lateral testing typically involves at least two participants (eg a DB and a RB, or RB and AEMO) getting together and developing an agreed set of test scripts and executing these test scripts and sharing the results with each other and agreeing to implement the change. This type of testing program can be either a centralised co-ordinated program or independently co-ordinated program that each participant manages.

- HUB Certification

The Queensland, South Australian and Victorian Retail Market Procedures set out specific HUB certification obligations that Participants need to fulfil. HUB certification confirms that a participant can satisfactorily connect to, and interoperate with the FRC HUB B2B System in accordance with the interface specifications and architectural standards defined in Participant Build Packs 2 and 3. The requirement to certify applies in cases where an existing Participant modifies their software or hardware in a way that impacts on the creation or receipt of documents or notices managed via the FRC Hub. See the AEMO website for further details on certification or recertification.

- Industry Testing

Industry testing typically involves the co-ordinated execution of an agreed set of test scripts which are executed according to a predetermine test schedule developed in consultation with industry participants. Implementation depends upon all-participating participants sharing test results and agreeing to proceed with the implementation based on these results.

This type of test program is typically managed external from the businesses and reports to the GRCF or their nominated work group (eg: a Release Management Working Group). At least all host retailers, distributors and AEMO are to participate in industry testing and the costs are shared equally. Non-host retailers can choose to participate and share the costs equally.

Choosing from the testing approaches noted above AEMO has tentatively assigned a testing approach to each gas retail market changes scheduled for 2012.

Version 2.0 of this paper includes feedback provided to AEMO since version 1.0 of the paper was first released in early December 2011.

### **Proposed Testing Approach**

Attachment A of this paper sets out what AEMO believes is the minimum appropriate testing program to mitigate risks associated with implementation of the gas retail market changes scheduled for 2012. A “no” represented in all three testing categories signifies no testing is recommended.

In summary, the majority of changes gas retail market changes are B2B. Some of the changes involved changes to the aseXML which will result in a versioning change to the aseXML scheme therefore a recertification effort involving all transactions by all Participants and AEMO is required.

Taking the view that none of the changes warranted an industry testing approach and that most of the changes can be satisfied using the bi-lateral testing approach, AEMO is of the view that forming a Release Management Working Group to co-ordinate testing activities is not required.

AEMO will however, monitor the certification activities to ensure all Participants complete their certification effort with the window of 1 April 2012 to 1 June 2012 and will provide a status report to the GRCF every fortnight during the above mentioned window.

AEMO will consider requests from Participant in relation to certification beyond 1 June 2012 but these must be received by AEMO (e-mail to [grcf@aemo.com.au](mailto:grcf@aemo.com.au)) before COB 1 March 2012 stating the reasons why the Participant is seeking an extension to the prescribed timeline. Time extension beyond 1 July 2012 will not be accepted at this point in time.

In terms of implementing the new version of the schema, AEMO will establish a working group in the first quarter of 2012 to develop an Industry cutover and Implementation plan. This plan will cover things like when to switch off systems, when to clear remaining transactions from Gateway (both outgoing and incoming), when to Shutdown Gateways, what manual procedures are to be invoked whilst the system outage is occurring, and when to commence changes in systems.

### **Consultation**

GRCF consultation was conducted on version 1.0 of this paper. Responses were received from Origin Energy, AGL, Lumo Energy, Envestra and Multinet. In summary, AGL put forward minor changes that essentially added clarity to the paper. AGL, Lumo Energy, Origin Energy and Multinet did not raise any concerns in relation to AEMO view that a co-ordinated industry testing approach is not warranted.

Multinet has put forward a request to extend the certification window until 1 July 2012. AEMO has considered this request and has decided to leave the existing window unchanged. However, AEMO has agreed to add a process whereby Participants can request an extension of time in the advent of special circumstances (see above).

Envestra’s original feedback suggested that they have a preference that AEMO co-ordinate an industry test program. Their primary reason for proposing a co-ordinated test program was Envestra felt the changes were sufficiently large enough (in that everyone needs to be

co-ordinated and ready for the go live), and that a schema change has not been undertaken since 2005. The benefits that they see are a central co-ordination point for industry testing will ensure everyone has an overall picture of participant readiness, visibility of any issues (defects) and regular communication on participant's progress. AEMO has considered Envestra position and is of the view that facilitating a co-ordinated testing program will cost upwards of \$100K to put in appropriate resource to facilitate a co-ordinated industry program manager which industry would need to jointly fund. The combination of certification and bi-lateral testing in AEMO opinion is the most cost effective means to mitigate the risk associated with implement the changes. At the January GRCF meeting, Envestra were invited to put forward a proposal to AEMO regarding the testing scope before 31 January 2012. AEMO did not receive a proposal from Envestra.

### **Recommendation**

The GRCF endorse the testing approach as outlined in this paper for the gas retail market changes that effect Queensland, South Australia and Victoria.

## Attachment A - Testing Approach upcoming changes in 2012

Issue Effective Date	Market	Transaction number and details	Transaction Type and Method	Outline of changes including impact on transaction	Re-certification required	Bi lateral Testing recommended	Industry testing required
IN019/11 Transfer Validation <u>Effective date:</u> <b>17 April 2012</b>	VIC QLD	170 – Initiate Transfer Request	B2M via aseXML	New error code added to GIP (code 3045)	No	Yes, see Build 30 pre-prod document.	No
IN037/10 IN039/10 IN040/10 NECF Changes <u>Effective date:</u> <b>1 July 2012</b>	VIC QLD	136 – Time Expired Meters Notification	This transaction is being removed as T330 will be used instead	Removal of transaction	No	No	No
		330 – Notification of Planned Outage	B2B via email	Changes to CSV format	No	Yes – DBs and RBs to get together and scope requirement.	No
		332A (now 339) – NECF Direct Billing Arrangements	B2B via email	New transaction	No	Yes – DBs and RBs to get together and scope requirement.	No
		900 – Customer and Site Details	B2M uploaded to MIBB	Vic Host retailers (Local Area Retailers)	No	No	No

Issue Effective Date	Market	Transaction number and details	Transaction Type and Method	Outline of changes including impact on transaction	Re-certification required	Bi lateral Testing recommended	Industry testing required
				to provide AEMO. No change for Qld and Vic 2 <sup>nd</sup> Tier.			
	SA	70 – Amend Customer Details	B2B via aseXML	New transaction for SA	Yes - Certification can be conducted between 1 April 2012 to 1 June 2012	Yes – DBs and RBs to get together and scope requirement. Prerequisite for Bi lateral Testing is successful completion of certification.	No
		71 – Amend Customer Details	B2B via CD / email	New transaction for SA	No	Yes – DBs and RBs to get together and scope requirement.	No
		136 – Time Expired Meters Notification	This transaction is being removed as T330 will be used instead	Removal of transaction	No	No	No
		330 – Notification of Planned Outage	B2B via email	Changes to CSV format	No	Yes – DBs and RBs to get together and scope	No

Issue Effective Date	Market	Transaction number and details	Transaction Type and Method	Outline of changes including impact on transaction	Re-certification required	Bi lateral Testing recommended	Industry testing required
						requirement.	
		332A (now 339) – NECF Direct Billing Arrangements	B2B via email	New transaction	No	Yes – DBs and RBs to get together and scope requirement.	No
IN027/11 Customer Classification <u>Effective date:</u> <b>30 July 2012</b>	VIC QLD SA	87, 101, 151, 310, 312, 314 316, 318, 320 ServiceOrderRequest	B2B via aseXML	Requirement on ‘LoadDetails/Pe rAnnum’ changing.	Yes - Certification can be conducted between 1 April 2012 to 1 June 2012	Yes – DBs and RBs to get together and scope requirement. Prerequisite for Bi lateral Testing is successful completion of certification.	No
		280 NMIS tandingDataRequest.	B2B via aseXML	Two new fields being added: ‘CustomerClass ificationCode’ and ‘ConsumptionT hresholdCode’ plus the aseXML version change to r29	Yes - Certification can be conducted between 1 April 2012 to 1 June 2012	Yes – DBs and RBs to get together and scope requirement. Prerequisite for Bi lateral Testing is successful completion of certification.	No
		68 or 69	B2B via	Changes to	No	Yes – DBs and	No

Issue Effective Date	Market	Transaction number and details	Transaction Type and Method	Outline of changes including impact on transaction	Re-certification required	Bi lateral Testing recommended	Industry testing required
		csvamendsitead dressdetails/csv data	aseXML	CSV format and use		RBs to get together and scope requirement.	
IN016/10 - Certificate of Compliance (CoC) number digit increase from 7 to 8 and new schema release r27 <u>Effective date:</u> <b>30 July 2012</b>	VIC QLD	87, 101, 151, 310, 312, 314 316, 318, 320 ServiceOrderRe quest	B2B via aseXML	Changes involve Certificate of Compliance (CoC) numbers, moving from 7 to 8 digits in length plus the aseXML version change to r29	Yes - Certification can be conducted between 1 April 2012 to 1 June 2012	Yes – DBs and RBs to get together and scope requirement. Prerequisite for Bi lateral Testing is successful completion of certification.	No
IN007/11 – PLN number digit increase from 5 to 6. <u>Effective date:</u> <b>30 July 2012</b>	VIC QLD	87, 101, 151, 310, 312, 314 316, 318, 320 ServiceOrderRe quest	B2B via aseXML	Changes involve Plumber Linence Number moving from 5 to 6 digits in length	Yes - Certification can be conducted between 1 April 2012 to 1 June 2012	Yes – DBs and RBs to get together and scope requirement. Prerequisite for Bi lateral Testing is successful completion of certification.	No