

REVIEW GROUP 0092R 'CUT OFF TIME FOR RECEIPT OF SPA BATCH FILES'.

REVIEW GROUP REPORT

Summary

Review Group 0092R was convened to review the effectiveness of Urgent Modification 0092 which was implemented on 22 January 1997. The purpose of the Modification was to provide clarity on the timing of receipt of SPA batch files by Transco from Shippers to ensure that such files were not inappropriately rejected.

The Review Group concluded that while the stipulation of cut off times was essential to ensure that Shippers had a clear deadline for submitting batch files, some surety was needed that files would not be rejected if the size of the batch meant that files would not be processed that day.

It was therefore proposed that Transco would undertake systems functionality enhancements to UK-Link to significantly reduce the likelihood of file rejection due to insufficient processing time. To assist Shippers during periods of heavy workload, Transco would in addition endeavour to process files received after the existing deadlines, prior to midnight, but reserved the right to reject such files in exceptional circumstances. Files received after midnight would be rejected where there was insufficient notice, as normal.

The group determined that on the rare occasions that rejection was likely even though files were received by Transco prior to midnight, a mechanism would be required to ensure Shippers would be alerted by Transco.

Introduction

Urgent Modification Proposal 0092 established specific cut off times for SPA batch files. This was in recognition of Transco concerns that sufficient time be available to ensure that all files received were processed that day. Initial proposals were that files should be received by Transco by 20.00 that day, but following concerns expressed by Shippers, this was later relaxed to 23.00.

Following implementation of the Modification, Shippers expressed concern that there may be circumstances that if large volumes of files were submitted just prior to the cut off time, there would be insufficient time to process these within the day and therefore these may be rejected if they arrive at the 15 day deadline notice period. The Modification Panel therefore directed that Urgent Modification 0092 should be subject to Review.

The Review

Urgent Modification 0092 was implemented, effective from 22 January 1997. The Modification specified the latest times on a Business Day for the receipt of SPA Batch Files for processing as being received on that Business Day.

The Network Code (Section V11.1.5) and UK-Link manuals were modified accordingly

The data types and their latest times which applied were as follows (Section 4.1.4 of the UK Link Overview Manual):-

Domestic Competition Opening Meter Readings from Shippers		16.00 hours
CNF - Confirmations	-CNFPR10Bs	23.00 hours
NOM - Nominations	-NOMPR10Bs	23.00 hours
SPC - Supply Point Changes	-SPOPR10Bs	23.00 hours
WAO - Withdrawals & Objections	-OJTPR10Bs	23.00 hours
IAR - Isolations & Reconnections	-ISLPR10Bs	23.00 hours
CNC - Customer Amendments	-CTTRC20Bs	16.00 hours
EMC - Emergency Contacts	-CTTCR10Bs	16.00 hours
Meter Readings from the MRA (Meter Reading Agency)		21.00 hours

It was agreed that if some guarantee could be provided that processing would occur based on the date of receipt, then this would accommodate Shippers concerns.

It was therefore proposed that Transco undertake systems enhancements to UK-Link which would ensure processing where the file was received prior to the cut-off times. As an added facility, to assist Shippers during periods of heavy workload, it was agreed that Transco would attempt to process files received after the cut-off times, but prior to midnight. The group, however agreed that in compliance with Network Code section G2.6.2, Transco could reject such files in exceptional circumstances.

The group in addition determined that as an additional precaution, where rejection was likely in circumstances where files were received by Transco prior to midnight, a mechanism would be introduced to ensure Shippers were alerted by Transco.

Conclusion

The group concluded that the proposed changes to UK-Link functionality would satisfactorily mitigate Shipper concerns with regard to the potential for rejection of batch files submitted at the 15 day deadline. It was however noted that it was essential that Shippers submit such files in a timely manner and avoid 'last minute' submission of files wherever possible.

Recommendations

The Review Group recommend that the UK-Link functionality changes are implemented at the earliest opportunity. No modification of the Network Code or UK-Link manual is required.