

MODIFICATION PROPOSAL
(Class 3 UK Link Change)

SHORT TITLE: Management of Benchmark Configuration.

DATE: 17 September 1996

PROPOSED IMPLEMENTATION DATE: As soon as possible.

URGENCY:

This is not proposed as an Urgent Modification but requires prompt action and has already been discussed and approved in principle at the UK Link Committee meeting on 18th July 1996.

JUSTIFICATION:

The Benchmark Configuration as listed in the UK Link Overview Manual, particularly Appendix 7 which is legally binding, is out of date as some of the components listed are now obsolete and are no longer available from suppliers. This makes it impossible for TransCo to fulfil its obligations under the Network Code. Because of this

CONSEQUENCE OF NOT MAKING THIS CHANGE:

In the immediate term it will leave TransCo unable to support the "legally binding" Benchmark Configuration.

For the longer term the problem of obsolescence will continually recur as technology moves on making it necessary to raise Class 3 Modifications on a regular basis to keep the detailed information in the UK Link Manual current. The anticipated pace and volume of change will require an on-going administrative overhead on TransCo and on the Modification Panel.

AREA OF NETWORK CODE CONCERNED:

There are a number of areas affected in the UK Link Overview Manual:-

Section 1. Description of UK Link
Section 2. Infrastructure Requirements
Section 5. Charging
Appendix 7 UK Link User Equipment Specification

These changes will be supplied in revision marking under separate cover.

The Network Code Principal Document, Section U, will remain unaffected.

NATURE OF PROPOSAL:

1. removes information from the UKLM that is entirely under the control of the network provider and is transparent to the end user. This includes information about the WAN, e.g. who supplies the lines, the types and bandwidth of the communication lines.
2. removes version-specific, product-specific and manufacturer-specific information from the legally binding sections of the UKLM; where this information applies to TransCo-available equipment or software, or to equipment or software which Users must supply themselves, it will be published (with prices if available from TransCo) and change-controlled on SIS.

In addition to the supported benchmark specification, SIS would list:-

- the date the current specification became effective
 - what software releases have been tested
 - information on known bugs/fixes
 - planned changes to the supported specification with UKLC change number, effective date, etc.
 - historical information
3. redefines the class of Users, i.e. Small/Medium/Large/Very Large Shippers since with experience that delineation, i.e. the number of supply points, has less bearing on the configuration than the usage.

PURPOSE OF PROPOSAL

1. Remove details of specific manufacturers products and version numbers from the legally binding description of the Benchmark Configuration. This will reduce the number of Class 3 changes required to the UK Link Manual.
2. Publish centrally under the Network Code change procedures the current and planned benchmark configurations on SIS for IXN Users, along with supporting information (release notes, bug fixes, etc.) which will be of value to all.
3. Enable TransCo to provide cost-effective and appropriately-sized solutions to IXN Users which more closely match their usage yet continue to meet required performance levels and security requirements.

IDENTITY OF PROPOSER'S REPRESENTATIVE:

PROPOSER : S Kent
POSITION : Team Manager, UK Link
COMPANY : TransCo

MODIFICATION PANEL SECRETARY'S USE ONLY

Reference Number:0079

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