

Wholesale Retail Code Change Proposal – Ref CPW037

Modification proposal	Wholesale Retail Code Change Proposal CPW037 – Removing the Error Codes list from CSD 0301
Decision	Ofwat has decided to approve this change proposal
Publication date	21 September 2018
Implementation date	28 September 2018

Background

Section 3.3 of the [Data Catalogue Code subsidiary document](#) (CSD), 0301, sets out a list of error codes and the description of the error messages which may occur in the Central Market Operating System (CMOS). Section 3.3 specifies the error or return messages which will be sent in response to a transaction received by CMOS. For instance, if a Trading Party submits a transaction to CMOS without filling in all the mandatory fields, it will receive the error code “MG”. If it submits a transaction without any errors, the party will receive the code “OK”.

CMOS is updated on a frequent basis, when the functionality is changed, new validation rules are added, edited, or removed. This can lead to new error codes being created.

Trading Parties do not rely on the error codes list contained within CSD 0301. Instead, they rely on a separate spreadsheet containing an up to date error code list which MOSL maintains on an ongoing basis. This is hosted on the MOSL website. All Trading Parties are notified when there is an update to this Error Codes spreadsheet.

The issue

Error codes are specified in the market codes and should reflect the existing CMOS build and functionality. CSD 0301 has not been updated since March 2017, therefore it contains out of date information.

CMOS is regularly updated to add, edit or remove validation rules and there is, therefore, a requirement to maintain an up to date error code list. In order to ensure

that this list is always up to date, a Change Proposal would be required each time there is an update in order to keep the list of error codes up to date.

Instead, Trading Parties have been relying on the Error Codes spreadsheet hosted on the MOSL website. CSD 0301 can be realigned with the functioning of CMOS if CSD 0301 refers to the MOSL spreadsheet as the official error code list.

The modification proposal¹

MOSL has proposed to realign CSD 0301 with CMOS by:

- removing the Error/Return Code Set table from 3.3.1 of CSD 0301;
- adding text to explain the change and refer to the Error Codes spreadsheet that MOSL host on its website, which is regularly updated; and
- changing text in other CSDs by removing all references to the CSD 0301 error codes and replacing the text with a reference to the spreadsheet on MOSL's website.

The Panel has estimated that the implementation and ongoing operational costs are very low. The only cost being the administrative costs of publishing updated market codes, which will be borne by MOSL.

Industry consultation and assessment

The Panel did not consult on this Change Proposal. This is because currently, Trading Parties use the MOSL website rather than CSD 0301 to view updates to the error codes. We agree that it would not be proportional to have a consultation on the matter.

Panel assessment and recommendation

At the Panel meeting on 26 June 2018, the Panel considered the Change Proposal and recommended, by unanimous decision, that the Authority approve this code modification. This recommendation was subject to the Proposer amending the legal drafting in CSD 0301 to state that the Panel would also be notified once updates are made to the Error Codes Spreadsheet. This text has now been included. The Panel recommends the change on the basis that this Change Proposal improves the Principles of efficiency, transparency and simplicity.

¹ The proposal and accompanying documentation is available on the MOSL website at <https://www.mosl.co.uk/market-codes/change#scroll-track-a-change>

Our decision

We have carefully considered the issues raised by the modification proposal and the supporting documentation provided in the Panel's Final Report. We have concluded that the implementation of CPW037 will better facilitate the Principles and Objectives of the Wholesale Retail Code, detailed in Schedule 1 Part 1 Objectives, Principles and Definitions and is consistent with our statutory duties.

Reasons for our decision

Below, we set out our views on which of the applicable Code Principles are better facilitated by implementing this code modification.

Efficiency

Approving this change means that the Error Code list used by trading parties can continuously and more easily be updated by MOSL, without the need for constant Change Proposals.

Transparency

The outdated list of error codes will be removed from all CSDs. All market participants will have easy access to a comprehensive, and up to date, list of error codes which reflect the design of CMOS.

Decision notice

In accordance with paragraph 7.2.8 of the Market Arrangements Code, Ofwat approves this change proposal.

Emma Kelso

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