

Retail Market Procedure NI 25

Change of Legal Entity

07/11/2023

<i>Current Status:</i>	Baseline
<i>Issue Date:</i>	07/11/2023
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1. Introduction

1.1 Scope

This document describes the Retail Market Procedure for a Change of Legal Entity or Tenancy in Northern Ireland.

This process will be followed when a change of legal entity or tenancy request is received for a Meter Point whose status is 'Energised' or 'De-Energised'. Change requests for Meter Points that are 'Terminated (De-Commissioned)' or that are not yet 'Assigned' will be rejected.

This process also provides the facility for Suppliers to provide a reading for Non-Interval credit metered sites or request a Change of Usage.

The Procedure applies to the following:

- Interval Metered Meter Points
- Non-Interval Meter Points (both Credit and Keypad Metered)

The Procedure contains the following sub-process:

- Change of Legal Entity

This Procedure excludes:

- Changes to Customer Details not concurrent with a Change of Legal Entity. Refer to MP NI 24 Changes to Customer Details
- Changes to Meter Point Address. Refer to MP NI 24 Changes to Customer Details
- Grouped Unmetered Sites. Refer to MP NI 32 Change of Legal Entity – Grouped Unmetered

1.2 History of Changes

Version	Source of Change	Description of Change
0.1	NIE ES	Initial Draft
0.2	P Merkens	Updated for MCRs 1012, 1016, 1023
0.91	P Merkens	Issued for SIG Review and for DR 1065
0.92	P Merkens	Update following SIG Workshop; Keypad Transaction System update added to diagram and for CRID 145 and to remove applicability to Single Point Unmetered
0.93	P Merkens	Clarify rejection if there is an open Meter Works Service Order
0.94	J-E Smith	Final Draft Issued for Supplier Review prior to SIG Approval
1.0	A Ferguson	Baseline SIG Approval
2.0	J-E Smith	Baseline CDA Board Approved

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		<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Updated for DR1110/CRID163
2.1	A Ferguson	Updated to reflect MP NI 39 Glossary of Terms
3.0	NIE Networks	Updated to incorporate change of name from NIE to NIE Networks
3.1	NIE Networks	Updated for “ <i>Decision on MIC Charging Methodology</i> ” Decision Paper NIE Networks 17/09/2020.
3.2	D.McSwiggan (NIEN)	Updated for “ <i>Decision on MIC Charging Methodology</i> ” Decision Paper NIE Networks 17/09/2020 – applies to all customers who’s MIC is greater than or equal to 70kVA

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1.3 Document References

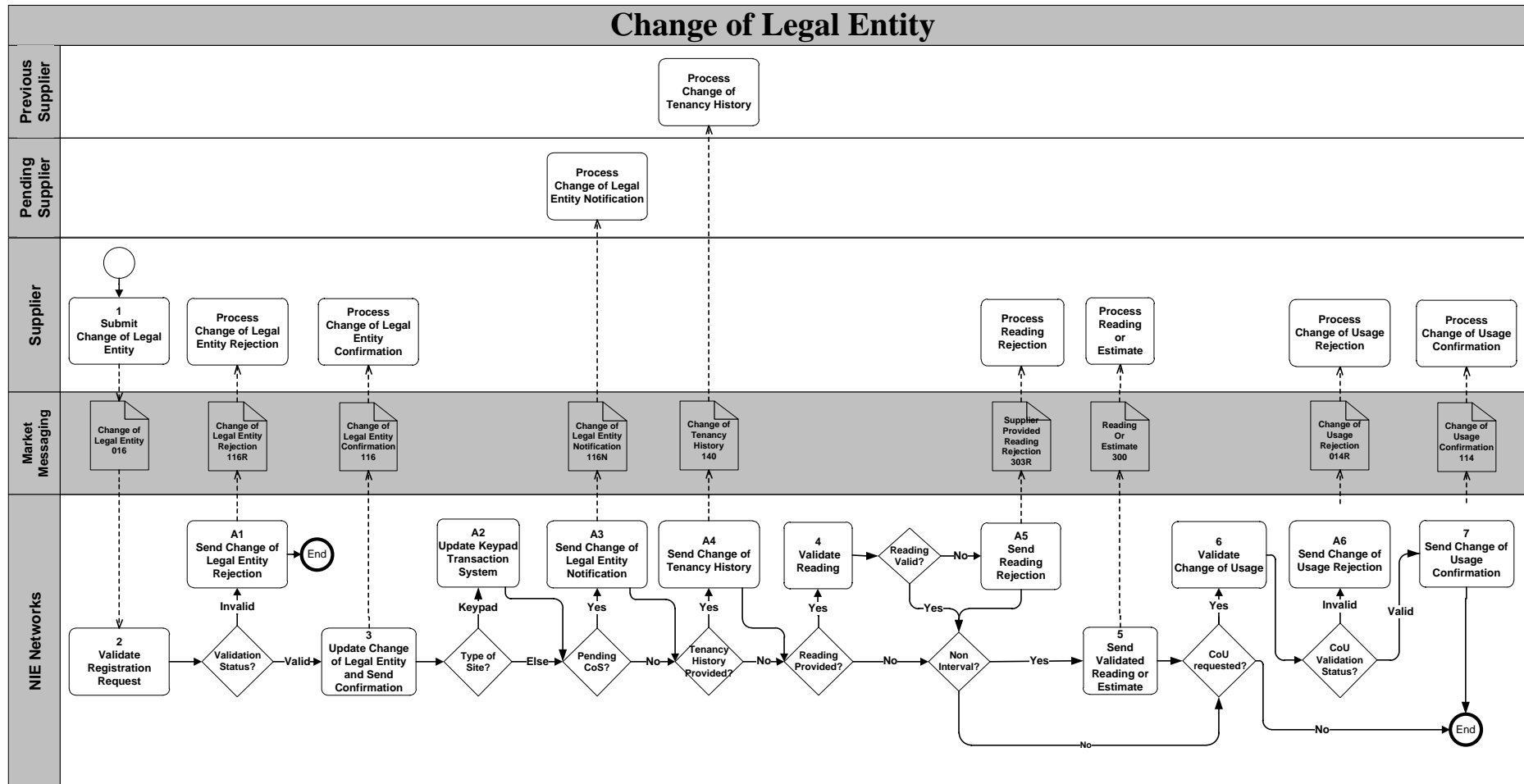
Document Reference	Document name
MP NI 5	New Non-Interval Metered
MP NI 6	New Interval Metered
MP NI 1	Change of Supplier Non-Interval
MP NI 2	Change of Supplier Interval
MP NI 14	Readings Processing Non Interval
MP NI 24	Change of Customer Details
MP NI 32	Change of Legal Entity – Grouped Unmetered
MG NI 33	Change of Supplier Unmetered
MP NI 37	Change of Supplier Keypad

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2. Procedure Description

2.1 Change of Legal Entity

2.1.1 Process Flow Diagram



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2.1.2 Process Description

Step	Role	Action	Interface
1	Supplier	<p>The Registered Supplier must send a Change of Legal Entity request to advise NIE Networks of the following Customer and site data whenever they become aware that a change of tenancy or legal entity has occurred and the identity of the new owner or occupier is known.</p> <p>The Supplier must indicate whether a Supply Agreement exists.</p> <p>Suppliers should include in the message the following data:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Customer Name • Usage Type • Economic Activity Indicator • Medical Equipment Special Needs • Customer Service Special Needs • Customer Contact details, that NIE Networks can use to contact the Customer in an emergency or to make any Appointments. This should not be an agent. • Notification Address, which may be those of an authorised agent, that NIE Networks should use to contact a Customer if this is different from the Meter Point address. Where a Supplier has a Customer who wishes to use a correspondence address other than that which a Supplier would provide to NIE Networks then the Supplier should advise the Customer to contact NIE Networks directly. • Technical Contact <p>Suppliers may submit future dated Change of Legal Entity requests which NIE Networks will retain and apply at the required date.</p> <p>A Change of Usage cannot be future dated or pre-date the last DUoS Bill.</p> <p>Suppliers may also report a change of customer details and/or a change of tenancy or legal entity in conjunction with a Registration Request. Refer to the following documents:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • MP NI 5 New Non-Interval Metered and MP NI 6 New Interval Metered • MP NI 1 Change of Supplier Non-Interval, MP NI 2 Change of Supplier Interval, MG NI 33 Change of Supplier Unmetered and MP NI 37 Change of Supplier Keypad. <p>Where a change of tenancy has occurred Suppliers should also follow the agreed Code of Practice to inform the previous Supplier of the customer of the customers previous address and customer account number.</p>	016 to NIE Networks

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Step	Role	Action	Interface
2	NIE Networks	<p>NIE Networks will validate the Change of Legal Entity request (see section 2.1.3 for validation).</p> <p>NIE Networks will ignore a required date and use the message receipt date for Non-Interval metered sites where a retrospective required date for change-over is provided but DUoS billing has occurred since the required date.</p> <p>NIE Networks will use the message receipt date if the required date is omitted.</p> <p>NIE Networks will raise an exception when a future dated Change of Legal Entity is received and the required date is greater than six months in the future.</p>	
A1	NIE Networks	<p>Where a Change of Legal Entity request fails validation NIE Networks will send a Change of Legal Entity Rejection message to the Supplier. This will end the Change of Legal Entity process.</p> <p>Where there is a future dated Change of Legal Entity pending completion and a second valid Change of Legal Entity is received with an earlier required date, then the pending request will be rejected.</p>	116R to Supplier
3	NIE Networks	<p>Where a valid Change of Legal Entity is received NIE Networks will apply the changes at the appropriate date and send a Change of Legal Entity Confirmation message to the Supplier.</p> <p>The required date (or the message receipt date if required date is omitted or not valid) is taken to be the move in date for the new tenant.</p>	116 to Supplier
A2	NIE Networks	For Keypad customers, NIE Networks will update the Customer name on the Keypad Transaction System.	
A3	NIE Networks	Where NIE Networks is informed through market messaging of a change of tenancy and is provided with the identity of the previous Supplier of the Customer then NIE Networks will inform the previous Supplier of the change of tenancy by sending a Previous Tenancy History message.	140 to Previous Supplier

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Step	Role	Action	Interface
A4	NIE Networks	Where there is a pending Change of Supplier for a site where a valid Change of Legal Entity has been received, NIE Networks will send the pending Supplier of the CoS a Change of Legal Entity notification.	116N to New Supplier
4	NIE Networks	<p>Where readings are included as part of a Change of Legal Entity request, NIE Networks will validate the reading. (Refer to MP NI 14 Readings Processing Non Interval for validation details).</p> <p>NIE Networks will not process readings if:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the site is not a Non-Interval Metered Site; or • the Change of Legal Entity is future dated; or • the required date is on or before the date of the last DUoS Bill (or the date of any subsequent billable reading); or • no required date is provided. 	
A5	NIE Networks	NIE Networks will send a Supplier Provided Reading Rejection where a reading fails meter details or read date validation.	303R to Supplier
5	NIE Networks	<p>For Non-Interval metered sites NIE Networks will send a Validated Non Interval Reading message to the Supplier for an estimated or valid reading.</p> <p>NIE Networks will estimate readings for a Change of Legal Entity at a Non Interval Metered site as at the required date (or as at the message receipt date where the required date is not valid or is omitted) where the readings fail validation, are implausible, are ignored or are not provided.</p>	300 to Supplier
6	NIE Networks	<p>Where a Change of Usage has been requested as part of the Change of Legal Entity, NIE Networks will validate the Change of Usage. (See section 2.1.3 for validation).</p> <p>A Change of Usage will take effect from the move-in date for the Change of Legal Entity.</p>	
A6	NIE Networks	NIE Networks will send a Change of Usage Rejection where a Change of Usage fails validation.	014R to Supplier

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Step	Role	Action	Interface
7	NIE Networks	NIE Networks will send a Change of Usage Confirmation where a valid Change of Usage has been received.	114 to Supplier

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2.1.3 Change of Legal Entity Validation

A Change of Legal Entity or Tenancy will be rejected and the Supplier advised if:

- The MPRN does not exist.
- The MPRN status is Terminated or Assigned.
- The Supplier ID is not recognised by NIE Networks.
- The Supplier submitting the request is not registered to this MPRN.
- The Supplier has not indicated that a Supply Agreement exists with the customer.
- Where the connection is HV and there is no existence of a Connection Agreement signed by the customer.
- The Economic Activity Indicator is not valid.
- The Medical Equipment Special Needs if provided is not valid
- The Customer Service Special Needs if provided if not valid
- The Read Reason is not valid
- There is an open meter works service order
- The Supplier has not indicated that a Supply Agreement exists.

Note the NI Market Message Implementation Guide – Customer Data and Agreements provides validation and allowable values at a message field level.

Elements of a Change of Legal Entity will be rejected if:

- A Change of Usage is inconsistent with the current meter configuration.

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2.2 Supplementary Information

2.2.1 Additional NIE Networks Processes

Where NIE Networks detects a possible change of tenancy or occupancy other than from a Supplier then NIE Networks will inform the Supplier and, if in contact with the Customer, advise the Customer to contact the Registered Supplier.

In cases where the Supplier indicates that there is not a Supply Agreement then if a Supply Agreement is not obtained within one month then NIE Networks is entitled to initiate de-energisation of the Meter Point.

In cases where the Supplier does not have a Supply Agreement with the Customer that includes a clause to cover Customer acceptance of the NIE Networks Connection Conditions, NIE Networks will take appropriate action to obtain a Connection Agreement.

NIE Networks is entitled to initiate de-energisation of the Meter Point in accordance with its Connection Agreements and Connection Conditions, including termination of a Connection Agreement through any cause.

The MIC remains unchanged where there is a change of tenancy or legal entity and the new Customer or their authorised agent does not subsequently request a change.