
NI Market Message Implementation Guide - Common Data Segments

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1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Purpose of the Message Implementation Guide

This document is intended to provide Suppliers with a technology independent overview for implementing market messaging systems. This includes:

- The construction of Common Data Segments to be sent to NIE; and
- The interpretation of Common Data Segments received from NIE.

1.2 Scope

The scope of this document covers the Common Data Segments contained on messages transferred between Suppliers and NIE.

The Common data segments are defined as follows:

- Message Header
- Meter Point Address
- Notification Address (Including PO Box Type Address)
- Customer Name
- Customer Contact Details
- Party Contact Details.

1.3 Data Codes

This Message Guide refers to and is consistent with the Market Messages and Data Codes.

1.4 Implementation of Market Change Requests

MCR 1015 Revert PostCodeMPA to PostCode

DR1110/CRID163 – Updates to ES NI Market Message Implementation Guides and Retail Market Procedures

DR1116/CRID166 – Updates to Enduring Solution NI Market Documentation

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1.5 Validation

The document provides notes on how NIE will validate message segments received. The purpose of these notes is to aid the Supplier in the population of each segment contained in a message and to prevent instances where messages are rejected due to the incorrect population of a message field. The validation described is therefore limited to field specific validations.

The following items are excluded from the validation notes:

- Syntax validation. This is performed by the *software* operated by NIE. Syntax validation includes:
 - Checks that the structure of the message is correct
 - Checks that all mandatory fields are provided. Mandatory fields are, however, indicated in the instructions for populations.
 - Checks that any data code is selected from the list of data codes issued by NIE.

In cases where the segment on a message fails on any of these reasons, a 601 Rejection of Invalid Message is sent back to the message sender containing the following information:

- The Transaction Reference Number supplied on the inbound message
- A copy of the message contents as received by NIE
- A description of the error.

1.6 Notes

This document and the *Market Messages* document refer to segment and field levels which should be interpreted as follows:

- The level number indicated against the segment refers to the level of the data items and segments within that segment. Therefore, for example, in message 010 where ‘MPRN Level Information -Level 2’ is stated it is the data items and segments that comprise ‘MPRN Level Information’ that are level two items (e.g. MPRN field, Market Participant Business Reference field, Meter Point Address segment). Accordingly, within this document, MPRN Level Information segment is shown as a Level 1 segment.
- Message Header is a Level 1 segment and is a child of Header Level Information.

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1.7 Message Segment introduction

This guide outlines the market message segments that have common contents, rules for composition and validations across all the messages in which they appear.

A set of Implementation Guides has been produced relating specifically to the messages themselves. Where appropriate these guides refer to common data segments detailed in this document.

The Message Implementation Guides are organized into separate **Message Groups** based around key business processes. These are:

- Registration, including Change of Supplier
- Customer Data and Agreements
- Data Processing
- Data Aggregation
- DUoS and Transaction Payments
- Meter Works
- Unmetered
- Market Gateway Activity

2 MESSAGE SEGMENTS

2.1 Message Header

Purpose / Description of Segment

This segment provides header details that allow the message level information to be interpreted by a receiving Market Participant. The Header segment is mandatory on all market messages.

The Header Segment is defined as follows:

- Message Type Code - This defines the type of message to be sent by the Market Participant e.g. 010 Registration Request
- Version Number – This defines the version of the message being sent. Only current supported versions of the message will be allowed
- Time Stamp – This is a time and date stamp indicating the time and date that the message left the sender's application.
- Sender ID – This is the unique identifier of the Market Participant sending the message
- Recipient ID - This is the unique identifier of the Market Participant to which the market message is being sent
- Transaction Reference Number – This is a number generated by the sender on creation of the message.

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Segment Structure

This section outlines the rules for composition of the segment.

Segment and Field Level Identifier			Rpt	Optionality	Description / Purpose and composition instructions
1	Message Header		1	Mandatory	All items in the message header must be populated to defined formats and lengths
2	FLD	Message Type Code	1	Mandatory	This defines the type of message to be sent by the Market Participant and is defined as a AN(4) code – Examples are 030, 101R.
2	FLD	Version Number	1	Mandatory	<p>This defines the version of the message being sent. Only current supported versions of the message will be allowed. The version number is intended to be in the Format 00.00.00</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• The first two digits will indicate major version releases of the messages starting with Market Go live release• The second two digits will be used to indicate minor version releases due to revision to messages that will alter the structure of existing messages and require validation with a new schema• The third two digits will indicate intermediate version releases used for correction of minor releases.
2	FLD	Time Stamp	1	Mandatory	This is a time and date stamp indicating the time and date that the message left the senders application.
2	FLD	Sender ID	1	Mandatory	This is the unique identifier of the Market Participant Sending the message and is defined as an AN(3) field. This code will be the same as the Supplier ID where Supplier is the message sender.
2	FLD	Recipient ID	1	Mandatory	This is the unique identifier of the Market Participant receiving the message and is currently defined as an AN(3) field. This code will be the same as the Supplier ID where Supplier is the message receiver.
2	FLD	Transaction Reference Number	1	Mandatory	This is a technical reference that uniquely identifies an instance of a message to a market participant and is defined as a AN(35) field.

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Segment Validation

This section outlines the validation that takes place on receipt of the segment as part of a message.

Segment and Field Level Identifier			Validation
1	Message Header		All Items in the message header must be populated to defined formats and lengths of items.
2	FLD	Message Type Code	This code must match one of the currently supported values for this item. Where it does not the message will fail validation.
2	FLD	Version Number	This defines the version of the message being sent. Only current supported versions of the message will be allowed. Where it does not match the currently supported version the message will fail validation.
2	FLD	Time Stamp	This must match the defined format as detailed in the composition table. Where it does not match this format the message will fail validation.
2	FLD	Sender ID	This must be a valid sender's reference. Where it is not the message will fail validation.
2	FLD	Recipient ID	This must be a valid recipient reference. Where it is not the message will fail validation.
2	FLD	Transaction Reference Number	This item must match the defined format and length. Where it does not the message will fail validation.

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2.2 Meter Point Address

Purpose / Description of Segment

This segment provides the address details for the Meter point at which the Customer is supplied. The Meter Point Address Segment is sent and received by Market registered Suppliers to and from the NIE business on the following messages:

Message No	Message Name	Sender	Receiver
010	Registration Request	Supplier	NIE
012	Objection to Change of Supplier	Supplier	NIE
012W	Withdrawal of Objection to Change of Supplier	Supplier	NIE
013	Customer Details Change	Supplier	NIE
014R	Customer Details Rejection	NIE	Supplier
101	New Connection Registration Acceptance	NIE	Supplier
101P	New Connection Provisional Acceptance	NIE	Supplier
101R	New Registration Rejection	NIE	Supplier
102	Change of Supply Registration Acceptance	NIE	Supplier
102P	Change of Supplier Provisional Acceptance	NIE	Supplier
102R	Change of Supplier Registration Rejection	NIE	Supplier
105	Change of Supplier Confirmation	NIE	Supplier
105L	Change of Supplier Confirmation (Old Supplier)	NIE	Supplier
110	Notification to Old Supplier of CoS	NIE	Supplier
112	Notification of Objection	NIE	Supplier
112R	Notification of Objection - Rejection	NIE	Supplier
112W	Withdrawal of Objection	Supplier	NIE
114	Change of Customer Details Confirmation	NIE	Supplier
301	Meter Point Characteristics	NIE	Supplier
301N	Proposed Meter Point Characteristics	NIE	Supplier
700	Unmetered Characteristics and AUF	NIE	Supplier

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Message No	Message Name	Sender	Receiver
700W	Withdrawal of Unmetered Characteristics and AUF	NIE	Supplier

Segment Structure

This section describes the structure of the Meter Point Address Segment. The purpose of the message segment fields and data items are explained and any rules for composition outlined.

Segment and Field Level Identifier			Rpt	Optionality	Description / Purpose and composition instructions
1	Meter Point Details		1	Mandatory	
2	SEG	Meter Point Address	1	See instructions	The address at which the Meter Point is connected. This Address will be available to Market Registered Suppliers on the Web site. This segment must be provided where making changes to meter point address on 013 and will be provided to Suppliers on 114 / 014R messages. The segment must be provided by Suppliers when making 010 Registration requests.
3	FLD	Unit No.	1	Optional	This field can be used to populate information relating to the unit, flat or apartment number that can be part of an address.
3	FLD	Addr Line 1	1	Optional	This field can be used as overflow for address details
3	FLD	Addr Line 2	1	Optional	Not used in Northern Ireland
3	FLD	House No.	1	Optional	This can be used to populate the number of a premise given as part of an address
3	FLD	Street	1	Optional	This field stores information relating to the street part of an address.
3	FLD	Addr Line 4	1	Optional	This field can be used as overflow for address details
3	FLD	Addr Line 5	1	Optional	Not used in Northern Ireland
3	FLD	Post code	1	Mandatory	This is the postal or Zip code given as part of address. Although optional on the schema it is mandatory for NI messages and if not provided the message will be rejected.
3	FLD	City	1	Optional	Used to populate the details of which City an address resides in where appropriate
3	FLD	County Ireland	1	Optional	Not used in Northern Ireland
3	FLD	Country	1	See instructions	This denotes the country in which a Meter Point Address is situated and is defined as an AN(3) field. If populated this item must match the value IE – Ireland or GB –United Kingdom for Meter Point Addresses.

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Segment Validation

Segment and Field Level Identifier				Validation
1	Meter Point Details			
2	SEG	Meter Point Address		All changes to Meter Point Address are out sorted for manual checks to be made (013 message). On messages 010,012,012W and 021 the Meter Point Address is used to validate the MPRN provided.
3	FLD	Unit No.		No individual validation of this field.
3	FLD	Addr Line 1		No individual validation of this field.
3	FLD	Addr Line 2		No individual validation of this field. Data provided in this field is ignored
3	FLD	House No.		No individual validation of this field.
3	FLD	Street		No individual validation of this field.
3	FLD	Addr Line 4		No individual validation of this field.
3	FLD	Addr Line 5		No individual validation of this field. Data provided in this field is ignored
3	FLD	Post code		Must be provided in NI
3	FLD	City		No individual validation of this field.
3	FLD	County Ireland		No individual validation of this field. Data provided in this field is ignored
3	FLD	Country		If populated this must be a valid code value of IE or GB for Meter Point Addresses. The message will fail validation if this is not the case.

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2.3 Notification Address

Purpose / Description of Segment

This segment provides the address details for correspondence with the Customer where this is different to the Meter Point Address. The Notification Address must be that of an authorised agent of the customer. The Notification Address segment is sent and received by Market registered Suppliers to and from the NIE business on the following messages:

Message No	Message Name	Sender	Receiver
010	Registration Request	Supplier	NIE
013	Customer Details Change	Supplier	NIE
016	Change of legal entity	Supplier	NIE
017	Meter Point Status Change Request	Supplier	NIE
101	New Connection Registration Acceptance	NIE	Supplier
101P	New Connection Provisional Acceptance	NIE	Supplier
102	Change of Supply Registration Acceptance	NIE	Supplier
102P	Change of Supplier Provisional Acceptance	NIE	Supplier
105	Change of Supplier Confirmation	NIE	Supplier

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Segment Structure

This section describes the structure of the Notification Address segment. The purpose of the message segment and data items is explained and any rules for composition are outlined.

Segment and Field Level Identifier				Rpt	Optionality	Description / Purpose and composition instructions
1	Meter Point Details			1	Mandatory	
2	SEG	Notification Address		1	See instructions	An address for correspondence with customers. This segment is mandatory where a notification address is being added or changes are being made to an existing notification address. When providing a notification address Suppliers must provide either a Street Type Address or a PO Box Type Address but not both.
3	SEG	Street Type Address		1	See instructions	Street Type Address provides details such as Street Name, House no etc. This segment is mandatory where a street type address is being provided or changed as part of notification address
4	FLD	C/O Name		1	Optional	This is the name to which correspondence can be addressed where this is different to the customer name. (See Customer Name Segment)
4	FLD	Unit No.		1	Optional	This field can be used to populate information relating to the unit, flat or apartment number that can be part of an address
4	FLD	Addr Line 1		1	Optional	This field can be used as overflow for address details
4	FLD	Addr Line 2		1	Optional	This field can be used as overflow for address details
4	FLD	House No.		1	Optional	This can be used to populate the number of a premises given as part of an address
4	FLD	Street		1	See instructions	This field stores information relating to the street part of an address. Either PO Box Number or Street field must be provided if populating the Notification address segment on messages but not both.
4	FLD	Addr Line 4		1	Optional	This field can be used as overflow for address details
4	FLD	Addr Line 5		1	Optional	This field can be used as overflow for address details
4	FLD	Post code		1	Optional	This is the postal or Zip code given as part of address where appropriate for example UK notification addresses
4	FLD	City		1	See instructions	Used to populate the details of which City an address resides in where appropriate. While this field is optional on the schema NIE will validate that it has been provided as it must be must be provided for notification address in NI.
4	FLD	County - Ireland		1	Optional	A field denoting the county in Ireland in which an address resides. See the

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Segment and Field Level Identifier			Rpt	Optionality	Description / Purpose and composition instructions
					list of data codes for permissible values here.
4	FLD	County / State	1	Optional	This denotes the county in which an address is situated. This is a free text AN(40) character field use in Addresses outside Northern Ireland or Ireland.
4	FLD	Country	1	Optional	This is an AN(3) field that makes up part of an address denoting in which country the address resides. See list of data codes for valid entries here. A valid country code must be provided for Notification Addresses where this field is populated.
3	SEG	P.O. Box Type Address	1	See instructions	This segment allows a PO Box address to be stored as part of a notification address. This segment must be populated if a PO Box address is being added or changed for a customer.
4	FLD	PO Box Number	1	Mandatory	This number denotes the number given to a PO Box address and is a mandatory field if a PO Box Address is provided or changed by a customer.
4	FLD	Post code	1	Optional	This is the postal or Zip code given as part of address where appropriate
4	FLD	City	1	Optional	Used to populate the details of which City an address resides in where appropriate
4	FLD	Country	1	See instructions	This is a AN(3) field that makes up part of an address denoting in which country the address resides. This field is mandatory if a PO Box address is provided or changed for a customer.

Segment Validation

Segment and Field Level Identifier			Validation
1	Meter Point Details		
2	SEG	Notification Address	No individual validation at Segment level. Where Segment is Populated see validations below at field level.
3	SEG	Street Type Address	No individual validation at Segment level.
4	FLD	C/O Name	No individual validation of this field.
4	FLD	Unit No.	No individual validation of this field.
4	FLD	Addr Line 1	No individual validation of this field.
4	FLD	Addr Line 2	No individual validation of this field.
4	FLD	House No.	No individual validation of this field.
4	FLD	Street	Message will fail validation if this field is omitted when a Street Type Address segment is provided.
4	FLD	Addr Line 4	No individual validation of this field.
4	FLD	Addr Line 5	No individual validation of this field.
4	FLD	Post code	No individual validation of this field.

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4	FLD	City	Message will fail validation if this field is omitted when a Street Type Address Segment is provided.
4	FLD	County - Ireland	Message will fail validation if item does not match one of allowed code values where provided.
4	FLD	County / State	No individual validation of this field.
4	FLD	Country	Message will fail validation if field is blank or an invalid code is populated where segment is provided.
3	SEG	P.O. Box Type Address	This address type takes precedence over the Street type address part of Notification address for the purposes of correspondence with the customer where it is provided.
4	FLD	PO Box Number	Message will fail validation if this field is omitted when a P.O. Box Type Address segment is provided
4	FLD	Post code	No individual validation of this field.
4	FLD	City	No individual validation of this field.
4	FLD	Country	Message will fail validation if field is blank or an invalid code is populated where segment is provided.

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2.4 Customer Name

Purpose / Description of Segment

This segment provides the Customer Name details. Customer name segment includes the name details of either:

- Person(s)
- Organisations

This segment is sent and received by Market registered Suppliers to and from the NIE business on the following messages:

Message No	Message Name	Sender	Receiver
010	Registration Request	Supplier	NIE
012	Objection to Change of Supplier	Supplier	NIE
012W	Withdrawal of Objection to Change of Supplier	Supplier	NIE
013	Customer Details Change	Supplier	NIE
014R	Customer Details Rejection	NIE	Supplier
016	Change of legal entity	Supplier	NIE
017	Meter Point Status Change Request	Supplier	NIE
101	New Connection Registration Acceptance	NIE	Supplier
101P	New Connection Provisional Acceptance	NIE	Supplier
101R	New Registration Rejection	NIE	Supplier
102	Change of Supply Registration Acceptance	NIE	Supplier
102P	Change of Supplier Provisional Acceptance	NIE	Supplier
102R	Change of Supplier Registration Rejection	NIE	Supplier
105	Change of Supplier Confirmation	NIE	Supplier
112	Notification of Objection	NIE	Supplier
112R	Notification of Objection - Rejection	NIE	Supplier
112W	Withdrawal of Objection	NIE	Supplier
114	Change of Customer Details Confirmation	NIE	Supplier

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Segment Structure

This section describes the structure of the Customer Name segment. The purpose of the segment and its data items are explained and any rules for composition outlined.

Segment and Field Level Identifier				Rpt	Optionality	Description / Purpose and composition instructions
1	Meter Point Details			1	Mandatory	
2	SEG	Customer Name		1	Message dependant – see composition instructions per message.	The customer with whom the Supplier has concluded an agreement to supply electricity. This segment is mandatory on Registration messages. The Segment is also required where Suppliers are requesting a Change of Legal Entity or change of customer name so as to notify Networks of the customers name details for the meter point. The segment will be provided on 014R and 114 messages.
3	FLD	Title		1	Optional	This relates to the title of a person that comes before a name for addressing purposes. See the valid list of codes for Title.
3	FLD	Last Name		1	See instructions	This is the last or family name where customer is not an organisation. This field must be populated where the customer is a person.
3	FLD	First Name		1	Optional	This is the first given name of a person.
3	FLD	Name_Org1		1	See instructions	This is the name of a company or organisation. This field must be populated if the customer is an organisation or Company and if a Registered Company number is provided.
3	FLD	Name_Org2		1	Optional	This field can be used as overflow for the name of a company or organisation
3	FLD	Registered Company No.		1	Optional	Not used in Northern Ireland
3	FLD	Trading As		1	Optional	This field can be used to populate information on companies / organisations that have a trading as name.

Segment Validation

Networks carry out the following validation of the segment:

Segment and Field Level Identifier				Validation
1	Meter Point Details			
2	SEG	Customer Name		In Messages where this segment is defined as mandatory or where defined circumstances come into operation this segment must be populated. Message will fail validation if this is not the case.
3	FLD	Title		This field will be ignored if it does not match one of the valid codes for title where provided. See the published list of data codes for valid codes here.

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3	FLD	Last Name	Either this field or the Name_Org1 field must be populated. Both fields cannot be populated at the same time. The message will fail if both fields are populated or if neither is populated.
3	FLD	First Name	No individual validation of this field.
3	FLD	Name_Org1	Either this field or the Last name field must be populated. Both fields cannot be populated at the same time. The message will fail if both fields are populated or neither field is populated.
3	FLD	Name_Org2	No individual validation of this field.
3	FLD	Registered Company No.	Not used, individual validation of this field.
3	FLD	Trading As	No individual validation of this field.

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2.5 Customer Contact Details

Purpose / Description of Segment

This segment provides Customer Contact Details.

This segment is sent and received by Market registered Suppliers to and from the NIE business on the following messages:

Message No	Message Name	Sender	Receiver
010	Registration Request	Supplier	NIE
013	Customer Details Change	Supplier	NIE
016	Change of legal entity	Supplier	NIE
017	Meter Point Status Change Request	Supplier	NIE
101	New Connection Registration Acceptance	NIE	Supplier
102	Change of Supply Registration Acceptance	NIE	Supplier
102P	Change of Supplier Provisional Acceptance	NIE	Supplier
105	Change of Supplier Confirmation	NIE	Supplier

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Segment Structure

This section describes the structure of the segment. The purpose of the segment and data items are explained and any rules for composition outlined.

Segment and Field Level Identifier				Rpt	Optionality	Description / Purpose and composition instructions
1	Meter Point Details			1	Mandatory	
2	SEG	Customer Contact Details		1	See individual Messages for segment optionality	A set of details enabling the customer to be contacted.
3	FLD	Phone number 1		1	Optional	This is the principal phone number of a customer and must be populated if known by Supplier.
3	FLD	Phone Ext1		1	Optional	This is the principal phone number overflow field for storing number extensions where applicable
3	FLD	Phone number 2		1	Optional	This field can be used for the secondary phone number where this is required. This should not be populated if Phone Number 1 is not populated.
3	FLD	Phone Ext2		1	Optional	This is the secondary phone number overflow field for storing number extensions where applicable.
3	FLD	Email		1	Optional	This field is intended to store electronic mail address details if available
3	FLD	Fax		1	Optional	This field is intended to store a Fax telephone number if available
3	FLD	Fax Ext		1	Optional	This field is intended to store a Fax extension telephone number where applicable

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Segment Validation

Segment and Field Level Identifier				Description / Purpose and composition instructions
1	Meter Point Details			
2	SEG	Customer Contact Details		No individual validation of this segment but where phone numbers provided they should be full telephone numbers including the code, with no spaces and should be able to be dialled from NI with no alterations.
3	FLD	Phone number 1		No individual validation of this field
3	FLD	Phone Ext1		No individual validation of this field
3	FLD	Phone number 2		No individual validation of this field
3	FLD	Phone Ext2		No individual validation of this field
3	FLD	Email		No individual validation of this field
3	FLD	Fax		No individual validation of this field
3	FLD	Fax Ext		No individual validation of this field

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2.6 Party Contact Details

Purpose / Description of Segment

This segment provides the Party Contact details on messages as detailed in the table below. This segment enables the sending party to add their contact details to messages in case of queries with the message by the receiving party.

This segment is sent and received by Market registered Suppliers to and from the NIE business on the following messages:

Message No	Message Name	Sender	Receiver
010	Registration Request	Supplier	NIE
011	Cancel Registration Request	Supplier	NIE
011A	Cancel Change of Supplier Agreement	Supplier	NIE
012	Objection to Change of Supplier	Supplier	NIE
012W	Withdrawal of Objection to Change of Supplier	Supplier	NIE
015	Change of SSAC Request	Supplier	NIE
016	Change of legal entity	Supplier	NIE
017	Meter Point Status Change Request	Supplier	NIE
030	Meter Works Request	Supplier	NIE
112	Notification of Objection	NIE	Supplier
112W	Withdrawal of Objection	NIE	Supplier
116	CoLE Confirmation	NIE	Supplier
116N	CoLE Notification to Supplier with a pending registration	NIE	Supplier
208	Replacement Reading	Supplier	NIE
210	Supplier Provided Reading	Supplier	NIE
252	Request for Special Reading	Supplier	NIE
260	Observation of Problem, Damage or Tampering	Supplier	NIE
261	Resolution of Problem Damage or Tampering	NIE	Supplier

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Message No	Message Name	Sender	Receiver
303R	Customer Read rejection	NIE	Supplier
311	Meter Problems	NIE	Supplier

Segment Structure

Segment and Field Level Identifier				Rpt	Optionality	Description / Purpose and composition instructions
1	Meter Point Details			1	Mandatory	
2	SEG	Party Contact Details		1	Optionality of this segment is message specific.	Party Contact Details provides details such as contact name, organisation and department, telephone, e-mail and/or fax details enabling the party to be contacted. This allows Suppliers / NIE to forward their contact details in case of queries with the message instructions.
3	FLD	Phone number 1		1	See Instructions	This is the principal phone number of a contact and must be populated if the segment is provided.
3	FLD	Phone Ext1		1	Optional	This is the principal phone number overflow field for storing number extensions where applicable
3	FLD	Phone number 2		1	Optional	This field can be used for the secondary phone number where this is required.
3	FLD	Phone Ext2		1	Optional	This is the secondary phone number overflow field for storing number extensions where applicable.
3	FLD	Email		1	Optional	This field is intended to store electronic mail address details where applicable
3	FLD	Fax		1	Optional	This field is intended to store a Fax telephone number where applicable
3	FLD	Fax Ext		1	Optional	This field is intended to store a Fax extension telephone number where applicable

Segment Validation

Segment and Field Level Identifier				Validation
1	Meter Point Details			
2	SEG	Party Contact Details		No validation of this segment but where phone numbers are provided they should be full numbers including the code, with no spaces and should be able to be dialled from NI with no alteration.
3	FLD	Phone number 1		If segment is provided field must be populated. Message will fail if omitted.

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3	FLD	Phone Ext1	No individual validation of this field.
3	FLD	Phone number 2	No individual validation of this field.
3	FLD	Phone Ext2	No individual validation of this field.
3	FLD	Email	No individual validation of this field.
3	FLD	Fax	No individual validation of this field.
3	FLD	Fax Ext	No individual validation of this field.