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STATUS	FOR DISCUSSION

I0278 – ESTABLISHING THE SAFE ISOLATION PROVIDER (SIP) AS A STANDALONE REC PARTY

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FOR DISCUSSION

1 PURPOSE

The purpose of this paper is to provide industry Parties with a short background on REC Issue I0278 – Establishing the Safe Isolation Provider (SIP) as a Standalone REC Party, directions for future Working Group sessions, and questions which will be discussed during the Working Group to help frame the solution development of this Issue and help define the scope of SIPs as a new standalone Party in the REC.

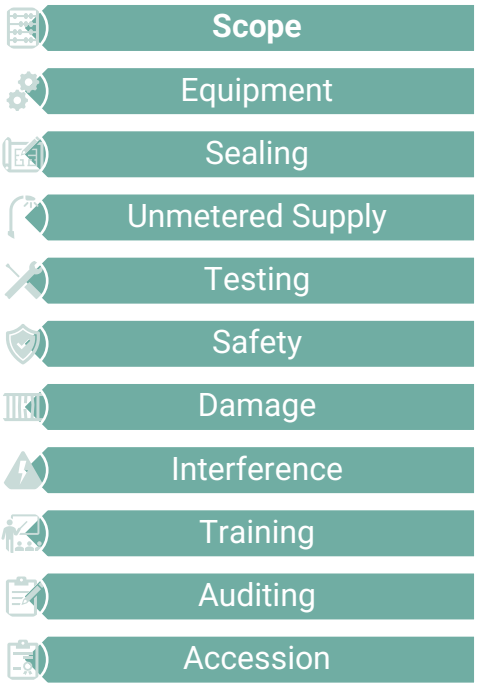
2 BACKGROUND

REC Issue I0278 – Establishing the Safe Isolation Provider (SIP) as a Standalone REC Party has been raised to formally recognise the SIP as a standalone REC Party to align with Ofgem's Strategic Direction Statement, enabling easier access to certified SIPs, meeting market demand and ensuring safety standards. This follows the realisation that since the introduction of the SIP role into the REC in June 2023, the structure as it currently stands, has proven insufficient to meet market demand, to ensure consistent safety standards, and has been a deterrent for organisations to apply to become one given the current dual governance with the Distribution Connection and Use of System Agreement (DCUSA) and the added layer onto existing Metering Equipment Manager's (MEM) Accreditations.

Engagement with trade associations and stakeholders before holding this working group showed that Parties are supportive of this change and are determined to ensure that high safety standards through a robust training, vigorous qualifications and a strong audit process are implemented within this new framework.

3 PROPOSED WORKING GROUP ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION

Below are proposed items to be discussed during working group sessions. Working Group attendees will discuss the scope of SIPs on 29 June 2026.



4 QUESTIONS FOR THE WG

In advance of the Working Group session on 29 June 2026, Working Group attendees are invited to think about the following questions:

1. What challenges do you foresee with SIPs being able to upgrade tails between cutout and meter, when an issue has been identified?
2. What challenges do you foresee with SIPs being able to upgrade tails from the meter to the isolator, when an issue has been identified?
3. What challenges do you foresee with SIPs being able to check tightness of cut-out terminals?
4. Are there any scenarios where SIPs could have issues accessing the meter and/or cutout?
5. What challenges do you foresee with shared services with other Parties?
6. What challenges do you foresee with 5 terminal meters and time switches?
7. How many isolators would be required?
8. What challenges do you foresee with the marking of cables?
9. Are there any other points that have not been mentioned about SIPs' activities you would like to add?