Safe Isolation Provider (SIP) Background

In June 2023, the Safe Isolation Provider (SIP) role was introduced into the REC through Change Proposals R0021 & R0101. The objective of these Change Proposals was to streamline the process of de-energising and re-energising supply points, allowing REC-accredited Metering Equipment Managers (MEMs) to perform these tasks independently of Suppliers. This aimed to support the installation of Low & Zero Carbon Technologies, while addressing coordination challenges and delays.

As part of a suite of improvements to the REC change process, a pilot 'Post-Implementation Review' of R0021 & R0101 was conducted to determine the effectiveness of resolving the original problem statement.

The Code Manager provided a report to RECCo, which focuses on SIP Implementation, qualification, and participation, as well as the associated REC Changes, and the engagement/communication with industry participants and external stakeholders. Whilst also touching on broader governance issues within the REC and related Change Proposals, it does not provide an exhaustive analysis of other REC changes.

RECCo and the Code Manager look to progress several key recommendations the report identified, including;

- Further improvements to the REC Change Process
- Enhanced Accession advice and guidance
- Engagement with Trade Bodies, Other Code Bodies and DESNZ

RECCo are aware of the issue of unqualified SIPs working on meters. We need to determine the scale of the issue, for which we need accurate data; we intent to utilise data available from central sources where possible, and we are reaching out to Electralink, however if costs are significant then we will need to re-assess and may reach out to parties for their help with data.

If you would like to share your thoughts on this issue, or if you would like to discuss the issue further, please reach out to Lindsay.biginton@retailenergycode.co.uk and Rebecca.griffiths@retailenergycode.co.uk directly.

