

DIP CR 0019 ‘Defining the Sender Unique References (SUR) in the DIP Rules’ Initial Assessment

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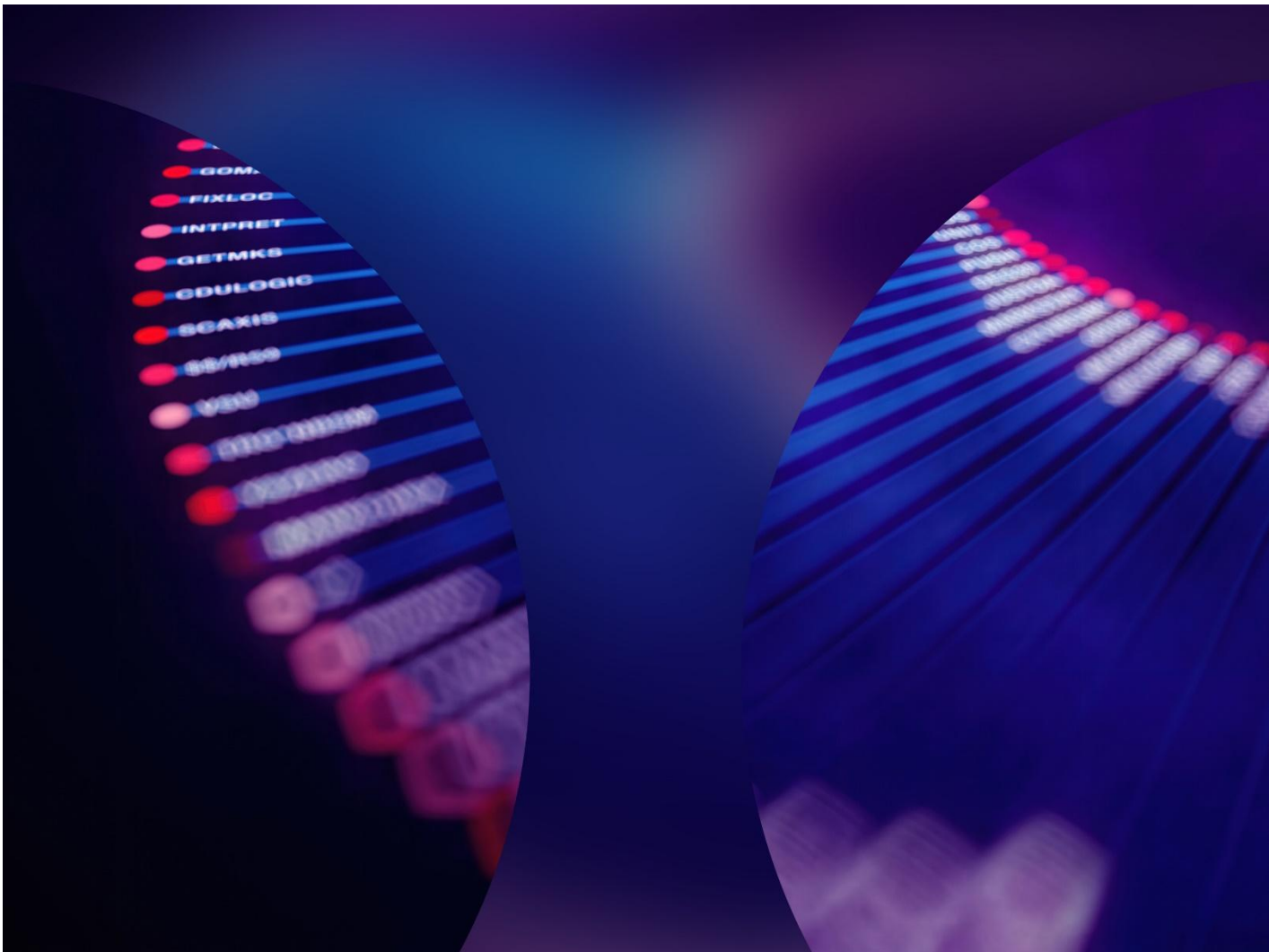
Assessment

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Summary

About this document

You can find the definitions of the terms and acronyms used in this document in the [DIP Glossary](#)¹.

This document provides information on a DIP CR. It provides an assessment of the proposed change and its progression.

There are three parts to this document, which are:

- This document. It is the main document providing insight into the change, solution, and progression.
- **Attachment A** contains the DIP CR Proposal Form.
- **Attachment B** contains the red-lined text for DCR0019.

Timeline



Executive summary

When sending and receiving messages through the DIP¹, Users² are required to use a 'Sender Unique Reference'³ (SUR) to identify the origin of the Message⁴. This reference must consist solely of alphanumeric⁵ characters (such as A, B, C, 1, 2, 3). However, some users have been using non-alphanumeric⁶ characters (such as £, \$, %, or -), which have caused validation issues and disrupted message flow among DIP users.

To address this problem, it is proposed that the SUR requirements be defined in the DIP Rules (DSD002, Annex 2), mandating that only alphanumeric characters be used. This change aims to reduce the risk of validation failures. The implementation of DCR0019 is scheduled to occur as part of the DIP Manager monthly release in **August 2026**⁷.

	Impacts	Explanation
DIP Users	Positive	DIP Users will not be affected by inconsistent use of SURs.
DIP Manager	Neutral	N/A
DIP Rules	Positive	Clarity will be added for how DIP Users can send and receive messages. This will enhance their understanding of their requirements as set out in the DIP Rules.
DIP objectives	Positive	Ensures messages can be sent and received without issues, which supports the positive sharing of information/data.
Industry Codes	Neutral	N/A

¹ A Cloud hosted event-driven-architecture middleware component to support the flow of events/Messages between DIP Users

² An organisation that has completed DIP On-boarding and fulfils one of the DIP Roles listed in DSD002 'DIP Connection and Operation'

³ Unique identifier for the event/message provided by the message Sender. See note below that provides guidance on setting this field

⁴ Means a structured data flow sent using the DIP in accordance with the DIP Rules and comprised of both transactional data and content data.

⁵ A character that is either a letter or a number.

⁶ Non-alphanumeric is any other character on the keyboard that isn't a letter or number.

⁷ The DIP Manager's August release of changes to the DIP Rules and/or DIP and DIP Portal will happen on 13 August 2026.

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Cost	Low	This cost will be a document and system change. It is not anticipated to cost more than £10k.
Change Tier	Tier 2	The Tier 1 criteria is not met. Thus, this change is considered 'all other changes.'

Overview

Background

The DIP Rules, in [DSD002, Annex 2 – Detailed DIP Operational Requirements](#), explain the requirements to send, receive, and validate a Message, including mandatory fields for senders to populate. These fields include SURs. To validate a SUR, the DIP will check whether it is formatted correctly. However, there is no defined format for DIP Users to use⁸. Rather, the format DIP Users are intended to use must be alphanumeric⁹; the format cannot be non-alphanumeric. This intent was detailed in the MHHS Programme End-to-End Solution Architecture Document¹⁰, which states that the following restrictions must be included:

- using standard alphanumeric characters
- must guarantee uniqueness for the SUR
- cannot exceed the length of the Sender Unique Reference (200 - which includes the prefix components).

These requirements are not in the DIP or the DIP Rules.

What is the issue?

The DIP Rules do not detail that SURs must be alphanumeric. This is causing an issue because the DIP does not restrict its Users from sending non-alphanumeric characters when they're messaging, which can affect the sending and receiving of a Message.

Solution

Introducing the requirement into the DIP Rules (i.e., DSD002, Annex 2) that SURs must be alphanumeric. Further, the DIP validations in the DIP will need to be amended to validate whether a SUR is alphanumeric.

For example:

```

654 DT-995-SenderUniqueReference:
655     description: Sender Unique Reference
656     type: string
657     minLength : 1
658     maxLength : 200
659     pattern: ^S-((IF|REP)-)?\d{3,4}-[0-9a-fA-F]{10}-[A-Z]{3,5}-\d{8}-[a-zA-Z0-9]+$
660     example: 'S-IF-005-0123456789-SUP-20222313-12345687a1234567a'
661
662 DT-995N-SenderUniqueReference:
663     description: Sender Unique Reference
664     type: string
665     nullable: true
666     minLength : 1
667     maxLength : 200
668     # addition of regex for change 001/73818
669     pattern: ^S-((IF|REP)-)?\d{3,4}-[0-9a-fA-F]{10}-[A-Z]{3,5}-\d{8}-[a-zA-Z0-9]+$
670     example: 'S-IF-005-0123456789-SUP-20222313-12345687a1234567a'
671

```

For example, the validation will now be:

Sender Unique Reference	Validation
S-IF-005-0123456789-SUP-20222313-12345687a1234567a	Correct
S-IF-005-0123456789-SUP-20222313-12345687-1234567a	Incorrect
SIF0050123456789SUP2022231312345687a1234567a'	Incorrect

⁸ DSD002, Annex 2, 9.1.5

⁹ The [MHHS End-to-End \(E2\) Solution Architecture](#) details the SUR requirements.

¹⁰ Ibid.

Proposers rationale

DIP Users are required to follow a consistent format when sending and receiving messages, which includes the structure of their Sender Unique References (SURs). By clarifying the restrictions on SURs in the DIP Rules—such as the requirement for them to be alphanumeric—we can ensure that all DIP Users adhere to a uniform format when sending messages. This will help prevent any issues that may arise from inconsistent formatting of SURs.

Proposers red-lining

Document	Section	Amendment
DSD002, Annex 2	9	The SUR alphanumeric requirement has been introduced into Annex 2.

Red-lined text for SUR:

Field	Description	DIP Validation
Sender Unique Reference RED LINED	Unique identifier for the event/message provided by the message Sender. See note below that provides guidance on setting this field	Check S sender U nique R eference obeys the format specified, which is: below <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Interface, i.e., IF-0XX. Participant Identification (Id), i.e., 0123456789. Role Id, i.e., SUP. Date, i.e., Year-Month-Day (2026-03-24). Sequence/reference that must be alphanumeric, i.e., 12345687a1234567a Hence, i.e., S-IF-0XX-0123456789-SUP-20222313-12345687a1234567a.
Sender Unique Reference CLEAN	Unique identifier for the event/message provided by the message Sender.	Check Sender Unique Reference obeys the format specified, which is:- <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <u>Interface, i.e., IF-0XX.</u> <u>Participant Identification (Id), i.e., 0123456789.</u> <u>Role Id, i.e., SUP.</u> <u>Date, i.e., Year-Month-Day (2026-03-24).</u> <u>Sequence/reference that must be alphanumeric, i.e., 12345687a1234567a</u> <u>Hence, i.e., S-IF-0XX-0123456789-SUP-20222313-12345687a1234567a.</u>

Further, housekeeping changes have been made to **DSD002, Annex 2, Section 9**.

Note that the full text or amendments can be found within the legal text **Attachment(s) C**.

Impacts, benefits, and risks

Impacts

Adding clarity to how the structure is a SUR will ensure DIP Users aren't introducing non-alphanumeric characters into their SURs. This is a positive impact as all DIP Users will use the same structure for their SURs.

Benefits

Setting specific validation rules within the DIP Rules will ensure all DIP Users are following consistent formatting for their SURs, ensuring message validations and choreography follow the prescribed process in the DIP Rules.

Risks

This change is considered low risk. This is because DIP Users currently utilise SURs, which can be either alphanumeric or non-alphanumeric. The systems they operate or connect to already support this functionality. While there is a possibility that the change could impact the existing functionality, the risk remains low. To mitigate any concerns, the DIP Manager will offer drop-in sessions and will consult on this DIP change request (CR) to identify any unforeseen costs, risks, or consequences.

Affected party/area	Impact, benefit, or risk	Explanation
DIP Rules	Positive	Provides clarity to DIP Users on what they should include in their SURs.
DIP System	Positive	This will ensure non-alphanumeric characters do not impact DIP validations.
DIP User	Positive	Ensures that each DIP User follows a consistent format when sending messages. It means message choreography won't be affected by inconsistent formatting.
DIP Manager	Neutral	N/A
DIP Service Provider	Neutral	N/A
Industry Codes	Neutral	N/A
DIP Manager Cost	Low	This is a system and document change. It isn't anticipated to cost more than £10k.
DIP User Cost	Low	This is a system and document change. It isn't anticipated to cost more than £10k.
Applicable DIP Objective (a)		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provide accurate and timely support for the sharing of applicable market data. 	Positive	Following a consistent format when sending a message will ensure validations occur in an accurate and timely manner.
Applicable DIP Objective (b)	Neutral	

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- Further consumer interests through the appropriately governed sharing of data.

Applicable **DIP Objective (c)**

- Facilitate competitive change and innovation through the efficient and economic delivery of reliable and adaptable services. Netural

DIP CR tier, progression, and implementation/recommendation

Change Tier

Tier	Criteria	Explanation
Tier 1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> an implementation cost greater than £500,000 for the DIP Manager and/or £250,000 for DIP Users; placing new obligations on DIP Users and/or the DIP Manager that will require a change to the DIP User's business operating model; an Implementation Date will be more than 24 months after the date on which the decision is made. 	See below.
		Clarification on what must be included within a SUR will ensure the DIP Users are following a consistent format. This is an enhancement of what is in the DIP Rules, and it's not introducing high costs, new obligations, or requirements for a DIP User's operating model, and will be introduced in the coming months.
Tier 2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> All other changes 	Thus, it is a Tier 2 DIP CR.

Progression timeline

Event	Date
Initial Assessment published	04/05/2026
Consultation	05/05/2026 – 05/06/2026
Final Assessment published	03/07/2026
DIP CR presented for decision	16/07/2026
Decision published	17/07/2026
Proposed Implementation Date	13/08/2026

Reason to consult

The DIP Manager has updated the DIP Rules text, particularly in section DSD002, Annex 2. To allow the industry to share its perspectives on these changes, the DIP Manager believes that consulting on this modification will be beneficial. This consultation will provide an opportunity for respondents to express their views, which is essential for the DIP Manager to consider as this DIP Change Request (CR) progresses.

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Consultation questions

To allow stakeholders to scrutinize CR 0019, the DIP Manager will ask:

Question	Reason to ask
Has the DIP Manager appropriately understood the issue?	This ensures the DIP Manager has assessed an issue appropriately
Has the issue impacted your organisation? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> If so, what has been the impact? 	It enables respondents to detail the impact, costs, and risks this issue may be causing them (if at all).
Do you agree with the proposed solution?	Respondents can detail whether the solution resolves the issue.
Do you agree that the red-lined delivers the solution that addresses the issue in this DIP CR?	Respondents can detail and/or provide reasons whether the solution addresses the issue in this DIP CR.
Will the solution in this DIP CR incur any costs to your organisation?	Respondents can outline the cost this DIP CR may cause them (if at all).
Do you agree with the implementation approach of this DIP CR?	Respondents can explain whether they support the implementation approach of this DIP CR.
Do you have any additional comments on this DIP CR?	Ensures respondents can add further comments or considerations that the DIP Manager may have missed within their assessment.

Implementation

DIP Manager initially recommends an Implementation Date for CR0019 of:

- 13 August 2026** as part of the standard monthly DIP Release.