

New Premises and Address Data Quality Audit

On 28 February MOSL launched a revised Data Quality Audit (DQA) with our new service provider, IDenteq.

To support trading parties in the lead up to BR-MeX, and with the transition to IDenteq, we are providing fortnightly DQAs and offering 121 technical drop-in sessions to walk through the DQA findings and consider any potential improvements to the audits in the lead up to BR-MeX.

A copy of the [CMOS data extract timeline](#) can be found on the Data Assurance webpage.

Commencement of BR-MeX

The first month's technical drop-in session dates are as follows:

- **Friday 7 March**, 10am-12pm and 1pm-4pm
- **Tuesday 11 March**, 10am-12pm and 1pm-4pm
- **Friday 21 March**, 1pm-4pm
- **Monday 24 March**, 10am-12pm and 1pm-4pm

If you would like to book an hour slot, please email comms@mosl.co.uk with your preferred date and time. Further dates for April and May will be communicated in advance via email.

Data Quality Audit changes

The new DQA has undergone changes to ensure that parties are provided with a transparent and simple assessment criteria as we head towards BR-MeX. This has led to changes to the process and the file format we provide to you.

The assessment criteria remain the same: the SPIDCORE supply address, Unique Property Reference Number (UPRN), and Valuation Office Agency (VOA) Billing Authority reference numbers are assessed by matching them to external data sources. If the data can be matched, the individual data items are flagged as "Verified". If the individual data items cannot be matched, they are flagged as "Of Concern".

The key component of the audit criteria is that the supply address is the priority and must be verified first to enable verification of the associated UPRN and VOA reference data items. A supply point is deemed "Verified" if all three data items - Supply Address, UPRN, and VOA - are flagged as "Verified".

Under the revised DQA criteria, the external data sources used for verification have been streamlined from Address Based Premium (ABP), Valuation Office Agency Business Rates (VOABR), and Postal Address File (PAF) to just ABP and VOABR. PAF is incorporated within ABP and attempting to match to this separately has been deemed unnecessary.

Under the previous audit criteria and file format, wholesalers were provided with both a master match decision and the closest potential match to all three external data sources (ABP, VOABR, and PAF). Where supply address data was flagged as “Of Concern”, this was to provide potential indicators of what the supply address data could be matched and amended to. Following publication of the DQAs in September and October 2024, several wholesalers fed back that this element of the service was inconsistent.

The revised DQA will no longer offer potential supply address matches. It will instead provide indicators to highlight why the supply address has potential data issues.

When the supply address data is assessed, the following matching prioritisation is undertaken:

1. The postcode is assessed
2. The postcode and street combination are assessed
3. CMOS addresses are recreated through a hierarchical matching approach to prioritise the most comprehensive address elements
4. The street data and the associated UPRN and VOA reference data are cross-referenced to see if they align.

Where the supply address is flagged as “Of Concern”, the potential data ‘issue categories’ are as follows:

- **Invalid Postcode:** The address matching process could not identify a match because the postcode has been deemed invalid (it does not exist within the ABP/VOA datasets).
- **Invalid Street Postcode:** The address matching process could not identify a match because the specified postcode and street combination does not exist in the ABP/VOA datasets.
- **Invalid Street Start:** The address matching process could not identify a match because the CMOS address starts with the street name, but no valid premises identifier is available to determine the property on the street.
- **Reference Number Conflict:** The address matching process could not identify a match and a comparison between the ABP/VOA reference addresses and the CMOS address has revealed discrepancies.

- **Other:** The address matching process could not identify a match, and the reason is yet to be determined.

In the period leading up to BR-MeX, these issue categories may be refined but will not involve significant changes.

Where an address can be matched, it will be graded in a variety of ways, such as Exact, Range, Without Dashes, etc. These are all flagged as “Verified” (replacing the previous match confidence levels - Definitive, Probable, Potential, etc.).

The assessment and verification of UPRN and VOA data remains the same as before:

- **Confirmed:** The DQA has confirmed that the UPRN or VOA is “Verified”.
- **Appended:** The DQA has located a missing UPRN or VOA reference.
- **Conflicting:** The DQA has located a different UPRN or VOA to the one in CMOS.
- **Unconfirmed:** The DQA is unable to verify the UPRN or VOA due to an “Of Concern” supply address status.
- **None Found:** The DQA cannot find a UPRN or VOA associated with the supply address.

The overall changes have led to a significant reduction in the original DQA file format columns and removed the need for an abridged version. MOSL will now be issuing a single file via My Files. Please see Appendix 1 for the Revised File Format.

Please note, the DQA is supporting Ofwat’s BR-MeX Metric M12: Percentage of tradable Premises with verified supply address, UPRN, and VOA. The metric is not impacted by the changes to the DQA process.

Dashboards, assurance, and additional third-party support

Changes to the DQA and criteria have resulted in changes to the supporting dashboards.

The DQA was published on 28 February 2025. MOSL is currently working on revisions to the supporting dashboards. The following will be updated on 4 March 2025:

- Premises Address Dashboard
- Data Assurance Look Up

For assured supply points, the cutoff for the first DQA issued on the 28 February was midday. If you assured any supply points after this time, these will be captured on the DQA scheduled for 28 March.

IDenteq is also looking to provide additional support through a centralised online platform. MOSL will provide an update on this in due course.

There will also be revisions required to the Premises and Address Process document, which will be completed over the next couple of weeks.

If you have any questions, please raise them via My MOSL.

Appendices

Appendix 1 Revised File Format

Data category	Owner	Column	New	Examples	Description
CMOS Reference Data	MOSL	Batch Number		AD20241001	Date of file issued (will reflect the DQA published date)
	MOSL	SPID		12345W	Supply Point Identifiers
	MOSL	SPIDCORE		12345	
	MOSL	Wholesaler		Thames-W	Wholesale owner of the SPID
	MOSL	Retailer		Castle-R	Retailer owner of the SPID
	MOSL	Occupancy_Status		OCCUPIED	SPID Occupancy Status
	MOSL	CMOS_Customer_Name		IDenteq	Customer and Supply Point Address details from CMOS
	MOSL	CMOS_Banner_Name		IDenteq	MPF

	MOSL	CMOS_Address		2 High Street	
	MOSL	CMOS_Postcode		SE1 1SW	
	MOSL	CMOS_UPRN		1112223	The ABP Unique Property Reference Number held in CMOS
	MOSL	CMOS_VOA		99988999	The VOA Billing Authority reference held in CMOS
	MOSL	Open_Bilaterals		2002901309 B05-IN PROGRESS	A column to confirm any open bilaterals relating to the SPID
Assurance Indicators	MOSL	Address	Yes	Of Concern	Indicators of the Premises and Address elements requiring assurance for the SPID
	MOSL	UPRN	Yes	Verified	
	MOSL	VOA	Yes	Of Concern	
CMOS Reference Assurance Fields	IDenteq	UPRN_Status	Yes	Confirmed	The status assigned to the CMOS UPRN and VOA BA references when determining if the reference in CMOS is aligned to the CMOS address
	IDenteq	VOA_BA_Status	Yes	Unconfirmed	
	IDenteq	ABP_Matched_UPRN		1112223	The reference returned from our

					MATCH to VOA and ABP when matching to the CMOS address
	IDenteq	VOA_Matched_Reference_Number		78787888	
CMOS Reference Lookup Addresses	IDenteq	UPRN_Lookup_Organisation_Name	(v0.2)	IDenteq	The Organisation Name and concatenated Address and Postcode provided back from 'lookups' of the CMOS UPRN and CMOS VOA BA References
	IDenteq	UPRN_Lookup_Address		12 The Building, 2 High Street	
	IDenteq	UPRN_Lookup_Postcode		SE1 1SE	
	IDenteq	VOA_BA_Lookup_Organisation_Name	(v0.2)	XYZ Limited	
	IDenteq	VOA_BA_Lookup_Address		10 High Street	
	IDenteq	VOA_BA_Lookup_Postcode		SE1 1SE	
ABP Match Insights	IDenteq	ABP_Match_Insight			Details on how the match has been made, and if no match found, a signpost to what should be considered as a starting point for address review
	IDenteq	ABP_Matched_Organisation_Name		IDenteq	Organisation Name of the ABP Match

	IDenteq	ABP_Matched_Address		12 The Building, 2 High Street	Concatenated address for the ABP Match
	IDenteq	ABP_Matched_Postcode		SE1 1SE	Postcode of the ABP Match
VOA Match Insights	IDenteq	VOA_Match_Insight			Details on how the match has been made, and if no match found, a signpost to what should be considered as a starting point for address review
	IDenteq	VOA_Matched_Organisation_Name		ABC Limited	Organisation Name of the VOA Match
	IDenteq	VOA_Matched_Address		4 High Street	Concatenated address for the VOA Match
	IDenteq	VOA_Matched_Postcode		SE1 1SE	Postcode of the VOA Match
Date refreshed	MOSL	Date refreshed			Refreshed date