**3GPP TSG-RAN WG3 Meeting #114-eR3-216101**

**Online, Nov 1st – Nov 11th 2021**

Agenda Item: 14.2

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Title: (TP for SCG BL CR to TS 37.340) Handling of network rejection for SCG (de)activation

Document for: Discussion and Approval

# 1 Introduction

TP updates to TS 37.340:

10 Multi-Connectivity operation related aspects

\*\*\* ignore non-related part \*\*\*

10.2 Secondary Node Addition

10.2.1 EN-DC

The Secondary Node Addition procedure is initiated by the MN and is used to establish a UE context at the SN to provide resources from the SN to the UE. For bearers requiring SCG radio resources, this procedure is used to add at least the first cell of the SCG. This procedure can also be used to configure an SN terminated MCG bearer (where no SCG configuration is needed). Figure 10.2.1-1 shows the Secondary Node Addition procedure.

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**Figure 10.2.1-1: Secondary Node Addition procedure**

1. The MN decides to request the SN to allocate resources for a specific E-RAB, indicating E-RAB characteristics (E-RAB parameters, TNL address information corresponding to bearer type). In addition, for bearers requiring SCG radio resources, MN indicates the requested SCG configuration information, including the entire UE capabilities and the UE capability coordination result. In this case, the MN also provides the latest measurement results for SN to choose and configure the SCG cell(s). The MN may request the SN to allocate radio resources for split SRB operation. The MN always provides all the needed security information to the SN (even if no SN terminated bearers are setup) to enable SRB3 to be setup based on SN decision. In case of bearer options that require X2-U resources between the MN and the SN, the MN provides X2-U TNL address information for the respective E-RAB, X2-U DL TNL address information for SN terminated bearers, X2-U UL TNL address information for MN terminated bearers. In case of SN terminated split bearers the MN provides the maximum QoS level that it can support. The MN may request the SCG to be activated or deactivated. The SN may reject the request.

NOTE 1: For split bearers, MCG and SCG resources may be requested of such an amount, that the QoS for the respective E-RAB is guaranteed by the exact sum of resources provided by the MCG and the SCG together, or even more. For MN terminated split bearers, the MNs decision is reflected in step 1 by the E-RAB parameters signalled to the SN, which may differ from E-RAB parameters received over S1.

NOTE 2: For a specific E-RAB, the MN may request the direct establishment of an SCG or a split bearer, i.e., without first having to establish an MCG bearer. It is also allowed that all E-RABs can be configured as SN terminated bearers, i.e. there is no E-RAB established as an MN terminated bearer.

1. 2. If the RRM entity in the SN is able to admit the resource request, it allocates respective radio resources and, dependent on the bearer option, respective transport network resources. For bearers requiring SCG radio resources, the SN triggers Random Access so that synchronisation of the SN radio resource configuration can be performed. The SN decides the PSCell and other SCG SCells and provides the new SCG radio resource configuration to the MN in a *NR RRC configuration* message contained in the *SgNB Addition Request Acknowledge* message. In case of bearer options that require X2-U resources between the MN and the SN, the SN provides X2-U TNL address information for the respective E-RAB, X2-U UL TNL address information for SN terminated bearers, X2-U DL TNL address information for MN terminated bearers. For SN terminated bearers, the SN provides the S1-U DL TNL address information for the respective E-RAB and security algorithm. If SCG radio resources have been requested, the SCG radio resource configuration is provided. If the MN requests the SCG to be deactivated, the SN may keep the SCG activated.

*Editor’s Note: Whether SN can partially reject SCG activation request remains FFS.*

NOTE 3: For the SN terminated split bearer option, the SN may either decide to request resources from the MN of such an amount, that the QoS for the respective E-RAB is guaranteed by the exact sum of resources provided by the MN and the SN together, or even more. The SNs decision is reflected in step 2 by the E-RAB parameters signalled to the MN, which may differ from E-RAB parameters received in step 1. The QoS level requested from the MN shall not exceed the level that the MN offered when setting up the split bearer in step 1.

NOTE 4: In case of MN terminated bearers, transmission of user plane data may take place after step 2.

NOTE 5: In case of SN terminated bearers , data forwarding and the SN Status Transfer may take place after step 2.

3. The MN sends to the UE the *RRCConnectionReconfiguration* message including the NR RRC configuration message, without modifying it.

4. The UE applies the new configuration and replies to MN with *RRCConnectionReconfigurationComplete* message, including a NR RRC response message, if needed. In case the UE is unable to comply with (part of) the configuration included in the *RRCConnectionReconfiguration* message, it performs the reconfiguration failure procedure.

5. The MN informs the SN that the UE has completed the reconfiguration procedure successfully via *SgNB ReconfigurationComplete* message, including the encoded NR RRC response message, if received from the UE.

6. If configured with bearers requiring SCG radio resources, the UE performs synchronisation towards the PSCell of the SN. The order the UE sends the *RRCConnectionReconfigurationComplete* message and performs the Random Access procedure towards the SCG is not defined. The successful RA procedure towards the SCG is not required for a successful completion of the RRC Connection Reconfiguration procedure.

*Editor’s note: If the SCG is not activated, it is FFS whether the UE performs random access.*

7. If PDCP termination point is changed to the SN for bearers using RLC AM, and when RRC full configuration is not used, the MN sends the SN Status Transfer.

8. For SN terminated bearers moved from the MN, dependent on the bearer characteristics of the respective E-RAB, the MN may take actions to minimise service interruption due to activation of EN-DC (Data forwarding).

9-12. If applicable, the update of the UP path towards the EPC is performed.

10.2.2 MR-DC with 5GC

The Secondary Node (SN) Addition procedure is initiated by the MN and is used to establish a UE context at the SN in order to provide resources from the SN to the UE. For bearers requiring SCG radio resources, this procedure is used to add at least the initial SCG serving cell of the SCG. This procedure can also be used to configure an SN terminated MCG bearer (where no SCG configuration is needed). Figure 10.2.2-1 shows the SN Addition procedure.

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**Figure 10.2.2-1: SN Addition procedure**

1. The MN decides to request the target SN to allocate resources for one or more specific PDU Sessions/QoS Flows, indicating QoS Flows characteristics (QoS Flow Level QoS parameters, PDU session level TNL address information, and PDU session level Network Slice info). In addition, for bearers requiring SCG radio resources, MN indicates the requested SCG configuration information, including the entire UE capabilities and the UE capability coordination result. In this case, the MN also provides the latest measurement results for SN to choose and configure the SCG cell(s). The MN may request the SN to allocate radio resources for split SRB operation. In NGEN-DC and NR-DC, the MN always provides all the needed security information to the SN (even if no SN terminated bearers are setup) to enable SRB3 to be setup based on SN decision. The MN may request the SCG to be activated or deactivated.

 For MN terminated bearer options that require Xn-U resources between the MN and the SN, the MN provides Xn-U UL TNL address information. For SN terminated bearers, the MN provides a list of available DRB IDs. The S-NG-RAN node shall store this information and use it when establishing SN terminated bearers. The SN may reject the request.

 For SN terminated bearer options that require Xn-U resources between the MN and the SN, the MN provides in step 1 a list of QoS flows per PDU Sessions for which SCG resources are requested to be setup upon which the SN decides how to map QoS flows to DRB.

NOTE 1: For split bearers, MCG and SCG resources may be requested of such an amount, that the QoS for the respective QoS Flow is guaranteed by the exact sum of resources provided by the MCG and the SCG together, or even more. For MN terminated split bearers, the MN decision is reflected in step 1 by the QoS Flow parameters signalled to the SN, which may differ from QoS Flow parameters received over NG.

NOTE 2: For a specific QoS flow, the MN may request the direct establishment of SCG and/or split bearers, i.e. without first having to establish MCG bearers. It is also allowed that all QoS flows can be mapped to SN terminated bearers, i.e. there is no QoS flow mapped to an MN terminated bearer.

1. If the RRM entity in the SN is able to admit the resource request, it allocates respective radio resources and, dependent on the bearer type options, respective transport network resources. For bearers requiring SCG radio resources the SN triggers UE Random Access so that synchronisation of the SN radio resource configuration can be performed. The SN decides for the PSCell and other SCG SCells and provides the new SCG radio resource configuration to the MN within an SN RRC configuration message contained in the *SN Addition Request Acknowledge* message. If the MN requests the SCG to be deactivated, the SN may keep the SCG activated. In case of bearer options that require Xn-U resources between the MN and the SN, the SN provides Xn-U TNL address information for the respective DRB, Xn-U UL TNL address information for SN terminated bearers, Xn-U DL TNL address information for MN terminated bearers. For SN terminated bearers, the SN provides the NG-U DL TNL address information for the respective PDU Session and security algorithm. If SCG radio resources have been requested, the SCG radio resource configuration is provided.

*Editor’s Note: Whether SN can partially reject SCG activation request remains FFS.*

NOTE 3: In case of MN terminated bearers, transmission of user plane data may take place after step 2.

NOTE 4: In case of SN terminated bearers, data forwarding and the SN Status Transfer may take place after step 2.

NOTE 5: For MN terminated bearers for which PDCP duplication with CA is configured in NR SCG side, the MN allocates up to 4 separate Xn-U bearers and the SN provides a logical channel ID for primary or split secondary path to the MN.

 For SN terminated bearers for which PDCP duplication with CA is configured in NR MCG side, the SN allocates up to 4 separate Xn-U bearers and the MN provides a logical channel ID for primary or split secondary path to the SN via an additional MN-initiated SN modification procedure.

2a. For SN terminated bearers using MCG resources, the MN provides Xn-U DL TNL address information in the *Xn-U Address Indication* message.

3. The MN sends the *MN RRC reconfiguration* message to the UE including the SN RRC configuration message, without modifying it.

4. The UE applies the new configuration and replies to MN with *MN RRC reconfiguration complete* message, including an SN RRC response message for SN, if needed. In case the UE is unable to comply with (part of) the configuration included in the *MN RRC reconfiguration* message, it performs the reconfiguration failure procedure.

5. The MN informs the SN that the UE has completed the reconfiguration procedure successfully via *SN Reconfiguration Complete* message, including the SN RRC response message, if received from the UE.

6. If configured with bearers requiring SCG radio resources, the UE performs synchronisation towards the PSCell configured by the SN. The order the UE sends the *MN RRC reconfiguration complete* message and performs the Random Access procedure towards the SCG is not defined. The successful RA procedure towards the SCG is not required for a successful completion of the RRC Connection Reconfiguration procedure.

*Editor’s note: If the SCG is not activated, it is FFS whether the UE performs random access.*

7. If PDCP termination point is changed to the SN for bearers using RLC AM, and when RRC full configuration is not used, the MN sends the SN Status Transfer.

8. For SN terminated bearers or QoS flows moved from the MN, dependent on the characteristics of the respective bearer or QoS flow, the MN may take actions to minimise service interruption due to activation of MR-DC (Data forwarding).

9-12. If applicable, the update of the UP path towards the 5GC is performed via a PDU Session Path Update procedure*.*

10.3 Secondary Node Modification (MN/SN initiated)

10.3.1 EN-DC

The Secondary Node Modification procedure may be initiated either by the MN or by the SN and be used to modify, establish or release bearer contexts, to transfer bearer contexts to and from the SN or to modify other properties of the UE context within the same SN. It may also be used to transfer an NR RRC message from the SN to the UE via the MN and the response from the UE via MN to the SN (e.g. when SRB3 is not used). In case of CPC, this procedure is used to configure or modify CPC configuration within the same SN. This procedure may be initiated by the MN or SN to request the SN or MN to deactivate or activate the SCG.

The Secondary Node modification procedure does not necessarily need to involve signalling towards the UE.

**MN initiated SN Modification**

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**Figure 10.3.1-1: SN Modification procedure - MN initiated**

The MN uses the procedure to initiate configuration changes of the SCG within the same SN, e.g. the addition, modification or release of SCG bearer(s) and the SCG RLC bearer of split bearer(s), as well as configuration changes for SN terminated MCG bearers. Bearer termination point change is realized by adding the new bearer configuration and releasing the old bearer configuration within a single MN initiated SN Modification procedure for the respective E-RAB. The MN uses this procedure to perform handover within the same MN while keeping the SN. The MN also uses the procedure to query the current SCG configuration, e.g. when delta configuration is applied in an MN initiated SN change. The MN also uses the procedure to provide the S-RLF related information to the SN. The MN also uses this procedure to activate or deactivate the SCG. The MN may not use the procedure to initiate the addition, modification or release of SCG SCells. The SN may reject the request, except if it concerns the release of SN terminated bearer(s) or the SCG RLC bearer of MN terminated bearer(s), or if it is used to perform handover within the same MN while keeping the SN. Figure 10.3.1-1 shows an example signalling flow for an MN initiated SN Modification procedure.

1. The MN sends the *SgNB Modification Request* message, which may contain bearer context related or other UE context related information, data forwarding address information (if applicable) and the requested SCG configuration information, including the UE capability coordination result to be used as basis for the reconfiguration by the SN. The MN may request the SCG to be activated or deactivated. In case a security key update in the SN is required, a new *SgNB Security Key* is included. In case of SCG RLC re-establishment for E-RABs configured with an MN terminated bearer with an SCG RLC bearer for which no bearer type change is performed, the MN provides a new UL GTP tunnel endpoint to the SN. The SN shall continue sending UL PDCP PDUs to the MN with the previous UL GTP tunnel endpoint until it re-establishes the RLC and use the new UL GTP tunnel endpoint after re-establishment. In case of PDCP re-establishment for E-RABs configured with an SN terminated bearer with an MCG RLC bearer for which no bearer type change is performed, the MN provides a new DL GTP tunnel endpoint to the SN. The SN shall continue sending DL PDCP PDUs to the MN with the previous DL GTP tunnel endpoint until it performs PDCP re-establishment and use the new DL GTP tunnel endpoint starting with the PDCP re-establishment.

2. The SN responds with the *SgNB Modification Request Acknowledge* message, which may contain SCG radio resource configuration information within a NR RRC configuration message and data forwarding address information (if applicable). If the MN requests the SCG to be activated or deactivated, the SN may indicate whether the SCG is activated or deactivated. In case of a security key update (with or without PSCell change), for E-RABs configured with the MN terminated bearer option that require X2-U resources between the MN and the SN, for which no bearer type change is performed, the SN provides a new DL GTP tunnel endpoint to the MN. The MN shall continue sending DL PDCP PDUs to the SN with the previous DL GTP tunnel endpoint until it performs PDCP re-establishment or PDCP data recovery, and use the new DL GTP tunnel endpoint starting with the PDCP re-establishment or data recovery. In case of a security key update (with or without PSCell change), for E-RABs configured with the SN terminated bearer option that require X2-U resources between the MN and the SN, for which no bearer type change is performed, the SN provides a new UL GTP tunnel endpoint to the MN. The MN shall continue sending UL PDCP PDUs to the SN with the previous UL GTP tunnel endpoint until it re-establishes the RLC and use the new UL GTP tunnel endpoint after re-establishment.

NOTE 00: In case SN includes the indication of full RRC configuration in *SgNB Modification Request Acknowledge* message to MN e.g. comprehension failure upon intra-CU inter-DU change, MN performs release and add of the NR SCG part of the configuration but does not release SN terminated radio bearers towards the UE.

3-5. The MN initiates the RRC connection reconfiguration procedure, including the NR RRC configuration message. The UE applies the new configuration, synchronizes to the MN (if instructed, in case of intra-MN handover) and replies with *RRCConnectionReconfigurationComplete*, including a NR RRC response message, if needed. In case the UE is unable to comply with (part of) the configuration included in the *RRCConnectionReconfiguration* message, it performs the reconfiguration failure procedure.

*Editor’s note: In step 3, it is FFS whether lower layer signalling can be sent instead of RRC signalling for SCG (de)activation.*

6. Upon successful completion of the reconfiguration, the success of the procedure is indicated in the *SgNB Reconfiguration Complete* message.

7. If instructed, the UE performs synchronisation towards the PSCell of the SN as described in SgNB addition procedure. Otherwise, the UE may perform UL transmission after having applied the new configuration.

*Editor’s note: If the SCG was not already activated before the initiation of this SN modification procedure, it is FFS whether the UE performs random access.*

8. If PDCP termination point is changed for bearers using RLC AM, and when RRC full configuration is not used, the SN Status Transfer takes place between the MN and the SN (Figure 10.3.1-1 depicts the case where a bearer context is transferred from the MN to the SN).

NOTE 0: The SN may not be aware that a SN terminated bearer requested to be released is reconfigured to a MN terminated bearer. The SN Status for the released SN terminated bearers with RLC AM may also be transferred to the MN.

9. If applicable, data forwarding between MN and the SN takes place (Figure 10.3.1-1 depicts the case where a bearer context is transferred from the MN to the SN).

10. The SN sends the *Secondary RAT Data Usage Report* message to the MN and includes the data volumes delivered to and received from the UE over the NR radio for the E-RABs to be released and for the E-RABs for which the S1 UL GTP Tunnel endpoint was requested to be modified.

NOTE 1: The order the SN sends the *Secondary RAT Data Usage Report* message and performs data forwarding with MN is not defined. The SN may send the report when the transmission of the related bearer is stopped.

11. If applicable, a path update is performed.

**SN initiated SN Modification with MN involvement**

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**Figure 10.3.1-2: SN Modification procedure - SN initiated with MN involvement**

The SN uses the procedure to perform configuration changes of the SCG within the same SN, e.g. to trigger the release of SCG bearer(s) and the SCG RLC bearer of split bearer(s) (upon which the MN may release the bearer or maintain current bearer type or reconfigure it to an MCG bearer, either MN terminated or SN terminated), and to trigger PSCell change (e.g. when a new security key is required or when the MN needs to perform PDCP data recovery). The MN cannot reject the release request of SCG bearer and the SCG RLC bearer of a split bearer. The SN also uses this procedure to activate or deactivate the SCG. The MN shall either accept modification of all of the requested SCG bearer(s) and the SCG RLC bearer of split bearer(s), or fail the procedure. Figure 10.3.1-2 shows an example signalling flow for an SN initiated SgNB Modification procedure, with MN involvement.

1. The SN sends the *SgNB Modification Required* message including a NR RRC configuration message, which may contain bearer context related, other UE context related information and the new SCG radio resource configuration. The SN may request the SCG to be activated or deactivated. For bearer release or modification, a corresponding E-RAB list is included in the *SgNB Modification Required* message. In case of change of security key, the *PDCP Change* *Indication* indicates that a S-KgNB update is required. In case the MN needs to perform PDCP data recovery, the *PDCP Change* *Indication* indicates that PDCP data recovery is required.

The SN can decide whether the change of security key is required.

NOTE 1a: In case SN includes the indication of full RRC configuration in *SgNB Modification Required* message to MN e.g. comprehension failure upon intra-CU inter-DU change, MN performs release and add of the NR SCG part of the configuration but does not release SN terminated radio bearers towards the UE.

2/3. The MN initiated SN Modification procedure may be triggered by the *SN Modification Required* message (e.g. to provide information such as data forwarding addresses, new SN security key, measurement gap, etc...)

NOTE 2: If only SN security key is provided in step 2, the MN does not need to wait for the reception of step 3 to initiate the RRC connection reconfiguration procedure.

4. The MN sends the *RRCConnectionReconfiguration* message including a NR RRC configuration messageto the UE including the new SCG radio resource configuration.

5. The UE applies the new configuration and sends the *RRCConnectionReconfigurationComplete* message, including an encoded NR RRC response message, if needed. In case the UE is unable to comply with (part of) the configuration included in the *RRCConnectionReconfiguration* message, it performs the reconfiguration failure procedure.

6. Upon successful completion of the reconfiguration, the success of the procedure is indicated in the *SgNB Modification Confirm* message containing the encoded NR RRC response message, if received from the UE.

7. If instructed, the UE performs synchronisation towards the PSCell of the SN as described in SN addition procedure. Otherwise, the UE may perform UL transmission after having applied the new configuration.

8. If PDCP termination point is changed for bearers using RLC AM, and when RRC full configuration is not used, the SN Status Transfer takes place between the MN and the SN (Figure 10.3.1-2 depicts the case where a bearer context is transferred from the SN to the MN).

NOTE 2a: The SN may not be aware that a SN terminated bearer requesting to release is reconfigured to a MN terminated bearer. The SN Status for the released SN terminated bearers with RLC AM may also be transferred to the MN.

9. If applicable, data forwarding between MN and the SN takes place (Figure 10.3.1-2 depicts the case where a bearer context is transferred from the SN to the MN).

10. The SN sends the *Secondary RAT Data Usage Report* message to the MN and includes the data volumes delivered to and received from the UE over the NR radio for the E-RABs to be released.

NOTE 3: The order the SN sends the *Secondary RAT Data Usage Report* message and performs data forwarding with MN is not defined. The SN may send the report when the transmission of the related bearer is stopped.

11. If applicable, a path update is performed.

**SN initiated SN Modification without MN involvement**

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**Figure 10.3.1-3: SN modification - SN initiated without MN involvement**

The SN initiated modification without MN involved procedure is used to modify the configuration within SN in case no coordination with MN is required, including the addition/modification/release of SCG SCell and PSCell change (e.g. when the security key does not need to be changed and the MN does not need to be involved in PDCP recovery). The SN may initiate the procedure to configure or modify CPC configuration within the same SN. Figure 10.3.1-3 shows an example signalling flow for SN initiated SN modification procedure, without MN involvement. The SN can decide whether the Random Access procedure is required.

1. The SN sends the *RRCReconfiguration* message to the UE through SRB3. The UE applies the new configuration. In case the UE is unable to comply with (part of) the configuration included in the *RRCReconfiguration* message, it performs the reconfiguration failure procedure.

2. If instructed, the UE performs synchronisation towards the PSCell of the SN.

3. The UE replies with the *RRCReconfigurationComplete* message.

**SN initiated Conditional SN Modification (CPC) without MN involvement (SRB3 is used)**

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**Figure 10.3.1-3a: SN Modification - SN-initiated without MN involvement and SRB3 is used to configure CPC.**

The SN initiates the procedure when it needs to transfer an NR RRC message to the UE and SRB3 is used to configure CPC.

1. The SN sends the *RRCReconfiguration* message including CPC configuration to the UE through SRB3.

2. The UE applies the new configuration. The UE starts evaluating the CPC execution conditions for the candidate PSCell(s). The UE maintains connection with the source PSCell and replies with the *RRCReconfigurationComplete* message to the SN via SRB3.

3. If at least one CPC candidate PSCell satisfies the corresponding CPC execution condition, the UE detaches from the source PSCell, applies the stored configuration corresponding to the selected candidate PSCell and synchronises to the candidate PSCell.

4. The UE completes the CPC execution procedure by sending an *RRCReconfigurationComplete* message to the new PSCell.

**Transfer of an NR RRC message to/from the UE (when SRB3 is not used)**

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**Figure 10.3.1-4: Transfer of an NR RRC message to/from the UE**

The SN initiates the procedure when it needs to transfer an NR RRC message to the UE and SRB3 is not used.

1. The SN initiates the procedure by sending the *SgNB Modification Required* to the MN.

2. The MN forwards the NR RRC message to the UE in the *RRCConnectionReconfiguration* message.

3. The UE applies the new configuration and replies with the *RRCConnectionReconfigurationComplete* message.

4. The MN forwards the NR RRC response message, if received from the UE, to the SN in the *SgNB Modification Confirm* message.

5. If instructed, the UE performs synchronisation towards the PSCell of the SN as described in SgNB Addition procedure. Otherwise the UE may perform UL transmission after having applied the new configuration.

**SN initiated Conditional SN Modification (CPC) without MN involvement (SRB3 is not used)**

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**Figure 10.3.1-5: SN Modification - SN-initiated without MN involvement and SRB3 is not used to configure CPC**

The SN initiates the procedure when it needs to transfer an NR RRC message to the UE and SRB3 is not used to configure CPC.

1. The SN initiates the procedure by sending the *SgNB Modification Required* to the MN including the SN RRC reconfiguration message with CPC configuration.

2. The MN forwards the SN RRC reconfiguration message to the UE including it in the *RRCConnectionReconfiguration* message.

3. The UE replies with the *RRCConnectionReconfigurationComplete* message by including the SN RRC reconfiguration complete message. The UE maintains connection with source PSCell after receiving CPC configuration, and starts evaluating the CPC execution conditions for the candidate PSCell(s).

4. The MN forwards the SN RRC response message, if received from the UE, to the SN by including it in the *SgNB Modification Confirm* message.

5. If at least one CPC candidate PSCell satisfies the corresponding CPC execution condition, the UE completes the CPC execution procedure by an *ULInformationTransferMRDC* message to the MN which includes an embedded *RRCReconfigurationComplete* message to the selected target PSCell.

6. The *RRCReconfigurationComplete* is forwarded to the SN embedded in RRC Transfer.

7. The UE detaches from the source PSCell, applies the stored corresponding configuration and synchronises to the selected candidate PSCell.

10.3.2 MR-DC with 5GC

The SN Modification procedure may be initiated either by the MN or by the SN and be used to modify the current user plane resource configuration (e.g. related to PDU session, QoS flow or DRB) or to modify other properties of the UE context within the same SN. It may also be used to transfer an RRC message from the SN to the UE via the MN and the response from the UE via MN to the SN (e.g. when SRB3 is not used). In NGEN-DC and NR-DC, the RRC message is an NR message (i.e., *RRCReconfiguration*) whereas in NE-DC it is an E-UTRA message (i.e., *RRCConnectionReconfiguration*). In case of CPC, this procedure is used to configure or modify CPC configuration within the same SN. The CPC configuration cannot be used to configure target PSCell in NE-DC or in NGEN-DC. This procedure may be initiated by the MN or SN to request the SN or MN to activate or deactivate the SCG.

The SN modification procedure does not necessarily need to involve signalling towards the UE.

**MN initiated SN Modification**

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**Figure 10.3.2-1: SN Modification procedure - MN initiated**

The MN uses the procedure to initiate configuration changes of the SCG within the same SN, including addition, modification or release of the user plane resource configuration. The MN uses this procedure to perform handover within the same MN while keeping the SN, when the SN needs to be involved (i.e. in NGEN-DC). The MN also uses the procedure to query the current SCG configuration, e.g. when delta configuration is applied in an MN initiated SN change. The MN also uses the procedure to provide the S-RLF related information to the SN or to provide additional available DRB IDs to be used for SN terminated bearers. The MN also uses this procedure to activate or deactivate the SCG. The MN may not use the procedure to initiate the addition, modification or release of SCG SCells. The SN may reject the request, except if it concerns the release of the user plane resource configuration, or if it is used to perform handover within the same MN while keeping the SN. Figure 10.3.2-1 shows an example signalling flow for an MN initiated SN Modification procedure.

1. The MN sends the *SN Modification Request* message, which may contain user plane resource configuration related or other UE context related information, PDU session level Network Slice info and the requested SCG configuration information, including the UE capabilities coordination result to be used as basis for the reconfiguration by the SN. In case a security key update in the SN is required, a new *SN Security Key* is included. In case the PDCP data recovery in the SN is required, the *PDCP Change* *Indication* is included which indicates that PDCP data recovery is required in SN.

2. The SN responds with the *SN Modification Request Acknowledge* message, which may contain new SCG radio configuration information within an SN RRC reconfiguration message*,* and data forwarding address information (if applicable). If the MN requests the SCG to be activated or deactivated, the SN may indicate whether the SCG is activated or deactivated.

NOTE 1: For MN terminated bearers to be setup for which PDCP duplication with CA is configured in NR SCG side, the MN allocates up to 4 separate Xn-U bearers and the SN provides a logical channel ID for primary or split secondary path to the MN.

 For SN terminated bearers to be setup for which PDCP duplication with CA is configured in NR MCG side, the SN allocates up to 4 separate Xn-U bearers and the MN provides a logical channel ID for primary or split secondary path to the SN via an additional MN-initiated SN modification procedure.

2a. When applicable, the MN provides data forwarding address information to the SN. For SN terminated bearers using MCG resources, the MN provides Xn-U DL TNL address information in the *Xn-U Address Indication* message.

3/4. The MN initiates the RRC reconfiguration procedure, including an *SN RRC reconfiguration* message. The UE applies the new configuration, synchronizes to the MN (if instructed, in case of intra-MN handover) and replies with *MN RRC reconfiguration complete* message,including an SN RRC response message, if needed. In case the UE is unable to comply with (part of) the configuration included in the *MN RRC reconfiguration* message, it performs the reconfiguration failure procedure.

5. Upon successful completion of the reconfiguration, the success of the procedure is indicated in the *SN Reconfiguration Complete* message.

6. If instructed, the UE performs synchronisation towards the PSCell of the SN as described in SN addition procedure. Otherwise, the UE may perform UL transmission after having applied the new configuration.

*Editor’s note: If the SCG was not already activated before the initiation of this SN modification procedure, it is FFS whether the UE performs random access.*

7. If PDCP termination point is changed for bearers using RLC AM, and when RRC full configuration is not used, the SN Status Transfer takes place between the MN and the SN (Figure 10.3.2-1 depicts the case where a bearer context is transferred from the MN to the SN).

8. If applicable, data forwarding between MN and the SN takes place (Figure 10.3.2-1 depicts the case where a user plane resource configuration related context is transferred from the MN to the SN).

9. The SN sends the *Secondary RAT Data Usage Report* message to the MN and includes the data volumes delivered to and received from the UE as described in clause 10.11.2.

NOTE 2: The order the SN sends the *Secondary RAT Data Usage Report* message and performs data forwarding with MN is not defined. The SN may send the report when the transmission of the related QoS flow is stopped.

10. If applicable, a PDU Session path update procedure is performed.

**SN initiated SN Modification with MN involvement**

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**Figure 10.3.2-2: SN Modification procedure - SN initiated with MN involvement**

The SN uses the procedure to perform configuration changes of the SCG within the same SN, e.g. to trigger the modification/release of the user plane resource configuration, to trigger the release of SCG resources (e.g., release SCG lower layer resources but keep SN), and to trigger PSCell changes (e.g. when a new security key is required or when the MN needs to perform PDCP data recovery). The MN cannot reject the release request of PDU session/QoS flows and the release request of SCG resources. The SN also uses the procedure to request the MN to provide more DRB IDs to be used for SN terminated bearers or to return DRB IDs used for SN terminated bearers that are not needed any longer. The SN also uses this procedure to activate or deactivate the SCG. Figure 10.3.2-2 shows an example signalling flow for SN initiated SN Modification procedure.

1. The SN sends the *SN Modification Required* message including an SN RRC reconfiguration message, which may contain user plane resource configuration related context, other UE context related information and the new radio resource configuration of SCG. The SN may request the SCG to be activated or deactivated. In case of change of security key, the *PDCP Change* *Indication* indicates that an SN security key update is required. In case the MN needs to perform PDCP data recovery, the *PDCP Change* *Indication* indicates that PDCP data recovery is required.

 The SN can decide whether the change of security key is required.

2/3. The MN initiated SN Modification procedure may be triggered by *SN Modification Required* message, e.g. when an SN security key change needs to be applied.

NOTE 3: For SN terminated bearers to be setup for which PDCP duplication with CA is configured in NR MCG side, the SN allocates up to 4 separate Xn-U bearers and the MN provides a logical channel ID for primary or split secondary path to the SN via the nested MN-initiated SN modification procedure.

4. The MN sends the *MN RRC reconfiguration* message to the UE including the SN RRC reconfiguration message with the new SCG radio resource configuration.

5. The UE applies the new configuration and sends the *MN RRC reconfiguration complete* message, including an SN RRC response message, if needed. In case the UE is unable to comply with (part of) the configuration included in the *MN RRC reconfiguration* message, it performs the reconfiguration failure procedure.

6. Upon successful completion of the reconfiguration, the success of the procedure is indicated in the *SN Modification Confirm* message including the SN RRC response message, if received from the UE.

7. If instructed, the UE performs synchronisation towards the PSCell configured by the SN as described in SN Addition procedure. Otherwise, the UE may perform UL transmission directly after having applied the new configuration.

8. If PDCP termination point is changed for bearers using RLC AM, and when RRC full configuration is not used, the SN Status Transfer takes place between the MN and the SN (Figure 10.3.2-2 depicts the case where a bearer context is transferred from the SN to the MN).

9. If applicable, data forwarding between MN and the SN takes place (Figure 10.3.2-2 depicts the case where a user plane resource configuration related context is transferred from the SN to the MN).

10. The SN sends the *Secondary RAT Data Usage Report* message to the MN and includes the data volumes delivered to and received from the UE as described in clause 10.11.2.

NOTE 4: The order the SN sends the *Secondary RAT Data Usage Report* message and performs data forwarding with MN is not defined. The SN may send the report when the transmission of the related QoS flow is stopped.

11. If applicable, a PDU Session path update procedure is performed.

**SN initiated SN Modification without MN involvement**

This procedure is not supported for NE-DC.

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**Figure 10.3.2-3: SN Modification – SN initiated without MN involvement**

The SN initiated SN modification procedure without MN involvement is used to modify the configuration within SN in case no coordination with MN is required, including the addition/modification/release of SCG SCell and PSCell change (e.g. when the security key does not need to be changed and the MN does not need to be involved in PDCP recovery). The SN may initiate the procedure to configure or modify CPC configuration within the same SN. Figure 10.3.2-3 shows an example signalling flow for SN initiated SN modification procedure without MN involvement. The SN can decide whether the Random Access procedure is required.

1. The SN sends the *SN RRC reconfiguration* message to the UE through SRB3.

2. The UE applies the new configuration and replies with the *SN RRC reconfiguration complete* message. In case the UE is unable to comply with (part of) the configuration included in the *SN RRC reconfiguration* message, it performs the reconfiguration failure procedure.

3. If instructed, the UE performs synchronisation towards the PSCell of the SN as described in SN Addition procedure. Otherwise the UE may perform UL transmission after having applied the new configuration.

**SN initiated Conditional SN Modification (CPC) without MN involvement (SRB3 is used)**

This procedure is not supported for NE-DC and NGEN-DC.

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**Figure 10.3.2-3a: SN Modification – SN-initiated without MN involvement and SRB3 is used to configure CPC.**

The SN initiates the procedure when it needs to transfer an NR RRC message to the UE and SRB3 is used to configure CPC.

1. The SN sends the *SN RRC reconfiguration* including CPC configuration to the UE through SRB3.

2. The UE applies the new configuration. The UE starts evaluating the CPC execution conditions for the candidate PSCell(s). The UE maintains connection with the source PSCell and replies with the *RRCReconfigurationComplete* message to the SN via SRB3.

3. If at least one CPC candidate PSCell satisfies the corresponding CPC execution condition, the UE detaches from the source PSCell, applies the stored configuration corresponding to the selected candidate PSCell and synchronises to the candidate PSCell.

4. The UE completes the CPC execution procedure by sending an *RRCReconfigurationComplete* message to the new PSCell.

**Transfer of an NR RRC message to/from the UE (when SRB3 is not used)**

This procedure is supported for all the MR-DC options.

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**Figure 10.3.2-4: Transfer of an NR RRC message to/from the UE**

The SN initiates the procedure when it needs to transfer an NR RRC message to the UE and SRB3 is not used.

1. The SN initiates the procedure by sending the *SN Modification Required* to the MN including the SN RRC reconfiguration message.

2. The MN forwards the SN RRC reconfiguration message to the UE including it in the *RRC reconfiguration* message.

3. The UE applies the new configuration and replies with the *RRC reconfiguration complete* message by including the SN RRC reconfiguration complete message.

4. The MN forwards the SN RRC response message, if received from the UE, to the SN by including it in the *SN Modification Confirm* message.

5. If instructed, the UE performs synchronisation towards the PSCell of the SN as described in SN Addition procedure. Otherwise the UE may perform UL transmission after having applied the new configuration.

**SN initiated Conditional SN Modification (CPC) without MN involvement (SRB3 is not used)**

This procedure is not supported for NE-DC and NGEN-DC.

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**Figure 10.3.2-5: SN Modification – SN-initiated without MN involvement and SRB3 is not used to configure CPC**

The SN initiates the procedure when it needs to transfer an NR RRC message to the UE and SRB3 is not used to configure CPC.

1. The SN initiates the procedure by sending the *SN Modification Required* to the MN including the SN RRC reconfiguration message with CPC configuration.

2. The MN forwards the SN RRC reconfiguration message to the UE including it in the *RRCReconfiguration* message.

3. The UE replies with the *RRCReconfigurationComplete* message by including the SN RRC reconfiguration complete message. The UE maintains connection with source PSCell after receiving CPC configuration, and starts evaluating the CPC execution conditions for the candidate PSCell(s).

4. The MN forwards the SN RRC response message, if received from the UE, to the SN by including it in the *SN Modification Confirm* message.

5. If at least one CPC candidate PSCell satisfies the corresponding CPC execution condition, the UE completes the CPC execution procedure by an *ULInformationTransferMRDC* message to the MN which includes an embedded *RRCReconfigurationComplete* message to the selected target PSCell.

6. The *RRCReconfigurationComplete* is forwarded to the SN embedded in RRC Transfer.

7. The UE detaches from the source PSCell, applies the stored corresponding configuration and synchronises to the selected candidate PSCell.