

Interpretation Number: 4-11/03
Topic: Isolation requirements
Relevant Clause: 14.3.1.1
Classification: Substantially identical to existing interpretation

Interpretation Request

A customer has raised a question regarding the 802.3 2002 specification and our modular jack connector which is shielded and has LEDs. Our customer is testing our connector per section '14.3.1.1 Isolation Requirement' and believe that the electrical isolation requirement applies to the following:

- 1.) Signal leads to ground (our shield)
- 2.) LED leads to ground (our shield)
- 3.) LED leads to signal leads

When we designed the modular jack in question, our interpretation of the 802.3 specification was that electrical isolation was required only between signal leads and ground and in no manner does the 802.3 spec dictate electrical isolation between LED/ground nor LED/signal. We would like to know IEEE's interpretation of the electrical isolation requirement in this matter.

Interpretation for IEEE std 802.3-2002

This request is substantially identical to interpretation [3-11/03](#), and the resolution of that interpretation applies in this case.