



# IEEE 802.3 Interpretations Report 10<sup>th</sup> November 2011, Atlanta, GA

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# Agenda

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- Review process
- Review interpretation request status
  - 1-11/11
  - 2-11/11
  - 3-11/11

# Process

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- Present response recommended by the Maintenance Task Force
- Three way vote
  - Approve proposed response
  - Reject proposed response
  - Send proposed response out for WG Ballot
- Note: Motion to do a WG Ballot takes precedent if requested

# Standards Companion Text

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Interpretations are a unique form of commentary on the standard. They are not statements of what the standard should have done or meant to say. Interpretations cannot change the meaning of a standard as it currently stands. Even if the request points out an error in the standard, the interpretation cannot fix that error. The interpretation can suggest that this will be brought up for consideration in a revision or amendment (or, depending on the nature of the error, an errata sheet might be issued).

However, an interpretation has no authority to do any of this. It can only discuss, address, and clarify what the standard currently says. The challenge for the interpreters is to distinguish between their expertise on what "should be," their interests in what they 'would like the standard to be," and what the standard says. Interpretations are often valuable, though, because the request will point out problems that might otherwise have gone unaddressed.

# Standards Companion Guidelines

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- 1) The standard is what it says. If the words are substantively wrong, then a corrective corrigenda via the balloting process is the correct response.
- 2) If the standard is ambiguous, then the interpretation must favor a looser requirement rather than a more restrictive one. Again, a corrective corrigenda can be initiated if needed.
- 3) If two parts of the standard contradict one another, then a rationale should be created and the IEEE errata process should be applied to correct the contradiction.

# Interpretation 1-11/11 TF

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- For both questions 1 and 2
  - The standard is unambiguous.
  - This request is being returned to you because the question asked does not constitute a request for interpretation but instead a request for consultation. Generally, an interpretation request is submitted when the wording of a specific clause or portion of a standard is ambiguous or incomplete. The request should state the two or more possible interpretations or the lack of completeness of the text.
  - The header text on the PICS pro-forma indicates that the implementer claims conformance. The committee does not take positions as to whether a specific implementation is conformant.
- Move to approve the response above to interpretation 1-11/11
- M: V. Maguire      S: R. Grow
- Tech ( $\geq 75\%$ )
- Y: 9                  N: 0                  A:0
- Motion passes

# Interpretation 1-11/11 WG

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- For both questions 1 and 2
  - The standard is unambiguous.
  - This request is being returned to you because the question asked does not constitute a request for interpretation but instead a request for consultation. Generally, an interpretation request is submitted when the wording of a specific clause or portion of a standard is ambiguous or incomplete. The request should state the two or more possible interpretations or the lack of completeness of the text.
  - The header text on the PICS pro-forma indicates that the implementer claims conformance. The committee does not take positions as to whether a specific implementation is conformant.
- Move to approve the response above to interpretation 1-11/11
- M: W. Diab on behalf of the Task Force
- Tech ( $\geq 75\%$ )
- Y: 57      N: 0      A: 6
- Motion passes

# Interpretation 2-11/11 TF

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- For both questions 1 and 2
  - This request is being returned to you because the questions asked do not constitute a request for interpretation but instead a request for consultation. Generally, an interpretation request is submitted when the wording of a specific clause or portion of a standard is ambiguous or incomplete. The request should state the two or more possible interpretations or the lack of completeness of the text.
- For questions 1
  - The standard is unambiguous. Refer to Table 45-2.
- For questions 2
  - The standard is unambiguous. Refer to section 45.2.
- Move to approve the response above to interpretation 2-11/11
- M: V. Maguire      S: G. Thompson
- Tech ( $\geq 75\%$ )
- Y: 6      N: 0      A:3
- Motion passes



# Interpretation 2-11/11 WG

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- For both questions 1 and 2
  - This request is being returned to you because the questions asked do not constitute a request for interpretation but instead a request for consultation. Generally, an interpretation request is submitted when the wording of a specific clause or portion of a standard is ambiguous or incomplete. The request should state the two or more possible interpretations or the lack of completeness of the text.
- For questions 1
  - The standard is unambiguous. Refer to Table 45-2.
- For questions 2
  - The standard is unambiguous. Refer to section 45.2.
- Move to approve the response above to interpretation 2-11/11
- M: W. Diab on behalf of the Task Force
- Tech ( $\geq 75\%$ )
- Y: 62      N: 0                      A: 5
- Motion passes

# Interpretation 3-11/11 TF

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- Response to the question
  - The standard is unambiguous. Section 74.7.4.7 appears in IEEE Std 802.3-2008 which IEEE Std 802.3ba-2010 is part of and amends. The amendment does not stand on its own.
- Move to approve the response above to interpretation 3-11/11
- M: R. Grow    S: G. Thompson
- Tech ( $\geq 75\%$ )
- Y: 9    N: 0    A: 0
- Motion passes

# Interpretation 3-11/11 WG

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- Response to the question
  - The standard is unambiguous. Section 74.7.4.7 appears in IEEE Std 802.3-2008 which IEEE Std 802.3ba-2010 is part of and amends. The amendment does not stand on its own.
- Move to approve the response above to interpretation 3-11/11
- M: W. Diab on behalf of the Task Force
- Tech ( $\geq 75\%$ )
- Y: 65    N: 0    A: 1
- Motion passes

# Interpretations Web Information

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- IEEE 802.3 Maintenance web site:  
<http://www.ieee802.org/3/interp/index.html>
- IEEE Standards Companion text and guidelines on interpretations:  
<http://standards.ieee.org/guides/companion/part2.html#interpret>