



# IEEE 802.3 Interpretations Report 19<sup>th</sup> November 2009, Atlanta, GA

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# 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.

# Interpretations Request 1-11/09

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- 1 new interpretation request received
  - 1-11/09 – Specifications of allowable inter packet gap values in IEEE 802.3
- Review interp-01-11\_09\_draft\_response
- <http://www.ieee802.org/3/interp/interp-1-1109.pdf>

# Interpretation Request (TF)

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- Move
  - Move to accept the response as captured in the document interp-01-11\_09\_draft\_response as the response to the interpretation request 01-1109
  - M: H. Barrass                      S: M. Landry
  - Y: 6    N:0    A:0
  - Motion Passes

# Interpretation Request (TF)

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- Move
  - Move to accept the response as captured in the document interp-01-11\_09\_draft\_response as the response to the interpretation request 01-1109
  - M: H. Barrass                      S: M. Landry
  - Y: 6    N:0    A:0
  - Motion Passes

# Interpretation Request (WG)

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- Move
  - Move to accept the response as captured in the document interp-01-11\_09\_draft\_response\_WG as the response to the interpretation request 01-1109
  - M: W. Diab                      S: J. D'Ambrosia
  - Tech (75%)
  - Y: 48   N:0   A:5
  - 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>