



IEEE 802.3 Interpretations Report 8th November 2010, Dallas, TX

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Interpretations Status

- 1 new interpretation requests received
 - 1-11/10 – PSE Open Circuit Detection Voltage
 - <http://www.ieee802.org/3/interp/interp-1-1110.pdf>
- Received on 16th August 2010
- As announced on the 802.3 main reflector
 - Was discussed at the interim Maintenance TF meeting in Sep to help prepare a response
 - Details of interpretations and responses to be discussed again during the week
 - Summary of discussion presented next

1-11/10: Summary of Sep Discussion

- The current text of the interpretation is written as a request for consultation and not an interpretation request
- As noted in the email to .3, this item will be reported on at the open 802.3 plenary and remains open for WG action
- Mr. Carlson has volunteered to contact the submitter
- Straw Poll
 - Y:8 N:0

Interpretation Deadline

- At the March 2010 WG session, a deadline was adopted for new interpretation requests. Deadline was to allow for processing time and notification of membership
- Deadline has helped in getting the materials out to the members prior to the meeting
- However, deadline does not provide sufficient time for members to make travel plans based on materials
 - Especially important as new requests can be very diverse, requiring expertise that may not be currently attending 802.3 work on a regular basis. E.g. PoE, EPON etc.
- Proposal is to increase deadline from 1 week to 5 weeks to allow for processing time and travel planning

Proposed Deadline Text

The deadline for a request to be considered at the upcoming plenary meeting cycle is ~~one~~ five weeks prior to the IEEE P802.3 opening plenary. This is the date the request is assigned to the IEEE 802.3 Working Group.

Plans for week

- Meet Tuesday afternoon
 - Work handled as part of the Maintenance TF
 - Please note 1:30PM start
 - Review interpretation request and draft response
- Present response to closing .3 Plenary
 - Three way vote
 - Approve proposed response
 - Reject proposed response
 - Send proposed response out for WG Ballot

Interpretations Web Information

- IEEE 802.3 Interpretations 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>

BACKUP

Standards Companion Text

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

- 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.