



## ethernet alliance

---

To: David Law Chair, IEEE 802.3 Ethernet Working Group  
[dlaw@hpe.com](mailto:dlaw@hpe.com)

CC: Paul Nikolich Chair, IEEE 802 LMSC  
[p.nikolich@ieee.org](mailto:p.nikolich@ieee.org)

Adam Healey Vice-chair, IEEE 802.3 Ethernet Working Group  
[adam.healey@broadcom.com](mailto:adam.healey@broadcom.com)

Pete Anslow Secretary, IEEE 802.3 Ethernet Working Group  
[panslow@ciena.com](mailto:panslow@ciena.com)

George Zimmerman Technical Committee Chair, Ethernet Alliance  
[george@cmephyconsulting.com](mailto:george@cmephyconsulting.com)

David Tremblay PoE Subcommittee Chair, Ethernet Alliance  
[david.tremblay@hpe.com](mailto:david.tremblay@hpe.com)

From: John D'Ambrosia Chairman, Ethernet Alliance  
[jdambrosia@ieee.org](mailto:jdambrosia@ieee.org)

Subject Response, Liaison Communication from IEEE 802.3WG, Aug 16, 2016  
Approved Ethernet Alliance Board of Directors, September 2, 2016

Dear Mr. Law,

The Ethernet Alliance would like to thank the IEEE 802.3 Ethernet Working Group for its recent communication, regarding Power Delivery over Communications Cabling. This letter has been posted in the members' area of our website, and has been discussed by our Power Over Ethernet Subcommittee.

The Ethernet Alliance has been monitoring the 2017 National Electrical Code® (NEC) revisions with regards to Power over Ethernet, and would like to update you on our activities in this area.

As part of the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) Standards Development process, the Ethernet Alliance submitted two letters to the NFPA Standards Council.

- The first letter was in support of an appeal filed by Joel Goergen, which advocated several points, including that a Task Group be formed to study power over communications cabling, and that membership on code making panels 3 and 16 include those with Ethernet networking knowledge. In that letter we requested that Mr. Goergen be given a seat on the Task Force.
- In the second letter, the Ethernet Alliance asked for representation on code making panel 16 and nominated Chad Jones (Cisco) to be its Principal member and George Zimmerman (CME Consulting) to be the alternate.

At this time the Standards Council has ordered the formation of a Task Group including those with knowledge and experience in telecommunications and Ethernet communications. However, we have had no direct response to our requests for positions on either the Task Group or the code making panel, as per our two letters.



ethernet alliance

---

Additionally, the Ethernet Alliance has been contemplating the initiation of a certification program for products designed to the existing IEEE 802.3 standards for DTE Power-via-MDI (IEEE Std 802.3-2015 Clause 33). Last month, our members officially approved the formation of a Power-over-Ethernet Logo Certification Program. The details of this program are currently being defined, but some have suggested that it may aid in mitigating some of the issues surrounding the 2017 NEC® requirements, by appropriately labeling equipment, and potentially meeting new requirements for labeling with power, current and voltage levels of certain limited power sources contained in Article 725.121 (c), also new to the 2017 NEC, which some have stated may be applicable to PoE power sourcing equipment (PSEs).

We are also considering the extension of this program to the developing IEEE P802.3bt specification, and respectfully request a copy of the most current draft specification.

Given the Ethernet Alliance's involvement in on-going industry activities, we are sensitive to how other organizations, which may be either individual or entity based, perceive our efforts in relation to their rules. Therefore, we wish to make IEEE 802.3 aware of the following text in our bylaws ([http://www.ethernetalliance.org/wp-content/uploads/2011/10/EA-Bylaws\\_V2-21.pdf](http://www.ethernetalliance.org/wp-content/uploads/2011/10/EA-Bylaws_V2-21.pdf)) -

Section 1.2 Item (e)

*Any Ethernet Alliance position approved by its membership that is related to the development, in another organization, of a standard, specification, implementers agreement, etc. outside of the Ethernet Alliance, shall not be deemed as direction to or an obligation upon any Member company in that entity-based organization, or individual, who is employed by or affiliated with a Member company, in that individual-based organization.*

We appreciate your communications, and look forward to continuing our work together.

Regards,



John D'Ambrosia  
Chairman, Ethernet Alliance