

**INTERPRETATION IC 135-2010-13 OF  
ANSI/ASHRAE STANDARD 135-2010 BACnet® -  
A Data Communication Protocol for Building  
Automation and Control Networks**

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**Request from:** Duffy O'Craven (btl-manager@bacnetinternational.org), Quinda Inc., 41 St. Hilda's Av. Toronto ON M4N 2P5 CANADA

**Reference:** This request for interpretation refers to the requirements presented in ANSI/ASHRAE 135-2010af-31, Clause 12.X, relating to the behavior of the AckRequired Boolean in ConfirmedEventNotification and UnconfirmedEventNotification requests.

**Background:** This interpretation request originated from the BTL-WG.

The standard states no explicit behaviors regarding the AckRequired Boolean field in ConfirmedEventNotification and UnconfirmedEventNotification requests that are engendered by Alert Enrollment objects, though it is stated that "Information alerts" are never in need of/cannot be Acknowledgement.

Standard 135-2010af-31, in Clause 12.X preamble of Alert Enrollment mentions:

..."Information alerts" are interesting notifications that are not related to algorithmic or intrinsic reporting of an object. The Alert Enrollment object allows these alerts to be generated without impacting the Event\_State of the object to which the alerts are Related. Alerts are always distributed using ConfirmedEventNotification or UnconfirmedEventNotification services with 'To State' and 'From State' set to NORMAL and an 'Event Type' of EXTENDED.

Standard 135-2010af-32, in Clause 13.2 preamble, paragraph 5, states:

Alert reporting allows any object to provide event reports that are unrelated to the object's event state and the intrinsic reporting algorithm of the object. Conceptually, when the need for an alert message is identified by an object, the alert is passed to an Alert Enrollment object for distribution. Alerts differ from intrinsic reporting and algorithmic reporting in that there are no standard conditions under which alerts are generated and in that alerts are stateless and cannot be acknowledged.

Standard 135-2010, in Clause 13.8.1.11 and similarly in 13.9.1.11 describes AckRequired in a ConfirmedEventNotification and UnconfirmedEventNotification request, as follows:

This parameter, of type BOOLEAN, shall convey whether this notification requires acknowledgment (TRUE) or not (FALSE). This parameter shall only be present if the 'Notify Type' parameter is EVENT or ALARM.

Standard 135-2010, in Clause 12.21.7 describes the Ack\_Required in Notification Class, as follows:

This property, of type BACnetEventTransitionBits, shall convey three separate flags that represent whether acknowledgment shall be required in notifications generated for TO-OFFNORMAL, TO-FAULT, and TO-NORMAL event transitions, respectively.

From Access Point object, there is language setting a precedent for ignoring the AckRequired property in the associated Notification Class. In Clause 12.31.40 for Access Point object it states:

The Ack\_Required property of the respective Notification Class object is ignored and the value FALSE is conveyed in the AckRequired parameter of the event notification message.

**Interpretation:** When notifications are generated by an Alert Enrollment object, the Ack\_Required property in the associated Notification Class is ignored. The AckRequired Boolean field in ConfirmedEventNotification and UnconfirmedEventNotification requests that are engendered by Alert Enrollment objects is always False.

**Question:** Is this interpretation correct?

**Answer:** Yes