

**INTERPRETATION IC 135-2016-30 OF  
ANSI/ASHRAE STANDARD 135-2016 BACnet® -  
A Data Communication Protocol for Building  
Automation and Control Networks**

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**Request from:** Franz Cuny, 2 rue Christophe Colomb Massy, CS 0851-91300, France.

**Reference:** This request for interpretation refers to the requirements presented in ANSI/ASHRAE Standard 135-2016, Clauses 12.21 and 21, regarding the use of Network Number in the Recipient\_List property of Notification Class objects.

**Background:** A device A subscribes to the event notifications from a device B by adding itself in the Recipient\_List property of Notification Class object(s) of device B. In the Recipient parameter, device A uses a BACnetAddress, which is composed of a Network Number and a MAC Address.

Clause 21. « FORMAL DESCRIPTION OF APPLICATION PROTOCOL DATA UNITS » indicates for the Network Number of BACnetAddress that « A value of 0 indicates the local network ».

**Interpretation No.1:** If devices A and B are on the same BACnet network, device B will send notifications to device A whether the Network Number in the Recipient\_List of device B be 0, or the remote (non 0) Network Number.

**Question No.1:** Is this Interpretation correct?

**Answer No.1:** No. For non-routing nodes, 0 will work in all cases, but non-0 may not reach the local network since it's dependent on specific implementations. For routing nodes in which the Recipient-List resides, there is no guarantee of network homing, the notifications may not reach the 0 network. For these reasons, it's suggested to use device identifier binding which works in all cases.

**Interpretation No.2:** If devices A and B are on different BACnet networks, device B will only send notifications to device A if the Network Number in the Recipient\_List of device B is the remote (non 0) Network Number of device A's network. In particular, device B will not send notifications to device A if the Network Number in its Recipient\_List is 0.

**Question No.2:** Is this Interpretation correct?

**Answer No.2:** No. Device B will send the notification, however if the network number of the recipient-list entry is 0, the notification will not reach device A on the remote network. The notification will be transmitted on the local network to the MAC address specified in the recipient-list entry.