INTERPRETATION IC 135-2020-8 OF
ANSI/ASHRAE STANDARD 135-2020 BACnet® -
A Data Communication Protocol for Building
Automation and Control Networks

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Request from: David Robin, BSC Softworks, 4741 E. Forest Peak, Marietta, GA 30066.

Reference: This request for interpretation refers to the requirements presented in ANSI/ASHRAE Standard 135-2020, Clauses AB.2.3, AB.2.3.1, AB.3.1.4, regarding 'Must Understand'.

Background: Clause AB.3.1.4 clearly states what to do if a "Destination Option" is received with the 'Must Understand' bit set and the device does not understand the option. However, there is no mention of what to do if a "Data Option" is received with the same conditions. Since a "Data Option" accompanies an NPDU, it can be applied to both Network Layer messages and Application Layer messages, making a variety of error responses possible.

Interpretation: Since the standard does not state any required behavior for receiving an unsupported "Data Option" with 'Must Understand' true, the failure behavior of the receiving device is a local matter.

Question: Is this Interpretation correct?

Answer: Yes.