

**INTERPRETATION IC 135-2024-12 OF  
ANSI/ASHRAE STANDARD 135-2024 BACnet® -  
A Data Communication Protocol for Building  
Automation and Control Networks**

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**Reference:** This request for interpretation refers to ANSI/ASHRAE Standard 135-2024 and pertains BACnet/IP messages that contain different source and destination ports.

**Background:**

**J.1.2 Addressing within B/IP Networks**

In the case of B/IP networks, six octets consisting of the four-octet IP address followed by a two-octet UDP port number (both of which shall be transmitted most significant octet first) shall function analogously to the MAC address of the technologies of Clauses 7, 8, 9, and 11 with respect to communication between individual devices and inclusion in the Clause 6 NPCI, where a DADR or SADR is required. This address shall be referred to as a B/IP address. The default UDP port for both directed messages and broadcasts shall be X'BAC0' and all B/IP devices shall support it. In some cases, e.g., a situation where it is desirable for two groups of BACnet devices to coexist independently on the same IP subnet, the UDP port may be configured locally to a different value without it being considered a violation of this protocol. Where the "B/IP broadcast address" is referred to in this Annex, it means an IP address with the subnet of the broadcasting device in the network portion and all 1's in the host portion of the address and the UDP port of the devices on the B/IP network in question. An IP multicast address in conjunction with an appropriate UDP port may be used in lieu of the B/IP broadcast address under the circumstances defined in Clause J.8.

B/IP devices shall support configurable IP addresses and each shall be able to be set to any valid unicast IP address. B/IP devices shall also support a configurable UDP port number and shall support, at a minimum, values in the ranges 47808 - 47823 and 49152 - 65535. For B/IP devices that support multiple B/IP ports, the UDP port number for each B/IP port shall be settable across the above noted valid range.

**Rational:**

BACnet/IP clients use ephemeral ports as it allows multiple clients to connect to a server without conflicts. Ephemeral ports are generally found in the range of 49152 to 65535.

**Problem:**

The standard does not explicitly require BACnet/IP server devices to accept, process and respond to confirmed requests that contain a different source port from the destination port.

**Interpretation:** A BACnet server entity is required to accept, process, and respond to a valid BACnet/IP Confirmed Request that contains a source port different from the destination port. BACnet server devices must be capable of responding to confirmed requests from any valid unicast address, including the source UDP port.

**Question:** Is this Interpretation correct?

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**Answer:** Yes

**Comment:**