INTERPRETATION IC 135.1-2019-1 OF
ANSI/ASHRAE STANDARD 135.1-2019
Method of Test for Conformance to BACnet®

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Request from: Carl Neilson, BACnet International, 61 Seagirt Road, Sooke, BC, V9Z 1A3.

Reference: This request for interpretation refers to the requirements presented in
ANSI/ASHRAE Standard 135.1-2013, Clause 13.5.3, regarding slave proxy functionality.

Background: Slave proxy functionality is defined within 135-2016 in clause 16.10.2 within the
definition of the Who-Is and I-Am services.

While the intent of the functionality appears to be that the proxy answers all Who-Is requests on
behalf of the MS/TP slave, the description of the functionality does not discuss whether, or not,
Who-Is requests which are unicast at the MS/TP slave should be handled by the proxy.

In order for this functionality to work, the proxy would have to inspect all packets destined for
slave, including those originating on the MS/TP network. There is no direct discussion of this
inspection in the standard.

135-2016 discusses slave proxy functionality within the context of the "receiving BACnet-user"
which would seem to predicate the proxy functionality on the proxy device receiving the
messages through the normal methods and would thus not have the proxy answering unicast
Who-Is messages on behalf of the slave device (because messages unicast at the slave device
would not be received by the proxy's BACnet-user).

In 135.1-2019, test 13.5.3 Proxy Text, test steps 3 and 4 specifically expect the proxy device to
be answering unicast messages on behalf of the slave device. In addition, the test expects the
messages to originate from both the MS/TP network and a remote network.

Interpretation: Slave proxy devices are not required to, but are allowed to, answer unicast
messages on behalf of slave devices and as such test steps 3 and 4 of test 13.5.3 are incorrect.

Question: Is this Interpretation correct?

Answer: Yes

Comments: While the standard does not mandate slave proxy behavior with regards to unicast
Who-Is, the committee considers this behavior a best practice. The committee will add a mandate
for this behavior in the future.