

BSR/ASHRAE Addendum *u*
to ANSI/ASHRAE Standard 135-2008

Public Review Draft

ASHRAE® Standard

Proposed Addendum *u* to Standard 135-2008, *BACnet®—A Data Communication Protocol for Building Automation and Control Networks*

First Public Review (**March 2009**)
(Draft Shows Changes to the Current
Standard)

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[This foreword and the “rationales” on the following pages are not part of this standard. They are merely informative and do not contain requirements necessary for conformance to the standard.]

FOREWORD

The purpose of this addendum is to present a proposed change for public review. These modifications are the result of change proposals made pursuant to the ASHRAE continuous maintenance procedures and of deliberations within Standing Standard Project Committee 135. The proposed changes are summarized below.

135-2008*u*-1. Clarify the use of RejectPDUs, p. 2.

135-2008*u*-2. Add error code UNSUPPORTED_OBJECT_TYPE for CreateObject service, p. 3.

135-2008*u*-3 Add new Abort and Error codes, p. 4.

135-2008*u*-4 Specify proper Errors when attempting access to the Log_Buffer property, p. 10.

In the following document, language to be added to existing clauses of ANSI/ASHRAE 135-2008 and Addenda is indicated through the use of *italics*, while deletions are indicated by ~~strikethrough~~. Where entirely new subclauses are proposed to be added, plain type is used throughout. Only this new and deleted text is open to comment as this time. All other material in this addendum is provided for context only and is not open for public review comment except as it relates to the proposed changes.

135-2008u-1. Clarify the use of RejectPDUs.

Rationale
There has been some confusion over the use of RejectPDUs. Some interpreted the standard to mean that a RejectPDU is only issued when a service cannot be executed at all, and as such, a service that is rejected would have no impact on a device (other than possibly logging/statistics). Others interpreted the standard to mean that a RejectPDU could be sent at any point in the execution of a service if a syntax error is encountered. A specific case where this confusion could arise is with a malformed WritePropertyMultiple service request. A device interpreting the standard in the latter way could return a Reject PDU after it had applied some of the write request. WritePropertyMultiple requests, and possibly AtomicWriteFile requests, are the only services where the service may be partially executed such that a partial execution changes the state of the device. For that reason these are the only two services that are impacted by this change proposal.

Addendum 135-2008u-1

[Add to the table in Clause **15.10.1.3.1**, p. 358]

<u>Situation</u>	<u>Error Class</u>	<u>Error Code</u>
<i>A syntax error is encountered in the message after one or more properties have been successfully written.</i>	<i>SERVICES</i>	<i>INVALID_TAG</i>

[Change Clause **20.1.7**, p. 413]

20.1.7 BACnet-Error-PDU

The BACnet-Error-PDU is used to convey the information contained in a service response primitive ('Result(-)') that indicates the reason why a previous confirmed service request failed *either* in its entirety *or only partially*.

...

[Change Clause **20.1.8**, p. 414]

20.1.8 BACnet-Reject-PDU

The BACnet-Reject-PDU is used to reject a received confirmed request PDU based on syntactical flaws or other protocol errors that prevent the PDU from being interpreted or the requested service from being provided. Only confirmed request PDUs may be rejected (see 18.8). *A BACnet-Reject-PDU shall be sent only before the execution of the service, such as during the interval after a syntax check is performed on the request but before the service procedure is executed. Such a syntax check may occur as segments are received and thus may result in a BACnet-Reject-PDU being returned before the complete request has been received.*

[Change Clause **18.6**, p. 393]

18.6 Error Class - SERVICES

This Error Class pertains to problems related to the execution of protocol service requests, whether BACnet-defined or not. ~~Without exception, these errors signal the inability of the responding BACnet user to carry out the desired service in its entirety and are thus "fatal."~~

[Add new Clause **18.6.X**, p. 394]

18.6.X INVALID TAG

This error indicates that a syntax error was encountered in the request. This error is used instead of returning a reject, where the syntax error is encountered after a portion of the service has been executed such as might occur when executing a WritePropertyMultiple request.

135-2008u-2. Add error code UNSUPPORTED_OBJECT_TYPE for CreateObject service.

Rationale
 The CreateObject service error codes do not include the error code UNSUPPORTED_OBJECT. Instead, the table requires returning DYNAMIC_CREATION_NOT_SUPPORTED, which is not as accurate in reporting the error condition.

Addendum 135-2008u-2

[Change Clause 15.3.1.3.1, p. 341]

<u>Situation</u>	<u>Error Class</u>	<u>Error Code</u>
The device cannot allocate the space needed for the new object.	RESOURCES	NO_SPACE_FOR_OBJECT
The device does not support creation of this object for any reason other than space. The device supports the object type and may have sufficient space, but does not support the creation of the object for some other reason.	OBJECT	DYNAMIC_CREATION_NOT_SUPPORTED
<i>The device does not support the specified object type.</i>	OBJECT	UNSUPPORTED_OBJECT_TYPE
The object being created already exists.	OBJECT	OBJECT_IDENTIFIER_ALREADY_EXISTS
A datatype of a property value specified in the List of Initial Values does not match the datatype of the property specified by the Property_Identifier.	PROPERTY	INVALID_DATATYPE
A value used in the List of Initial Values is outside the range of values defined for the property specified by the Property_Identifier.	PROPERTY	VALUE_OUT_OF_RANGE
A Property_Identifier has been specified in the List of Initial Values that is unknown for objects of the type being created.	PROPERTY	UNKNOWN_PROPERTY
A character string value was encountered in the List of Initial Values that is not a supported character set.	PROPERTY	CHARACTER_SET_NOT_SUPPORTED
A property specified by the Property_Identifier in the List of Initial Values does not support initialization during the CreateObject service.	PROPERTY	WRITE_ACCESS_DENIED
The data being written has a datatype not supported by the property.	PROPERTY	DATATYPE_NOT_SUPPORTED

135-2008u-3 Add new Abort and Error codes.

Rationale
There are various reasons for services and messages to return failure indications. The present standard defines a set of ABORT codes and ERROR codes. The problem is that there are many scenarios that have been encountered in practice for which no existing code is suitable, or is at best fairly vague. The existing error enumerations do not address a number of common scenarios, thereby forcing implementers to use vague error returns like Error-Other. The inclusion of additional error enumerations will be extremely helpful in troubleshooting and diagnosing these kinds of errors by adding specificity to error indication.

Addendum 135-2008u-3

[Change Clause 5.4.5.1, p. 32]

...
ConfirmedSegmentedReceived

If a BACnet-Confirmed-Request-PDU whose 'segmented-message' parameter is TRUE and whose 'sequence-number' parameter is zero is received from the network layer and the local device supports the reception of segmented messages,

then compute ActualWindowSize based on the 'proposed-window-size' parameter of the received BACnet-Confirmed-Request-PDU and on local conditions; issue an N-UNITDATA.request with 'data_expecting_reply' = FALSE to transmit a BACnet-SegmentACK-PDU with 'negative-ACK' = FALSE, 'server' = TRUE, and 'actual-window-size' = ActualWindowSize; start SegmentTimer; set LastSequenceNumber to zero; set InitialSequenceNumber to zero; and enter the SEGMENTED_REQUEST state to receive the remaining segments. (The method used to determine ActualWindowSize is a local matter, except that the value shall be less than or equal to the 'proposed-window-size' parameter of the received BACnet-Confirmed-Request-PDU and shall be in the range 1 to 127, inclusive.)

If the 'proposed-window-size' is zero or greater than 127, then issue an N-UNITDATA.request with 'data_expecting_reply' = FALSE to transmit a BACnet-Abort-PDU with 'server' = TRUE and 'abort-reason' = WINDOW_SIZE_OUT_OF_RANGE, and enter the IDLE state

...

[Change Clause 5.4.5.3, p. 35]

...
Timeout

If RequestTimer becomes greater than T_{out} ,

then issue an N-UNITDATA.request with 'data_expecting_reply' = FALSE to transmit a BACnet-Abort-PDU with 'server' = TRUE and 'abort-reason' = APPLICATION_EXCEEDED_REPLY_TIME; send ABORT.indication to the local application program; and enter the IDLE state.

...

[Change Clause 13.8.1.16.1, p. 313]

13.8.1.16.1 Error Type

This parameter shall consist of two component parameters: (1) the 'Error Class' and (2) the 'Error Code'. See Clause 18. *The 'Error Class' and 'Error Code' to be returned for specific situations are as follows:*

<u>Situation</u>	<u>Error Class</u>	<u>Error Code</u>
<i>The Process Identifier is not recognized</i>	SERVICES	NO_PROCESS_WITH_SPECIFIED_ID

[Change Clause 13.13.1.3.1, p.324]

13.13.1.3.1 Error Type

This parameter shall consist of two component parameters: (1) the 'Error Class' and (2) the 'Error Code'. See Clause 18. *The 'Error Class' and 'Error Code' to be returned for specific situations are as follows:*

<u>Situation</u>	<u>Error Class</u>	<u>Error Code</u>
<i>A non-Life Safety Object Identifier was provided</i>	SERVICES	INCONSISTENT_OBJECT_TYPE

[Add entry to table in Clause 14.1.4.1, p.332]

14.1.4.1 Error Type

This parameter consists of two component parameters: (1) the 'Error Class' and (2) the 'Error Code'. See Clause 18. The 'Error Class' and 'Error Code' to be returned for specific situations are as follows:

<u>Situation:</u>	<u>Error Class:</u>	<u>Error Code:</u>
The File object does not exist.	OBJECT	UNKNOWN_OBJECT
'File Start Record' is out of range.	SERVICES	INVALID_FILE_START_POSITION
Incorrect File access method.	SERVICES	INVALID_FILE_ACCESS_METHOD
<i>A non-File Object Identifier was provided.</i>	SERVICES	INCONSISTENT_OBJECT_TYPE

[Change Clause 14.2.4.1, p. 335]

14.2.4.1 Error Type

This parameter consists of two component parameters: (1) the 'Error Class' and (2) the 'Error Code'. See Clause 18. The 'Error Class' and 'Error Code' to be returned for specific situations are as follows:

<u>Situation:</u>	<u>Error Class:</u>	<u>Error Code:</u>
The File object does not exist.	OBJECT	UNKNOWN_OBJECT
'File Start Record' is out of range.	SERVICES	INVALID_FILE_START_POSITION
Incorrect File access method.	SERVICES	INVALID_FILE_ACCESS_METHOD
Write to a read-only File.	SERVICES	FILE_ACCESS_DENIED
<i>The File object is full</i>	OBJECT	FILE_FULL
<i>A non-File Object Identifier was provided</i>	SERVICES	INCONSISTENT_OBJECT_TYPE

[Change Clause 15.8.1.3.1, p. 355]

15.8.1.3.1 Error Type

This parameter consists of two component parameters: (1) the 'Error Class' and (2) the 'Error Code'. See Clause 18. *The 'Error Class' and 'Error Code' to be returned for specific situations are as follows:*

<u>Situation</u>	<u>Error Class</u>	<u>Error Code</u>
<i>Property is not a list or array of lists</i>	SERVICES	PROPERTY_IS_NOT_A_LIST

[Add new error codes to Clause **18.1**, p. 391]

18.1 Error Class - DEVICE

This Error Class pertains to circumstances that affect the functioning of an entire BACnet device. The presence of one of these errors generally indicates that the entire service request has failed.

...

18.1.W **INTERNAL_ERROR** - *There are cases where some internal error is encountered. These are cases that are never expected to occur, but if they do the manufacturer should be contacted.*

18.1.X **NOT_CONFIGURED** - *A device may require configuration, possibly vendor-specific, before it becomes functional. If it is not configured, it can receive BACnet requests but cannot reasonably process them.*

18.1.Y **INCONSISTENT_CONFIGURATION** - *This error code is used when a device is misconfigured and hence cannot process a request.*

[Add new error codes to Clause **18.2**, p. 391]

18.2 Error Class - OBJECT

This Error Class pertains to problems related to identifying, accessing, and manipulating BACnet objects, whether BACnet-defined or not. Since these errors generally apply to individual object characteristics, they do not necessarily signal that an entire service request has failed.

...

18.2.X **FILE_FULL** - *This applies to the case when a File Object becomes filled to a designed limit, as opposed to a No Space Available / Out of Memory situation.*

[Add new error codes to Clause **18.4**, p. 392]

18.4 Error Class - RESOURCES

This Error Class pertains to problems related to the resources of a BACnet device that affect its capacity to carry out protocol service requests.

...

18.4.X **OUT_OF_MEMORY** - *There are many internal operations during the processing of typical messages that may rely on acquiring dynamically allocated space. This would indicate the failure of such an allocation.*

[Add new error codes to Clause **18.6**, p. 393]

18.6 Error Class - SERVICES

This Error Class pertains to problems related to the execution of protocol service requests, whether BACnet-defined or not. Without exception, these errors signal the inability of the responding BACnet-user to carry out the desired service in its entirety and are thus "fatal."

...

18.6.W **NO_PROCESS_WITH_SPECIFIED_ID** - *A device receives a ConfirmedEventNotification request with a Process Identifier that doesn't match any local process in the device.*

.

18.6.X **INCONSISTENT_OBJECT_TYPE** - A device receives a service request for an object whose type is inconsistent with the service requested, or for an object that doesn't support the service. An example is an AtomicReadFile request received for an object that is not a File object.

[Add new error codes to Clause 18.7, p. 394]

18.7 Error Class - COMMUNICATIONS

This Error Class pertains to problems related to network communications. These codes indicate problems reported by a remote device in abort and reject PDUs, or they indicate problems detected internally. These error codes are stored in properties of objects whose operation involves the network communications, such as the Trend Log object's Log_Buffer property. This Error Class shall not be conveyed in error PDUs.

...

18.7.X **ABORT_WINDOW_SIZE_OUT_OF_RANGE** - A device receives a request that is segmented, or receives any segment of a segmented request, where the Proposed Window Size field of the PDU header is either zero or greater than 127.

18.7.Y **ABORT_APPLICATION_EXCEEDED_REPLY_TIME** - A device receives a confirmed request but its application layer has not responded within the published APDU Timeout period.

18.7.Z **ABORT_OUT_OF_RESOURCES** - A device receives a request but cannot start processing because it has run out of some internal resource.

[Add new abort reasons to Clause 18.10, p. 396]

18.10 Abort Reason

...

18.10.X **WINDOW_SIZE_OUT_OF_RANGE** - A device receives a request that is segmented, or receives any segment of a segmented request, where the Proposed Window Size field of the PDU header is either zero or greater than 127.

18.10.Y **APPLICATION_EXCEEDED_REPLY_TIME** - A device receives a confirmed request but its application layer has not responded within the published APDU Timeout period.

18.10.Z **OUT_OF_RESOURCES** - A device receives a request but cannot start processing because it has run out of some internal resource.

[Add new Clause 18.X, p. 397]

18.X Confirmed Service Common Errors

Some errors are generic and can occur when any confirmed service is requested. The 'Error Class' and 'Error Code' to be returned for specific situations are as follows:

<u>Situation</u>	<u>Error Class</u>	<u>Error Code</u>
During the processing of the request, dynamically allocated memory was not available at an intermediate step so the request cannot be completed.	RESOURCES	OUT_OF_MEMORY

<i>An unexpected internal error occurred that cannot be recovered from.</i>	<i>DEVICE</i>	<i>INTERNAL_ERROR</i>
<i>The device is not completely configured and therefore can't fulfill the request.</i>	<i>DEVICE</i>	<i>NOT_CONFIGURED</i>
<i>Some misconfiguration is preventing the request from being fulfilled.</i>	<i>DEVICE</i>	<i>INCONSISTENT_CONFIGURATION</i>

[Add to the **BACnetAbortReason** production in Clause **21**, p. 443]

```

BACnetAbortReason ::= ENUMERATED {
  other (0),
  buffer-overflow (1),
  invalid-apdu-in-this-state (2),
  preempted-by-higher-priority-task (3),
  segmentation-not-supported (4),
  window-size-out-of-range (m),
  application-exceeded-reply-time (m+1),
  out-of-resources (m+2),
  ...
}

```

[Add to the **Error** production in Clause **21**, p. 445]

```

Error ::= SEQUENCE {
  ...
  error-code ENUMERATED {
    other (0),
    abort-application-exceeded-reply-time (n),
    abort-buffer-overflow (51),
    abort-invalid-apdu-in-this-state (52),
    abort-out-of-resources (n+1),
    abort-preempted-by-higher-priority-task (53),
    abort-segmentation-not-supported (54),
    abort-proprietary (55),
    abort-other (56),
    abort-window-size-out-of-range (n+2),
    authentication-failed (1),
    ...
    file-access-denied (5),
    file-full (n+3),
    incompatible-security-levels (6),
    inconsistent-configuration (n+4),
    inconsistent-object-type (n+5),
    inconsistent-parameters (7),
    inconsistent-property-use (n+6),
    inconsistent-selection-criterion (8),
    internal-error (n+7),
    invalid-array-index (42),
    ...
    no-objects-of-specified-type (17),
    no-process-with-specified-id (n+8),
    no-property-specified (77),
  }
}

```

no-space-for-object	(18),
no-space-to-add-list-element	(19),
no-space-to-write-property	(20),
<i>not-configured</i>	(<i>n+9</i>)
not-configured-for-triggered-logging	(78),
object-deletion-not-permitted	(23),
object-identifier-already-exists	(24),
operational-problem	(25),
optional-functionality-not-supported	(45),
<i>out-of-memory</i>	(<i>n+10</i>)
password-failure	(26),
...	
<i>--see abort-application-exceeded-reply-time</i>	(<i>n</i>),
<i>--see abort-out-of-resources</i>	(<i>n+1</i>),
<i>--see abort-window-size-out-of-range</i>	(<i>n+2</i>),
<i>--see file-full</i>	(<i>n+3</i>)
<i>--see inconsistent-configuration</i>	(<i>n+4</i>)
<i>--see inconsistent-object-type</i>	(<i>n+5</i>)
<i>--see inconsistent-property-use</i>	(<i>n+6</i>)
<i>--see internal-error</i>	(<i>n+7</i>)
<i>--see no-process-with-specified-id</i>	(<i>n+8</i>)
<i>--see not-configured</i>	(<i>n+9</i>)
<i>--see out-of-memory</i>	(<i>n+10</i>)

135-2008u-4. Specify proper errors when attempting access to the Log_Buffer property.

Rationale

The standard states that the Log_Buffer may only be read with the ReadRange service. However, in some other services, proper error reporting is not specified.

Addendum 135-2008u-4

[Change Clause **15.6.1.1.2**, ReadPropertyConditional service, p. 345]

15.6.1.1.2 List of Property References

This optional parameter, if present, shall be a list of one or more BACnetPropertyReferences, each of which corresponds directly to a specific property of any object selected on the basis of the 'Object Selection Criteria'. Specifying the property ALL indicates that all properties of any selected object shall be returned, including any proprietary properties. Specifying the property REQUIRED means that ~~only~~ all those properties having a conformance code of "R" or "W" shall be returned. Specifying the property identifier OPTIONAL means that only those properties that have a conformance code of "O" shall be returned. See the specification for the particular object type in Clause 12. *If the property identifier ALL, REQUIRED, or OPTIONAL is specified and any of the selected properties is not readable by this service, then an Error for that property shall be returned in the List of Read Access Results, as specified by Clause 15.6.1.2.1.* If this parameter is absent, no properties shall be returned in the 'List of Read Access Results' portion of the 'Result(+)' primitive; however, the object identifier shall be returned in the 'Object Identifier' parameter.

[Change Clause **15.7.3.2.1**, ReadPropertyMultiple service, p. 314]

15.7.3.2.1 List of Property References

This parameter shall be a list of one or more BACnetPropertyReferences, each of which corresponds directly to a specific property of the object identified above. The property identifier ALL means that all defined properties of the object are to be accessed, including any proprietary properties. The property identifier REQUIRED means that only those properties having a conformance code of "R" or "W" shall be returned. The property identifier OPTIONAL means that only those properties that have a conformance code "O" shall be returned. See the specification for the particular object type in Clause 12. *If the property identifier ALL, REQUIRED, or OPTIONAL is specified and any of the selected properties is not readable by this service, then a Property Access Error for that property shall be returned in the List of Read Access Results, as specified by Clause 15.7.3.2.*