INTERPRETATION IC 135-2004-9 OF
ANSI/ASHRAE STANDARD 135-2004 BACnet® -
A Data Communication Protocol for Building
Automation and Control Networks

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Reference: This request for interpretation refers to the requirements presented in ANSI/ASHRAE Standard 135-2004, Sections 12.1-12.4, 12.6-12.8, 12.15-12.20, 12.23, 12.25, and the corresponding tables in these sections, relating to intrinsic reporting.

Background: The BACnet Standard uses at numerous places the expression "object". For non-native English speakers it is not obvious whether the term identifies an object instance or an object type. This distinction is important in the mentioned sections (and crresponding table footnotes), where the standard reads "These properties are required if the object supports intrinsic reporting." If the term identifies an object instance, a device may contain objects of the same type with and without intrinsic reporting support..

Interpretation: The expression "object" identifies an object instance throughtout the standard. A BACnet device may contain objects of the same type with and without support of intrinsic reporting.

Question: Is this interpretation correct?

Answer: Yes

Comments: Throughout the standard, "object type" is used to refer to the data structures and their characteristics defined in Clause 12 while the term "object" by itself has been consistently used to refer to an instance of a particular object type. It is also intended that specific instances of a particular object type may implement whichever optional properties are appropriate to the application of that object instance so that, for example, not all object instances in a given device are required to support intrinsic reporting although some instances optionally may.