

**INTERPRETATION IC 135-2008-14 OF  
ANSI/ASHRAE STANDARD 135-2008 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 Addendum g to ANSI/ASHRAE Standard 135-2008, Clause 24.2.11 (page 13), relating to Authentication Data length encoding.

**Background:** Clause 24.2.11 states "If the Authentication Mechanism has a value of 1 through 199, then the next 2 octets of this field shall be an unsigned integer (most significant octet first) indicating the length, in octets, of the entire field."

The precise meaning of "the entire field" is a little unclear.

**Interpretation:** The length of the entire field includes everything from the first byte of the User Id through the last byte of the authentication data.

**Question:** Is this interpretation correct?

**Answer:** Yes.