INTERPRETATION IC 135-2008-16 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 24.16.2 and Tables 24-8, 24-18, 24-22 and 24-24
(pages 47, 19, 22-23, 26-27, 28-29), relating to order of error checking in key messages.

Background: Clause 24.16.2 says that general security layer errors are to be checked in the
table-specified order, and that they are to be checked before any authorization errors.

According to Table 24-8, destinationDeviceIdRequired, encryptionRequired, and
sourceSecurityRequired are authorization errors.

In the Request-Key-Update error table (Table 24-18), destinationDeviceIdRequired and
encryptionRequired appear between the two general security errors badTimeStamp and
notKeyServer.

In the Update-Key-Set error table (Table 24-22), all three authorization errors appear between
the two general security errors badTimeStamp and keyUpdateInProgress.

In the Update-Distribution-Key error table (Table 24-24), all three authorization errors appear
between the two general security errors badTimeStamp and cannotUseKey.

Interpretation: The destinationDeviceIdRequired, encryptionRequired, and
sourceSecurityRequired are to be considered general security errors when processing Request-
Key-Update, Update-Key-Set, and Update-Distribution-Key requests. These errors may NOT be
checked after all the other general network errors.

Question: Is this interpretation correct?

Answer: Yes.