

Note: an Interpretation cannot be used to change a standard.

Request for an Interpretation of a Reliability Standard	
Date submitted:	March 9, 2009
Contact information for person requesting the interpretation:	
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Identify the standard that needs clarification:	
Standard Number (include version number):	CIP-007-1
Standard Title:	Systems Security Management
Identify specifically what needs clarification (If a category is not applicable, please leave it blank):	
<p>Requirement Number and Text of Requirement: R2 - The Responsible Entity shall establish and document a process to ensure that only those ports and services required for normal and emergency operations are enabled.</p> <p>Clarification needed: Does the term "port" mean a physical (hardware) or a logical (software) connection to a computer?</p>	
Identify the material impact associated with this interpretation:	
<p>The de facto view of the term "port" as used within the standard and within the FAQ has led most organizations to reach the conclusion that "port" is a logical (software) connection to a computer in accordance with most of the application, network and security lexica. For example see the IANA port list at http://www.iana.org/assignments/port-numbers. As such, most organizations have implemented their CIP compliance programs accordingly. If, on the other hand, the view should have been that the term "port" is meant to indicate a physical (hardware) connection to a computer, there may be a very significant effort by many organizations to manually review all physical (hardware). This effort may not be achievable by the respective deadlines within the CIP Implementation Plan resulting in a potential state of noncompliance for a significant segment of the industry, most notably Table 1 and 2 entities who arguably have the largest number, diversity and geographic range of Critical Cyber Assets.</p>	

Project 2009-16: Response to Request for an Interpretation of CIP-007-1 Requirement R2 for the Western Electricity Coordinating Council (WECC)

The following interpretation of CIP-007-1 — Cyber Security — Systems Security Management was developed by the Cyber Security Order 706 SAR drafting team.

Requirement Number and Text of Requirement

R2. The Responsible Entity shall establish and document a process to ensure that only those ports and services required for normal and emergency operations are enabled.

Question

Does the term "port" mean a physical (hardware) or a logical (software) connection to a computer?

Response

The drafting team interprets the term "ports" used as part of the phrase "ports and services" to refer to logical ports, e.g., Transmission Control Protocol (TCP) ports, where interface with communication services occurs.