

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>	