

Project 2007-02: Operating Personnel Communications Response to Webinar Questions

The Project 2007-02: Operating Personnel Communications Standard Drafting Team is able to provide the following responses to certain questions received during the recent webinar on COM-002-4. The following questions were received during the recent webinar on COM-002-4, along with responses. If your question is not listed below, a response could not be provided to the question during the open ballot period. The SDT encourages you to submit your question/comment in the formal process for response.

Q. The receivers of communications from BA/RC/TOPs must decide on their own whether the instructions constitute commands for a BES element to have its state/status modified or maintained (an Operating Instruction) or are merely part of a, ?discussion of general information and of potential options? (not an Operating Instruction). This constant need for real-time interpretation creates opportunity for error, particularly since discussions may often wander between Operating Instruction and non-Operating Instruction status as issues are evaluated and courses of action agreed-to. Has the SDT considered requiring that all Operating Instructions be identified as such by the issuer, the same as is done for Reliability Directives?

A. If the communication meets the definition of an Operating Instruction, they must repeat back. The issuer must also ensure that this occurs.

Q. Is the standard requiring Voice Recordings for all applicable entities?

A. No. Voice recordings are one type of evidence mentioned in the Measures.

Q. How soon will the RSAW be sent out?

A. It is currently posted on the project page with the standard.

Q. It appears that an Operating Instruction could be given to someone not falling under the applicable entities within this standard (switchman, electrician ?). In this case would the issuer still be required to ensure that 3-way communication is used within the protocol of R1?

A. The standard applies to communication within and among the functional entities listed in the standard.

Q. How does the proposed COM-002 recognize IRO and TOP standards that allow an entity to respond to a directive by indicating an inability to comply for safety, equipment, statutory, or regulatory reasons?

A. The standard applies to the protocols for Operating Instructions, not the execution of the Operating Instruction.

Q. Will the term "directive" be changed to "Reliability Directive" within the other Standards which use the term upon approval? Recommend that the Implementation Plan and Mapping Document be updated to reflect this.

A. The term "directive" is in the following standards:
COM-002-2 (eliminated in BOT approved COM-002-3)
IRO-001-1.1 (eliminated in BOT approved IRO-001-3)
IRO-004-2 (deals with non Real-time communication, so not an Operating Instruction)
TOP-001-1a (eliminated in BOT approved TOP-001-2)

Q. Regarding R1, what is meant by "interface" element/facility?

A. See Rational and Technical Justification on project page

Q. If a GOP performs the instruction correctly, but fails to repeat back, why is it penalized the same as not following the instruction correctly?

A. The standard applies to the protocols for Operating Instructions, not the execution of the Operating Instruction.

Q. The GOP in R2, is this at the operating company level of development or will this require the protocols to be written at a plant level?

A. The standard applies to communication within and among the functional entities listed in the standard.