

Interpretation Number: 3-11/03
Topic: Isolation requirements
Relevant Clause: 14.3.1.1
Classification: Beyond the scope of the Standard

Interpretation Request

I would like to request an interpretation for IEEE802.3 2002 specs (clause 14.3.1.1 Isolation Requirement) which should be the same as IEEE802.3 1998 or 2000.

This clause says: "The MAU shall provide isolation between the DTE physical layer circuits including frame ground and all MDI leads including those not used by 10Base-T. This electrical separation shall withstand at least one of the following electrical strength tests"

Now, we use gang RJ45 connectors in our designs which have integrated LEDs for status indication. Those LEDs are driven by the DTE physical layer circuit.

Our interpretation to the above clause is that those LED leads on the the RJ45 connector need to be isolated from MDI leads by 2250Vdc or 1.5KVrm or the pulse test. So, we basically believe that LED leads are part of DTE physical layer circuit. However, when we talk to the vendor they think that they only need to isolate MDI leads from the frame ground and isolation of LED leads to MDI leads is not a requirement by the standard.

If we follow this clause further, we find that it directs to IEC60950 and therefore we think LED leads and MDI leads should have a minimum clearance of 60mil per Annex G of IEC60950.

Interpretation for IEEE std 802.3-2002

The implementation of the 'visible indicator' recommended in subclause 14.2.1.7 'Link Integrity Test function requirements' is beyond the scope of the Standard. This request is therefore being returned to you because it does not constitute a request for interpretation but rather a request for consultation advice.