



**BSR/ASHRAE Addendum cs to  
ANSI/ASHRAE Standard 135-2020**

**Public Review Draft**

# **Proposed Addendum cs to Standard 135-2020, BACnet<sup>®</sup> - A Data Communication Protocol for Building Automation and Control Networks**

**First Public Review (January 2024)  
(Draft shows Proposed Changes to Current Standard)**

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**[This foreword, the table of contents, the introduction, and the “rationales” on the following pages are not part of this standard. They are merely informative and do not contain requirements necessary for conformance to the standard.]**

## FOREWORD

The purpose of this addendum is to present a proposed change for public review. These modifications are the result of change proposals made pursuant to the ASHRAE continuous maintenance procedures and of deliberations within Standing Standard Project Committee 135. The proposed changes are summarized below.

### **135-2020cs-1 Certificate Authority Requirements Interchange File Format, p. 3**

In the following document, language to be added to existing clauses of ANSI/ASHRAE 135-2020 is indicated through the use of *italics*, while deletions are indicated by ~~striketrough~~. Where entirely new subclauses are proposed to be added, plain type is used throughout. Only this new and deleted text is open to comment at this time. All other material in this document is provided for context only and is not open for public review comment except as it relates to the proposed changes.

The use of placeholders like XX, YY, ZZ, X1, X2, NN, x, n, ? etc., should not be interpreted as literal values of the final published version. These placeholders will be assigned actual numbers/letters only after final publication approval of the addendum.

## 135-2020cs-1 Certificate Authority Requirements Interchange File Format

### Rationale

With the addition of the BACnet/SC data link, an interoperable, out-of-band method to exchange Certificate Signing Request (CSR) files and the resulting Operational and Issuer certificate files between a device, or its proxy, and a Certificate Authority are required. This proposal provides a simple structured file format to exchange these files using the ZIP file format to compress the folders and files into a request and response file.

[Add new **Annex XX**, p. ???]

## ANNEX XX CERTIFICATE AUTHORITY REQUIREMENTS INTERCHANGE FILE FORMAT (NORMATIVE)

This annex describes an interoperable file format that allows one or more devices to package their Certificate Signing Request (CSR) files into a single file. This file is processed by the site Certificate Authority (CA) and, if successful, the CA appends each device's Issuer and Operational certificate files to the received file. This annex does not specify the delivery mechanism to exchange these files.

### XX.1 File Format

The file format is a strict structure of folders and files that provides the information and context necessary to allow the site CA to process CSR files and generate operational and issuer certificates for devices specified in the file. This folder and file structure is compressed using the ZIP file format into a single file.

The content of the request file format for the CA is specified in XX.2.1 and response content from the CA is specified in XX.2.2.

The file format shall contain only folders and files specified in Clauses XX.2.1 and XX.2.2. All text files shall be UTF-8 encoded.

#### XX.1.1 Request File Format

```
cert1/  
  vendor-data  
  request-notes.txt  
  device-<instance>/  
    port-<id>/  
      csr-<string>.pem  
  device-<instance>/  
    port-<id>/  
      hub/  
        csr-<string>.pem  
  device-<instance>/  
    router/  
      port-<id>/  
        csr-<string>.pem  
      port-<id>/  
        hub/  
          csr-<string>.pem
```

**Figure XX-1 Example Request File Format**

Figure XX-1 provides the request file hierarchy of folders and files destined for the CA.

The required root folder of the request file shall be 'cert1' and contains all the folders and files required for the CA to generate device certificates.

The optional file named 'vendor-data' contains vendor specific data. The content of this file is a local matter but shall be limited to 1 megabyte.

The optional file named 'request-notes.txt' is a free form human readable text file. The content of this file is a local matter but shall be limited to 10 kilobytes. This file can be used to document any aspect of the request phase of the exchange. The file could be used to provide comments for the approver.

Each request file shall contain one or more device folders with the name of the device folder made up of 'device-' concatenated with the device's object instance.

If a device routes between BACnet/SC networks, it shall contain an empty sub-folder named 'router'. See Clause 6.6.

Each device folder shall contain one or more port folders. The name of each port folder shall be 'port-<id>/' where <id> is a vendor specific value and shall be unique for each port folder. <id> shall be any printable character except for '<' (less than), '>' (greater than), ':' (colon), '"' (double quote), '/' (forward slash), '\' (backslash), '|' (vertical bar or pipe), '?' (question mark), and '\*' (asterisk).

Each port folder shall contain a file named 'csr-<string>.pem' where 'string' shall be any printable string that contains any characters except for '<' (less than), '>' (greater than), ':' (colon), '"' (double quote), '/' (forward slash), '\' (backslash), '|' (vertical bar or pipe), '?' (question mark), and '\*' (asterisk). This file is the PKCS#10 Certificate Signing Request file for this port. The port folder can optionally contain a key-<string>.pem file that is the private key corresponding to the CSR file. This file is ignored by the server but will be preserved in the response file.

If a port represents a hub function, the port folder shall contain an empty folder named 'hub'. See Clause AB.1.2.

### XX.1.2 Response File Format

```
cert1/  
  vendor-data  
  request-notes.txt  
  response-notes.txt  
  errors.txt  
  device-<instance>/  
    port-<id>/  
      csr-<string>.pem  
      opr-<string>.pem  
    device-<instance>/  
      port-<id>/  
        hub/  
        csr-<string>.pem  
        opr-<string>.pem  
    device-<instance>/  
      router/  
      port-<id>/  
        csr-<string>.pem  
        opr-<string>.pem  
      port-<id>/  
        hub/  
        csr-<string>.pem  
        opr-<string>.pem  
  issuer/  
    iss-1.pem  
    iss-2.pem
```

Figure XX-2 Example Response File Format

Figure XX-2 provides the response file hierarchy of folders and files.

The response file format shall contain all files and folders included in the request file and the files and folders specified in this clause. If any of the files specified below exist in the request file, they will be overwritten or deleted in the response file.

The optional file named 'response-notes.txt' is a free form human readable text file. The content of this file is a local matter and shall be limited to 10 kilobytes. This file could indicate why a certificate request was denied.

The conditional 'errors.txt' file contains a single text line for every error that is encountered during the processing of the CSR files. If errors are encountered, the 'errors.txt' shall be present, otherwise it shall be absent.

If the operational certificate file exists for the corresponding CSR file, the port folder shall contain the operational certificate file. The operational certificate file shall be in PEM format and named 'opr-*<string>*.pem' where 'string' matches the 'string' in the name of 'csr-*<string>*.pem'. This file is destined for the file referenced by the Operational\_Certificate\_File property of the Network Port object for the port. See Clause 12.56.Y24 of Addendum cc of 135-2020 and Clause AB.7.4.1.1.

If the operational certificate file does not exist for the corresponding CSR file, the errors.txt file shall contain an error that is a tab separated string with 'device-*<instance>*', 'port-*<id>*', and an optional human readable description of the error.

Each response file shall contain a subfolder of 'cert1' named 'issuer'. This folder shall contain at least one and no more than two issuer certificate files. These certificate files are destined for the files referenced by the Issuer\_Certificate\_Files property of the Network Port objects. See Clause 12.56.Y25 of Addendum cc of 135-2020. These files shall be named 'iss-1.pem' and 'iss-2.pem'.

Add a new entry to **History of Revisions**, p. 1429]

**(This History of Revisions is not part of this standard. It is merely informative and does not contain requirements necessary for conformance to the standard.)**

#### **HISTORY OF REVISIONS**

...	...	...
1	X	<b>Addendum cs to ANSI/ASHRAE Standard 135-2020</b> Approved by ASHRAE on MONTH DAY, 20XX; and by the American National Standards Institute on MONTH DAY, 20XX.  1. <b>Certificate Authority Requirements Interchange File Format</b>