

IEEE Standards Interpretation for IEEE Std 1003.1™-1990 IEEE Standard for Information Technology--Portable Operating System Interfaces (POSIX®)

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Interpretation Request #57

Topic: ENAMETOOLONG **Relevant Sections:** 2.4

Can a pathname be shortened by normal pathname resolution prior to checking for ENAMETOOLONG?

X/Open proposes that it does not. It is our opinion that POSIX.1-1990 requires the ENAMETOOLONG error when the length of a pathname argument exceeds {PATH_MAX}. It says nothing about the length "after pathname resolution", but refers explicitly to the contents of the argument. (X/OPEN)

Interpretation Response

No.

Rationale for Interpretation

The [ENAMETOOLONG] error condition refers to pathname arguments supplied to the implementation, not to any pathnames that might be internally generated by the implementation.