

**Interpretation Number:** 4-11/02 (Link Aggregation Control Protocol)  
**Topic:** Link Aggregation Control Protocol  
**Relevant Clause:** 43  
**Classification:** Unambiguous

### **Interpretation Request**

My request for interpretation pertains to Clause 43 (Link Aggregation) of IEEE 802.3-2002, more specifically to the PICS of the aforementioned section. After having read Clause 43 and its PICS, a doubt subsists in my mind as to whether a vendor **MUST** implement LACP in order to claim conformance with Clause 43 of IEEE 802.3-2002. For instance, if only "manual" aggregation is implemented as suggested in 43.2.1 paragraph e on page 285 of Section 3, can the vendor still claim conformance? The PICS seem to leave no room for not checking LACP as a requirement.

I would appreciate your authoritative answer on the subject.

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### **Interpretation for IEEE std 802.3-2002**

The standard states in subclause 43.4.8 'Variables used for managing the operation of the state machines' in the definition for the 'LACP\_Enabled' that 'This variable indicates that the port is operating the LACP. If the port is operating in half duplex, the value of LACP\_Enabled shall be FALSE. Otherwise, the value of LACP\_Enabled shall be TRUE.' As can be seen, when the port is operating in full duplex it is required to be operating LACP.

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