

## **IEEE Standards Interpretation for IEEE Std 450™-2002 IEEE Recommended Practice for Maintenance, Testing, and Replacement of Vented Lead-Acid Batteries for Stationary Applications**

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### **Interpretation Request #1**

IEEE 450-2002 subsection 2 makes a statement that when used the following standards “shall” also be used in conjunction IEEE 485™-1997; IEEE 484™-1996.

Since one (IEEE 484-2002, subsection 2) of the above referenced standards now states that the superseded approved revisions of the conjunctive standards apply, does this mean that only prior revisions to those noted not be used but subsequent revisions are allowed to be referenced at the user’s discretion? Or does the term “shall” imply that only the revision listed can be used?

### **Interpretation Response**

The IEEE Standards Companion states:

‘Interpretations are a unique form of commentary on the standard. They are not statements of what the standard should have done or meant to say. Interpretations cannot change the meaning of a standard as it currently stands. Even if the request points out an error in the standard, the interpretation cannot fix that error.’

Based on the rules for interpretations the following response is provided:

IEEE Std. 450-2002 states that it shall be used in conjunction with specific revisions of IEEE Standards 484 and 485 (1996 and 1997, respectively) and does not allow for flexibility in adopting newer revisions of those documents. This issue will be raised with the working group for the next revision of this standard, and wording will be considered relating to the adoption of newer revisions of referenced documents as is allowed by the IEEE Standards Writing/Style Guide.