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

Interpretation Request #35
Topic: PATH_MAX **Relevant Sections:** 2.4 **Classification:** No Change required.

PATH_MAX appears to limit the length of a pathname as it is passed on a call to a function. There does not appear to be a defined Error Number in section 2.4 to address the situation when the pathname is less than or equal to PATH_MAX, but when combined with the current working directory exceeds the limit of the conforming implementation. It would appear such a definition should be added to ENAMETOOLONG.

Interpretation Response
No, the interpretations committee disagrees.

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.