

IEEE Standards Interpretation for IEEE Std 1003.2™-1992 IEEE Standard for Information Technology--Portable Operating System Interfaces (POSIX®)--Part 2: Shell and Utilities

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Interpretation Request #100

Topic: make **Relevant Clauses:** 6.2.7.2

The description on POSIX.2 P671, L361-363: When an escaped <newline> (one preceded by a backslash) is found anywhere in the makefile, it shall be replaced, along with any leading white space on the following line, with a single <space>. should not apply to command lines in makefiles.

It seems that historic practice is something more like: When an escaped <newline> (one preceded by a backslash) is found anywhere in the makefile except in a command line, it shall be replaced, along with any leading white space on the following line, with a single <space>.

When an escaped <newline> is found in a command line in a makefile, the command line passed to the command interpreter (see below) shall contain the backslash, the <newline>, and the next line, except the first character of the next line will not be given to the command interpreter if it is a <tab>. Note that the behavior of \<newline> on command lines depends on quoting. Quoting is handled by the shell, not by make. Was this change intentional?

Interpretation Response #100

The standard states the behavior for escaped <newline>, and conforming implementations must conform to this. However, concerns have been raised about this which are being referred to the sponsor.

Rationale for Interpretation

None.