

## Clarification Request

**References:** “e.g” BTL Test Plan, section 9.9.2 135.1-2025-12.5.1.1.19

**Date of BTL-WG Response:** May 28, 2026

**Background:** “e.g” 135.1-2025-12.5.1.1.19, 135-2024 Clause AB.6.3

### 12.5.1.1.19 Node Heartbeat-Request Execution Test

Purpose: To verify that a node device accepts and responds to Heartbeat-Requests.

Test Concept: With the TD operating as a hub, the IUT connects to the TD. The TD sends a Heartbeat-Request to the IUT. Verify the IUT responds with a Heartbeat-ACK.

Configuration Requirements: The IUT is configured as a node and connected to the TD.

Test Steps:

1. MAKE(the TD generate a Heartbeat-Request)
2. RECEIVE PORT (TD-IUT hub WebSocket),  
Heartbeat-ACK,  
'Message ID' = M1: any valid value),  
-- 'Originating Virtual Address' absent  
-- 'Destination Virtual Address' absent  
'Destination Options' = (absent or a valid list of options),  
-- 'Data Options' absent

### AB.6.3 Connection Keep-Alive

**Initiating peers** shall keep established BACnet/SC connections alive through periodic initiation of Heartbeat-Request messages to the accepting peer.

An initiating peer shall send a Heartbeat-Request message to the accepting peer if the initiating peer has not received a BVLC message over the connection within the heartbeat timeout.

On receipt of Heartbeat-Request, the accepting peer shall respond with a Heartbeat-ACK message to the initiating peer.

As of Protocol\_Revision 24, the heartbeat timeout shall be configurable and if a Heartbeat-ACK message is not received from the accepting peer, the initiating peer shall initiate the ‘Local disconnection’ procedure. See Clause AB.6.2.2.

If the heartbeat timeout is configurable, it shall support a minimum range of 3..300 seconds. A fixed heartbeat timeout shall have a value in the range 30..300 seconds.

The connections may be kept alive for as long as the WebSocket connection maximum lifetime allows. Note that the determination of the maximum lifetime is a local matter. See Clause AB.7.5.4.

### Problem:

Test 12.5.1.1.19 (must be executed for PR24 and above) places a requirement for an initiating node to execute a Heartbeat-Request message, however, this requirement has no basis in the standard. As noted in Clause AB.6.3, the burden of maintaining a connection (to the hub or

otherwise), lies on the "initiating peer". In a hub connection, the node is always, by definition, the initiating peer, and therefore, is only required to initiate a heartbeat-request, not execute it.

**Question:**

**Can this test be skipped if the IUT does not execute a Heartbeat-Request when configured as an initiating peer?**

**Response:**

**No**