



C03002

REQUEST FOR CLARIFICATION OR INTERPRETATION

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Requester Name: **Kate Fiedler / Jim Buccigross**

Company: **Group 8760**

Phone, Fax, E-mail: **Phone: (205) 802-7569**
Fax: (205) 802-7669
kate@8760.com
jhb@8760.com

NAESB Standard Number: **EDM Implementation Manual**

Clarification or interpretation request:

The question is whether basic authentication can be applied separately to HEAD and POST requests on a web server implementation, or whether consistent authentication should be applied.

Possible interpretations or clarifications, if known:

It is common practice to require authentication on a web server. There are also many valid cases when a user would chose not to require authentication. However, it is clear that the NAESB EDM standards require authentication. The question is how authentication should be handled when HEAD requests are used. (The use of HEAD requests is the subject of a separate request for clarification; the instant request for clarification assumes that the suggested interpretation for that request is approved by the Interpretations Subcommittee.)



We believe that, when a HEAD request is used, the authentication required should match that required for the POST. Although some web servers do allow separate authentication for HEAD and POST, this is an extremely unusual practice. It unnecessarily complicates the authentication process. Furthermore, the specific vendor's practice of not requiring authentication on a HEAD request is not NAESB compliant as NAESB clearly requires the use of basic authentication.¹

¹ For various and valid reasons the vendor is not named herein. However, it should be noted that the vendor is *not* GISB/NAESB certified for the version in question.