IEEE P802.11  
Wireless LANs

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| Liaison from Wi-Fi Alliance re: assigned reserved values | | | | |
| Date: 2019-02-19 | | | | |
| Author(s): | | | | |
| Name | Affiliation | Address | Phone | email |
| Dorothy Stanley | Hewlett Packard Enterprise | 3333 Scott Blvd. Santa Clara, CA 95054 | +1 630 363 1389 | [dstanley@ieee.org](mailto:dstanley@ieee.org) |
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Abstract

This document contains a liaison statement received from Wi-Fi Alliance in response to the IEEE 802.11 WG liaison document on reserved value usage, see <https://mentor.ieee.org/802.11/dcn/19/11-19-0185-01-000m-proposed-ls-to-wfa-on-reserved-usage.docx> .

The received liaison is embedded below and reproduced on the following pages.





10900-B Stonelake Boulevard, Suite 126 **∙** Austin, Texas 78759 U.S.A.

Phone: +1-512-498-9434 (WIFI) **∙** Fax: +1-512-498-9435 www.wi-fi.org

# Liaison response from Wi-Fi Alliance re: IEEE 802.11 Standard Reserved values

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| --- | --- |
| **FROM:** | Edgar Figueroa, President and Chief Executive Officer, Wi-Fi Alliance, efigueroa@wi-fi.org |
| **TO:** | Dorothy Stanley, IEEE 802.11 Working Group Chair, dstanley@ieee.org |
| **CC:** | Konstantinos Karachalios, IEEE-SA Standards Board, Secretary, IEEE-SA Board of Governors, sasecretary@ieee.org |
|  | Paul Nikolich, IEEE 802 Chair, p.nikolich@ieee.org |
|  | Jon Rosdahl, Vice-Chair, IEEE 802.11 WLAN Working Group, jrosdahl@ieee.org |
|  | Robert Stacey, Vice-Chair, IEEE 802.11 WLAN Working Group, robert.stacey@intel.com |
| **SUBJECT:** | Usage of IEEE 802.11 Reserved fields and values in Wi-Fi Alliance specifications |
| **DATE:** | February 15, 2019 |

Dear Dorothy,

Thank you for the liaison communication dated January 28, 2019 regarding IEEE 802.11 Reserved fields and values in Wi-Fi Alliance specifications generally, and in particular specifications developed by Wi-Fi Alliance that define the usage of fields and/or values that are marked as “Reserved” in IEEE Std 802.11™-2016 and its approved amendments.

We recognize this topic is one of mutual interest and we appreciate IEEE communicating with us on this matter to avoid potential interoperability issues in Wi-Fi products. We therefore agree that we should take measures to avoid this interoperability risk. Furthermore, Wi-Fi Alliance should proactively inform and request from IEEE number allocations when necessary before we finalize and publish specifications that use such fields from IEEE standards. Thank you for alerting us specifically about bits B14 and B15 in the FILS Discovery frame.

Here is our action plan—please let us know if this is sufficient to address the concerns:

1. We ask that IEEE 802.11 WG please allocate reserved fields B14 and B15 in the FILS Discovery frame for Wi-Fi Alliance, usage of which is defined by Optimized Connectivity specification as you have revealed
2. Resulting from your liaison, we are currently taking inventory of our specifications to identify if there are any other instances that were overlooked where we may again need an assignment from IEEE for reserved fields. We will follow up with another communication to you informing you if we found any other instances. We expect this survey of our documents to complete no later than May 31, 2019

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1. Because of this episode, we are working on updating our document procedures so that there can be more safeguards to improve our confidence that such oversights will not happen in future work. We expect such procedures to be in place by May 31, 2019

Wi-Fi Alliance values our relationship with IEEE 802.11. Thank you again for informing us about this and helping us maintain good document alignment between our two organizations. We remain open to any other suggestions you may have. We hope to hear confirmation regarding allocation of B14 and B15. We will follow up with you in writing again regarding items 2 and 3 above.

Sincerely,



Edgar Figueroa

President and CEO

**References:**

<https://mentor.ieee.org/802.11/dcn/19/11-19-0185-01-000m-proposed-ls-to-wfa-on-reserved-usage.docx>