SLOVENSKI STANDARD
oSIST prEN ISO 16484-5:2026

01-junij-2026

Sistemi za avtomatizacijo in regulacijo stavb - 5. del: Protokol za izmenjavo podatkov (ISO/DIS 16484-5:2026)

Building automation and control systems (BACS) - Part 5: Data communication protocol (ISO/DIS 16484-5:2026)

Systeme der Gebäudeautomation - Teil 5: Datenkommunikationsprotokoll (ISO/DIS 16484-5:2026)

Systèmes de contrôle et d'automatisation des bâtiments (BACS) - Partie 5: Protocole de communication de données (ISO/DIS 16484-5:2026)

Ta slovenski standard je istoveten z: **prEN ISO 16484-5**

ICS:

35.240.67	Uporabniške rešitve IT v gradbeništvu	IT applications in building and construction industry
97.120	Avtomatske krmilne naprave za dom	Automatic controls for household use

oSIST prEN ISO 16484-5:2026 **en,fr,de**

FINAL DRAFT
International Standard

ISO/FDIS 16484-5

Building automation and control systems (BACS) —

Part 5: Data communication protocol

Systèmes de contrôle et d'automatisation des bâtiments (BACS) —

Partie 5: Protocole de communication de données

ISO/TC **205**

Secretariat: **ANSI**

Voting begins on:
2026-04-02

Voting terminates on:
2026-06-25

This document is circulated as received from the committee secretariat.

FAST TRACK PROCEDURE

ISO/CEN PARALLEL PROCESSING

Reference number
ISO/FDIS 16484-5:2026(en)

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Published in Switzerland

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Foreword

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This document was prepared by Technical Committee ISO/TC 205, *Building environmental design*, in collaboration with the European Committee for Standardization (CEN) Technical Committee CEN/TC 247, *Building Automation, Controls and Building Management*, in accordance with the Agreement on technical cooperation between ISO and CEN (Vienna Agreement) and with the American Society of Heating, Refrigerating and Air-Conditioning Engineers, Inc. (ASHRAE).

This eighth edition cancels and replaces the seventh edition (ISO 16484-5:2022), which has been technically revised.

The main changes are as follows:

— see the detailed list of changes on pages 1506 to 1527.

A list of all parts in the ISO 16484 series can be found on the ISO website.

Any feedback or questions on this document should be directed to the user's national standards body. A complete listing of these bodies can be found at www.iso.org/members.html.

FOREWORD

BACnet, the ASHRAE building automation and control networking protocol, has been designed specifically to meet the communication needs of building automation and control systems for applications such as heating, ventilating, and air-conditioning control, lighting control, access control, and fire detection systems. The BACnet protocol provides mechanisms by which computerized equipment of arbitrary function may exchange information, regardless of the particular building service it performs. As a result, the BACnet protocol may be used by head-end computers, general-purpose direct digital controllers, and application specific or unitary controllers with equal effect.

The motivation for this Standard was the widespread desire of building owners and operators for "interoperability," the ability to integrate equipment from different vendors into a coherent automation and control system - and to do so competitively. To accomplish this, the Standard Project Committee (SPC) solicited and received input from dozens of interested firms and individuals; reviewed all relevant national and international data communications standards, whether de facto or the result of committee activity; and spent countless hours in debate and discussion of the pros and cons of each element of the protocol.

What has emerged from the committee deliberations is a network protocol model with these principal characteristics:

(a) All network devices (except MS/TP subordinates) are peers, but certain peers may have greater privileges and responsibilities than others.

(b) Each network device is modeled as a collection of network-accessible, named entities called "objects." Each object is characterized by a set of attributes or "properties." While this Standard prescribes the most widely applicable object types and their properties, implementors are free to create additional object types if desired. Because the object model can be easily extended, it provides a way for BACnet to evolve in a backward compatible manner as the technology and building needs change.

(c) Communication is accomplished by reading and writing the properties of particular objects and by the mutually acceptable execution of other protocol "services." While this Standard prescribes a comprehensive set of services, mechanisms are also provided for implementors to create additional services if desired.

(d) Because of this Standard's adherence to the ISO concept of a "layered" communication architecture, the same messages may be exchanged using various network access methods and physical media. This means that BACnet networks may be configured to meet a range of speed and throughput requirements with commensurately varying cost. Multiple BACnet networks can be interconnected within the same system forming an internetwork of arbitrarily large size. This flexibility also provides a way for BACnet to embrace new networking technologies as they are developed.

BACnet was designed to gracefully improve and evolve as both computer technology and demands of building automation systems change. Upon its original publication in 1995, a Standing Standards Project Committee was formed to deliberate enhancements to the protocol under ASHRAE rules for "continuous maintenance." Much has happened since the BACnet standard was first promulgated. BACnet has been translated into Chinese, Japanese, and Korean, and embraced across the globe. BACnet devices have been designed, built and deployed on all seven continents. Suggestions for enhancements and improvements have been continually received, deliberated, and, ultimately, subjected to the same consensus process that produced the original standard. This publication is the result of those deliberations and brings together all of the corrections, refinements, and improvements that have been adopted.

Among the features that have been added to BACnet are: increased capabilities to interconnect systems across wide area networks using Internet Protocols, new objects and services to support fire detection, other life safety applications, lighting, physical access control, and elevator monitoring, capabilities to backup and restore devices, standard ways to collect trend data, new tools to make specifying BACnet systems easier, a mechanism for making interoperable extensions to the standard visible, and many others. The successful addition of these features demonstrates that the concept of a protocol deliberately crafted to permit extension of its capabilities over time as technology and needs change is viable and sound.

The latest update to this standard includes many new capabilities and several clarifications. These new capabilities include a BACnet/SC Certificate Authority Requirements Interchange File Format, support for BACnet/SC configuration including certificate management, Device Proxying, Authentication and Authorization, new Color Object concepts and modernization of language used for defining to MS/TP.

All communication protocols are, in the end, a collection of arbitrary solutions to the problems of information exchange and all are subject to change as time and technology advance. BACnet is no exception. Still, it is the hope of those who have contributed their time, energies, and talents to this work that BACnet will help to fulfill, in the area of building automation and control, th^e promise of the information age for the public good!