



C03001

REQUEST FOR CLARIFICATION OR INTERPRETATION

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NAESB Standard Number: **EDM Implementation Manual**

Clarification or interpretation request:

The question is whether individual implementations are free to use the http HEAD command, prior to using the POST command to deliver the NAESB payload.

When implementing a NAESB EDM solution, the standard clearly relies on the http protocol spec for details of how to implement the protocol. It is also clear that the http POST command should be used, and not the GET command.

Possible interpretations or clarifications, if known:

It is our belief that the standard was designed to allow individual implementations some flexibility in implementation, as long as the NAESB and HTTP standards are followed. Any web server, following the http protocol, should be able to handle HEAD requests properly. Some developers believe that it increases efficiency to use HEAD requests to establish authentication credentials prior to using POST to send the entire payload.



Although the example provided in the NAESB EDM Implementation Manual (Sending Transactions, General Flow) does not specifically show the use of a HEAD request, there is no discussion in the standard to explicitly exclude the use of HEAD requests, provided

the requests follow the http standard referred to in the NAESB manual. Step 2 of the General Flow example is “Check Connection Status”, which could include the use of HEAD requests to establish valid authentication credentials. We believe that, whether an individual solution chooses to send HEAD requests should be left up to the developer of that solution. In order to allow this flexibility, all NAESB EDM solutions should be capable of processing HEAD requests, as allowed by http. This is standard practice for all webservers.