19 January 2017

Administrative Notice

Subject: HART Specification 500 Electronic Device Description Language

1.   Situation
Offline Root Menu and Maintenance Root Menu are mandatory according to HART EDDL specification HCF 500, published January 2011.

Offline Root Menu and Maintenance Root menu have been required for HART EDD registration at FieldComm Group since October 2014.

FieldComm Group has not explicitly notified members on enforcement of Offline and Maintenance Root Menus through EDD registration.

2.   Practical Experience
FieldComm Group observed that device vendors have developed products without adding Offline and Maintenance Root Menus. Vendors did not know they were required for registration and in other cases Offline and Maintenance Root Menus were implemented inconsistently (e. g. they provided empty menus to get the DD tokenized). Lastly host vendors have implemented Offline and Maintenance Root Menus differently causing interoperability issues.

3.   Action taken
In accordance with Working Group Policy PD10013, FieldComm Group has taken the following actions
-    Maintenance Root Menu and Offline Root Menu are changed from "mandatory" to "optional" in Device Description Language Specification HCF 500, Annex B, Table 33.
-    FieldComm Group suspends the enforcement of Offline and Maintenance Root Menu for EDD registration.

4.   FDI Device Package Registration
-    The above information does not impact FDI Package registration.
-    Offline and Maintenance Root Menus will stay mandatory for FDI Packages.

5.   Expiration date
This administrative notice expires 12 months after the publication date.