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# IEEE Standard for Low-Rate Wireless Networks

## Amendment 3: Advanced Encryption Standard (AES)-256 Encryption and Security Extensions

IEEE Computer Society

Developed by the
LAN/MAN Standards Committee

**IEEE Std 802.15.4y™-2021**
(Amendment to IEEE Std 802.15.4™-2020
as amended by IEEE Std 802.15.4z™-2020
and IEEE Std 802.15.4w™-2020)

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# Amendment 3: Advanced Encryption Standard (AES)-256 Encryption and Security Extensions

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Approved 9 May 2021

**IEEE SA Standards Board**

**Abstract:** This amendment defines security extensions to IEEE Std 802.15.4 adding AES-256-CCM plus a cipher suite/authentication method registry and a process for inclusion of additional algorithms. The registry defines a capability to align IEEE Std 802.15.4 with the security requirements of higher layer standards.

**Keywords:** AEAD, AES-128, AES-128-CCM, AES-256, AES-256-CCM, algorithm agility, authentication, ciphers, encryption, IEEE 802.15.4™, low data rate, low power, security, wireless personal area network, WPAN

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## Introduction

This introduction is not part of IEEE Std 802.15.4y-2021, IEEE Standard for Low-Rate Wireless Networks—Amendment 3: Advanced Encryption Standard (AES)-256 Encryption and Security Extensions.

This amendment defines security extensions to IEEE Std 802.15.4 to add at a minimum AES-256-CCM as well as define possible methods of adding future encryption modes and key lengths (algorithm agility) as part of this amendment. The current IEEE 802.15.4 standard supports either AES-128-CCM or no security.

This amendment does not have any bits on the air changes to the current standard IEEE Std 802.15.4-2020 (i.e., all old implementations of the standard will see frames just like any frames where they do not have an appropriate security key). All tools that monitor, record, or replay IEEE 802.15.4 traffic will work with this amendment without any changes.

## Contents

# IEEE Standard for Low-Rate Wireless Networks

# Amendment 3: Advanced Encryption Standard (AES)-256 Encryption and Security Extensions

NOTE—The editing instructions contained in this **amendment** define how to merge the material contained therein into the existing base standard and its amendments to form the comprehensive standard.

The editing instructions are shown in ***bold italic***. Four editing instructions are used: change, delete, insert, and replace. ***Change*** is used to make corrections in existing text or tables. The editing instruction specifies the location of the change and describes what is being changed by using ~~strikethrough~~ (to remove old material) and underscore (to add new material). ***Delete*** removes existing material. ***Insert*** adds new material without disturbing the existing material. Insertions may require renumbering. If so, renumbering instructions are given in the editing instruction. ***Replace*** is used to make changes in figures or equations by removing the existing figure or equation and replacing it with a new one. Editing instructions, change markings, and this NOTE will not be carried over into future editions because the changes will be incorporated into the base standard.

## 3. Definitions, acronyms, and abbreviations

### 3.2 Acronyms and abbreviations

***Insert the following acronym in alphabetical order:***

| | |
|---|---|
| IANA | Internet Assigned Numbers Authority |

## 8. MAC services

### 8.2 MAC management service

#### 8.2.2 Common requirements for MLME primitives

***Insert the following new generic security errors alphabetically in the list that follows paragraph three:***

— KEY_LENGTH_MISMATCH: Returned when the *secKey* within the *secKeyDescriptor* has a length that is inconsistent with the *secAeadAlgorithm.*