

# IPv6 Node Requirements and Flow Label RFC



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Should Node Requirements BIS be  
updated to include new Flow Label  
Specification

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# Background

- Flow Label Specification RFCs Published
  - RFC6437, RFC6436, RFC6438
- Node Requirements BIS document is currently in RFC Editor state AUTH48
  - Currently on hold until this issue is resolved
- Working group last call on issue started on 10 November 2011

# Proposed Change



- All nodes SHOULD support RFC 6437, “IPv6 Flow Label Specification”, defines the IPv6 Flow Label. Specifically:
  - Forwarding nodes such as routers and load distributors MUST NOT depend only on Flow Label values being uniformly distributed.
  - It is therefore RECOMMENDED that source hosts support the flow label by setting the flow label field for all packets of a given flow to the same value chosen from an approximation to a discrete uniform distribution.

# Revised Proposed Text



- Brian Haberman proposed new text be added to section 5.1:

All nodes **SHOULD** support the setting and use of the IPv6 Flow Label field as defined in the IPv6 Flow Label specification [RFC6437]. Forwarding nodes such as routers and load distributors **MUST NOT** depend only on Flow Label values being uniformly distributed. It is **RECOMMENDED** that source hosts support the flow label by setting the Flow Label field for all packets of a given flow to the same value chosen from an approximation to a discrete uniform distribution.



# Question for Working Group

- Support for updating Node Requirements BIS to include new Flow Label Specification text and reference?
- Comments?