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EVSE Standards

The use of open technical standards is essential in the implementation of EV charging programs utilizing taxpayer or ratepayer funds in order to minimize the risk of stranded assets, lower costs, and increase functionality and performance. The CEC has taken steps in this direction, but Siemens respectfully suggests further clarification and specificity in addressing communications standards for EV chargers.

CALeVIP's requirements currently state, "Use an open standard protocol as a basic framework for purposes of network interoperability."

This language is imprecise and open to interpretation and allows the continued use of proprietary technologies to create vendor lock-in for the combination of chargers and network services. The "open standard protocol" can be, and for some vendors is, from cloud to cloud, which does not solve the vendor lock-in problem. This lack of precision in the requirement renders this "requirement" ineffective in achieving the goals of open standards.

To achieve those goals, chargers from one vendor need to be able to communicate with networks from other vendors. Using an open standard communication protocol (e.g., OCPP) between the charger and the cloud is the major part of this, but the vendor(s) need to commit to cooperating to enable the integration as well.

Our recommended requirement would be: "Use an open standard protocol for communicating between the charger and the cloud, including a commitment by the vendor of the charger to cooperate with other vendors providing network services to use such protocol to integrate the vendor's chargers. E.g., Charger Vendor A must cooperate with Services Vendor B to integrate the chargers with the services, and vice versa."

Siemens appreciates the opportunity to comment.