

4.2.2.4 Length of Length

Bits 6-7 of the Packet Header shall contain the Length of Length.

The Length of Length shall be used to specify the length of the Packet Length field.

The values of this field shall be interpreted as shown in table 4-1.

Table 4-1: Interpretation of Length of Length Field

Value of 'Length of Length' Field (binary)	Length of 'Packet Length' Field
00	0
01	1 octet
10	2 octets
11	4 octets

The value '00' of the Length of Length field shall only be used for Encapsulation Packets with Protocol ID '000' (i.e., Fill Packets).

NOTE – When the value of the Length of Length field is '00', there is no Packet Length field in the Packet Header, and there is no Encapsulated Data Unit field in the Encapsulated Packet. Therefore the length of the Encapsulated Packet is one octet. ~~This one octet Encapsulation Packet can thus also be used as a single, self-identified octet of fill which may be cascaded to provide any number of octets to fill a fixed-length Transfer Frame used in references [1] and [2].~~ One of the services that the Encapsulation Packet provides is to supply a fill packet when required. Because of the Encapsulation Service's unique ability to supply a packet that is but a single byte long, this service can provide a fill packet of but a single byte or any size fill packet up to the maximum size dictated by the packet length field.

4.2.2.5 User Defined Field

If present, the User Defined field shall be four bits in length and shall follow, without gap, the Length of Length field.

The User Defined field shall be used for sending mission-specific, privately defined header data.

4.2.2.6 Protocol ID Extension

If present, the Protocol ID Extension field shall be four bits in length and shall follow, without gap, the User Defined Field.