SFF Committee documentation may be purchased in electronic form.
SFF specifications are available at ftp://ftp.seagate.com/sff

SFF Committee

SFF-8448 Specification for

SAS Sideband Signal Assignments

Rev 0.5 September 2, 2005

Secretariat: SFF Committee

Abstract: This specification defines the signal assignments for known Vendor Specific sidebands thata are defined in SAS (Serial Attached SCSI).

This specification provides a common reference for systems manufacturers, system integrators, and suppliers of magnetic disk drives. This is an internal working specification of the SFF Committee, an industry ad hoc group.

This specification is made available for public review, and written comments are solicited from readers. Comments received by the members will be considered for inclusion in future revisions of this specification.

Support: This specification is supported by the identified member companies of the SFF Committee.

POINTS OF CONTACT:

Steve Livaccari
IBM
3039 Cornwallis Rd
RTP
NC 27709

919-543-7393
livaccar@us.ibm.com

I D Allan
Chairman SFF Committee
14426 Black Walnut Ct
Saratoga
CA 95070

408-867-6630
endlcom@acm.org

EXPRESSION OF SUPPORT BY MANUFACTURERS

The following member companies of the SFF Committee voted in favor of this industry specification.

Dell
EMC
ENDL
FCI
Hewlett Packard
Hitachi Cable
LSI Logic
Molex
Seagate

The following member companies of the SFF Committee voted to abstain on this industry specification.

Amphenol
Comax
Foxconn
Fujitsu CPA
Hitachi GST
Intel
Tyco AMP
Unisys
Vitesse Semi

If you are not a member of the SFF Committee, but you are interested in participating, the following principles have been reprinted here for your information.

PRINCIPLES OF THE SFF COMMITTEE

The SFF Committee is an ad hoc group formed to address storage industry needs in a prompt manner. When formed in 1990, the original goals were limited to defining de facto mechanical envelopes within which disk drives can be developed to fit compact computer and other small products.

Adopting a common industry size simplifies the integration of small drives (2 1/2" or less) into such systems. Board-board connectors carrying power and signals, and their position relative to the envelope are critical parameters in a product that has no cables to provide packaging leeway for the integrator.

In November 1992, the SFF Committee objectives were broadened to encompass other areas which needed similar attention, such as pinouts for interface applications, and form factor issues on larger disk drives. SFF is a forum for resolving industry issues that are either not addressed by the standards process or need an immediate solution.

Specifications created by the SFF Committee are expected to be submitted to bodies such as EIA (Electronic Industries Association) or an ASC (Accredited Standards Committee). They may be accepted for separate standards, or incorporated into other standards activities.

The principles of operation for the SFF Committee are not unlike those of an accredited standards committee. There are 3 levels of participation:

- Attending the meetings is open to all, but taking part in discussions is limited to member companies, or those invited by member companies
- The minutes and copies of material which are discussed during meetings are distributed only to those who sign up to receive documentation.
- The individuals who represent member companies of the SFF Committee receive documentation and vote on issues that arise. Votes are not taken during meetings, only guidance on directions. All voting is by letter ballot, which ensures all members an equal opportunity to be heard.

Material presented at SFF Committee meetings becomes public domain. There are no restrictions on the open mailing of material presented at committee meetings. In order to reduce disagreements and misunderstandings, copies must be provided for all agenda items that are discussed. Copies of the material presented, or revisions if completed in time, are included in the documentation mailings.

The sites for SFF Committee meetings rotate based on which member companies volunteer to host the meetings. Meetings have typically been held during the ASC T10 weeks.

The funds received from the annual membership fees are placed in escrow, and are used to reimburse ENDL for the services to manage the SFF Committee.

If you are not receiving the documentation of SFF Committee activities or are interested in becoming a member, the following signup information is reprinted here for your information.

Membership includes voting privileges on SFF Specs under development.

CD_Access Electronic documentation contains:
- Minutes for the year-to-date plus all of last year
- Email traffic for the year-to-date plus all of last year
- The current revision of all the SFF Specifications, as well as any previous revisions distributed during the current year.

Meeting documentation contains:
- Minutes for the current meeting cycle.
- Copies of Specifications revised during the current meeting cycle.

Each electronic mailing obsoletes the previous mailing of that year e.g. July replaces May. To build a complete set of archives of all SFF documentation, retain the last SFF CD_Access mailing of each year.

Name: _____ Title: _____

Company: _____

Address: _____

_____

Phone: _____ Fax: _____

Email: _____

Please register me with the SFF Committee for one year.

___ Voting Membership w/Electronic documentation $ 2,160

___ Voting Membership w/Meeting documentation $ 1,800

___ Non-voting Observer w/Electronic documentation $ 660 U.S.
$ 760 Overseas

___ Non-voting Observer w/Meeting documentation $ 300 U.S.
$ 400 Overseas

Check Payable to SFF Committee for $_____ is Enclosed

Please invoice me for $_____ on PO #: _____

MC/Visa/AmX_____ Expires_____

SFF Committee
14426 Black Walnut Ct
Saratoga CA 95070

408-867-6630
408-867-2115Fx
endlcom@acm.org

Foreword

When 2 1/2" diameter disk drives were introduced, there was no commonality on external dimensions e.g. physical size, mounting locations, connector type, connector location, between vendors.

The first use of these disk drives was in specific applications such as laptop portable computers in which space was at a premium and time to market with the latest machine was an important factor. System integrators worked individually with vendors to develop the packaging. The result was wide diversity, and with space being such a major consideration in packaging, it was not possible to replace one vendor's drive with a competitive product.

The desire to reduce disk drive sizes to even smaller dimensions such as 1.8" and 1.3" made it likely that devices would become even more constrained in dimensions because of a possibility that such small devices could be inserted into a socket, not unlike the method of retaining semiconductor devices.

The problems faced by integrators, device suppliers, and component suppliers led to the formation of an industry ad hoc group to address the marketing and engineering considerations of the emerging new technology in disk drives. After two informal gatherings on the subject in the summer of 1990, the SFF Committee held its first meeting in August.

During the development of the form factor definitions, other activities were suggested because participants in the SFF Committee faced problems other than the physical form factors of disk drives. In November 1992, the members approved an expansion in charter to address any issues of general interest and concern to the storage industry. The SFF Committee became a forum for resolving industry issues that are either not addressed by the standards process or need an immediate solution.

At the same time, the principle was adopted of restricting the scope of an SFF project to a narrow area, so that the majority of specifications would be small and the projects could be completed in a rapid timeframe. If proposals are made by a number of contributors, the participating members select the best concepts and uses them to develop specifications which address specific issues in emerging storage markets.

Those companies which have agreed to support a specification are identified in the first pages of each SFF Specification. Industry consensus is not an essential requirement to publish an SFF Specification because it is recognized that in an emerging product area, there is room for more than one approach. By making the documentation on competing proposals available, an integrator can examine the alternatives available and select the product that is felt to be most suitable.

Suggestions for improvement of this specification will be welcome. They should be sent to the SFF Committee, 14426 Black Walnut Ct, Saratoga, CA 95070.

The development work on this specification was done by the SFF Committee, an industry group. The membership of the committee since its formation in 1990 has included a mix of companies which are leaders across the industry.

SFF Committee --

SAS Sideband Signal Assignments

1. Scope

This specification defines the signal assignments which permit known Vendor Specific definitions of sideband usage in SAS to coexist.

The SFF Committee was formed in August, 1990 to broaden the applications for storage devices, and is an ad hoc industry group of companies representing system integrators, peripheral suppliers, and component suppliers.

1.1 Description of Clauses

Clause 1 contains the Scope and Purpose.
Clause 2 contains Referenced and Related Standards and SFF Specifications.
Clause 3 contains the General Description.
Clause 4 contains the Definitions and Conventions
Clause 5 contains the Sideband Assignments

2. References

The SFF Committee activities support the requirements of the storage industry, and it is involved with several standards.

2.1 Industry Documents

The following interface standards are relevant to this specification.

- T10/1601-D Serial Attached SCSI - 1.1 (SAS-1.1)
- SFF-8485 Serial GPIO (General Purpose Input/Output) Bus

2.2 SFF Specifications

There are several projects active within the SFF Committee. At the date of printing specification numbers had been assigned to the following projects. The status of Specifications is dependent on committee activities.

F = Forwarded	The specification has been approved by the members for forwarding to a formal standards body.
P = Published	The specification has been balloted by members and is available as a published SFF Specification.
A = Approved	The specification has been approved by ballot of the members and is in preparation as an SFF Specification.
C = Canceled	The project was canceled, and no Specification was Published.
D = Development	The specification is under development at SFF.
E = Expired	The specification has been published and the members voted against re-publishing when it came up for annual review.
a = archive	Used as a suffix to indicate an SFF Specification which has been Archived. This specification will always be available at the ftp site and new development effort in the subject area shall be done under a new number.
e = electronic	Used as a suffix to indicate an SFF Specification which has Expired but is still available in electronic form from SFF e.g. a specification has been incorporated into a draft or published standard which is only available in hard copy.
i = Information	The specification has no SFF project activity in progress, but it defines features in developing industry

standards. The specification was provided by a company, editor of an accredited standard in development, or an individual. It is provided for broad review (comments to the author are encouraged).

s = submitted The document is a proposal to the members for consideration to become an SFF Specification.

Spec #	Rev	List of Specifications as of September 2, 2005
SFF-8000		SFF Committee Information
INF-8001i	E	44-pin ATA (AT Attachment) Pinouts for SFF Drives
INF-8002i	E	68-pin ATA (AT Attachment) for SFF Drives
SFF-8003	E	SCSI Pinouts for SFF Drives
SFF-8004	E	Small Form Factor 2.5" Drives
SFF-8005	E	Small Form Factor 1.8" Drives
SFF-8006	E	Small Form Factor 1.3" Drives
SFF-8007	E	2mm Connector Alternatives
SFF-8008	E	68-pin Embedded Interface for SFF Drives
SFF-8009	4.1	Unitized Connector for Cabled Drives
SFF-8010	E	Small Form Factor 15mm 1.8" Drives
INF-8011i	E	ATA Timing Extensions for Local Bus
SFF-8012	3.0	4-Pin Power Connector Dimensions
SFF-8013	E	ATA Download Microcode Command
SFF-8014	C	Unitized Connector for Rack Mounted Drives
SFF-8015	E	SCA Connector for Rack Mounted SFF SCSI Drives
SFF-8016	C	Small Form Factor 10mm 2.5" Drives
SFF-8017	E	SCSI Wiring Rules for Mixed Cable Plants
SFF-8018	E	ATA Low Power Modes
SFF-8019	E	Identify Drive Data for ATA Disks up to 8 GB
INF-8020i	E	ATA Packet Interface for CD-ROMs
SFF-8025	0.7	SFF Committee Specification Categories
SFF-8026	0.1	SFF Committee Documentation
INF-8028i	E	- Errata to SFF-8020 Rev 2.5
SFF-8029	E	- Errata to SFF-8020 Rev 1.2
SFF-8030	2.0	SFF Committee Charter
SFF-8031		Named Representatives of SFF Committee Members
SFF-8032	1.6	SFF Committee Principles of Operation
INF-8033i	E	Improved ATA Timing Extensions to 16.6 MBs
INF-8034i	E	High Speed Local Bus ATA Line Termination Issues
INF-8035i	E	Self-Monitoring, Analysis & Reporting Technology
INF-8036i	E	ATA Signal Integrity Issues
INF-8037i	E	Intel Small PCI SIG
INF-8038i	E	Intel Bus Master IDE ATA Specification
INF-8039i	E	Phoenix EDD (Enhanced Disk Drive) Specification
SFF-8040	1.2	25-pin Asynchronous SCSI Pinout
SFF-8041	C	SCA-2 Connector Backend Configurations
SFF-8042	C	VHDCI Connector Backend Configurations
SFF-8043	E	40-pin MicroSCSI Pinout
SFF-8044		ZIF Connector
SFF-8045	4.7	40-pin SCA-2 Connector w/Parallel Selection
SFF-8046	E	80-pin SCA-2 Connector for SCSI Disk Drives
SFF-8047	C	40-pin SCA-2 Connector w/Serial Selection
SFF-8048	C	80-pin SCA-2 Connector w/Parallel ESI
SFF-8049	E	80-conductor ATA Cable Assembly
INF-8050i	1.0	Bootable CD-ROM
INF-8051i	E	Small Form Factor 3" Drives
INF-8052i	E	ATA Interface for 3" Removable Devices
SFF-8053	5.5	GBIC (Gigabit Interface Converter)

SFF-8054	0.2	Automation Drive Interface Connector
INF-8055i	E	SMART Application Guide for ATA Interface
SFF-8056	C	50-pin 2mm Connector
SFF-8057	E	Unitized ATA 2-plus Connector
SFF-8058	E	Unitized ATA 3-in-1 Connector
SFF-8059	E	40-pin ATA Connector
SFF-8060	1.1	SFF Committee Patent Policy
SFF-8061	E	Emailing drawings over the SFF Reflector
SFF-8062		Rolling Calendar of SSWGs and Plenaries
SFF-8064		Unshielded HD Cable/Board Connector System
SFF-8065	C	40-pin SCA-2 Connector w/High Voltage
SFF-8066	C	80-pin SCA-2 Connector w/High Voltage
SFF-8067	3.4	40-pin SCA-2 Connector w/Bidirectional ESI
INF-8068i	E	Guidelines to Import Drawings into SFF Specs
SFF-8069	E	Fax-Access Instructions
INF-8070i	1.3	ATAPI for Rewritable Removable Media
SFF-8072	1.2	80-pin SCA-2 for Fibre Channel Tape Applications
SFF-8073	C	20-pin SCA-2 for GBIC Applications
INF-8074i	1.0	SFP (Small Formfactor Pluggable) Transceiver
SFF-8075	1.0	PCI Card Version of SFP Cage
SFF-8076	-	SFP Additional IDs
INF-8077i	3.1	XFP (10 Gbs Small Form Factor Pluggable Module)
SFF-8078	C	XFP-E
SFF-8079	1.7	SFP Rate and Application Selection
SFF-8080	E	ATAPI for CD-Recordable Media
SFF-8082	5.1	Labeling of Ports and Cable Assemblies
SFF-8084	0.2	0.8mm SFP Card Edge Connector Dimensioning
SFF-8085	0.9	100 Mbs Small Formfactor Transceivers
SFF-8086	1.3	Compact Multilane Series: Common Elements
SFF-8087	1.4	Compact Multilane Series: Unshielded
SFF-8088	1.3	Compact Multilane Series: Shielded
SFF-8089	1.3	SFP Rate and Application Codes
INF-8090i	6.09	ATAPI for Multimedia Devices (Mt Fuji5)
SFF-8101	C	3 Gbs and 4 Gbs Signal Characteristics
SFF-8110	C	5V Parallel 1.8" drive form factor
SFF-8111	1.3	1.8" drive form factor (60x70mm)
SFF-8122		1.8" (60x70mm) w/SCA-2 Connector
SFF-8120	2.6	1.8" drive form factor (78x54mm)
SFF-8123	C	1.8" (60x70mm) w/Serial Attachment Connector
SFF-8124	0.2	Memory Form Factor Disk Drive Connections
SFF-8131	1.3	30mmx40mm Form Factor
SFF-8132	1.3	30mmx40mm Form Factor w/35-pin ATA Parallel Cnctr
SFF-8133	1.1	30mmx40mm Form Factor w/12-pin CE-ATA X4 Cnctr
SFF-8141	1.1	71mmx54mm Form Factor
SFF-8142		71mmx54mm Form Factor w/35-pin ATA Parallel Cnctr
SFF-8143		71mmx54mm Form Factor w/12-pin CE-ATA X4 Cnctr
SFF-8200e	1.1	2 1/2" drive form factors (all of 82xx family)
SFF-8201	2.4	2 1/2" drive form factor dimensions
SFF-8212e	1.2	2 1/2" drive w/SFF-8001 44-pin ATA Connector
SFF-8221	C	Pre-Aligned 2.5" Drive >10mm Form Factor
SFF-8222	2.1	2.5" Drive w/SCA-2 Connector
SFF-8223	2.4	2.5" Drive w/Serial Attachment Connector
SFF-8225	C	2.5" Single Voltage Drive
SFF-8300	1.2	3 1/2" drive form factors (all of 83xx family)
SFF-8301	1.4	3 1/2" drive form factor dimensions
SFF-8302e	1.1	3 1/2" Cabled Connector locations
SFF-8323	1.4	3 1/2" drive w/Serial Attachment Connector

SFF-8332e	E	3 1/2" drive w/80-pin SFF-8015 SCA Connector
SFF-8337e	E	3 1/2" drive w/SCA-2 Connector
SFF-8342e	1.3	3 1/2" drive w/Serial Unitized Connector
INF-8350i	E	3 1/2" Packaged Drives
SFF-8400	C	VHDCI (Very High Density Cable Interconnect)
SFF-8401		Optical Transceiver for Short-Reach Appcns
SFF-8410	16.1	High Speed Serial Testing for Copper Links
INF-8411	1.0	High Speed Serial Testing for Backplanes
SFF-8412	12.2	HSOI (High Speed Optical Interconnect) Testing
SFF-8414		HPEI Passive Cable Assembly S-Parm Measurements
SFF-8415	8.1	HPEI (High Performance Electrical Interconnect)
SFF-8416	15.0	HPEI Bulk Cable Measurement/Performance Reqmnts
SFF-8420	11.1	HSSDC-1 Shielded Connections
SFF-8421	2.4	HSSDC-2 Shielded Connections
SFF-8422	C	FCI Shielded Connections
SFF-8423	C	Molex Shielded Connections
SFF-8424	0.5	Dual Row HSSDC-2 Shielded Connections
SFF-8425	1.4	Single Voltage 12V Drives
SFF-8426		HSSDC Double Width
SFF-8429	1.1	Signal Specification Architecture for HSS Links
SFF-8430	4.1	MT-RJ Duplex Optical Connections
SFF-8431		SFP+
SFF-8441	14.1	VHDCI Shielded Configurations
SFF-8448	0.5	SAS Sideband Utilization
SFF-8451	10.1	SCA-2 Unshielded Connections
SFF-8452	3.1	Glitch Free Mating Connections for Multidrop Aps
SFF-8453		Shielded High Speed Serial connectors
SFF-8454		SCA-2 Enhanced HSS
SFF-8460	1.2	HSS Backplane Design Guidelines
SFF-8464	C	Improved MM HSS Optical Link Performance
SFF-8470	2.9	Multilane Copper Connector
SFF-8471	C	ZFP Multilane Copper Connector
SFF-8472	9.5	Diagnostic Monitoring Interface for Optical Xcvrs
INF-8475i	2.2	XPAK Small Formfactor Pluggable Receiver
SFF-8480	2.1	HSS (High Speed Serial) DB9 Connections
SFF-8482	1.9	Unshielded Dual Port Serial Attachment Connector
SFF-8483	C	External Serial Attachment Connector
SFF-8484	1.7	Multilane Unshielded Serial Attachment Connector
SFF-8485	0.5	Serial GPIO (General Purpose Input/Output) Bus
SFF-8500e	1.1	5 1/4" drive form factors (all of 85xx family)
SFF-8501e	1.1	5 1/4" drive form factor dimensions
SFF-8508e	1.1	5 1/4" ATAPI CD-ROM w/audio connectors
SFF-8523	1.4	5 1/4" drive w/Serial Attachment Connector
SFF-8551	3.2	5 1/4" CD Drives form factor
SFF-8552	1.1	5 1/4" 9.5mm/12.7mm Optical Drive Form Factor
SFF-8572	C	5 1/4" Tape form factor
SFF-8610	C	SDX (Storage Device Architecture)
SFF-8617		SAS Transition cables

2.3 Sources

Electronic copies of SFF Specifications are provided to those who join the SFF Committee as an Observer or Member via CD_Access, a service which provides copies of all the specifications plus SFF reflector traffic. CDs mailed every 2 months provide the letter ballot, copies of what was distributed at the meeting, and the minutes. Individual copies are available by download at ftp://ftp.seagate.com/sff

14426 Black Walnut Ct 408-867-6630x303

Saratoga 408-867-2115Fx
CA 95070

Copies of ANSI standards or proposed ANSI standards may be purchased from Global Engineering.

15 Inverness Way East 800-854-7179 or 303-792-2181
Englewood 303-792-2192Fx
CO 80112-5704

3. General Description

The signal assignments defined in this specification permit the known Vendor Specific definitions of sideband usage in SAS to coexist.

4. Definitions and Conventions

4.1 Definitions

For the purpose of SFF Specifications, the following definitions apply:

Reserved: Where this term is used for defining the signal on a connector pin its actual function is set aside for future standardization. It is not available for vendor specific use. Where this term is used for bits, bytes, fields and code values; the bits, bytes, fields and code values are set aside for future standardization. The default value shall be zero. The originator is required to define a Reserved field or bit as zero, but the receiver should not check Reserved fields or bits for zero.

4.2 Conventions

The American convention of numbering is used i.e., the thousands and higher multiples are separated by a comma and a period is used as the decimal point. This is equivalent to the ISO convention of a space and comma.

American:	ISO:
0.6	0,6
1,000	1 000
1,323,462.9	1 323 462,9

5. Sideband Assignments

The use of sidebands is defined in SAS as being Vendor Specific.

This raises the concern of interoperability issues and the possibility that harm could be caused to the circuitry of one device or another.

There are two known usages of sidebands at present, one as defined in SFF-8485 and another which is a 2-wire interface.

Table 5-1 Recommended Sideband Assignments

Signal	SFF-8485	2-Wire
Sideband 0	SClock	2W_SCL
Sideband 1	SLoad	2W_SDA
Sideband 2	Ground	Ground
Sideband 3	Ground	Ground
Sideband 4	SDataOut	Reset
Sideband 5	SDataIn	*
Sideband 6	Controller Type	Controller Type
Sideband 7	Backplane Type	Backplane Type
* = Used to address backplane		

The SAS standard requires that Vendor Specific uses of the sidebands not conflict with SFF-8485. The assignments in Table 5-1 meet that requirement and allow other Vendor Specific implementations to avoid causing conflicts with both.

Controllers can adapt to whichever sideband methodology is in use by the other end if Sideband 6/7 are present on the connector interface and the signal levels of Sideband 6/7 are set by the other end.

The Controller/Backplane Type is identified by the method defined in Table 5-2. The identification may be accomplished with pull-up or pull-down resistors or be driven by logic depending on the device (typically, a backplane would use resistors to define the use and a controller would use logic to determine the use).

Table 5-2 Sideband 6/7 Usage

Logic Level	SFF-8485	2-Wire	Reserved
0	X		
1		X	
MID			X