

Date: July 22,1997

T10/96-267r4

TO: T10 Committee (SCSI)

SUBJECT: Read Element Status and Reservation Conflicts

At the present time, performing a READ ELEMENT STATUS when there is a Reservation Conflict is prohibited. However, a situation has arisen that seems to require opening up the window a bit. The READ ELEMENT STATUS response data is used in a way similar to INQUIRY data. It is needed to correctly initialize the library management software for some Initiators.

In particular, with an attached Medium Changer or any independent Medium Changer, a READ ELEMENT STATUS command is blocked from responding with other than RESERVATION CONFLICT status when the Reservation is held by another initiator. Also, a NOT READY condition can cause problems at initialization time, preventing an Initiator from discovering the library configuration.

We propose that a bit 1 byte 6, CURDATA, be defined for the READ ELEMENT STATUS command. If the bit is 1, it requires the return of all currently known data, even if a RESERVATION CONFLICT or NOT READY condition exists. This proposal in no way affects the format of the data or the manner of specifying which data to return but rather the circumstances under which READ ELEMENT STATUS data is returned. When the CURDATA is 1, the device shall not do any motion for the command but rather return data that is currently available. When CURDATA is 0, the READ ELEMENT STATUS command behavior is the same as presently defined. Support for this bit set to one would be mandatory.