



Date: 15 August 1999
To: T10 Technical Committee
From: Ralph Weber, LSI Logic Alternate Member of T10
Subj: Restricting Mode Page Code Usage

As of SPC-2 revision 11, only three mode page codes are available for assignment to new uses that involve all device types (15h, 16h, and 17h). Recently, the SSC ad hoc assigned the previously unused code 0Fh to a tape-only function. This action was unnecessary because codes 03h, 04h, 05h, 06h, 07h, 08h, 0Bh, 0Ch, 0Eh, 1Bh, 1Dh, 1Eh, or 1Fh could have been used with equal effect.

To reduce the possibility of an ad hoc unnecessarily assigning an unused mode page code, the Description column for codes 15h, 16h and 17h should be changed from blank to "Restricted [3]" and the following footnote should be added:

"[3] Assignment of a restricted mode page code requires prior approval from the T10 plenary meeting. Approval from a T10 ad hoc meeting is not sufficient. T10 reserves the right to reassign any uses of these restricted mode page codes that come to its attention without having received prior explicit approval."

Without the change, it is possible that a T10 ad hoc could assign all three of the currently unused codes in a draft standard. Should that happen, T10 will have no escape code value to use in defining a mechanism that provides from more mode page codes than are currently allowed.