Amphenol Interconnect Products

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Subject: Cable color code should not be standardized

Amphenol Interconnect Products Corporation (AIPC) does not feel that the color code of the SCSI cable should be included in the standard. From the perspective of the cable assembly manufacturer, the negative consequences outweigh the advantages.

We agree that the lay-up of the cable and the selective pair positioning, specifically for the "REQ", "ACK", and "TERMPWR" signal pairs, should be included in the standard (Ref. X3T9.2/90-106). However, the color of these pairs do not effect the final performance of the assembly and compliance is unverifiable.

Standardizing the color code will result in the following problems:

- **Longer Operator Learning Curve & Training:** Many cable assemblers have established company standard color coding schemes in order to reduce the training and recognition time on new assemblies. This shortens the learning curve and results in lower labor costs.

- **Different Bulk Cables - Single Ended vs. Differential:** Since a different color coding scheme is being recommended for differential applications, the Cable Assemblers' ability to aggregate their cable buys is reduced. This will cause lower volume buys of each type of cable thus increasing the material and inventory cost to the assembler. There is also the added labor cost of learning two color schemes and an increased potential for miswired assemblies.

AIPC recommends that the color coding be left up to the individual O.E.M.'s, Cable Assemblers, and their bulk cable suppliers.