

StorageTek

Doc # X3T9.2/87-152

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TO: Accredited Standards Committee X3T9.2
FROM: Dennis Appleyard
SUBJ: Response to a Request Sense command before Check Condition has been reported

The SCSI-2 document states that "The sense data shall be valid for a CHECK CONDITION status returned on the prior command...". It also states that "The REQUEST SENSE command shall return the CHECK CONDITION status only to report fatal errors for the REQUEST SENSE command." and gives three specific examples. The document does not address the case of the response to a Request Sense command when Check Condition has not been reported. This could occur in the case of a deferred error on a buffered write operation on a sequential access device. While it may not be the normal case to issue Request Sense commands before receiving a Check Condition status, the case still needs defining. The Request Sense command could have been issued to examine vendor unique sense information indicating the state of the device. This is quite common during diagnostic tests.

To satisfy this case, the following paragraph should be added to the Request Sense command.

If a REQUEST SENSE command is received and a CHECK CONDITION status has not been returned on the prior command, any pending sense information shall be reported and any pending CHECK CONDITION status (deferred error status) shall be cleared.

The above assumes that initiators can respond correctly to error conditions reported in the Request Sense information without having received a prior Check Condition status.

Please consider incorporating this change into the next revision of the SCSI-2 document.