

April 25, 1988

X3T9.2/88-041 Rev. 0

To: John Lohmeyer, Chairman X3T9.2
From: Dan Davies
Subj: READ SILI Implementation Requirements

Sequential Access Devices currently define an optional Suppress Incorrect Length Indicator bit (SILI) for READ commands. Targets supporting this option do not report CHECK CONDITION status if the only error is that the requested transfer length is not equal to the actual block length recorded on the medium. Given this circumstance, how can the initiator determine the actual transfer length? It seems that one of the following conventions should be adopted for this type of operation:

- 1) Require the target to synchronize the final data pointer value to reflect the end of the actual transfer. This would add the overhead of a SAVE DATA POINTER message to the end of a SILI READ command, possibly preceded by a MODIFY DATA POINTER message if pointer manipulation had occurred.
- 2) Require the initiator to accept the responsibility for determining the actual transfer length, regardless of any pointer manipulation done by the target. This could be accomplished by having embedded length information in the data or internal transfer counters in the initiator logic.
- 3) Barring imposition of one of these explicit requirements, it appears that proper use of the SILI bit would require some sort of "gentlemen's agreement" between the target and the requesting initiator. An implementor's note could be added to the SILI bit description to allude to one of the above stated methods for determining length information.