

SFF specifications are available at <http://www.snia.org/sff/specifications>.

**SFF-8025**

Specification for

SFF Specification Categories

Rev 1.8 January 9, 2019

SECRETARIAT: SFF TA TWG

ABSTRACT: This specification defined the different categories used to describe SFF documents and their status within the SFF organization.

REASON FOR EXPIRATION: Superseded
Content contained in this specification was replaced by the SFF TA TWG Process Guide (GOV-TA-0001). SFF-8025 is no longer needed and therefore this document is now expired. The last published version of SFF-8025 is included on the following pages for reference.

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SFF-8025 SFF Specification Categories

Rev 1.7 May 23, 2016

SFF specifications have an active useful life which varies by whether they are in Development or have been Published. The stages of evolution include several categories, and the decisions and mechanisms on when and how to classify them are the joint responsibility of the chair and the membership.

Active	
D = Development	A specification in Development under SFF revision control. Draft specifications are replaced by newer revisions as they become available.
I = information	Identified by the prefix of INF-, the document was not an SFF project and is not under SFF revision control. It was submitted to the SFF Committee for distribution, and the members voted that it would benefit the industry if it was made available. If newer versions are supplied by the developers of the specification the current versions are replaced.
P = Published	The specification has been balloted for technical approval by members and is available as a Published SFF Specification. It is under revision control and accessible at the ftp site.
Reference	A specification maintained by the chair which describes the relationship between specifications, or has content that is common to more than one specification, or requires regular updating to track industry usage.
Reference Guide	A specification which has content that is defined by industry use for which the documentation may not be publicly available.
j = Amended	The suffix appended to a specification which became a standard, and was subsequently revised with content which has not yet been incorporated into the standard.
Inactive	
C = Canceled	The project was canceled.
E = Expired	a) The members voted against this specification remaining available when it came up for review. b) The specification was accepted as a standard and remains available with a cover page which provides information about the standard.
a = archive	The suffix appended to an SFF Specification which has been archived. An Archived specification is retained indefinitely and has no further activity. If the need for further development should arise, a new project is required.

Specifications in Expired categories C and E are replaced by a cover sheet which explains why the specification was expired.

When a specification is balloted to Expire, a member may request that it be Archived. If a simple majority agrees then the specification is Archived.

Every active SFF Specification comes with a built in 'sunset clause'.

- If a Published specification remains on the ftp site in the same state (i.e. same revision number, same title) for five years after the date of that revision, it's status should be reviewed.
- If a revision of a Development specification remains the same for three years after the date of that revision, it's status should be reviewed.

After the review is completed the clock starts again for that specification. The status review is a ballot in which a simple majority of the voting members decides whether to Expire or Renew the specification.

A non-member may bring to the attention of the SFF Committee details which raises a question as to the continued validity of an INF specification. If the members agree, the author of the INF specification is contacted and given an opportunity to provide a new revision which addresses the concern. If not, the members will be balloted on whether to Renew or Expire the INF specification.

A member may ask that a specification be Canceled, or Expired prior to the time it would normally be scheduled.

An ad hoc review ballot requires a unanimous decision to Cancel or Expire a specification.

Any copyright on INF- documents is retained by the author, and SFF has been granted the right to distribute the document. The content of INF- specifications cannot be freely copied for distribution by others without permission of the author.

Requirements to change specification status:

From	To	Action
D	E	Ballot after three years and a simple majority to Expire
D	E	Request by a member and a unanimous vote to Expire
D	a	Ballot after three years and a simple majority to Archive
P	E	Ballot after five years and a simple majority to Expire
P	E	Request by a member and a unanimous vote to Expire
P	a	Ballot after five years and a simple majority to Archive
i	E	Ballot after five years and a simple majority to Expire
i	E	Request by a member or non-member and a unanimous vote to Expire

Note: When a majority or unanimous vote is referenced, it is in regard to the count of those who voted, not the count of those who are members. Members who choose to Abstain do not affect the outcome..

Execution of this policy is the joint responsibility of the SFF chair and the membership. The default condition is to leave the specification in its present state.

The Category of every specification is identified on the front page.

Taxonomy:

January 2011: The members recognized that specification titles chosen by the editor made it difficult for those unfamiliar with the projects to recognize similarities and differences.

A taxonomy for titling was adopted which listed the primary characteristics of a specification in order. Specifications are not re-printed if the title changes, the new title is adopted on the next revision. The change in titling is to assist users and it may change over time based on feedback,

An X is used to identify the near-interchangeable use of port/lane/channel.

Connector Name / Speed / # of Ports / Shielding / Style

If this grouping does not suit a specification, the same principle shall be followed of grouping in primary order.

March 2015: Port ordering was swapped with speed and Lo/Hi adopted for all characteristics.

Connector Name / # of Ports / Speed / Shielding / Style

It is not required that all fields be used in a title, and if irrelevant to the content, none may be used. If not applicable, like specifications will use common titling to appear together in the alphabetic listing of specifications.

Change History

Rev 1.3 - Deleted Approved, electronic and Forwarded categories

- Noted that some or all fields in the Taxonomy may not be relevant to the content.

Rev 1.5 - Added descriptions of Reference and Reference Guide specifications.

Rev 1.6 - Updated as per comments

EXPIRED