

IEEE 802.3 Ethernet Working Group
DRAFT Liaison Communication

Source: IEEE 802.3 Working Group¹

To: Tom Palkert Chair, SNIA/SFF Transceiver Group
Anthony Constantine Co-Chair, SNIA/SFF TWG
Paul Coddington Co-Chair, SNIA/SFF TWG

CC: Alpesh Shah Secretary, IEEE-SA Standards Board
Secretary, IEEE-SA Board of Governors
James Gilb Chair, IEEE 802 LMSC
Adam Healey Vice-chair, IEEE 802.3 Ethernet Working Group
Jon Lewis Secretary, IEEE 802.3 Ethernet Working Group
John D'Ambrosia Chair, IEEE P802.3dj Task Force
Mark Nowell Vice-Chair, IEEE P802.3dj Task Force

From: David Law Chair, IEEE 802.3 Ethernet Working Group

Subject: MDI Type for 200GBASE-CR1, 400GBASE-CR2, and 800GBASE-CR4

Approval Agreed at IEEE 802.3 Plenary meeting, Madrid, Spain, 31 July 2025

Dear Mr. Palkert,

The IEEE P802.3dj project is defining a family of physical layer specifications, including twinaxial copper cable variants (CRx), based on 200 Gb/s signaling, which will be applicable to 200 Gb/s Ethernet (GbE), 400 GbE, 800 GbE, and 1.6 Tb/s Ethernet (TbE).

For 200GBASE-CR1, one of the mechanical interfaces between the respective PMD and the cable assembly is currently specified as the SFP224. However, the SFF-TA-1031, Rev 1.0 does not currently include 200G per lane specifications.

Subclause 6.4.6 "Normative references" of the IEEE SA Standards Board Operations Manual <<https://standards.ieee.org/about/policies/opman/sect6/#6.4.6>> includes the requirement that:

Documents published by other organizations may be cited provided the document is publicly available at a cost that is not unreasonable at the date of publication of the IEEE standard, and the normatively referenced material in the document meets the

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restrictions on commercial terms (see 6.2.2). Documents that are cited as normative references, but that are developed by organizations that are not nationally or internationally recognized SDOs, shall include the edition or date of publication in the citation.

Based on the project's adopted timeline (https://www.ieee802.org/3/dj/projdoc/timeline_3dj_241114.pdf), it is anticipated that the draft will be submitted for ratification as an IEEE standard in August of 2026. As a result, the IEEE P802.3dj Task Force requests a copy of the SFF-TA-1031 that meets the requirements cited above, is made available for review by the IEEE 802.3 January 2026 interim meeting, scheduled for the week of January 19, 2026. If a copy of the SFF-TA-1031 has not been made available to the IEEE P802.3dj Task Force by that meeting, the Task Force will proceed with removing the reference and deciding how to proceed at that time.

We wanted to make you aware of this issue. The IEEE P802.3dj Task Force would appreciate any guidance that the SFF can offer prior to the January 2026 Interim.

Thank you in advance for your consideration of this liaison.

Sincerely,

David Law

Chair, IEEE 802.3 Ethernet Working Group