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To: John Lohmeyer, Chairman X3T9.2

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From: Bob Pentecost

Subject: DA FORMAT UNIT command, IP Modifier

When the Initialization Pattern (IP) Modifier is 01b or 10b the standard says (Table 8-6, page 8-20) "The target shall modify the initialization pattern to write the current logical block address at the start of" (the logical block or each physical sector contained within the logical block). It doesn't say how to modify the pattern and it could be done by overlaying or inserting.

The following implementor's note after Table 8-6 would make it clear:

IMPLEMENTORS NOTE: When modifying the initialization pattern with the logical address, it is recommended that the pattern in the block be overlayed with the address bytes.

Overlaying the address bytes is preferred because inserting the address bytes before the pattern may cause the pattern to exceed the length of the block. This may be considered an ILLEGAL REQUEST as specified in the last paragraph of 8.2.1.1. (page 8-21).