

IEEE 802.3 Ethernet Working Group
DRAFT Liaison Communication

Source: IEEE 802.3 Working Group¹

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From: David Law Chair, IEEE 802.3 Ethernet Working Group
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Subject: MDI Type for 200GBASE-CR1 and 400GBASE-CR2

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

Dear Mr. Sommers,

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 and 400GBASE-CR2, one of the mechanical interfaces between the respective PMD and the cable assembly is currently specified as the SFP-DD224. However, the SFP-DD224 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 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.

¹ This document solely represents the views of the IEEE 802.3 Working Group and does not necessarily represent a position of the IEEE, the IEEE Standards Association, or IEEE 802.

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 SFP-DD224 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 SFP-DD224 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 bring this issue to your attention. The IEEE P802.3dj Task Force would appreciate any guidance that the SFP-DD MSA can offer prior to the January 2026 Interim meeting.

Thank you in advance for your consideration of this liaison.

Sincerely,
David Law
Chair, IEEE 802.3 Ethernet Working Group