SPARC International Compliance and Compatibility Committee

Rules, Policies and Procedures

Issue 0.6

Date: December 10, 1992

1. Overview

This document describes the rules and procedures followed by the SPARC International Compliance and Compatibility Committee to reach agreement on and issue SCD specifications.

1.1 Audience

This document is intended for all new and existing members of the Compliance and Compatibility Committee.

1.2 Table of Contents

- Purpose of the C&C Committee
- Committee Membership and Organization
- Officers
- Voting Procedures
- References

2. Purpose of the Committee

SPARC International chartered the Compliance and Compatibility Committee (C&C Committee) to identify, and develop consensus on, a robust set of interface specifications for use on all SPARC-based platforms. The committee fulfills this charter by creating periodic editions of the SPARC Compliance Definition (SCD) which defines the basis for SPARC product interoperability at the binary (run-time) level.

3. Committee Membership and Organization

3.1 Membership

Membership is open to all SI members. There is no limit on the number of attendees from each company, however, only one member may be designated as the company's voting member.

3.2 Committee Meetings

Committee meetings are held every four to six weeks at the discretion of the Chair. The meetings are hosted by a SI member company who participates in the C&C committee.This leads to meetings that are held in geographically diverse locations. However, since a predominant number of SI members are located in California, it can be expected that a predominant number of meetings will be held in that area. (The Hosting company's responsibilities include providing: adequate meeting space; lunch/meeting refreshments; and accessibility to reference copies of pertinent committee documents.)

The Chair will post a notification of each meeting to the *scc@sparc.com* alias at least 1 week in advance of the meeting date. This posting will include the meeting date, time, location and proposed agenda. Meeting minutes are posted to this alias prior to the next Committee meeting.

3.3 Subcommittees

The C&C Committee creates subcommittees to address specific topics. These groups improve the effectiveness of the overall Committee by allowing independent discussions and progress to be made in each respective area. Each subcommittee has an appointed chair. The chair should provide subcommittee status reports for the C&C committee, preferably by email, five business days prior to the C&C meeting, and also be available for questioning, either in person or via telephone, at C&C meetings. There are two types of subcommittees:

Special Interest Group	SIGs provide an informal forum for members that share a common area of interest to discuss topics more in-depth, with the ultimate intention of generating an interface specification for possible inclusion in a future SCD edition.
Working Group	WGs are focused on creating the specific text for a candidate interface specification which will be voted upon by the C&C Committee. Once this limited charter is

completed, the WG will be disbanded.

These subcommittees will be chartered and abolished as needed. To get the latest relevant data on the current subcommittees send mail to *scc-info@sparc.com*.

3.4 Communication / Email

The C&C Committee relies heavily on the use of electronic mail. This medium is used for document submissions and discussion of various future SCD specifications. SPARC International maintains a series of committee-related general interest aliases, including:

Alias	Purpose
scc@sparc.com	Alias to reach the entire C&C Committee of SPARC International; where most committee business occurs
scc-info@sparc.com	Alias to get miscellaneous general information, including current list of active subcommittees and their contacts
scc-interface@sparc.com (interface.candidates)	Administrative alias to request interface control numbers for submitted candidate specification documents
scc-errata@sparc.com	Alias to receive latest approved list of SCD errata
scc-sct@sparc.com (abi_review@sparc.com)	Alias to track SCD testing activities, particularly the SCD system-level (branding) tests
scc-sav@sparc.com (sact-review@sparc.com)	Alias to track SCD testing activities, particularly the SPARC Application Verifier
name-request@sparc.com	Administrative alias to request being added or deleted to the *name*d alias

Table 1: Basic Email Aliases

4. Officers

There are two official committee officers:

Chair — Announces meetings and presides at all meetings. Other responsibilities are defined in this document.

Secretary — Records the minutes of the meetings, retaining a record of action items and subcommittee activities.

All officers hold their position for a period of one year. The Chair may hold the same office for a maximum of three consecutive terms.

4.1 Election

Election of the Chair is to take place at the monthly meeting which immediately precedes the SPARC International annual meeting.

The Chair is elected by majority vote of the Committee members present at the meeting. The Secretary is appointed by the Chair and confirmed by majority vote of the committee members present at a regular meeting.

Other positions, such as Working Group Chairs, are appointed by the Chair and confirmed by majority vote of the committee members present at a regular meeting. Such positions have no set term of office.

5. Voting Procedures

C&C meetings are casual in nature with an objective of high information content to build consensus among members in a face-to-face forum. As such, it is frequently the case that "straw ballots" are taken to get a sense of where each committee members stands regarding specific issues.

Approval of SCD content and publication constitutes a more formal process. For a formal ballot, a ballot request and any supporting documents are mailed to all committee members. The ballot request states the issue under consideration and provides space to indicate a "yes", "no", or "abstain" vote. The ballots are returned to SPARC International. Ballots returned with a "no" vote must indicate the technical reason why and what changes need to be made to change the vote to a "yes".

Unless specified otherwise, a 2/3 majority of the returned ballots is required to approve the question. Unreturned ballots are considered "abstaining" votes.

5.1 SPARC International Board

All official committee documents are subject to review and approval by the SPARC International Board of Directors. (As a note of practicality: since an SCD release requires a 100% approval vote on the part of the SI Board of Directors, it is prudent that the 2/3 C&C Committee majority vote include a 100% "yes" or "abstaining" vote by the C&C committee members who also are on the SI Board of Directors.)

6. References

- SPARC International Compliance and Compatibility Committee - Interface Nomination and Approval Process, December 1992.
- SPARC International Compliance and Compatibility Committee - SCD

Testing, Compliance and Waivers Process, December 1992.

- Technology License and Trademark Agreement, dated June 12, 1990.