



FF-569 – Host Interoperability Support Test Profile and Procedures

Frequently Asked Questions

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General Questions

What is the difference between FF-569 1.2 and 2.0?

The FF-569 Version 2.0 Host Interoperability Support Test Profile and Procedures specification contains new and updated host features and a new set of host profiles.

What are host profiles?

A host profile defines a minimum set of FOUNDATION™ specific features that must be implemented by a host to achieve compliance to a specific host class. A host may incorporate one or more hardware and software components as defined by the host manufacturer.

Today, FF-569 defines four profile classes. These include:

Class 61 – Integrated Host: Primary, on-process host that manages the communication and application configuration of all devices on a network.

Class 62 – Visitor Host: Temporary, on-process host with limited access to device parameterization.

Class 63 – Bench Host: Primary, off-process host for configuration and setup of a non-commissioned device.

Class 64 – Bench Host: Primary, off-process host with limited access to device parameterization of an off-line, commissioned device.

General Questions (cont'd)

How are the profile classes defined?

For each profile, individual features are marked according to a requirement. These include:

Mandatory: This feature must be implemented in order to achieve compliance for the relevant profile.

Optional: This feature may or may not be implemented. If implemented, such will be tested and credited as part of compliance for the relevant profile.

Prohibited: This feature is restricted to achieve compliance for the relevant profile. Hosts that implement multiple profiles must demonstrate how the feature is de-activated when operating in the corresponding profile.

Who developed the host profile specification?

The Fieldbus Foundation's System Integration and Maintenance Team (SIM), which is made up of device manufacturers, host suppliers and end users, maintains the specification.

Why are host profiles important?

Host profiles are the key to fieldbus system interoperability. The profiles define required features for different classes of hosts. They are also the basis for host testing and enable host registration.

Where can I get a copy of the updated FF-569 Version 2.0 Host Profile Specification?

FF-569 Version 2.0 is part of the FF-007 FOUNDATION Specifications. Those with an active specification maintenance agreement can download the updated specification from Fieldbus Forums at <http://forums.fieldbus.org>. If you do not have a specification maintenance agreement, please contact member.services@fieldbus.org.



Development Tools Information

What tools will be available to effectively develop with the updated FF-569 Version 2.0 specification?

A Host Test Kit will allow vendors to pre-test their host before submitting it for testing and registration by the Fieldbus Foundation.

When will the Host Test Kit be available?

The Host Test Kit is scheduled for release in August 2007.



Host Testing Information

How does the release of this new specification affect the current Host Interoperability Support Test (HIST) Program?

The new Host Profile Test and Registration Program will supersede the HIST Program.

Can I continue to test to the existing FF-569 1.2 specification?

Yes, the Fieldbus Foundation will continue to offer Host Interoperability Support Tests to FF-569 FS 1.2 through the end of 2008.

What will happen to current HIST reports listed on the Fieldbus Foundation's website?

Beginning in January 2009, the current HIST Program will be discontinued, and all existing HIST reports will be removed from the web catalog.

Will the Fieldbus Foundation register hosts?

Yes, the Fieldbus Foundation will register hosts to one or more profile classes.

How can I learn more about the Host Profile Test and Registration Program?

After the release of the Host Test Kit, the Fieldbus Foundation will finalize the Host Registration Program and publish the registration procedures. The Host Profile Registration Process (FF-525) will then be available for download on Fieldbus Forums.

Support

How do I get support?

You may e-mail support@fieldbus.org or call the Fieldbus Foundation at (512) 790-8890.

Questions may be posted to the Fieldbus Forums at <http://forums.fieldbus.org>.

If you do not have access to the Fieldbus Forums and wish to join, please be sure to follow the instructions located in the “Register” menu. If you need assistance, please contact us.