
GEA Mission

The Global Electronics Association promotes industry growth and strengthens supply chain resilience.

**About IPC
Standards by
Global Electronics
Association**

IPC standards and publications by Global Electronics Association are designed to serve the public interest through eliminating misunderstandings between manufacturers and purchasers, facilitating interchangeability and improvement of products, and assisting the purchaser in selecting and obtaining with minimum delay the proper product for their particular need. Existence of such standards and publications shall not in any respect preclude any entity from manufacturing or selling products not conforming to such standards and publications, nor shall the existence of such standards and publications preclude their voluntary use.

IPC standards and publications by Global Electronics Association are approved by committees without regard to whether the standards or publications may involve patents on articles, materials or processes. By such action, Global Electronics Association does not assume any liability to any patent owner, nor does Global Electronics Association assume any obligation whatsoever to parties adopting a standard or publication. Users are wholly responsible for protecting themselves against all claims of liabilities for patent infringement.

**Global Electronics
Association
Position Statement
on Specification
Revision Change**

The use and implementation of IPC standards and publications by Global Electronics Association are voluntary and part of a relationship entered into by customer and supplier. When a standard or publication is revised or amended, the use of the latest revision or amendment as part of an existing relationship is not automatic unless required by the contract. Global Electronics Association recommends the use of the latest revision or amendment.

**Standards
Improvement
Recommendations**

Global Electronics Association welcomes comments for improvements to any standard in its library. All comments will be provided to the appropriate committee.

If a change to technical content is requested, data to support the request is recommended. Technical comments to include new technologies or make changes to published requirements should be accompanied by technical data to support the request. This information will be used by the committee to resolve the comment.

To submit your comments, visit the Status of Standardization page at www.electronics.org/status.



IPC-HERMES-9852

If a conflict occurs between the English language and translated versions of this document, the English version will take precedence.

IPC-HERMES-9852 Version 1.7

The Global Standard for Machine-to-Machine Communication in SMT Assembly

Developed by The Hermes Standard Initiative and the IPC-HERMES-9852 Standard Task Group (2-17b) of the Electronic Product Data Description Committee (2-10) of IPC

Global Electronics Association Standards and Artificial Intelligence (AI) Statement

Global Electronics Association is the trading name of IPC International, Inc., which owns the copyright to all IPC Standards and other IPC materials.

The Global Electronics Association explicitly prohibits:

- The integration or transfer of any data whether in the form of IPC books, standards, metadata, or other formats — into AI engines or algorithms by any person or entity, including authorized distributors and their end users.
- Activities involving data harvesting, text and data mining, enrichment, or the creation of derivative works based on this data, including the use of automated data collection methods or artificial intelligence.

Any breach of these provisions is considered a copyright infringement unless expressly authorized in advance in writing by the Global Electronics Association.

Supersedes:

IPC-HERMES-9852,
Version 1.6 – May 2024
IPC-HERMES-9852,
Version 1.5 – November 2022
IPC-HERMES-9852,
Version 1.4 – February 2022
IPC-HERMES-9852,
Version 1.3 – May 2021
IPC-HERMES-9852,
Version 1.2 – June 2019
IPC-HERMES-9852,
Version 1.1 – April 2018
IPC-HERMES-9852,
Version 1.0.1 – November 2017
IPC-HERMES-9852,
Version 1.0 – March 2017

Users of this publication are encouraged to participate in the development of future revisions.

Contact:

Global Electronics Association
3000 Lakeside Drive, Suite 105N
Bannockburn, Illinois
60015-1249
Tel 847 615.7100
Fax 847 615.7105

Table of Contents

1	SCOPE	1	3.16	BoardForecast	24
2	TECHNICAL CONCEPT	1	3.17	QueryBoardInfo	25
2.1	Prerequisites	1	3.18	SendBoardInfo	26
2.2	Board IDs	1	3.19	SupervisoryServiceDescription	28
2.3	Machine-to-Machine Communication (Horizontal Channel)	2	3.20	BoardArrived	28
2.3.1	Topology	2	3.21	BoardDeparted	31
2.3.2	Connecting, Handshake and Detection of Connection Loss.....	3	3.22	QueryWorkOrderInfo	34
2.3.3	Normal Operation	5	3.23	SendWorkOrderInfo	35
2.3.4	Transport Error Handling	5	3.24	ReplyWorkOrderInfo	37
2.3.5	Handling of BoardForecast.....	10	3.25	Command	37
2.3.6	Protocol States and Protocol Error Handling.....	13	3.26	QueryHermesCapabilities	38
2.3.7	Handling of Attribute ‘Route’	14	3.27	SendHermesCapabilities	39
2.3.8	Handling of Attribute ‘Action’	14	3.28	AddExtendedBoardInfo	40
2.4	Remote Configuration.....	14	3.29	QueryExtendedBoardInfo	40
2.4.1	Topology	14	3.30	SendExtendedBoardInfo	40
2.4.2	Remote Configuration	14	4	APPENDIX	40
2.5	Communication with Supervisory System (Vertical Channel)	14	4.1	Special Scenarios	40
2.5.1	Topology	14	4.1.1	Board Tracking When Board Is Torn Out From the Line	41
2.5.2	Connecting, Handshake and Detection of Connection Loss.....	15	4.1.2	Board Tracking When Board Is Temporarily Removed From the Line	41
2.5.3	Protocol States and Protocol Error Handling.....	16	4.1.3	Board Tracking When Board Was Transferred without Data.....	42
2.6	Hermes Side Channel	17	4.1.4	Oven Error Loop	43
3	MESSAGE DEFINITION.....	17	4.1.5	Request Pause / Confirm Pause and Resume Operation.....	43
3.1	Message Format.....	17	4.1.6	Board Removal at Downstream Conveyor.....	44
3.2	Root Element.....	18	4.1.7	Reversal Transportation to a Flipping Unit Located Downstream a Process Machine	45
3.3	CheckAlive	18	4.1.8	Reversal Transportation to a Flipping Unit Located Upstream a Process Machine	46
3.4	ServiceDescription	18	4.1.9	Board Routing within a Production Line by Predefined Routes	47
3.5	Notification.....	19	4.1.10	Board Routing within a Production Line Towards Target Locations	48
3.6	BoardAvailable	20	4.2	Glossary / Abbreviations	49
3.7	RevokeBoardAvailable	21	4.3	References.....	49
3.8	MachineReady.....	22	4.4	History.....	50
3.9	RevokeMachineReady.....	22			
3.10	StartTransport.....	22			
3.11	StopTransport	23			
3.12	TransportFinished	23			
3.13	SetConfiguration	23			
3.14	GetConfiguration.....	24			
3.15	CurrentConfiguration.....	24			
				Figures	
			Figure 1	Generation of Board IDs	2
			Figure 2	TCP Connections in a Line.....	2

Figure 3	Upstream and Downstream from the Perspective of the Machine 2	Figure 20	Connection, Handshake and Connection Loss Detection on Vertical Channel 15
Figure 4	Connection, Handshake and Connection Loss Detection on Horizontal Channel 3	Figure 21	Example of Connection Loss Detection with FeatureCheckAliveResponse on Vertical Channel 16
Figure 5	Example for Connection Loss Detection with FeatureCheckAliveResponse on Horizontal Channel 4	Figure 22	Hermes Interface States on Vertical Channel .. 16
Figure 6	Communication Sequence for Board Transport 5	Figure 23	Explanation for Top and Bottom Clearance Height 21
Figure 7	Communication Sequence in Scenario U1a 6	Figure 24	Line Setup with Barcode Readers and Repair Station 41
Figure 8	Communication Sequence in Scenario U1b 6	Figure 25	Line Setup with Fixed and Mobile Barcode Readers – Board Temporarily Removed from Line 41
Figure 9	Communication Sequence in Scenario U2 7	Figure 26	Line Setup with Fixed and Mobile Barcode Readers – Board Transferred without Data 42
Figure 10	Communication Sequence in Scenario U3 8	Figure 27	SMT Subline That Is Involved in Oven Error Loop 43
Figure 11	Communication Sequence in Scenario D1 8	Figure 28	Example Subline Showing Use Case Request Pause / Confirm Pause and Resume Operation 43
Figure 12	Communication Sequence in Scenario D2 9	Figure 29	Board Removal at Downstream Conveyor 44
Figure 13	Communication Sequence in Scenario D3 10	Figure 30	Reversal Transportation, Downstream Flipping Unit 45
Figure 14	Example of Communication Sequence for BoardForecast 11	Figure 31	Reversal Transportation, Upstream Flipping Unit 46
Figure 15	Example of Communication Sequence for BoardForecast with RevokeMachineReady ... 11	Figure 32	Board Routing, Predefined Routes 47
Figure 16	Example of Communication Sequence with Several BoardForecast 11	Figure 33	Board Routing, Multiple Target Locations 48
Figure 17	Example of Communication Sequence in Case with Error Handling 12		
Figure 18	Example of Communication Sequence BoardForecast without Product Change 12		
Figure 19	Hermes Interface States on Horizontal Channel 13		

IPC-HERMES-9852 Version 1.7

The Global Standard for Machine-to-Machine Communication in SMT Assembly

1 SCOPE

The aim of this specification is to create a state-of-the-art communication protocol for handling board transfers and associated data at surface-mount technology (SMT) production lines. Therefore, this new communication protocol has to cope with the following:

- Replace the electrical SMEMA interface as specified in IPC-SMEMA-9851
- Extend the interface to communicate:
 - Unique identifiers for the handled printed circuit boards (PCBs)
 - Equipment identifiers of the first machine noticing a PCB
 - Barcodes
 - Conveyor speed and intended board route
 - A lightweight digital twin of the product containing, e.g.,
 - Product type identifier
 - Length
 - Width
 - Thickness
 - Board state

With respect to version numbers The Hermes Standard adheres to the rules of Semantic Versioning 2.0.0 [SemVer_2.0.0]. Hints on naming:

- Wherever a feature is described by the word “**shall**” it is mandatory.
- The word “machine” is used for any equipment which can be found in a SMT production line (e.g., printers, placement machines, ovens, AOIs, transport modules, shuttles, stackers).
- The term “PCB” may also refer to carriers transporting PCBs.
- The word “Hermes” is used as abbreviation for “The Hermes Standard”.
- “The Hermes Standard” and IPC-HERMES-9852 are synonyms for the standard specified in this document and might be used interchangeably.

2 TECHNICAL CONCEPT

2.1 Prerequisites This specification is based on the prerequisite that any application implementing this protocol has to provide connectivity based on Internet Protocol (IP) [IETF_RFC_791] / [IETF_RFC_2460] via Transmission Control Protocol (TCP) [IETF_RFC_793] (ISO / OSI model [ISO_7498-1] layer 3) to the adjacent machines and for communication with supervisory systems.

2.2 Board IDs Board individuals are identified by board IDs. These must be Globally Unique Identifiers (GUIDs) according to [ITU-T_REC_X.667], e.g., 123e4567-e89b-12d3-a456-426655440000. They are generated by the first machine in a consecutive row of machines implementing the Hermes protocol. The board ID is passed from machine to machine. If a machine in a line does not implement the Hermes protocol, the board ID is lost and a new one will be generated by the next machine implementing Hermes.