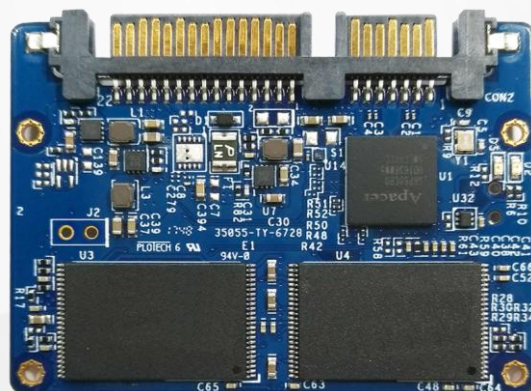


## RoHS Recast Compliant Serial ATA Flash Drive

### ST170-297 Product Specifications



February 26, 2019

Version 1.3



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## Specifications Overview:

- **Compliance with SATA Interface**
  - Serial ATA Revision 3.1
  - SATA 6.0 Gbps
  - ATA-8 command set
  - Backward compatible with SATA 1.5/3.0 Gbps
- **Capacity**
  - 30, 60, 120, 240, 480 GB
- **Performance\***
  - Burst read/write: 600 MB/sec
  - Sequential read: Up to 560 MB/sec
  - Sequential write: Up to 505 MB/sec
  - Random read (4K): Up to 83,000 IOPS
  - Random write (4K): Up to 85,000 IOPS
- **Flash Management**
  - Low-Density Parity-Check (LDPC) Code
  - Global Wear Leveling
  - Flash bad-block management
  - Flash Translation Layer: Page Mapping
  - S.M.A.R.T.
  - DataDefender
  - Device Sleep
  - ATA Secure Erase
  - TRIM
  - Hyper Cache Technology
  - Over-Provisioning
- **MTBF:** >1,000,000 hours
- **Endurance (in drive writes per day: DWPD)**
  - 30 GB: 2.4 DWPD
  - 60 GB: 2.4 DWPD
  - 120 GB: 2.4 DWPD
  - 240 GB: 2.4 DWPD
  - 480 GB: 3.0 DWPD
- **Temperature Range**
  - Operating: 0°C to 70°C
  - Storage: -40°C to 100°C
- **Supply Voltage**
  - 5.0 V ± 5%
- **Power Consumption\***
  - Active mode: 330 mA
  - Idle mode: 75 mA
- **Connector Type**
  - 7-pin SATA signal connector
  - 15-pin SATA power connector
- **Form Factor**
  - JEDEC MO-297
  - Dimensions: 54.00 x 39.80 x 4.00, unit: mm
  - Net Weight: 7.89 g
- **NAND Flash Type:** 3D TLC (BiCS3)
- **Shock & Vibration\*\***
  - Shock: 1,500 G
  - Vibration: 15 G
- **Reliability**
  - Thermal Sensor
- **Security**
  - End-to-End Data Protection
- **RoHS Recast Compliant (Complies with 2011/65/EU Standard)**

\*Varies from capacities. The values for performances and power consumptions presented are typical and may vary depending on flash configurations or platform settings. The term idle refers to the standby state of the device.

\*\*Non-operating

## Table of Contents

<b>1. General Descriptions .....</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>2. Functional Block .....</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>3. Pin Assignments.....</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>4. Product Specifications.....</b>	<b>7</b>
4.1 Capacity.....	7
4.2 Performance .....	7
4.3 Environmental Specifications .....	8
4.4 Mean Time Between Failures (MTBF) .....	8
4.5 Certification and Compliance.....	8
4.6 Endurance .....	9
<b>5. Flash Management .....</b>	<b>10</b>
5.1 Error Correction/Detection.....	10
5.2 Bad Block Management .....	10
5.3 Global Wear Leveling .....	10
5.4 DataDefender™ .....	10
5.5 ATA Secure Erase.....	10
5.6 TRIM.....	11
5.7 Flash Translation Layer – Page Mapping.....	11
5.8 DEVSLP (DevSleep or DEVSLP) Mode.....	11
5.9 Hyper Cache Technology.....	11
5.10 Over-Provisioning.....	11
5.11 SATA Power Management.....	12
<b>6. Security &amp; Reliability Features .....</b>	<b>13</b>
6.1 Thermal Sensor .....	13
6.2 End-to-End Data Protection.....	13
<b>7. Software Interface .....</b>	<b>14</b>
7.1 Command Set.....	14
7.2 S.M.A.R.T. ....	16
<b>8. Electrical Specifications .....</b>	<b>18</b>
8.1 Operating Voltage.....	18

8.2 Power Consumption .....	18
<b>9. Physical Characteristics.....</b>	<b>19</b>
9.1 Dimensions .....	19
9.2 Net Weight.....	19
<b>10. Product Ordering Information.....</b>	<b>20</b>
10.1 Product Code Designations.....	20
10.2 Valid Combinations.....	21

## 1. General Descriptions

Apacer's ST170-297 (JEDEC MO-297) utilizes 3D NAND for higher capacity up to 480 GB and provides more power efficiency than 2D NAND with compact form factor and great performance. Designed in SATA 6.0 Gbps interface, the MO-297 SSD is able to deliver exceptional read/write speed, making it the ideal companion for heavy-loading embedded or server operations with space constraints for host computing systems. Regarding reliability, ST170-297 is implemented with LDPC (Low Density Parity Check) ECC engine to extend SSD endurance and increase data reliability while reading raw data inside a flash chip. In addition, the drive comes with various implementations including power saving modes, global wear leveling, flash block management, S.M.A.R.T., TRIM, DataDefender and Hyper Cache technology.

## 2. Functional Block

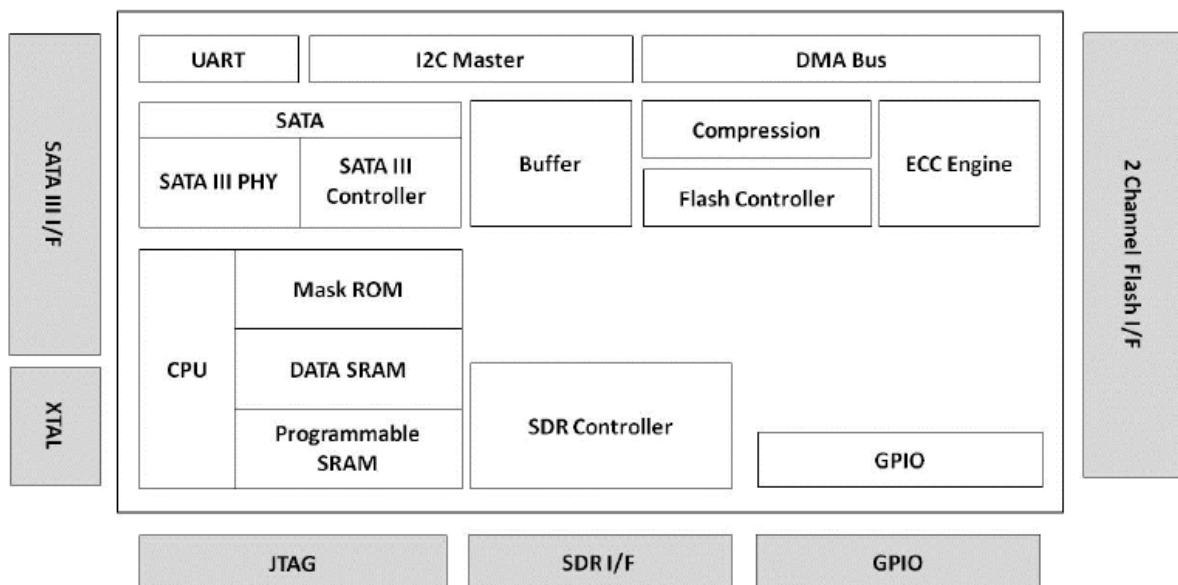


Figure 2-1 Block Diagram

### 3. Pin Assignments

Table 3-1 describes the SFD signal segment and Table 3-2 for power segment.

Figure 3-1 SATA Connectors

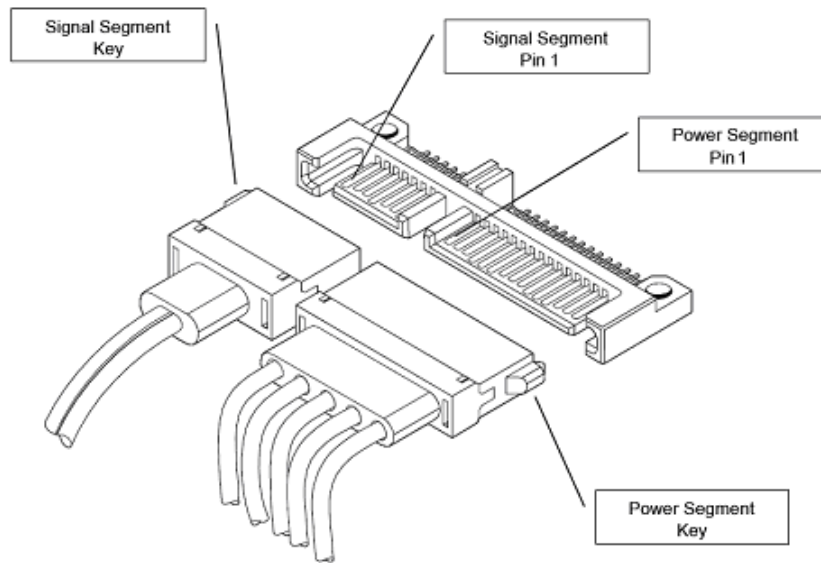
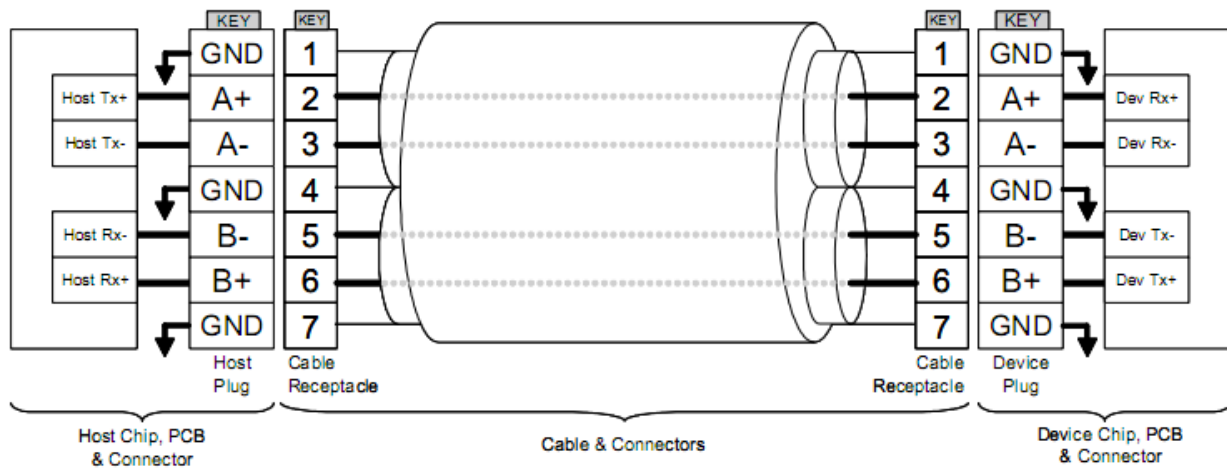


Table 3-1 Signal Segment

Pin	Type	Description
S1	GND	
S2	RxP	+ Differential Receive
S3	RxN	- Differential Receive
S4	GND	
S5	TxN	- Differential Transmit
S6	TxP	+ Differential Transmit
S7	GND	

Table 3-2 Power Segment

Pin	Signal/Description
Pin1	Unused (3.3V)
Pin2	Unused (3.3V)
Pin3	Device Sleep
Pin4	Ground
Pin5	Ground
Pin6	Ground
Pin7	5V
Pin8	5V
Pin9	5V
Pin10	Ground
Pin11	DAS
Pin12	Ground
Pin13	Unused (12V)
Pin14	Unused (12V)
Pin15	Unused (12V)



**Figure 3-2** SATA Cable/Connector Connection Diagram

The connector on the left represents the Host with TX/RX differential pairs connected to a cable. The connector on the right shows the Device with TX/RX differential pairs also connected to the cable. Notice also the ground path connecting the shielding of the cable to the Cable Receptacle.

## 4. Product Specifications

### 4.1 Capacity

Capacity specifications of ST170-297 are available as shown in Table 4-1. It lists the specific capacity and the default numbers of heads, sectors and cylinders for each product line.

**Table 4-1** Capacity Specifications

Capacity	Total bytes*	Cylinders	Heads	Sectors	Max LBA
30 GB	30,016,536,576	16,383	16	63	58,626,288
60 GB	60,021,538,816	16,383	16	63	117,231,408
120 GB	120,033,640,448	16,383	16	63	234,441,648
240 GB	240,056,795,136	16,383	16	63	468,862,128
480 GB	480,103,104,512	16,383	16	63	937,703,088

\*Display of total bytes varies from file systems, which means not all of the bytes can be used for storage.

\*\*Notes: 1 GB = 1,000,000,000 bytes; 1 sector = 512 bytes.

LBA count addressed in the table above indicates total user storage capacity and will remain the same throughout the lifespan of the device. However, the total usable capacity of the SSD is most likely to be less than the total physical capacity because a small portion of the capacity is reserved for device maintenance usages.

### 4.2 Performance

Performance of ST170-297 is listed below in Table 4-2.

**Table 4-2** Performance Specifications

Capacity	30 GB	60 GB	120 GB	240 GB	480 GB
<b>Performance</b>					
<b>Sequential Read* (MB/s)</b>	295	555	560	560	560
<b>Sequential Write* (MB/s)</b>	125	245	460	495	505
<b>Random Read IOPS** (4K)</b>	20,000	39,000	66,000	83,000	82,000
<b>Random Write IOPS** (4K)</b>	29,000	60,000	81,000	84,000	85,000

Note:

Results may differ from various flash configurations or host system setting.

\*Sequential performance is based on CrystalDiskMark 5.2.1 with file size 1,000MB.

\*\*Random performance measured using IOMeter with Queue Depth 32.

### 4.3 Environmental Specifications

Environmental specifications of ST170-297 product are shown in Table 4-3.

**Table 4-3** Environmental Specifications

Item	Specifications
Operating temp.	0°C to 70°C
Non-operating temp.	-40°C to 100°C
Operating vibration	7.69 GRMS, 20~2000 Hz/random (compliant with MIL-STD-810G)
Non-operating vibration	4.02 GRMS, 15~2000 Hz/random (compliant with MIL-STD-810G)
Operating shock	50G, 11ms
Non-operating shock	1500G, 0.5ms (compliant with MIL-STD-883K)

Note: This Environmental Specification table indicates the conditions for testing the device. Real world usages may affect the results.

### 4.4 Mean Time Between Failures (MTBF)

Mean Time Between Failures (MTBF) is predicted based on reliability data for the individual components in ST170-297. The prediction result for ST170-297 is more than 1,000,000 hours.

Note: The MTBF is predicated and calculated based on “Telcordia Technologies Special Report, SR-332, Issue 2” method.

### 4.5 Certification and Compliance

ST170-297 complies with the following standards:

- CE
- FCC
- RoHS Recast
- MIL-STD-810

## 4.6 Endurance

The endurance of a storage device is predicted by Drive Writes Per Day based on several factors related to usage, such as the amount of data written into the drive, block management conditions, and daily workload for the drive. Thus, key factors, such as Write Amplifications and the number of P/E cycles, can influence the lifespan of the drive.

**Table 4-4** Endurance Specifications

Capacity	Drive Writes Per Day
30 GB	2.4
60 GB	2.4
120 GB	2.4
240 GB	2.4
480 GB	3.0

Note:

- This estimation complies with JEDEC random client workload.
- Flash vendor guaranteed 3D NAND TLC P/E cycle: 3K
- WAF may vary from capacity, flash configurations and writing behavior on each platform.
- 1 Terabyte = 1,024GB
- DWPD (Drive Writes Per Day) is calculated the number of times that user can overwrite the entire capacity of an SSD per day of its lifetime during the warranty period. (3D NAND TLC warranty: 2 years)

## 5. Flash Management

### 5.1 Error Correction/Detection

ST170-297 implements a hardware ECC scheme, based on the Low Density Parity Check (LDPC). LDPC is a class of linear block error correcting code which has apparent coding gain over BCH code because LDPC code includes both hard decoding and soft decoding algorithms. With the error rate decreasing, LDPC can extend SSD endurance and increase data reliability while reading raw data inside a flash chip.

### 5.2 Bad Block Management

Current production technology is unable to guarantee total reliability of NAND flash memory array. When a flash memory device leaves factory, it comes with a minimal number of initial bad blocks during production or out-of-factory as there is no currently known technology that produce flash chips free of bad blocks. In addition, bad blocks may develop during program/erase cycles. When host performs program/erase command on a block, bad block may appear in Status Register. Since bad blocks are inevitable, the solution is to keep them in control. Apacer flash devices are programmed with ECC, page mapping technique and S.M.A.R.T to reduce invalidity or error. Once bad blocks are detected, data in those blocks will be transferred to free blocks and error will be corrected by designated algorithms.

### 5.3 Global Wear Leveling

Flash memory devices differ from Hard Disk Drives (HDDs) in terms of how blocks are utilized. For HDDs, when a change is made to stored data, like erase or update, the controller mechanism on HDDs will perform overwrites on blocks. Unlike HDDs, flash blocks cannot be overwritten and each P/E cycle wears down the lifespan of blocks gradually. Repeatedly program/erase cycles performed on the same memory cells will eventually cause some blocks to age faster than others. This would bring flash storages to their end of service term sooner. Global wear leveling is an important mechanism that levels out the wearing of all blocks so that the wearing-down of all blocks can be almost evenly distributed. This will increase the lifespan of SSDs.

### 5.4 DataDefender™

Apacer DataDefender combines both firmware and hardware mechanisms to ensure data integrity. When power disruption occurs, the hardware mechanism will notice and trigger the controller to run multiple write-to-flash cycles to store data. Then the firmware will check that the data was correctly written to the NAND flash after the power disruption, preventing data loss.

### 5.5 ATA Secure Erase

ATA Secure Erase is an ATA disk purging command currently embedded in most of the storage drives. Defined in ATA specifications, (ATA) Secure Erase is part of Security Feature Set that allows storage drives to erase all user data areas. The erase process usually runs on the firmware level as most of the ATA-based storage media currently in the market are built-in with this command. ATA Secure Erase can securely wipe out the user data in the drive and protects it from malicious attack.

## 5.6 TRIM

TRIM is a SATA command that helps improve the read/write performance and efficiency of solid-state drives (SSD). The command enables the host operating system to inform SSD controller which blocks contain invalid data, mostly because of the erase commands from host. The invalid will be discarded permanently and the SSD will retain more space for itself.

## 5.7 Flash Translation Layer – Page Mapping

Page mapping is an advanced flash management technology whose essence lies in the ability to gather data, distribute the data into flash pages automatically, and then schedule the data to be evenly written. Page-level mapping uses one page as the unit of mapping. The most important characteristic is that each logical page can be mapped to any physical page on the flash memory device. This mapping algorithm allows different sizes of data to be written to a block as if the data is written to a data pool and it does not need to take extra operations to process a write command. Thus, page mapping is adopted to increase random access speed and improve SSD lifespan, reduce block erase frequency, and achieve optimized performance and lifespan.

## 5.8 DEVSLP (DevSleep or DEVSLP) Mode

Device Sleep is a feature that allows SATA devices to enter a low power mode by designating a particular pin as DEVSLP signal with an aim to reducing power consumption.



## 5.9 Hyper Cache Technology

Apacer proprietary Hyper Cache technology uses a portion of the available capacity as SLC (1bit-per-cell) NAND flash memory, called Hyper cache mode. When data is written to SSD, the firmware will direct the data to Hyper Cache mode, providing excellent performance to handle various scenarios in industrial use.

## 5.10 Over-Provisioning

Over-Provisioning (OP) is a certain portion of the SSD capacity exclusively for increasing Garbage Collection (GC) efficiency, especially when the SSD is filled to full capacity or performs a heavy mixed-random workload. OP has the advantages of providing extended life expectancy, reliable data integrity, and high sustained write performance.

## 5.11 SATA Power Management

By complying with SATA 6.0 Gb/s specifications, the SSD supports the following SATA power saving modes:

- ACTIVE: PHY ready, full power, Tx & Rx operational
- PARTIAL: Reduces power, resumes in under 10  $\mu$ s (microseconds)
- SLUMBER: Reduces power, resumes in under 10 ms (milliseconds)
- HIPM: Host-Initiated Power Management
- DIPM: Device-Initiated Power Management
- AUTO-SLUMBER: Automatic transition from partial to slumber.
- Device Sleep (DevSleep or DEVSLP): PHY powered down; power consumption  $\leq$  5 mW; host assertion time  $\leq$  10 ms; exit timeout from this state  $\leq$  20 ms (unless specified otherwise in SATA Identify Device Log).

Note: The behaviors of power management features would depend on host/device settings.

## 6. Security & Reliability Features

### 6.1 Thermal Sensor

Apacer Thermal Sensor is a digital temperature sensor with serial interface. By using designated pins for transmission, storage device owners are able to read temperature data.

### 6.2 End-to-End Data Protection

End-to-End Data Protection is a feature implemented in Apacer SSD products that extends error control to cover the entire path from the host computer to the drive and back, and ensure data integrity at multiple points in the path to enable reliable delivery of data transfers. Unlike ECC which does not exhibit the ability to determine the occurrence of errors throughout the process of data transmission, End-to-End Data Protection allows SSD controller to identify an error created anywhere in the path and report the error to the host computer before it is written to the drive. This error-checking and error-reporting mechanism therefore guarantees the trustworthiness and reliability of the SSD.

## 7. Software Interface

### 7.1 Command Set

This section defines the software requirements and the format of the commands the host sends to ST170-297. Commands are issued to ST170-297 by loading the required registers in the command block with the supplied parameters, and then writing the command code to the Command register.

Table 7-1 Command Set

Code	Command	Code	Command		
00h	NOP	C9h	Read DMA without Retry		
06h	Data Set Management	CAh	Write DMA		
10h-1Fh	Recalibrate	CBh	Write DMA without Retry		
20h	Read Sectors	CEh	Write Multiple FUA EXT		
21	Read Sectors without Retry	E0h	Standby Immediate		
24h	Read Sectors EXT	E1h	Idle Immediate		
25h	Read DMA EXT	E2h	Standby		
27h	Read Native Max Address EXT	E3h	Idle		
29h	Read Multiple EXT	E4h	Read Buffer		
2Fh	Read Log EXT	E5h	Check Power Mode		
30h	Write Sectors	E6h	Sleep		
31h	Write Sectors without Retry	E7h	Flush Cache		
34h	Write Sectors EXT	E8h	Write Buffer		
35h	Write DMA EXT	E9h	READ BUFFER DMA		
37h	Set Native Max Address EXT	EAh	Flush Cache EXT		
38h	CFA Write Sectors without Erase	EBh	Write Buffer DMA		
39h	Write Multiple EXT	ECh	Identify Device		
3Dh	Write DMA FUA EXT	EFh	Set Features		
3Fh	Write Long EXT	EFh	02h	Enable volatile write cache	
40h	Read Verify Sectors	EFh	03h	Set transfer mode	
41h	Read Verify Sectors without Retry	EFh	05h	Enable the APM feature set	
42h	Read Verify Sectors EXT	EFh	10h	Enable use of SATA feature set	
44h	Zero EXT	EFh	10h	02h	Enable DMA Setup FIS Auto-Activate optimization
45h	Write Uncorrectable EXT	EFh	10h	03h	Enable Device-initiated interface power state (DIPM) transitions
47h	Read Log DMA EXT	EFh	10h	06h	Enable Software Settings Preservation (SSP)
57h	Write Log DMA EXT	EFh	10h	07h	Enable Device Automatic Partial to Slumber transitions
60h	Read FPDMA Queued	EFh	10h	09h	Enable Device Sleep

Code		Command	Code		Command
61h		Write FPDMA Queued	EFh	55h	Disable read look-ahead
70h-7Fh		Seek	EFh	66h	Disable reverting to power-on defaults
90h		Execute Device Diagnostic	EFh	82h	Disable volatile write cache
91h		Initialize Device Parameters	EFh	85h	Disable the APM feature set
92h		Download Microcode	EFh	90h	Disable use of SATA feature set
93h		Download Microcode DMA	EFh	90h 02h	Disable DMA Setup FIS Auto-Activate optimization
B0h		SMART	EFh	90h 03h	Disable Device-initiated interface power state (DIPM) transitions
B0h	D0h	SMART READ DATA	EFh	90h 06h	Disable Software Settings Preservation (SSP)
B0h	D1h	SMART READ ATTRIBUTE THRESHOLDS	EFh	90h 07h	Disable Device Automatic Partial to Slumber transitions
B0h	D2h	SMART ENABLE/DISABLE ATTRIBUTE AUTOSAVE	EFh	90h 09h	Disable Device Sleep
B0h	D3h	SMART SAVE ATTRIBUTE VALUES	EFh	AAh	Enable read look-ahead
B0h	D4h	SMART EXECUTE OFF-LINE IMMEDIATE	EFh	CCh	Enable reverting to power-on defaults
B0h	D5h	SMART READ LOG	F1h		Security Set Password
B0h	D6h	SMART WRITE LOG	F2h		Security Unlock
B0h	D8h	SMART ENABLE OPERATIONS	F3h		Security Erase Prepare
B0h	D9h	SMART DISABLE OPERATIONS	F4h		Security Erase Unit
B0h	DAh	SMART RETURN STATUS	F5h		Security Freeze Lock
B0h	DBh	SMART ENABLE/DISABLE AUTOMATIC OFF-LINE	F6h		Security Disable Password
B1h		Device Configuration	F8h		Read Native Max Address
B4h		Sanitize	F9h		Set Max Address
C4h		Read Multiple	F9h	01h	SET MAX SET PASSWORD
C5h		Write Multiple	F9h	02h	SET MAXLOCK
C6h		Set Multiple Mode	F9h	03h	SET MAX UNLOCK
C8h		Read DMA	F9h	04h	SET MAX FREEZE LOCK

## 7.2 S.M.A.R.T.

S.M.A.R.T. is an abbreviation for Self-Monitoring, Analysis and Reporting Technology, a self-monitoring system that provides indicators of drive health as well as potential disk problems. It serves as a warning for users from unscheduled downtime by monitoring and displaying critical drive information. Ideally, this should allow taking proactive actions to prevent drive failure and make use of S.M.A.R.T. information for future product development reference.

Apacer devices use the standard SMART command B0h to read data out from the drive to activate our S.M.A.R.T. feature that complies with the ATA/ATAPI specifications. S.M.A.R.T. Attribute IDs shall include initial bad block count, total later bad block count, maximum erase count, average erase count, power on hours and power cycle. When the S.M.A.R.T. Utility running on the host, it analyzes and reports the disk status to the host before the device reaches in critical condition.

Note: Attribute IDs may vary from product models due to various solution design and supporting capabilities.

Apacer memory products come with S.M.A.R.T. commands and subcommands for users to obtain information of drive status and to predict potential drive failures. Users can take advantage of the following commands/subcommands to monitor the health of the drive.

Code	SMART Subcommand
D0h	READ DATA
D1h	READ ATTRIBUTE THRESHOLDS
D2h	Enable/Disable Attribute Autosave
D4h	Execute Off-line Immediate
D5h	Read Log (optional)
D6h	Write Log (optional)
D8h	Enable Operations
D9h	Disable operations
DAh	Return Status

General SMART attribute structure

Byte	Description
0	ID (Hex)
1 – 2	Status flag
3	Value
4	Worst
5*-11	Raw Data

\*Byte 5: LSB

SMART attribute ID list

ID (Hex)	Attribute Name
9 (0x09)	Power-on hours
12 (0x0C)	Power cycle count
163 (0xA3)	Max. erase count
164 (0xA4)	Avg. erase count
166 (0xA6)	Total later bad block count
167 (0xA7)	SSD Protect Mode (vendor specific)
168 (0xA8)	SATA PHY Error Count
171 (0xAB)	Program fail count
172 (0xAC)	Erase fail count
175 (0xAF)	Bad Cluster Table Count
192 (0xC0)	Unexpected Power Loss Count
194 (0xC2)	Temperature
231 (0xE7)	Lifetime left
241 (0xF1)	Total sectors of write

## 8. Electrical Specifications

### 8.1 Operating Voltage

Table 8-1 lists the supply voltage for ST170-297.

**Caution: Absolute Maximum Stress Ratings** – Applied conditions greater than those listed under “Absolute Maximum Stress Ratings” may cause permanent damage to the device. This is a stress rating only and functional operation of the device at these conditions or conditions greater than those defined in the operational sections of this data sheet is not implied. Exposure to absolute maximum stress rating conditions may affect device reliability.

**Table 8-1** Operating Range

Item	Range
Supply Voltage	5V $\pm$ 5% (4.75-5.25V)

### 8.2 Power Consumption

Table 8-2 lists the power consumption for ST170-297.

**Table 8-2** Power Consumption

Mode \ Capacity	30 GB	60 GB	120 GB	240 GB	480 GB
Active (mA)	190	245	285	290	330
Idle (mA)	70	70	70	75	70

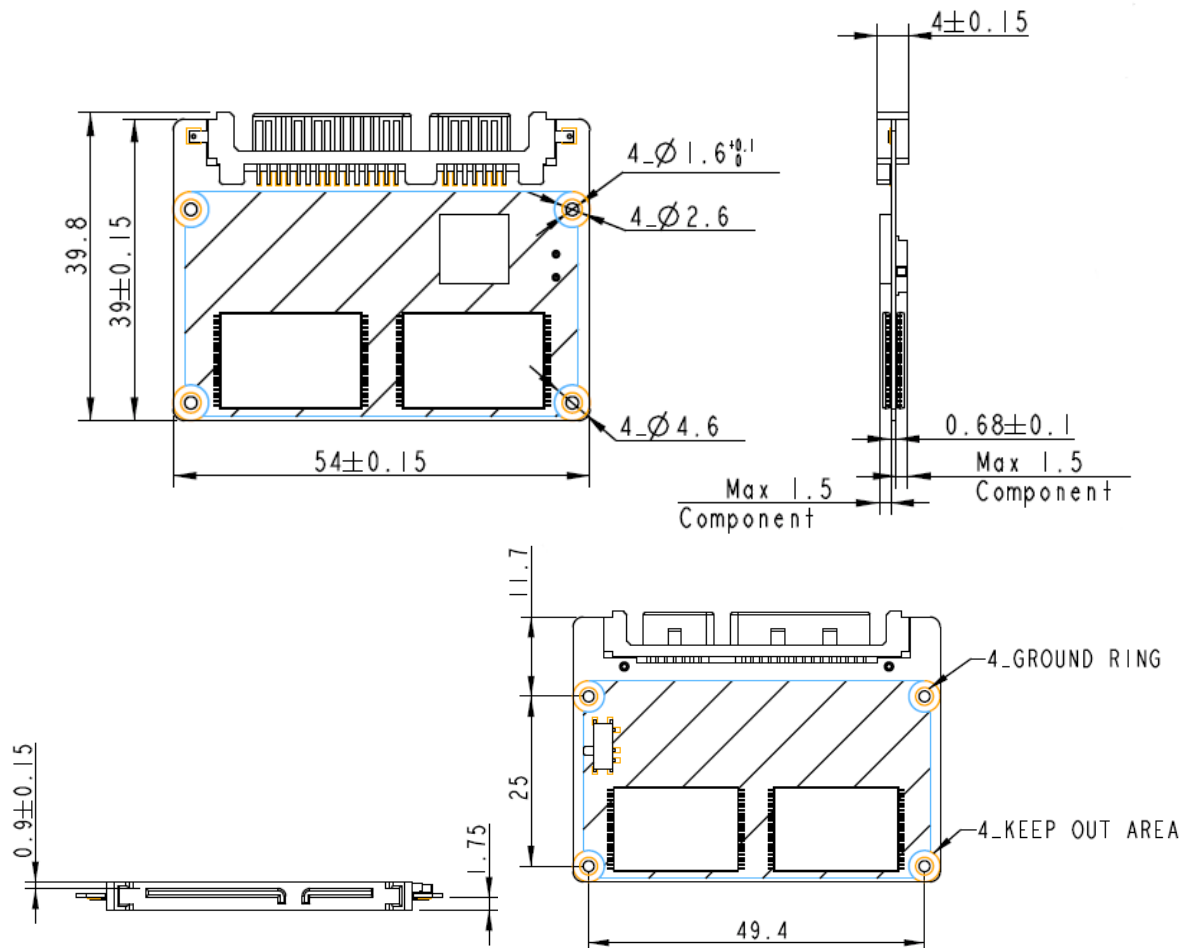
Note:

\*All values are typical and may vary depending on flash configurations or host system settings.

\*\*Active power is an average power measurement performed using CrystalDiskMark with 128KB sequential read/write transfers.

## 9. Physical Characteristics

### 9.1 Dimensions

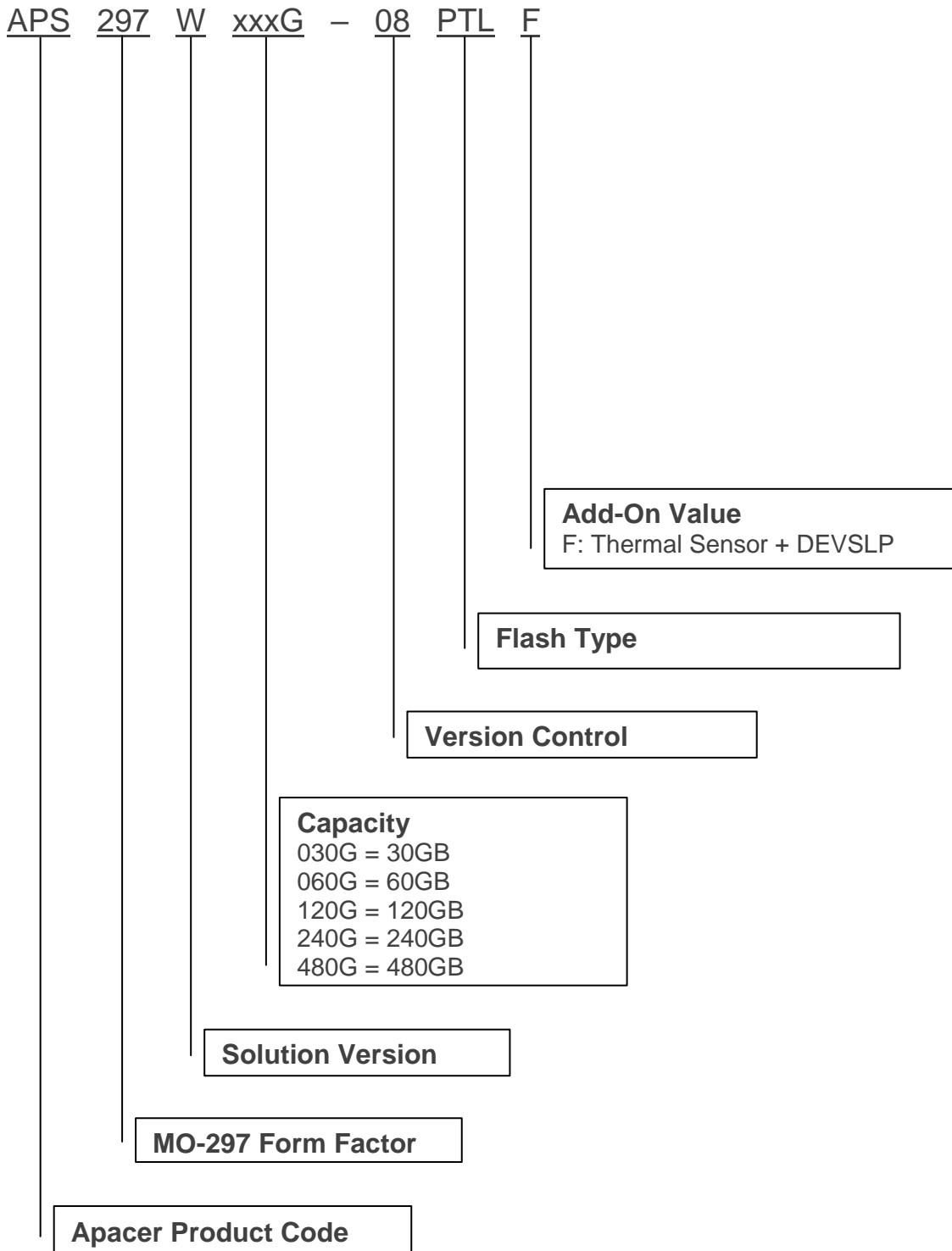


### 9.2 Net Weight

Capacity	Net Weight (g)
30GB	6.7
60GB	6.75
120GB	7.79
240GB	7.89
480GB	7.86

## 10. Product Ordering Information

### 10.1 Product Code Designations



## 10.2 Valid Combinations

Capacity	Part Number
30GB	APS297W030G-08PTLF
60GB	APS297W060G-08PTLF
120GB	APS297W120G-08PTLF
240GB	APS297W240G-08PTLF
480GB	APS297W480G-08PTLF

**Note:** Valid combinations are those products in mass production or will be in mass production. Consult your Apacer sales representative to confirm availability of valid combinations and to determine availability of new combinations.

## Revision History

Revision	Date	Description	Remark
1.0	5/21/2018	Official release	
1.1	6/13/2018	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Updated total bytes for all capacities at 4.1 Capacity</li> <li>- Removed Thermal Management Technique support</li> </ul>	
1.2	11/21/2018	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Removed seq. read/write QD32 performance from the Performance section on Specifications Overview page and 4.2 Performance</li> <li>- Remove the redundant asterisk mark from note 2 at 4.6 Endurance</li> <li>- Renamed Power Failure Management to DataDefender™ at Flash Management on Specifications Overview page and 5.4 section and updated the technology description</li> </ul>	
1.3	2/26/2019	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Updated Performance and Power Consumption on Specifications Overview page</li> <li>- Updated 4.2 Performance and 8.2 Power Consumption</li> </ul>	

## Global Presence

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