



May 23, 2007

To: USB Members and Vendors

RE: Deprecation of the Mini-A and Mini-AB Connectors

Dear USB Developer,

With the recent introduction of the Micro-USB connectors, the USB-IF is taking the strong step to deprecate the Mini-A and Mini-AB connectors in order to minimize the number of cable combinations required to support the various product interconnections and minimize marketplace confusion. Based upon this, the USB-IF will no longer certify products that use the Mini-A and Mini-AB connectors nor products that use them. This change is effective immediately. Vendors of USB On-The-Go (OTG) products are directed to **adopt the Micro-AB receptacle on all new OTG designs** in lieu of the Mini-AB previously approved for this application. In addition, all Mini-A and Mini-AB connectors that are currently on the Integrators List will be removed.

Specifications

The USB Mini- and Micro-series connectors are defined in the following specifications:

§ **Micro-USB Cables and Connectors Specification, Version**

1.01 (<http://www.usb.org/developers/docs/>) – This newly released document defines the Micro-B receptacle (for USB peripherals), the Micro-AB receptacle (for OTG products) and the associated cables and plugs. The new Micro-series connectors offer a smaller footprint, improved insertion/extraction forces, passive latching and improved robustness.

§ **On-The-Go Supplement to the USB 2.0 Specification, Version 1.3** – Previous versions of the OTG specification contained protocol and mechanical definitions, in this new version the mechanical section is removed. The Mini-A and Mini-AB cables and connectors previously defined in the OTG Supplement no longer have a place in any USB current specification.

§ **Mini-B ECN to the USB 2.0 Specification** – This document remains unchanged. It defines the Mini-B receptacle as well as associated plugs and cables.

Compliance Changes

§ **Receptacles on non-OTG products** – Portable non-OTG products may use either the Mini-B receptacle or the new Micro-B receptacle. The USB Standard-B receptacle is still recommended for products with adequate room.

§ **Receptacles on OTG products** – All products seeking OTG certification will be required to use one, and only one, Micro-AB receptacle and no other USB receptacles. (The Micro-AB receptacle is not approved on non-OTG products.) Products using the Mini-A and Mini-AB receptacles will no longer be eligible for USB-IF certification and are strongly discouraged.



- § **Cables and adapters** –The USB-IF is taking the strong step of deprecating the Mini-A and Mini-AB connectors in order to minimize the number of cable combinations required to support the various product interconnections. Cables with the following connector combinations will be eligible for USB certification:

Cable	Application
Std-A plug to Std-B plug	Primary cable for connecting Std-B peripherals to PCs and other hosts
Std-A plug to Mini-B plug	Primary cable for connecting Mini-B peripherals to PCs and other hosts
Std-A plug to Micro-B plug	New – Primary cable for connecting Micro-B or Micro-AB peripherals to PCs and other hosts
Micro-A plug to Std-A receptacle (Adapter)	New – Provides OTG products with the same receptacle (Std-A) that is available on PCs. Any peripheral that can connect to a PC can connect to an OTG product by using this adapter
Micro-A plug to Micro-B plug	New – Allows direct interconnection between OTG products
Hard-wired captive cable with Micro-A plug	New – Supported on products, such as roll-up keyboards, that are targeted exclusively for use with OTG hosts

No new certification of any of the following will be allowed:

Products with Mini-AB or Mini-A receptacles
Products with hardwired captive cables using Mini-A plugs
Cables with Mini-A plugs

Temporary Waivers

Whenever the USB-IF makes a change to certification requirements, it is our policy to continue to allow certification under the prior requirements for a short period of time. While OTG products using the Mini-AB will be eligible for waiver certification for a few months, OTG product vendors are strongly encouraged to rapidly adopt the new Micro-AB to ensure that their products offer maximum compatibility with other OTG products.

Sincerely,
USB-IF Administration