GetMacOctet(link_id)

> This function returns an 8-bit vector from a MAC identified by the *link_id* parameter. When the MAC sublayer has data available, the return value is comprised of eight *OUTPUT_UNIT* values (see 46.1.7.1.2) delivered by eight consecutive invocations of the *PLS_DATA[link_id].request(OUTPUT_UNIT)* primitive (see Figure 143-9). When the MAC sublayer has no data available (i.e., if the last seen *OUTPUT UNIT* value was equal to *DATA_COMPLETE*), the return value is comprised of eight *DATA_COMPLETE* values.

IsIdle(octet)

> This function returns a Boolean value indicating whether the parameter *octet* represents a data octet or an idle octet. This function returns *true* if any bit in *octet* has a value of *DATA_COMPLETE* (see 46.1.7.1.2), otherwise, *false* is returned. Note that since MAC data output is aligned to octet boundaries, all bits in the parameter *octet* are either equal to *DATA_COMPLETE* or all bits are not equal to *DATA_COMPLETE*.