

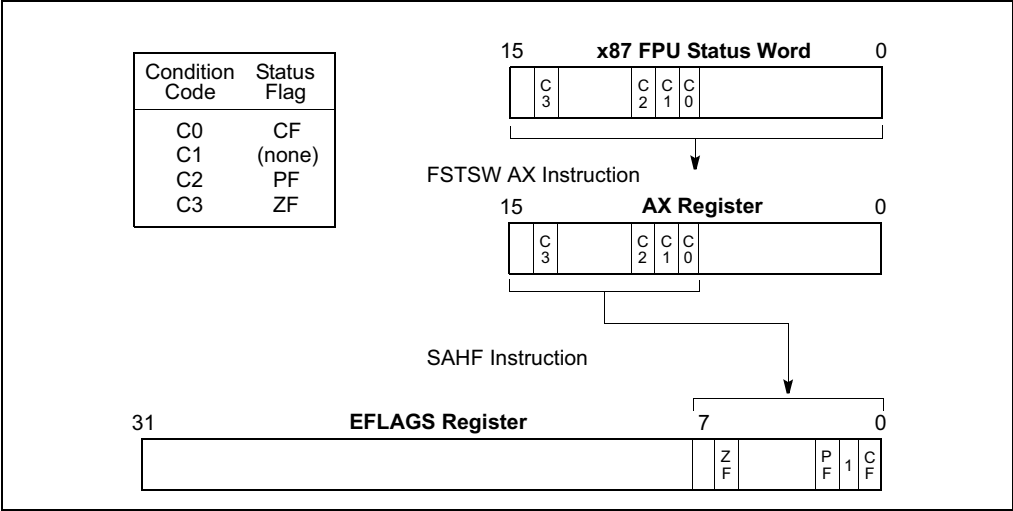


Figure 8-5. Moving the Condition Codes to the EFLAGS Register

The new mechanism is available beginning with the P6 family processors. Using this mechanism, the new floating-point compare and set EFLAGS instructions (FCOMI, FCOMIP, FUCOMI, and FUCOMIP) compare two floating-point values and set the ZF, PF, and CF flags in the EFLAGS register directly. A single instruction thus replaces the three instructions required by the old mechanism.

Note also that the FCMOVcc instructions (also new in the P6 family processors) allow conditional moves of floating-point values (values in the x87 FPU data registers) based on the setting of the status flags (ZF, PF, and CF) in the EFLAGS register. These instructions eliminate the need for an IF statement to perform conditional moves of floating-point values.

8.1.5 x87 FPU Control Word

The 16-bit x87 FPU control word (see Figure 8-6) controls the precision of the x87 FPU and rounding method used. It also contains the x87 FPU floating-point exception mask bits. The control word is cached in the x87 FPU control register. The contents of this register can be loaded with the FLDCW instruction and stored in memory with the FSTCW/FNSTCW instructions.