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Acceptability of Printed Boards

Developed by



BUILD ELECTRONICS BETTER

participants from

14 countries

contributed to this standard



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IPC-A-600M

Acceptability of Printed Boards

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Developed by the IPC-A-600 Task Group (7-31A) of the Product Assurance Committee (7-30) of IPC

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1 Introduction

1.1 Scope This document describes the target, acceptable, and nonconforming conditions that are either externally or internally observable on printed boards. It represents the visual interpretation of minimum requirements set forth in various printed board specifications, e.g., IPC-601X series, J-STD-003, etc.

1.2 Purpose The visual illustrations in this document portray specific criteria of the requirements of current IPC specifications. In order to properly apply and use the content of this document, the printed board **shall** comply with the design requirements of the applicable IPC-222X series document and the performance requirements of the applicable IPC-601X series document. In the event the printed board does not comply with these or equivalent requirements, then the acceptance criteria should be as agreed between user and supplier (AABUS).

1.3 Approach to this Document Characteristics are divided into two general groups:

- Externally Observable (section 2)
- Internally Observable (section 3)

“Externally observable” conditions are those features or imperfections which can be seen and evaluated on or from the exterior surface of the board. In some cases, such as voids or blisters, the actual condition is an internal phenomenon and is detectable from the exterior.

“Internally observable” conditions are those features or imperfections that require microsectioning of the specimen or other forms of conditioning for detection and evaluation. In some cases, these features may be visible from the exterior and require microsectioning in order to assess acceptability requirements.

Specimens should be illuminated during evaluation to the extent needed for effective examination. The illumination should be such that no shadow falls on the area of interest except those shadows caused by the specimen itself. It is recommended that polarization and/or dark field illumination be employed to prevent glare during the examination of highly reflective materials.

The illustrations in this document portray specific criteria relating to the heading and subheading of each page, with brief descriptions of the acceptable and nonconforming conditions for each product class. (See 1.4). The visual quality acceptance criteria are intended to provide proper tools for the evaluation of visual anomalies. The illustrations and photographs in each situation are related to specific requirements. The characteristics addressed are those that can be evaluated by visual observation and/or measurement of visually observable features.

Supported by appropriate user requirements, this document should provide effective visual criteria to quality assurance and manufacturing personnel.

This document cannot cover all of the reliability concerns encountered in the printed board industry; therefore, attributes not addressed in this issue **shall** be AABUS. The value of this document lies in its use as a baseline document that may be modified by expansions, exceptions, and variations which may be appropriate for specific applications.

When making accept and/or reject decisions, the awareness of documentation precedence must be maintained.

This document is a tool for observing how a product may deviate due to variation in processes. Refer to IPC-9191.

IPC-A-600 provides a useful tool for understanding and interpreting Automated Inspection Technology (AIT) results. AIT may be applicable to the evaluation of many of the dimensional characteristics illustrated in this document.

1.4 Classification This standard recognizes that electrical and electronic products are subject to classifications by intended end-item use. Three general end-product classes have been established to reflect differences in producibility, complexity, functional performance requirements, and verification (inspection/test) frequency. It should be recognized that there may be overlaps of product between classes.

Process Indicator imperfections are permitted and are deliverable.

The user is responsible for defining the product class. The procurement documentation package **shall** state the product class and any exceptions to specific parameters, where appropriate.

Criteria defined in this document reflect three classes, which are as follows:

Class 1 General Electronic Products – Includes limited life products suitable for applications where the requirement is function of the completed assembly.

Class 2 Dedicated Service Electronic Products – Includes products where continued performance and extended life is required, and for which uninterrupted service is desired but not critical. Typically, the end-use environment would not cause failures.