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IPC-A-600M

Acceptability of Printed Boards

If a conflict occurs between the English language and translated versions of this document, the English version will take precedence.

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Table of Contents

1	Introduction	1	2.5.5	Lifted Lands – (Visual)	36
1.1	Scope	1	2.5.6	Cap Plating of Filled Holes – (Visual)	37
1.2	Purpose	1	2.5.7	Back-Drilled Holes – (Visual)	39
1.3	Approach to this Document	1	2.6	Holes – Unsupported	41
1.4	Classification	1	2.6.1	Haloing	41
1.5	Acceptance Criteria	2	2.7	Edge Board Contacts	42
1.6	Applicable Documents	3	2.7.1	Surface Plating – Printed Board Edge Connector Lands	42
1.6.1	IPC	3	2.7.1.1	Surface Plating – Edge Connector Lands (Gap/Overlap Area)	44
1.6.2	Joint Industry Standards	4	2.7.2	Burrs on Edge-Board Contacts	45
1.6.3	American Society of Mechanical Engineers	4	2.7.3	Adhesion of Overplate	46
1.7	Dimensions and Tolerances	4	2.8	Marking	47
1.8	Terms and Definitions	4	2.8.1	Etched Marking	48
1.9	Workmanship	4	2.8.2	Ink Marking	50
2	Externally Observable Characteristics	5	2.9	Solder Mask	52
2.1	Printed Board Edges	5	2.9.1	Coverage Over Conductors (Skip Coverage)	53
2.1.1	Burrs	5	2.9.2	Registration to Holes (All Finishes)	54
2.1.1.1	Nonmetallic Burrs	6	2.9.3	Registration to Rectangular Surface Mount Lands	55
2.1.1.2	Metallic Burrs	7	2.9.3.1	Registration to Round Surface Mount Lands (BGA) – Solder Mask-Defined Lands	56
2.1.2	Nicks	8	2.9.3.2	Registration to Round Surface Mount Lands (BGA) – Copper-Defined Lands	57
2.1.3	Haloing	9	2.9.3.3	Registration to Round Surface Mount Lands (BGA) – (Solder Dam)	58
2.1.4	Board Edge Plating	10	2.9.4	Blisters/Delamination/Bubbles	59
2.2	Base Material Surface	12	2.9.5	Adhesion (Flaking or Peeling)	61
2.2.1	Weave Exposure	13	2.9.6	Waves/Wrinkles/Ripples	62
2.2.2	Weave Texture	14	2.9.7	Tenting (Via Holes)	63
2.2.3	Mechanically Induced Disrupted Fibers	15	2.9.8	Soda Strawing	64
2.2.4	Surface Voids	16	2.10	Pattern Definition – Dimensional	65
2.3	Base Material Subsurface	17	2.10.1	Conductor Width and Spacing	65
2.3.1	Measling	21	2.10.1.1	Conductor Width	66
2.3.2	Crazing	23	2.10.1.2	Conductor Spacing	68
2.3.3	Delamination/Blister	25	2.10.2	External Annular Ring – Measurement	70
2.3.4	Foreign Inclusions	27	2.10.3	External Annular Ring – Supported Holes and Microvia Capture Land	72
2.4	Solder Coatings and Fused Tin Lead	28	2.10.4	External Annular Ring – Unsupported Holes	74
2.4.1	Nonwetting	28	2.10.5	Surface Plating – Rectangular Surface Mount Lands	75
2.4.2	Dewetting	29			
2.5	Holes – Plated-Through – General	31			
2.5.1	Nodules/Rough Plating	31			
2.5.2	Pink Ring	32			
2.5.3	Voids – Copper Plating	33			
2.5.4	Voids – Finished Coating	35			

Table of Contents (cont.)

2.10.6	Surface Plating – Round Surface Mount Lands (BGA)	77	3.3.7	Innerlayer Separation – Horizontal (Transverse) Microsection	127
2.10.7	Surface Plating – Wire Bond Pads	79	3.3.8	Plating Separation	128
2.10.8	Type 1 Printed Board Cavities	81	3.3.9	Foil Crack – (Internal Foil) “C” Crack	130
2.10.9	Type 2 Printed Board Cavities	82	3.3.10	Foil Crack – (External Foil) “A”, “B”, “D” Cracks	131
2.10.10	Type 3 Printed Board Cavities	84	3.3.11	Plating Crack – (Barrel) “E” Crack	132
2.11	Flatness	86	3.3.12	Plating Crack – (Corner) “F” Crack	133
3	Internally Observable Characteristics	87	3.3.13	Plating Microanomalies	134
3.1	Dielectric Materials	88	3.3.14	Annular Ring and Breakout in a Microsection Evaluation	135
3.1.1	Laminate Voids/Cracks (Outside Thermal Zone)	88	3.3.14.1	Annular Ring – Internal Layers	135
3.1.2	Registration/Conductor to Holes	91	3.3.14.2	Annular Ring – External Layer (Microsection Evaluation)	138
3.1.3	Clearance Hole, Unsupported, to Power/Ground Planes	92	3.3.15	Annular Ring – Microvia to Target Land	140
3.1.4	Dielectric Material, Clearance, Metal Plane for Supported Holes	93	3.3.16	Microvia Target Land Contact Dimension	142
3.1.5	Delamination/Blister	94	3.3.17	Microvia Target Land Piercing	145
3.1.6	Dielectric Removal/Copper Penetration	95	3.3.18	Lifted Lands – (Cross-Sections)	146
3.1.6.1	Etchback	97	3.3.19	Copper Plating Thickness – Hole Wall	147
3.1.6.2	Smear Removal	99	3.3.20	Copper Wrap Plating	149
3.1.6.3	Negative Etchback	101	3.3.21	Copper Cap Plating of Filled Holes	152
3.1.7	Layer-to-Layer Spacing	102	3.3.22	Plated Copper Filled Vias (Through, Blind, Buried and Microvia)	154
3.1.8	Resin Recession	104	3.3.23	Material Fill of Through, Blind, Buried and Microvia Structures (Other than Copper Plating/Solder Mask)	156
3.1.9	Hole Wall Dielectric/Plated Barrel Separation (Hole Wall Pullaway)	105	3.3.24	Back-Drilled Holes (Microsection Evaluation) ..	158
3.2	Conductive Patterns – General	106	3.3.25	Solder Coating Thickness (Only When Specified)	159
3.2.1	Etching Characteristics	107	3.4	Plated-Through Holes – Drilled	160
3.2.2	Print and Etch	109	3.4.1	Burrs	161
3.2.2.1	Overhang	110	3.4.2	Nailheading	162
3.2.3	External Plated Conductor Thickness (Foil Plus Plating)	111	3.5	Plated-Through Holes – Punched	163
3.2.4	Internal Layer Copper Thickness	112	3.5.1	Roughness and Nodules	164
3.2.5	Solder Mask Thickness	113	3.5.2	Flare	165
3.3	Plated-Through Holes – General	115	4	Miscellaneous	167
3.3.1	Copper Plating Voids	117	4.1	Flexible and Rigid-Flex Printed Boards	167
3.3.2	Plating Nodules	118	4.1.1	Coverlay Coverage – Coverfilm Separations ..	168
3.3.3	Plating Folds/Inclusions	119	4.1.2	Coverlay/Covercoat Coverage – Adhesives ..	170
3.3.4	Wicking	121	4.1.2.1	Adhesive Squeeze-out – Land Area	170
3.3.4.1	Wicking, Clearance Holes	122	4.1.2.2	Adhesive Squeeze-out – Foil Surface	171
3.3.5	Innerlayer Inclusions	124	4.1.3	Plating Anomalies	172
3.3.6	Innerlayer Separation – Vertical (Axial) Microsection	125			

Table of Contents (cont.)

4.1.4	Stiffener Bonding.....	173	4.2.5	Cracks in Insulation Material Fill, Laminated Type.....	189
4.1.5	Transition Zone, Rigid Area to Flexible Area...	174	4.2.6	Core Bond to Plated-Through Hole Wall	190
4.1.6	Solder Wicking/Plating Penetration Under Coverlay	175	4.3	Flush Printed Boards	191
4.1.7	Laminate Integrity	176	4.3.1	Flushness of Surface Conductor	191
4.1.7.1	Laminate Integrity – Flexible Printed Board	177	5	Cleanliness Testing	193
4.1.7.2	Laminate Integrity – Rigid-Flex Printed Board..	178	5.1	Solderability Testing	194
4.1.8	Etchback (Type 3 and Type 4 Only).....	179	5.1.1	Plated-Through Holes (Applicable to Solder Float Test)	195
4.1.9	Smear Removal (Type 3 and 4 Only).....	180	5.2	Electrical Integrity	197
4.1.10	Trimmed Edges/Edge Delamination	181			
4.1.11	Silver Film Integrity	183		Tables	
4.2	Metal Core Printed Boards	184	Table 3-1	Thickness of External Conductor of the Finished Printed Board after Plating	111
4.2.1	Type Classifications.....	185	Table 3-2	Internal Layer Copper Thickness after Processing	112
4.2.2	Spacing Laminated Type	186	Table 423a	187
4.2.3	Insulation Thickness, Insulated Metal Substrate	187	Table 5-1	Test Method Selection within IPC-J-STD-003.....	194
4.2.4	Insulation Material Fill, Laminated Type Metal Core	188			

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.