Qualification and Performance of Electrical Insulating Compound for Printed Wiring Assemblies

Developed by the Conformal Coating Task Group (5-33a) of the Cleaning and Coating Committee (5-30)

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Users of this publication are encouraged to participate in the development of future revisions.

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Table of Contents

1 SCOPE ................................................................. 1
  1.1 Scope ............................................................. 1
  1.2 Purpose .......................................................... 1
  1.3 Classification .................................................. 1
  1.3.1 Types .......................................................... 1
  1.4 Interpretation .................................................. 1

2 APPLICABLE DOCUMENTS ..................................... 2
  2.1 IPC ................................................................. 2
  2.2 Government .................................................... 2
  2.3 American Society for Testing of Materials ............... 2
  2.4 Underwriters Laboratories .................................. 2
  2.5 ANSI .............................................................. 2
  2.6 ISO ............................................................... 3

3 REQUIREMENTS .................................................. 3
  3.1 General Requirements ......................................... 3
  3.1.1 Terms and Definitions ..................................... 3
  3.1.2 Conflict ....................................................... 3
  3.2 Inspection and Testing Requirements ....................... 3
    3.2.1 Qualification Inspection and Testing .................. 4
    3.2.2 Qualification Retention Inspection and Testing ..... 4
    3.2.3 Quality Conformance Inspection Testing .......... 4
    3.2.4 Additional Testing ....................................... 4
  3.3 Materials Requirements ....................................... 4
    3.3.1 Materials ................................................... 4
    3.3.2 Shelf Life ................................................. 4
    3.3.3 Cure .......................................................... 4
  3.4 Chemical Requirements ....................................... 4
    3.4.1 Fourier Transform Infrared Spectroscopy Test (FTIR) 4
  3.5 Physical Requirements ........................................ 5
    3.5.1 Viscosity ................................................... 5
    3.5.2 Appearance ................................................. 5
    3.5.3 Fluorescence ............................................... 5
    3.5.4 Fungus Resistance ......................................... 5
    3.5.5 Flexibility .................................................. 5
    3.5.6 Flammability ............................................... 5
  3.6 Electrical Requirements ..................................... 5
    3.6.1 Dielectric Withstanding Voltage (DWV) ............ 5
  3.7 Environmental Requirements .................................. 5
    3.7.1 Moisture and Insulation Resistance ................ 5
    3.7.2 Thermal Shock ............................................ 5
    3.7.3 Temperature and Humidity Aging (Hydrolytic Stability) 6
  3.8 Special Requirements ......................................... 6

4 QUALITY ASSURANCE PROVISION ......................... 6
  4.1 Responsibility for Inspection ................................ 6
  4.2 Categories of Inspection and Frequency ................. 6
    4.2.1 Qualification Inspection ................................ 6
    4.2.2 Qualification Inspection Frequency .................. 6
    4.2.3 Qualification Retention Inspection ................... 6
    4.2.4 Quality Conformance Inspection ....................... 6
  4.3 Product Change ............................................... 6
  4.4 Test Equipment and Inspection Facilities ............... 7
  4.4.1 Standard Laboratory Conditions ....................... 7
  4.4.2 Permissible Temperature Variation in Environmental Chambers 7
  4.4.3 Reference Conditions ..................................... 7
  4.5 Inspection Routine .......................................... 7
  4.6 Inspection Sampling ......................................... 7
    4.6.1 Test Vehicles ............................................. 7
    4.6.2 Sample Size ................................................ 7
  4.6.3 Preparation Prior to Coating ............................ 9
    4.6.4 Coating Thickness ....................................... 9
    4.6.5 Failures ..................................................... 9
  4.7 Inspection Reporting ......................................... 9
    4.7.1 Qualification Reporting .................................. 9
    4.7.2 Qualification Retention Reporting .................... 9
    4.7.3 Quality Conformance Reporting ....................... 9

5 PREPARATION FOR DELIVERY ................................ 9
  5.1 Containers .................................................... 9
  5.2 Packaging ....................................................... 9
  5.3 Marking .......................................................... 9

6 NOTES ............................................................... 10
  6.1 Order Data ..................................................... 10
  6.2 Formulation Change ......................................... 10
  6.3 Conditioning .................................................. 10
  6.4 Cleanliness ..................................................... 10
  6.5 Adhesion ......................................................... 10
  6.6 Solvent Compatibility ....................................... 10
  6.7 Identification of Solvent Sensitive Conformal Coatings 11
6.8 Reference ............................................................. 11
6.9 Coating Classes ................................................... 11
6.9.1 Ultra-Thin (UT) Coatings ................................... 11

Appendix A Example of Qualification Inspection Report ............................ 12
Appendix B Example of Qualification Retention Inspection Report ..................... 12
Appendix C Example of Quality Conformance Inspection Report ....................... 14
Appendix D Procedure for Petitioning for New Coating Classes ...................... 15

Figures
Figure 4-1 IPC-B-25A ........................................................... 8
Figure 4-2 Test Coupon with “Y” Shape Pattern ................................ 8

Tables
Table 3-1 Requirements for Qualification, Retention of Qualification, and Quality Conformance of Conformal Coating Products ............................... 3
Table 4-1 Test Vehicles and Sample Sizes .................................. 8
Table 4-2 Thickness Requirements on Test Vehicle .................. 9
Qualification and Performance of Electrical Insulating Compound for Printed Wiring Assemblies

1 SCOPE

1.1 Scope This standard establishes qualification and conformance requirements for electrical insulating compounds (conformal coatings). It has been designed and constructed with the intent of obtaining maximum confidence in the materials with minimum test redundancy. This standard covers:

- The qualification and qualification retention of the conformal coating material (Table 3-1, Column A and B).
- The quality conformance of conformal coating material properties (Table 3-1, Column C).

For the purpose of this standard, the term conformal coating is used herein when referring to a type of protective coating for use on printed wiring assemblies. The conformal coating is intended to provide protection from moisture and contamination and provide electrical insulation; not as a sole source of mechanical support.

For the purpose of this standard, inspections are performed on standardized test vehicles instead of real production assemblies. A standardized test vehicle refers to the test vehicle specified per test method indicated, coated with the conformal coating under inspection.

1.2 Purpose With standardized testing on standardized test vehicles under test conditions specified in test methods listed herein, this standard enables a manufacturer to qualify his conformal coating product and express the qualification it possesses. This standard also enables the manufacturer to attest the conformance of the quality of production to the qualification of each product.

It is important to understand that this specification is for materials qualification and conformance only and not for materials application or performance in the end use environment.

1.3 Classification

1.3.1 Types Conformal coatings with a target thickness of 12.5 µm [0.49 mil] or less, shall be defined as Type UT independent of chemical composition. Other conformal coatings shall be categorized into types by the cured chemistry of the coating. The type for hybrid materials shall be based on the chemistry type which is the highest percentage by weight. Conformal coatings shall be of the following types:

- Type AR – Acrylic
- Type ER – Epoxy
- Type SR – Silicone
- Type UR – Polyurethane
- Type XY – Paraxylylene
- Type UT – Ultra-Thin Coatings
- Type SC – Styrene Block Co-Polymer

Additional coating classifications may be added to this specification. See Appendix D for the process to propose new coating classes to this document. New coating classes shall be included in Amendments to this specification.

1.4 Interpretation “Shall,” the imperative form of the verb, is used throughout this standard whenever a requirement is intended to express a provision that is mandatory. Deviation from a “shall” requirement may be considered if sufficient data is supplied to justify the exception.

The words “should” and “may” are used whenever it is necessary to express non-mandatory provisions. “Will” is used to express a declaration of purpose.

To assist the reader, the word “shall” is presented in bold characters.