Qualification and Performance Specification for Flexible/Rigid-Flexible Printed Boards

Developed by the Flexible Circuits Performance Specifications Subcommittee (D-12) of the Flexible Circuits Committee (D-10) of IPC

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

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IPC
# Table of Contents

1 SCOPE ........................................................................... 1
1.1 Statement of Scope ..................................................... 1
1.2 Purpose ........................................................................ 1
1.3 Performance Classifications, Board Type, and Installation Usage ............................................. 1
1.3.1 Classification .......................................................... 1
1.3.2 Printed Board Type ................................................. 1
1.3.3 Installation Uses .................................................... 1
1.3.4 Selection for Procurement ....................................... 1
1.3.5 Material, Plating Process and Final Finish ....... 2
1.4 Terms and Definitions ................................................. 3
1.4.1 As Agreed Upon Between User and Supplier (AABUS) .......................................................... 3
1.4.2 Button Plating .......................................................... 3
1.4.3 Cover Material .......................................................... 3
1.4.4 Target Land (Via Bottom Land) ......................... 4
1.4.5 Capture Land (Via Top Land) .................................. 4
1.4.6 Microvia ................................................................. 4
1.4.7 Core ...................................................................... 4
1.5 Interpretation ............................................................... 4
1.6 Presentation ................................................................. 4
1.7 Revision Level Changes ............................................. 4

2 APPLICABLE DOCUMENTS ........................................... 4
2.1 IPC .............................................................................. 4
2.2 Joint Industry Standards ............................................ 6
2.3 Other Publications .................................................... 6
2.3.1 American Society for Testing and Materials .... 6
2.3.2 Underwriters Lab .................................................... 6
2.3.3 National Electrical Manufacturers Association .......................................................... 6
2.3.4 American Society for Quality ............................. 6
2.3.5 AMS ...................................................................... 7
2.3.6 American Society of Mechanical Engineers .... 7
2.3.7 Federal ................................................................. 7

3 REQUIREMENTS ............................................................. 7
3.1 General ....................................................................... 7
3.2 Materials Used in this Specification .................... 7
3.2.1 Laminates and Bonding Materials .................. 7
3.2.2 External Bonding Materials ............................... 7
3.2.3 Other Dielectric Materials ................................. 7
3.2.4 Metal Foils ............................................................. 7
3.2.5 Metal Planes/Cores ............................................... 8
3.2.6 Base Metallic Plating Depositions and Conductive Coatings ........................................... 8
3.2.7 Final Finish Depositions and Coatings – Metallic and Non-Metallic .......................... 8
3.2.8 Polymer Coating (Solder Mask) ......................... 12
3.2.9 Fusing Fluids and Fluxes ...................................... 12
3.2.10 Marking Inks ......................................................... 12
3.2.11 Hole Fill Insulation Material .............................. 12
3.2.12 Heatsink Planes, External ................................. 12
3.2.13 Via Protection ....................................................... 12
3.2.14 Embedded Passive Materials ......................... 12
3.3 Visual Examination .................................................... 12
3.3.1 Profile ................................................................. 12
3.3.2 Construction Imperfections .............................. 13
3.3.3 Plating and Coating Voids in the Hole .......... 17
3.3.4 Lifted Lands .......................................................... 17
3.3.5 Marking ............................................................... 17
3.3.6 Solderability .......................................................... 18
3.3.7 Plating Adhesion .................................................... 18
3.3.8 Edge Board Contact, Junction of Gold Plate to Solder Finish ........................................... 18
3.3.9 Adhesive/Strain Relief ......................................... 19
3.3.10 Workmanship ....................................................... 19
3.4 Dimensional Requirements ..................................... 19
3.4.1 Hole Size, Hole Pattern Accuracy and Pattern Feature Accuracy ..................................... 19
3.4.2 Annular Ring and Breakout (External) .......... 20
3.4.3 Bow and Twist (Individual Rigid or Stiffener Portions Only) .............................................. 22
3.4.4 Array Sub-Pallets .................................................... 22
3.5 Conductor Definition ............................................... 22
3.5.1 Conductor Width and Thickness ....................... 23
3.5.2 Conductor Spacing ............................................... 23
3.5.3 Conductor Imperfections ..................................... 23
3.5.4 Conductive Surfaces .......................................... 24
3.6 Structural Integrity ..................................................... 26
3.6.1 Thermal Stress Testing ......................................... 26
3.6.2 Requirements for Microsectioned Coupons or Production Boards ...................................... 28
3.7 Solder Mask Requirements ....................................... 42
3.7.1 Solder Mask Coverage ....................................... 42
3.7.2 Solder Mask Cure and Adhesion ....................... 42
3.7.3 Solder Mask Thickness ....................................... 43
3.8 Electrical Requirements ............................................. 43
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Section</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Page</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>3.8.1</td>
<td>Dielectric Withstanding Voltage</td>
<td>43</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.8.2</td>
<td>Electrical Continuity and Isolation Resistance</td>
<td>43</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.8.3</td>
<td>Circuit/PTH Shorts to Metal Substrates</td>
<td>43</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.8.4</td>
<td>Moisture and Insulation Resistance (MIR)</td>
<td>43</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>QUALITY ASSURANCE PROVISIONS</td>
<td>47</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4.1</td>
<td>General</td>
<td>47</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4.1.1</td>
<td>Qualification</td>
<td>47</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4.1.2</td>
<td>Sample Test Coupons</td>
<td>47</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4.2</td>
<td>Acceptance Testing and Frequency</td>
<td>50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4.2.1</td>
<td>C=0 Zero Acceptance Number Sampling Plan</td>
<td>50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4.2.2</td>
<td>Referee Tests</td>
<td>50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4.3</td>
<td>Quality Conformance Testing</td>
<td>54</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4.3.1</td>
<td>Coupon Selection</td>
<td>54</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>NOTES</td>
<td>54</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5.1</td>
<td>Ordering Data</td>
<td>54</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5.2</td>
<td>Superseded Specifications</td>
<td>54</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5.3</td>
<td>Figures</td>
<td>55</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>APPENDIX A</td>
<td></td>
<td>55</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Figure 3-33 Copper Cap Thickness ................................... 37
Figure 3-34 Copper Cap Filled Via Height (Bump) .......... 37
Figure 3-35 Copper Cap Depression (Dimple) ............. 37
Figure 3-36 Copper Cap Plating Voids ......................... 37
Figure 3-37 Enclosed Inclusion in Copper Cap Plating .... 37
Figure 3-38 Example of Acceptable Voiding in a Copper Filled Microvia .................................... 38
Figure 3-39 Example of Acceptable Voiding in a Copper Filled Microvia without Cap Plating ............... 38
Figure 3-40 Example of Nonconforming Void in Copper Filled Microvia ............................................. 38
Figure 3-41 Example of Nonconforming Void in a Copper Filled Microvia without Cap Plating ............... 38
Figure 3-42 Microvia Contact Dimension ......................... 38
Figure 3-43 Exclusion of Separations in Microvia Target Land Contact Dimension ................................ 38
Figure 3-44 Penetration of Microvia Target Land .......... 39
Figure 3-45 Measurement of Total Copper Thickness When Selective Hole Plating is Specified .......... 40
Figure 3-46 Metal Core to PTH ........................................ 41
Figure 3-47 Measurement of Minimum Dielectric Spacing ......................................................... 41
Figure 3-48 Fill Material in Blind/Through Vias When Cap Plating Not Specified ...................... 41
Figure 3-49 Bending Test ..................................................... 45

Tables

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Table</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Page</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Table 1-1</td>
<td>Default Requirements</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Table 3-1</td>
<td>Internal or External Metal Planes</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Table 3-2</td>
<td>Final Finish and Coating Requirements</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Table 3-3</td>
<td>Surface and Hole Copper Plating Minimum Requirements for Through-Holes</td>
<td>11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Table 3-4</td>
<td>Surface and Hole Copper Plating Minimum Requirements for Buried Vias &gt; 2 Layers, and Blind Vias</td>
<td>11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Table 3-5</td>
<td>Surface and Hole Copper Plating Minimum Requirements for Microvias (Blind and Buried)</td>
<td>11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Table 3-6</td>
<td>Surface and Hole Copper Plating Minimum Requirements for Buried Via Cores (2 Layers)</td>
<td>11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Table 3-7</td>
<td>Covercoat Adhesion</td>
<td>16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Table 3-8</td>
<td>Solder Wicking/Plating Penetration Limits</td>
<td>16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Table 3-9</td>
<td>Plating and Coating Voids Visual Examination</td>
<td>17</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Table 3-10</td>
<td>Edge Board Contact Gap</td>
<td>19</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Table 3-11</td>
<td>Minimum Etch Annular Ring</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Table 3-12</td>
<td>Allowable Squeeze-Out of Coverlay Adhesive and Ooze-Out of Covercoat</td>
<td>22</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Table 3-13</td>
<td>Minimum Solderable Annular Ring on Land Area</td>
<td>22</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Table 3-14</td>
<td>Conductor Spacing Requirements</td>
<td>23</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Table 3-15</td>
<td>PTH Integrity after Stress</td>
<td>28</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Table 3-16</td>
<td>Cap Plating Requirements</td>
<td>36</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Table 3-17</td>
<td>Microvia Contact Dimension</td>
<td>39</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Table 3-18</td>
<td>Internal Layer Foil Thickness after Processing</td>
<td>39</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Table 3-19</td>
<td>External Conductor Thickness after Plating</td>
<td>40</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Table 3-20</td>
<td>Solder Mask Adhesion</td>
<td>43</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Table 3-21</td>
<td>Dielectric Withstanding Test Voltages</td>
<td>43</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Table 3-22</td>
<td>Insulation Resistance</td>
<td>43</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Table 4-1</td>
<td>Qualification Testing</td>
<td>47</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Table 4-2</td>
<td>C=0 Sampling Plan Per Lot Size</td>
<td>50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Table 4-3</td>
<td>Acceptance Testing and Frequency</td>
<td>50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Table 4-4</td>
<td>Quality Conformance Testing</td>
<td>54</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Qualification and Performance Specification for Flexible/Rigid-Flexible Printed Boards

1 SCOPE

1.1 Statement of Scope This specification covers qualification and performance requirements of flexible printed boards. The flexible printed board may be single-sided, double-sided, multilayer, or rigid-flex multilayer. All of these constructions may or may not include stiffeners, plated-through holes (PTHs), and blind/buried vias.

The flexible or rigid-flex printed board may contain build up High Density Interconnect (HDI) layers. The printed board may contain embedded active or passive circuitry with distributive capacitive planes, capacitive or resistive components conforming to IPC-6017.

The rigid section of the printed board may contain a metal core or external metal heat frame, which may be active or non-active.

Revision level changes are described in 1.7.

1.2 Purpose The purpose of this specification is to provide requirements for qualification and performance of flexible printed boards designed to IPC-2221 and IPC-2223.

1.3 Performance Classification, Board Type, and Installation Usage

1.3.1 Classification This specification recognizes that flexible printed boards will be subject to variations in performance requirements based on end-use. These performance classes (Class 1, Class 2, and Class 3) are defined in IPC-6011.

1.3.2 Printed Board Type Performance requirements are established for the different types of flexible printed boards, classified as follows:

Type 1 – Single-sided flexible printed boards containing one conductive layer, with or without stiffeners.
Type 2 – Double-sided flexible printed boards containing two conductive layers with PTHs, with or without stiffeners.
Type 3 – Multilayer flexible printed boards containing three or more conductive layers with PTHs, with or without stiffeners.
Type 4 – Multilayer rigid and flexible material combinations containing three or more conductive layers with PTHs.
Type 5 – Flexible or rigid-flex printed boards containing two or more conductive layers without PTHs.

1.3.3 Installation Uses

Use A – Capable of withstanding flex during installation.
Use B – Capable of withstanding continuous flexing for the number of cycles as specified on the procurement documentation.
Use C – High temperature environment (over 105 °C [221 °F]).
Use D UL – Recognition. See UL 94 and UL 796F.

1.3.4 Selection for Procurement For procurement purposes, performance class and installation usage shall be specified in the procurement documentation.

The documentation shall provide sufficient information to the supplier so that the supplier can fabricate the flexible printed boards and ensure that the user receives the desired product. Information that should be included in the procurement documentation is to be in accordance with IPC-2611 and IPC-2614.

Note: If the drawing specifies the requirement in words, designators are not required.

The procurement documentation shall specify the thermal stress test method and the number of cycles (in relation to reflow profiles in IPC-TM-650, Method 2.6.27) to be used to meet the requirement of 3.6.1. Selection shall be from those depicted in 3.6.1.1, 3.6.1.2, 3.6.1.3 and 3.6.1.4. If not specified (see 5.1), the default shall be per Table 1-1.