



ASSOCIATION CONNECTING  
ELECTRONICS INDUSTRIES®

**IPC-8497-1**

# **Cleaning Methods and Contamination Assessment for Optical Assembly**

Developed by the Photonic Component/Fiber Handling Task Group  
(5-25a) of the Optoelectronics Assembly Subcommittee (5-25) of IPC

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

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# Table of Contents

<b>1 SCOPE</b> .....	1	7.3.3 Cleaning Fluids/Wet Wipes .....	13
1.1 Intent .....	1	7.3.4 Dry Swabs .....	14
1.2 Caution Reminders .....	1	7.3.5 Sticking Tapes/Adhesive Tapes .....	14
1.2.1 Safety Cautions .....	1	7.3.6 Cleaning Fluids and Wet Swabs .....	15
1.2.2 Electrostatic Discharge (ESD) Caution .....	1	7.3.7 Machines .....	15
<b>2 APPLICABLE DOCUMENTS</b> .....	1	7.3.8 Notes About Cleaning Fluids .....	15
2.1 IPC-Association Connecting Electronics Industry .....	1	7.4 Method Evaluation and Qualification .....	15
2.2 IEC-International Electrotechnical Commission .....	1	<b>8 END-CAPS</b> .....	16
2.3 TIA-Telecommunications Industry Association .....	1	8.1 History - Material .....	16
<b>3 TERMS AND DEFINITIONS</b> .....	1	8.2 History - Design/Shape .....	17
<b>4 CLEANING SPECIFICATION</b> .....	2	8.3 Material Properties .....	18
4.1 General Information .....	2	8.4 Unacceptable Materials .....	18
4.1.1 Cleaning Process Flow .....	4	8.5 Manufacturing Process of End-Caps .....	18
4.1.2 Inspection Criteria Matrix .....	4	8.5.1 Molding .....	18
4.1.3 Understanding MT-Ferrule Connectors .....	5	8.5.2 Cleaning .....	19
4.1.4 Understanding Composite Bi-Metallic- Ferruled Connectors .....	5	8.5.3 Packaging .....	19
4.1.5 Inspection Criteria for Receptacles (with Internal Fiber Stubs) .....	5	8.6 End-cap Design .....	19
4.1.6 Illustrations of Receptacle Devices (with Internal Fiber Stubs) .....	5	8.6.1 Form .....	19
4.1.7 Inspection Criteria for Receptacles (with Lenses) .....	5	8.6.2 Fit .....	19
<b>5 CONTAMINATION</b> .....	7	8.6.3 Function .....	19
<b>6 INSPECTION EQUIPMENT</b> .....	8	8.7 Recommendation .....	19
6.1 Overview .....	8	<b>9 PERFORMANCE TESTING</b> .....	19
6.2 Equipment .....	8	9.1 Method Evaluation and Qualification for Cleaning Solutions .....	19
6.2.1 Optical Microscope .....	8	9.1.1 Contamination of the Microscope .....	20
6.2.2 Video Microscope .....	8	9.1.2 Devices Under Test .....	20
6.2.3 Automated End-Face Inspection System .....	9	9.1.3 Patch Cords .....	20
6.2.4 Interferometer .....	9	9.1.4 Bulkhead Adapters .....	21
6.3 Performance Issues .....	9	9.1.5 Intended Device .....	21
6.4 Inspection Application .....	10	9.1.6 Contamination Technique .....	21
6.5 Inspection Templates .....	11	9.1.7 Patch Cords .....	21
<b>7 CLEANING METHODS</b> .....	11	9.1.8 In Situ End-Faces .....	21
7.1 Procedures for Use .....	11	9.1.9 Lens Elements .....	21
7.2 Description of Items to be Cleaned .....	11	9.1.10 Alignment Sleeve and Other Surfaces .....	21
7.3 Description of Common Cleaning Methods .....	12	9.1.11 Procedure and Data Collection .....	21
7.3.1 Compressed Gas .....	12	9.1.12 Post Test Degradation Testing .....	22
7.3.2 Dry wipes and Cleaning Cassettes .....	13	9.1.13 Data Analysis .....	23
		9.1.14 Qualification/Disqualification .....	23
		<b>10 ELECTROSTATIC CHARGE EFFECT (ESC) AND CONNECTOR CLEANLINESS</b> .....	23
		10.1 Electrostatic Charge Effect (ESC) During the Cleaning Process of Fiber Optics Connectors [14] .....	23

10.2 Electrostatic Charge Accumulation Test ..... 23

10.2.1 Equipment ..... 23

10.2.2 Sample Preparation ..... 23

10.2.3 Apparatus Setup ..... 24

10.2.4 Experimental Procedure ..... 24

**11 THE INFLUENCE OF SCRATCHES/  
CONTAMINATION ON OPTICAL SIGNAL  
PERFORMANCE ..... 26**

11.1 Scratches ..... 26

11.2 Particle Contamination ..... 26

11.3 Oil Contamination ..... 28

11.4 Detailed Descriptions of Optical  
Equipment Indices ..... 29

11.4.1 Current Calibrations Methods ..... 29

11.4.2 Detection ..... 29

11.4.3 Field of View ..... 29

11.4.4 Illumination ..... 29

11.4.5 Magnification ..... 30

11.4.6 Numerical Aperture ..... 30

11.4.7 Rules ..... 30

**12 REFERENCE DOCUMENTS ..... 31**

**Figures**

Figure 4-1 Connector End-Face Inspection Flow ..... 3

Figure 4-2 Zones typically used to describe an area  
of a single mode endface for the purposes  
of inspection ..... 4

Figure 4-3 Typical connectors using zones for inspection .. 5

Figure 4-4 Multimode MT-Ferrule End-Face (top).  
Typical MT-Ferruled Connector: 12-Fiber MPO/  
MTP Connector (bottom) ..... 5

Figure 4-5 Ideal SMF APC Composite Bi-Metallic-  
Ferruled End Face (top). Typical Composite  
Bi-Metallic-Ferruled Connectors: E2000  
2.5 mm Ferrule (bottom-left) and  
E2000 Bulkhead Adaptor (bottom-right) ..... 5

Figure 4-6 Ideal SMF Receptacle Device with Internal  
fiber stub measured with a probe at 200X setting.  
(Note that the core is not illuminated. Therefore it  
cannot be determined if it is  
SMF or MMF.) ..... 6

Figure 4-7 Receptacle Devices (from Left to Right):  
1.) GBIC which use SC ports; 2.) SFP  
which use LC ports; and 3.) XFP which  
use LC ports. (Note that it cannot be  
determined if these devices use fiber  
stubs or lenses until the ports are  
inspected with a fiberscope.) ..... 6

Figure 4-8 More Receptacle Devices: 1.) Middle - Xenpak  
which use SC ports; 2.) Left - SFF which can  
use a variety of optical ports (LC shown); and  
3.) Right - POD which can use a variety of  
optical ports (MTP shown). (Note that it cannot  
be determined if these devices use fiber stubs  
or lenses until the ports are inspected with a  
fiberscope.) ..... 6

Figure 5-1 EDX Spectrum of a Contaminated Connector  
Showing "Human" Contamination ..... 7

Figure 5-2 Contaminated and Damaged Connector  
End-Face [1] ..... 7

Figure 6-1 Optical Microscope ..... 8

Figure 6-2 Video Microscope ..... 9

Figure 6-3 Automated Inspection System ..... 9

Figure 6-4 Hand Held Optical Microscope Utilized  
on Typical In-Hand Connectors ..... 10

Figure 6-5 Hand Held Video Scope/Adaptors ..... 10

Figure 6-6 Bench Top System ..... 10

Figure 6-7 Probe Unit ..... 10

Figure 6-8 Typical Inspection Template ..... 11

Figure 7-1 Typical Canned Air Dispenser ..... 12

Figure 7-2 Typical Lint Free Wipes (Paper), Cleaning  
Cassette (Cloth) and Card Cleaner (Cloth)  
and In-Situ Cassette (Cloth) ..... 13

Figure 7-3 Comparison of Particulate Contamination in  
Washed and Unwashed Cleaning Cloth [18] .. 14

Figure 7-4 Typical FO Connector Cleaning Swabs ..... 14

Figure 8-1 (a) Close-up of the PVC End-cap for  
ST Connector. (b) EDX Spectrum of the  
Contamination from the End-face of the  
ST Connector Showing the Presence of  
Aluminium. .... 16

Figure 8-2 (a) Fiberscope image of Contaminated  
Connector with Organic Film.  
(b) FTIR Spectra of the Organic Film-  
Polydimethylsiloxane (PDMS). .... 17

Figure 8-3 X-ray images of end-cap for ST connectors:  
(a) Standard size ferrule-type, (b) Short  
ferrule-type, (c) newly designed, non-contact  
end-cap. .... 18

Figure 8-4 (a) Close-up of the connector ferrule with  
the blue, short end-cap. (b) Arrows indicating  
metallic and organic contamination inside of  
white, ferrule-type end-cap. .... 18

Figure 10-1 ST type connector and the sample obtained  
by cutting and separating the fiber from rest  
of the cable ..... 24

Figure 10-2 SC type connector and the exposed  
fiber sample obtained by stripping the  
blue plastic covering. .... 24

Figure 10-4 Experimental Flowchart of ESD Experiment ... 24

Figure 10-3 Apparatus Setup Example ..... 24

Figure 10-5 ESC calculated, generated by Cleaning System 1[14], cleaning process with Cleaning System 1 in front of air ionizer, Cleaning System 1 with air ionizer and additional exposure of the connector endface to ionized air (10S), Cleaning System 2 cleaning, Cleaning System 2 cleaning in front of air ionizer. .... 25

Figure 10-6 The dependence of the charge generated from number of swiping operations performed with Cleaning System 1 or Cleaning System 2 at different humidity levels; temperature was 20°C. .... 26

Figure 11-1 This graph compares RL of the connectors from the two scratch experiment groups (wavelength is 1550 nm). .... 27

Figure 11-2 Loose Carbon Particles Transferring Pattern (Through SC-SC Adapter Connection) ..... 27

Figure 11-3 A particle blocked approximately 20-40% of the fiber core. IL-1550 nm/1310 nm (clean connector) = 0.39/0.51 dB; IL-1550 nm/1310 nm (contaminated connector) = 2.88/3.61 dB. RL-1550 nm/1310 nm (clean connector) = 56.2/54.6; RL-1550 nm/1310 nm (contaminated connector) = 37.1/34.5 dB. .... 28

Figure 11-4 Experimental results showing the impact of particle distance from the core on IL and RL. An average particle size was 5-20 μm. A large particle with the diameter >100 μm located at the distance of ~18 μm from the core resulted in catastrophic failure as shown in Figure 11-5. .... 28

Figure 11-5 The fiberscopic image of contaminated connector. IL-1550 nm/1310 nm (clean connector) = 0.16/0.23 dB; IL-1550 nm/1310 nm (contaminated connector) = 16.67/18.00 dB. RL-1550 nm/1310 nm (clean connector) = 57.5/56.0; RL-1550 nm/1310 nm (contaminated connector) = 20.30/18.08 dB. The edge of the particle is located at the distance of ~18 μm from the middle of the core. .... 28

Figure 11-6 Typical amount of particles on Ferrule. IL-1550 nm/1310 nm (clean connector) = 0.19/0.2 dB; IL-1550 nm/1310 nm (contaminated connector) = 0.21/0.21 dB. RL-1550 nm/1310 nm (clean connector) = 55.7/54.5 dB; RL-1550 nm/1310 nm (contaminated connector) = 55.6/54.5 dB. .... 28

Figure 11-7 The typical fiberscopic images of the connector, contaminated with finger prints after mating with clean reference connector (a), fiberscopic image of the reference fiber after mating with oil contaminated fiber (b). IL (clean connector) - 1550 nm/1310 nm = 0.22 dB/0.27 dB, RL (clean connector) - 1550/1310 nm = 58.1 dB /56.9 dB, IL (contaminated connector) - 1550 nm/1310 nm = 0.23 dB/0.27 dB, RL (contaminated connector) - 1550 nm/1310 nm = 41.2/39.8 dB. .... 29

Figure 11-8 Field of View Examples ..... 30

Figure 11-9 Objective Lens Numerical Aperture ..... 31

**Tables**

Table 4-1 Acceptance Criteria for Nonangled PC Polish Connectors ..... 4

Table 4-2 Acceptance Criteria for Receptacles ..... 6

Table 7-1 Cleaning Need vs. Cleaning Method ..... 12

Table 7-2 Comparison of Cleaning Fluid Properties ..... 16

Table 8-1 Summary of Design and Material Properties from ST End-Cap Study ..... 17

Table 8-2 End-Cap Material and Design Property Requirements ..... 18

Table 8-3 Unacceptable End-cap Materials ..... 19

Table 9-1 Equipment ..... 20

Table 9-2 Recommended DUT's for each Cleaning Application ..... 20

Table 9-3 Example of Data Collection from Cleaning Experiment ..... 22

# Cleaning Methods and Contamination Assessment for Optical Assembly

## 1 SCOPE

The scope of this specification is to describe the methods of inspecting and cleaning all optical interfaces so that their interconnectivity does not result in loss of optical signal. It also describes methods of contamination prevention.

The target audience for this standard are Manufacturing Operators, Manufacturing Process Engineers, Quality Engineers and Field System Installers.

**1.1 Intent** The intent of this standard is not to state a specific all inclusive process or procedure for cleaning optical connectors but rather to show several processes which are used in the industry and the advantages and disadvantages for each process. It will also provide an evaluation method for each process so that each reader may test or qualify each process to find out which one works best for their application. It is not the intent of this standard to advocate any specific products even though some product names may be referenced as a matter of usage in processes/procedures/testing discussed in each section.

### 1.2 Caution Reminders

**1.2.1 Safety Cautions** Operators shall ensure that there is no active laser light source generating a light signal through the fiber that is being cleaned or inspected. Remember many laser signals are invisible to the human eye.

It should also be noted to never look into a ferrule end-face while the system's laser is active. It is important to understand the equipment's operating procedures and warnings.

**1.2.2 Electrostatic Discharge (ESD) Caution** When working in an environment that couples optical fiber and electronic components the operator must adhere to all ESD prevention rules.

## 2 APPLICABLE DOCUMENTS

### 2.1 IPC-Association Connecting Electronics Industry

**IPC-T-50** Terms and Definitions

**IPC-0040** Optoelectronics Assembly and Packaging Technology

### 2.2 IEC-International Electrotechnical Commission

**EC-60194** Terms and Definitions

### 2.3 TIA-Telecommunications Industry Association

**TIA/EIA-604 (FOCIS)** [13].

## 3 TERMS AND DEFINITIONS

Terms used in this standard are in accordance with IPC-T-50, IEC 60194, or IPC-0040. The following additional terms are also defined.

**Adaptor** The metal or plastic body that mates two connectors of same or different types.

**Alignment Sleeve** A circular collar that is usually mounted into a chassis connector intended to help align the connecting fibers as they are plugged into the chassis to complete an optical circuit.

**Bit Error Rate (BER)** See Bit Error Ratio.

**Bit Error Ratio (BER)** Used as the fundamental measure of the component's performance, and is defined as the following:

$$BER = \frac{E(t)}{N(t)}$$

Where *BER* is the bit error ratio, *E(t)* is the number of bits received in error over time *t*, and *N(t)* is the total number of bits transmitted in time *t*.

**Bit Error Rate Tester (BERT)** Apparatus used to test for BER.

### Cleaning Cassette Fabric



**Woven Fabric**



**Entangled Fabric**

**Coaxial Illumination** When an object is being viewed using light which strikes the surface along the line of sight. This is usually accomplished with a beam splitter. This type of lighting shows the differences in surface textures.

**Colored Light** The hue of a given wavelength.

**DUT** Device Under Test.

**Detection** The ability of an optical system to detect an object or defect of a particular size.

**Eyepiece Lens** The lens of a compound microscope that is nearest to the eye of the observer.