

An OEM's View of Lead Free Assembly Reliability

Karl Sauter
Semiconductor Packaging & PCB
Technology Group
Sun Microsystems, Inc.

Background

EU RoHS Compliant Assembled Boards

Eliminating the use of Lead(Pb)

Phase 1: Lead Free Solder Paste/Alloy & Board Finish

- * Increased Reflow Temperatures
- * Moisture-Driven Failure (lamine, components)

Phase 2: Package Terminals

Phase 3: Complete Package (including C4)

Contents

I. Background: EU RoHS Impacts Assembly (Lead Free) & Reliability of Large, Complex Boards

II. Consortia Efforts: iNEMI, Unovis, IPC, HDPUG

III. OEM Lead Free Board Reliability Concerns

- Mechanical Stress [iNEMI, Unovis, HDPUG]

 - Ex: 305 vs 405, Multiple ATC Failure Mechanisms

- Board Finishes [iNEMI, HDPUG]

 - Surface Contamination, Compatibility / SJ Microvoids

Contents, Cont.

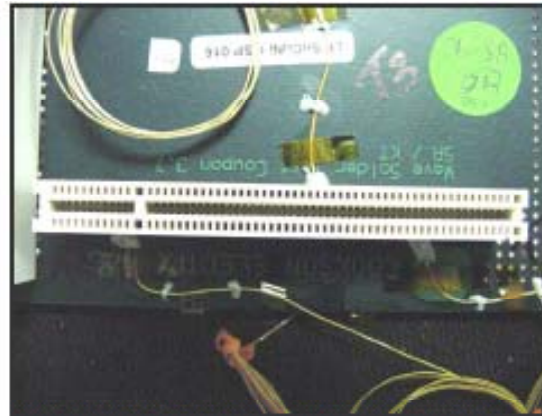
III. OEM LF Board Reliability Concerns, Cont.

- Laminate Materials [iNEMI, Unovis, IPC]
Selection, Lead Free Assembly & Rework Time &
Temperature Requirements, Delamination
- PTH Rework and Cu Dissolution [iNEMI]
- Soldered-In Component Pin Hole Fill [iNEMI]
- Filled & Capped Via-In-Pad Reliability
- Lead Free Alloy Proliferation (including impact on
thermal fatigue reliability testing requirements)

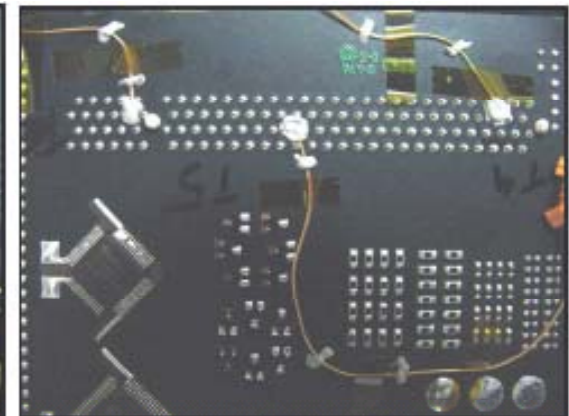
iNEMI

High Reliability Conversion Concerns

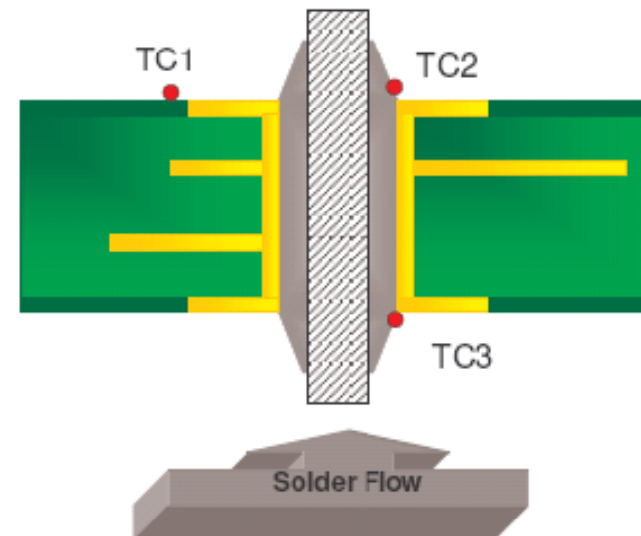
- LF ATC Reliability
- Finish Compatibility
- Laminate Materials
- PTH Rework
- Hole Fill
- 305 vs 405 Alloy Reliability



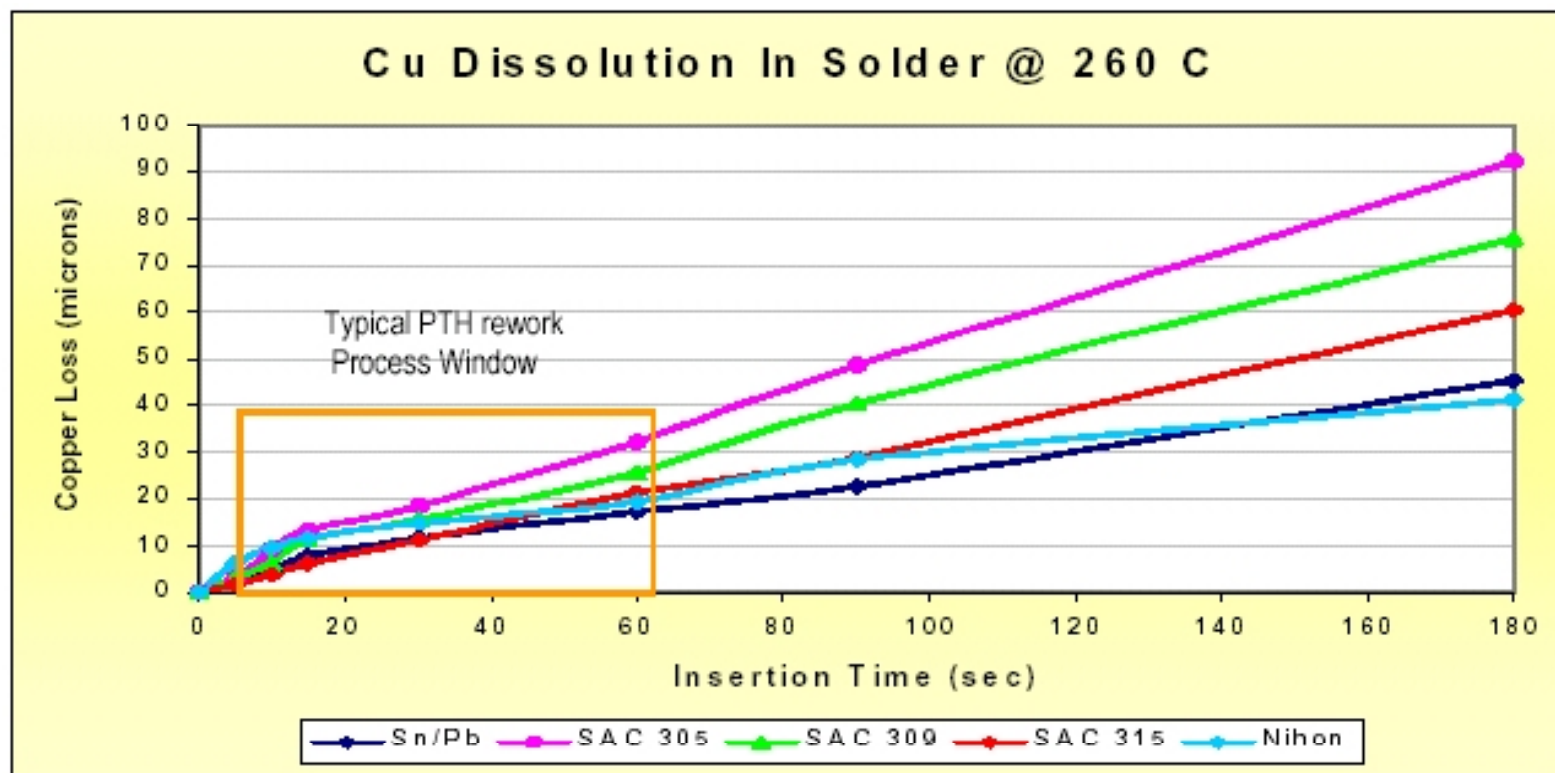
Top Side



Bottom Side



iNEMI



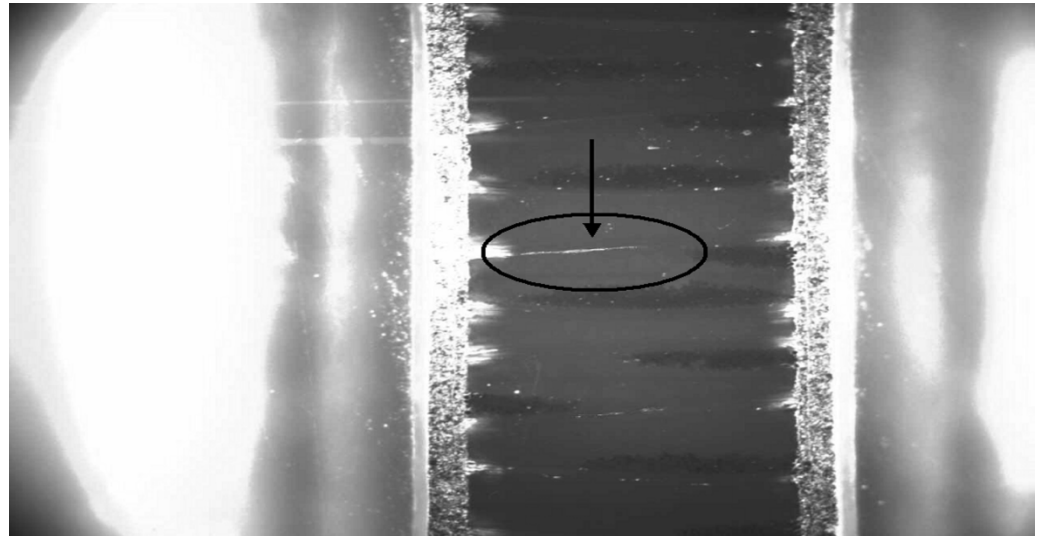
- Increased content of Cu does decrease the overall rate of dissolution.
- Surprising results noted with the dissolution rate of Nihon Superior alloy (SN100C)... after 140 seconds, the rate is lower than that of SnPb. However, it was observed that the intermetallic layer continues to grow as a factor of dwell time.

UNOVIS High Reliability Conversion Concerns

- Lead Free ATC Reliability – Thermal Fatigue & Creep
- Laminate Materials (large thick boards, large area array devices)
- BGA Under-Fill & Reliability

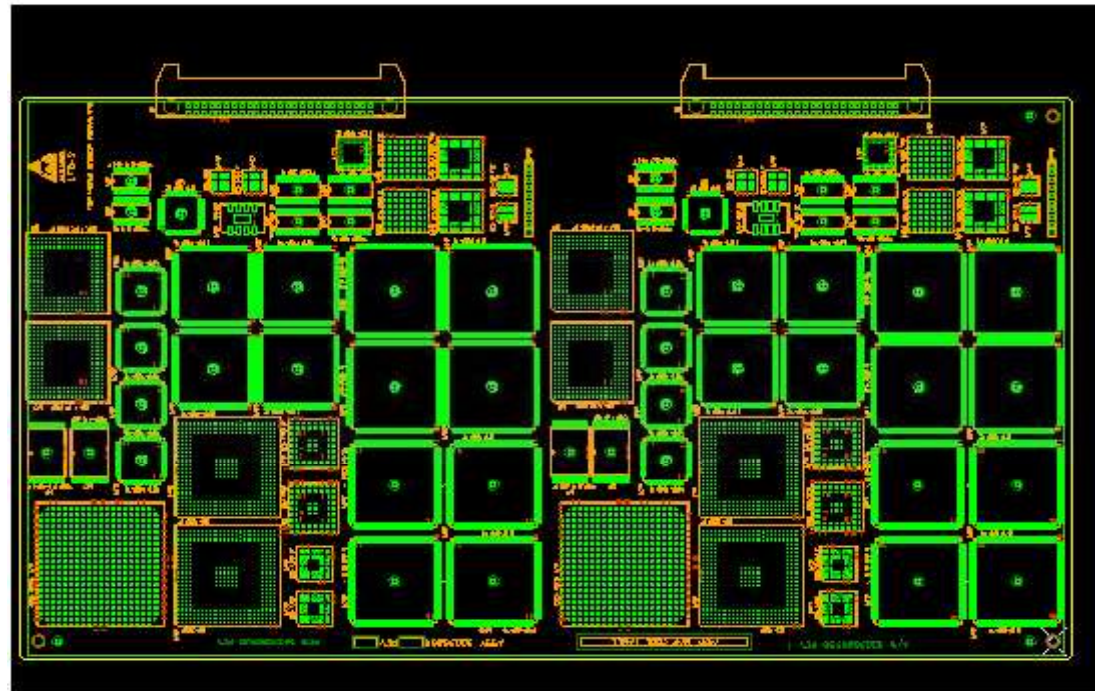
IPC Standards Committees

- 5-32e: Electro-chemical Migration & Conductive Anodic Filaments (Ex: CAF Test Method & User Guide)
- 3-11g: Metal Finishes (corrosion testing)
- 4-14: Solder Joint Microvoids
- 3-11: Laminate/Prepreg Materials Subcommittee (Ex: 4101-B)

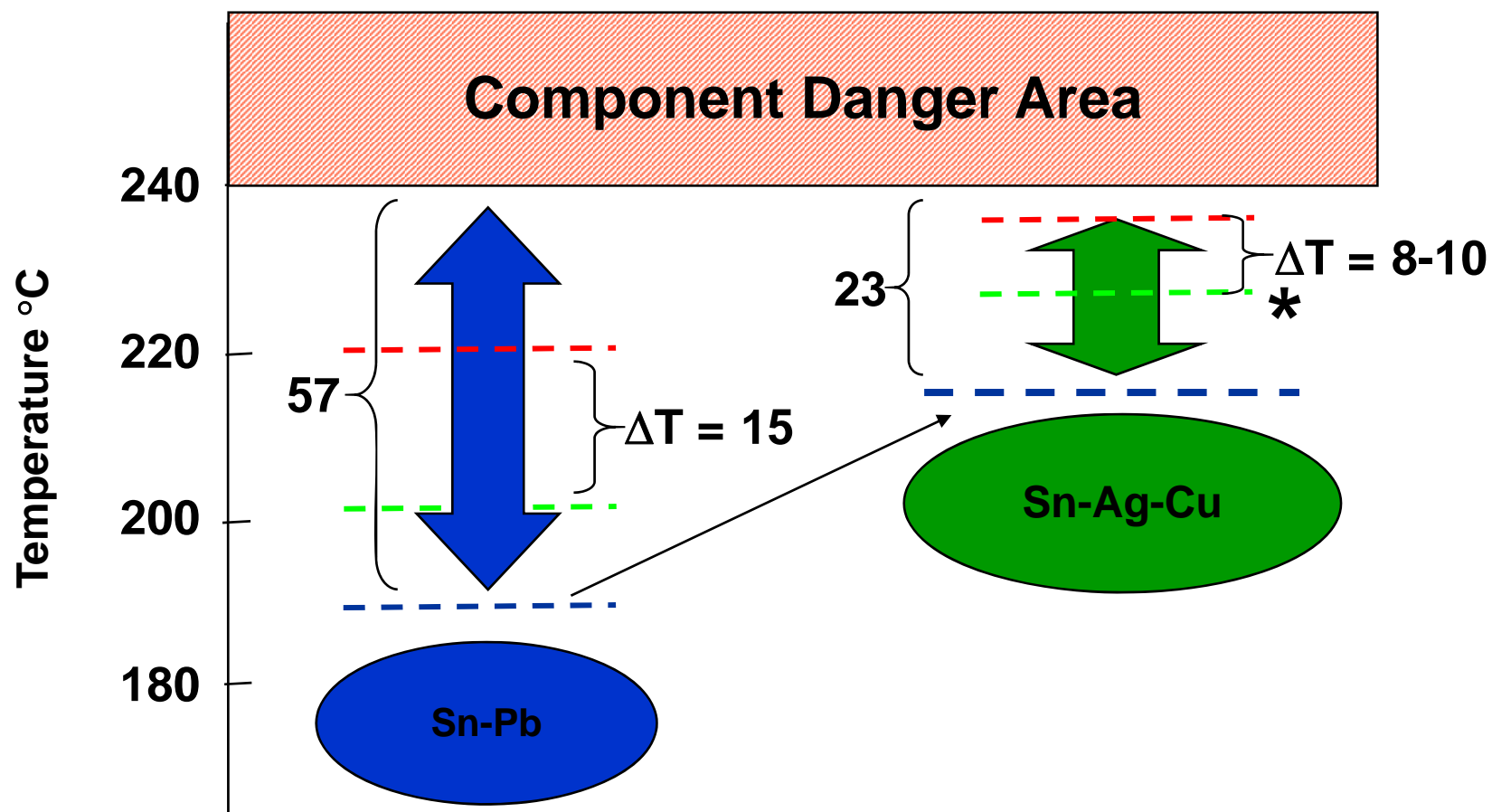


HDPUG

- Mechanical Stress Characterization – Via Integrity
- Mechanical Stress Characterization – Mild Acceleration
- Board Finishes
 - Microvoids
- Laminate Materials - Large Thick High Temp Test Board



HDPUG: Components



Mechanical Stress Characterization (*ATC Reliability*)

Product: Large/Thick High Density Boards (Large BGAs)

Concerns: Alloy Proliferation, Area Array Reliability

Primary Issue: Development of new processes/procedures

(copper plating,
flux

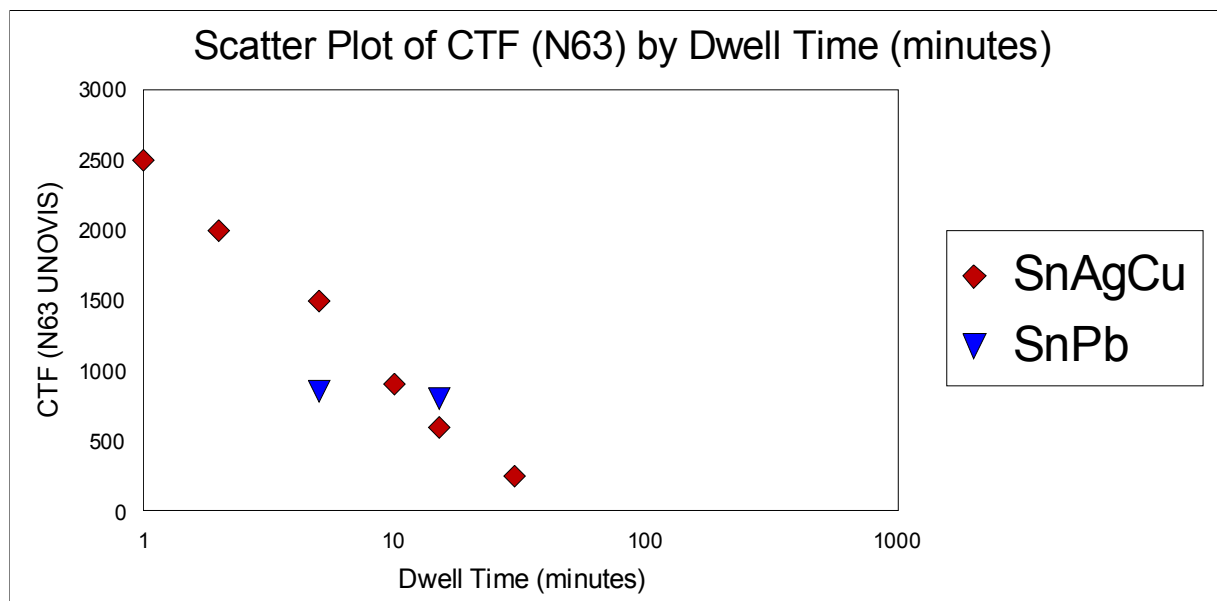
compatibility,

pre-heat,

surface finish

compatibility,

underfilling)



Board Surface Finishes - Selection

*OSP / Immersion Tin
/ Immersion Silver*

- Reliability Concerns:
Planar Microvoids,
Solder Joint Voids
- Working Group:
HDPUG Mild AF
- Issues: Board Pre-
Heat, Flux Activity,
Copper Voids,
Contamination

Description of Planar Micro Voids

Planar Microvoids are smaller than 1-2 mils in diameter

Planar Microvoids are located in one plane at the Land-to-solder interface above the Intermetallic compound

These Planar Microvoids are a risk for reliability failures of BGA and other solder joints



Source: Intel Corporation approaches, experiments, and tests in a pre-production environment. Intel makes no guarantee of the same or similar results in your pre-production or manufacturing environment.



Description of Planar Micro Voids

Board Surface Finishes - Contamination

Electrical Conductivity / Solderability / Cosmetic Tarnish

- Solder Joint Concerns:
Planar Microvoids,
Solder Joint Voids
- Working Group:
IPC Surface Finishes
- Issues: Contamination,
Operator Training,
Cleanliness,
Board Protection



Laminate Material Selection

- Types: Dicy-Cured, Phenolic-Cured, Anhydride-Cured
- Working Groups: IPC (4101-B)
- Issues: CAF, Delamination, Pad Cratering, Moisture Outgassing, Reliability (CTE-Z, IST, HATS)

Overall Board Thickness=>		.062	.093	.124	.155
Eutectic Tin-Lead	220 C				
Lead-Free	245 C				
Lead-Free	260 C				
Lead-Free	285 C				

Material Delamination

- Product: Large/Thick Multilayer Boards
- Working Group: Unovis
- Issues: Pre-heat time/temperature, moisture content, outgassing

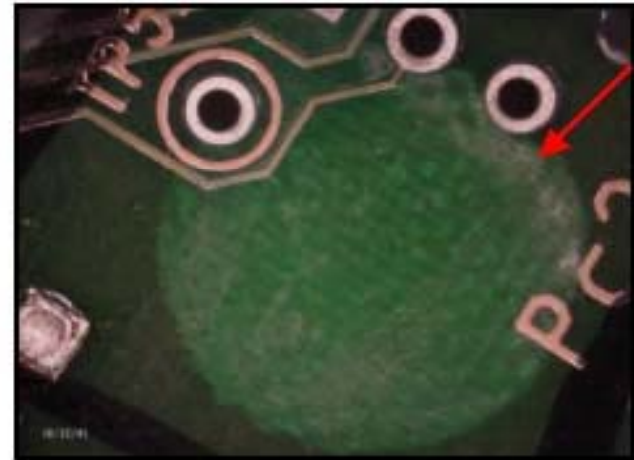


Fig 1

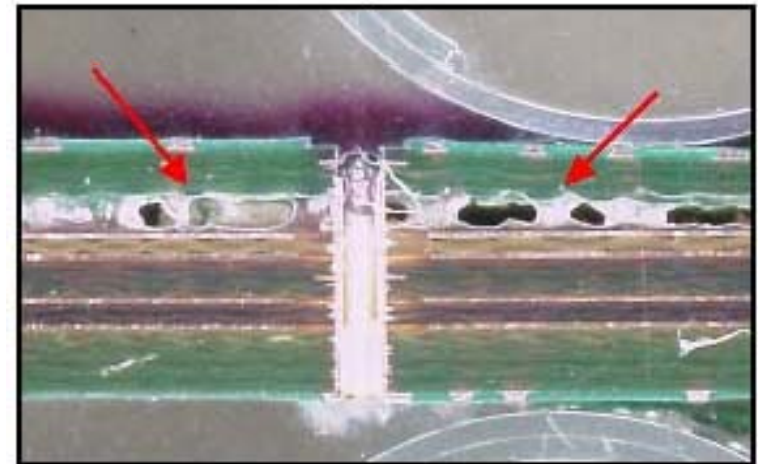
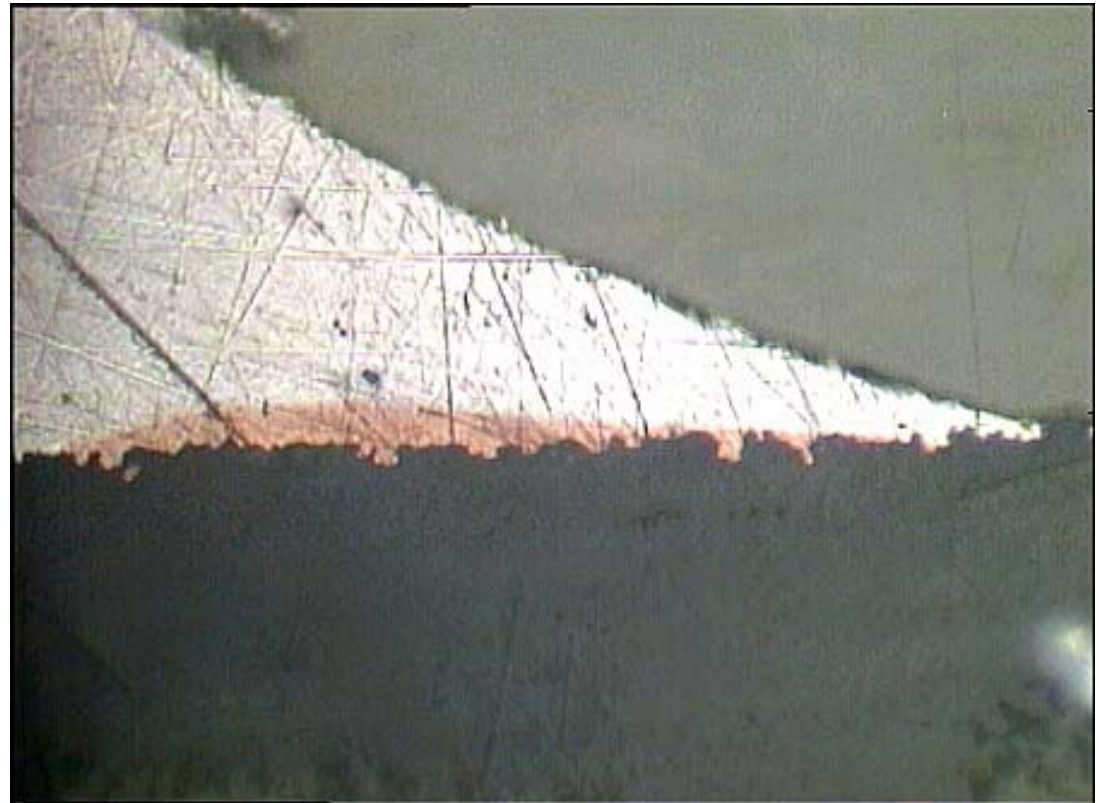


Fig 2

Component PTH Rework & Copper Dissolution

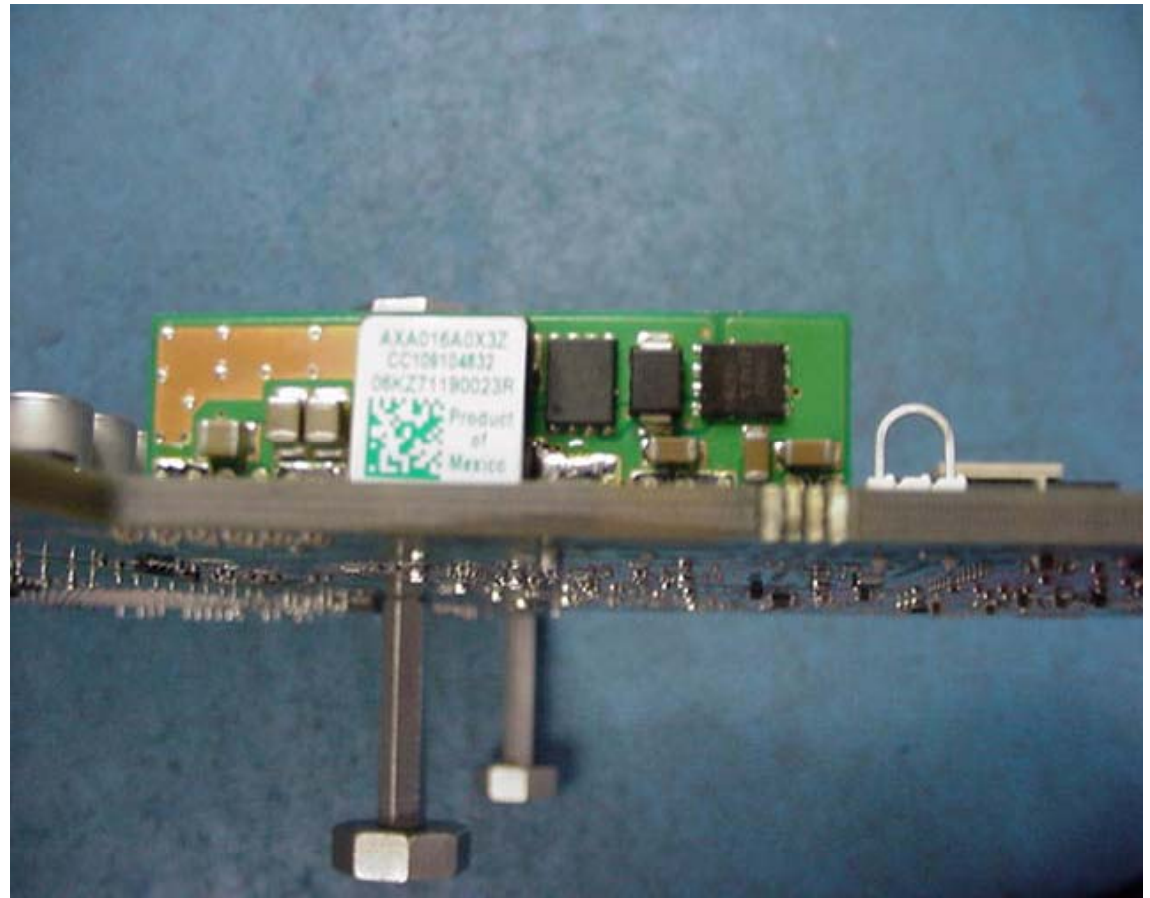
•Product: Large Complex (High Density) Thick Boards

•IPC Concerns:
High Resistance,
Open Circuits,
Special Rework,
Low Copper,
Copper Dissolution,
Alternate Alloys
(Example:
Sn/Cu&Ni=0.7)



Hole Fill: Soldered-In Pin Component Hole Fill

- Component:
Power Devices
- Working Groups:
IPC, Telcordia
- Concerns:
Mechanical
Stress,
Reliability



Hole Fill: Filled & Capped Through-Hole Vias

Product: High Density

Working Groups: OEMs

Concerns: Assembly Yields, Reliability

✓ After 5x @ 288 °C



FIGURE 12-1

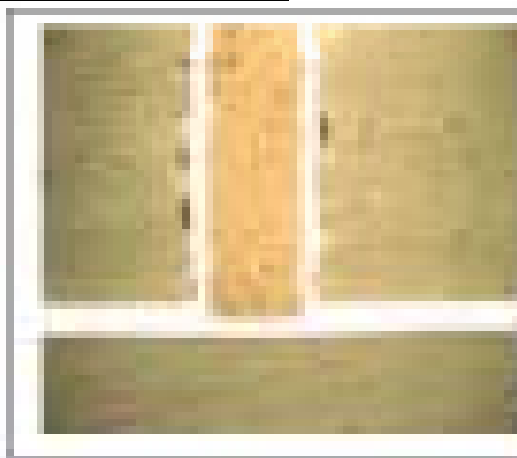


FIGURE 12-2

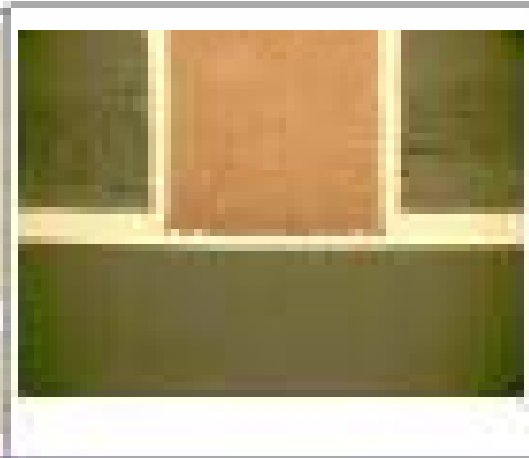


FIGURE 12-3

Proliferation of Lead Free (LF) Alloys

Thermal Fatigue Reliability Testing (every alternate alloy / every different final solder ball metallization)

- Drop reliability concerns of hand-held industry are driving increased variety of LF alloys for solder ball termination
- Reduced silver(Ag) content can improve drop reliability, but also generally reduces thermal fatigue reliability
- Addition of other alloying elements affects LF solder ball undercooling, microstructure, IMC formation, and can increase the melting point by as much as 10 degrees C
- If assembly EM is unaware of these alloy changes; improper assembly, poor yields, and/or loss of product reliability can result

LF Assembly Reliability – Not Covered

- Thermal Robustness of Components: Discretes, JSTD-020D (Standard for Moisture/Reflow Sensitivity Classification for Nonhermetic Solid State Surface Mount Devices)
- Assembly / BGA SJ Drop Testing (IPC)
- BGA Backwards Compatibility (hybrid SnPb/Pb-free SJs)
- Wave Solder Development / Vapor Phase Soldering
- Bus Bar Finish Compatibility (fretting corrosion)
- Tin Whiskers (iNEMI)
- Pad Cratering (test method development)
- High Speed Connectors
- BGA Underfill