

EIA ENGINEERING BULLETIN

Counterfeit Passive Components

A Statement issued by members of EIA/ECA Steering Committee S-1

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Electronic Components, Assemblies & Materials Association

ELECTRONIC COMPONENTS, ASSEMBLIES & MATERIALS
ASSOCIATION

THE ELECTRONIC COMPONENTS SECTOR OF THE ELECTRONIC INDUSTRIES ALLIANCE



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ECA Guideline - Counterfeit Passive Components

Over the past several years there has been a steady increase in the number of counterfeit passive components seen in the marketplace.

At this time, counterfeit passives represent a very small portion of the overall supply chain, but are becoming increasingly visible due to their high associated defect levels and or failure rates.

Common to all EIA manufacturers are quality systems based on continual improvement programs resulting in components with optimum performance and reliability. All manufacturers are now reporting that counterfeit products are forming increasing number of product alerts received.

What is a Counterfeit?

EIA members have reported a wide range of product misrepresentation, some common examples being:

- Non manufacturer's product marked with manufacturer's logo
- "Refurbished" parts disassembled from scrap pubs, re-reeled and represented as fresh material.
- Old product with no traceability re-reeled with counterfeit labels and date codes affixed.

All EIA manufacturers and their authorized distributors offer full traceability of product and, to date, no counterfeit material has been recorded in authorized supply channels. If a product is suspected as being counterfeit, then the source should be interrogated to provide the traceability to the original authorized distributor or manufacturer.

Most EIA manufacturers have invested in anti-counterfeit measures in marking and labeling which enables ready recognition of such product. These measures are mostly proprietary to the manufacturer, to prevent any counterfeiter from copying. Very often, a manufacturer can verify the authenticity of a product in question solely by reference to a photograph of the reel or part itself.

What Actions Should be Taken if a Counterfeit is Confirmed?

Product should be quarantined, documented and/or destroyed. Under no circumstances should counterfeit product be returned into the supply chain.

Products manufactured overseas using counterfeit material should be quarantined. Any printed circuit boards, or finished products containing counterfeit parts should not shipped into the USA as these are liable to confiscation.

If the product contains an identifiable product logo, and a trademark infringement has taken place, then the manufacturer should be informed of the occurrence and furnished with details of where, when and from whom the product was sourced.

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