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ECIA Guideline for Date Code Marking Format

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ECIA Guideline for Date Code Marking Format

Background

As the need for traceability throughout the supply chain increases, so does the need to standardize traceability data elements. Today, more than ever, customers require component traceability back through the supply chain to the manufacturer as part of their counterfeit prevention policies.

Although most manufacturers have adopted the standard date code format for traceability, some still have not.

1. Purpose

To expand supply chain implementation of long standing industry standard date code format for use by original component manufacturers on electronic components. This will allow for increased efficiencies and standardized traceability throughout the entire supply chain.

2. Scope

Define the best practice for the format of the electronic component manufacturer's date code marked on electronic components, packing slips, certificates of conformance, component packaging labels, and/or other traceability documents.

3. Reference Documents

- EIA-476 Date Code Marking
- MIL-STD-1285 Marking of Electrical and Electronic Parts
- EIA-556 Outer Shipping Container Bar Code Label Standard
- EIA/CEA-624 Linear Bar Code and Two-Dimensional Symbols for the Labeling of Product Packages
- JEP 130 Guidelines For Packing and Labeling of Integrated Circuits in Unit Container Packing
- NGIP 111.00 ECIA Guidelines for the Format of Pack Lists
- EIGP 114.00 2D Barcode Labeling Specification for Product Package and Shipments in the Electronics Industry

4. Date Code Format

Manufacturers use a date code data element for traceability to their manufacturing process. Manufacturers define how they determine the date code; for example, the week the components are encapsulated, fabricated, packaged or processed through inspection.

The date code format shall be a four-digit number. The first two digits being the last two digits of the calendar year and the last two digits being the week of the year. This is considered the YYWW format.

The first week of the year shall be considered the first week in which the first Thursday of the year falls. The first day of the week shall be considered Sunday.

It is possible to have 53 Thursdays in a year. If this happens, the week will be marked as week 53.

A Weekly Date Code Chart is posted on an annual basis on the ECIA internet site. The chart is based on the format criteria listed above.

5. Date Code Marking

Date codes shall be marked on the component whenever space allows. Where space limitations exist, the manufacturer shall define the date code marking format. When an alternate date code format is used for part marking, it is recommended the manufacturers define the date code marking format available on their websites for customer access.

Date code marking on electronic components shall be legible, and remain legible after being subjected to normal assembly processes and/or marking permanency testing.

In all cases, the manufacturer's lowest level and intermediate level label will contain the complete YYWW format. The YYWW date code shall be bar coded in accordance with industry standards (9D or 10D field), and a human readable date code shall be in the proximity of the bar code.