

QUALITY

Quality standards

Our ferrite cores are produced to meet constantly high quality standards. High quality components in mass production require advanced production techniques as well as background knowledge of the product itself. The quality standard is achieved in our ferrite production centres by implementation of a Quality Assurance System based on ISO9001 and our process control is based on SPC techniques.

To implement SPC, the production is divided in stages which correspond to production steps or groups of steps. The output of each stage is statistically checked in accordance with MIL STD 414 and 105D.

The obtained results are measured against built-in control, warning and rejects levels. If an unfavourable trend is observed in the results from a production stage, corrective and preventive actions are immediately taken. Quality is no longer "inspected-in" but "built-in" by continuous improvement.

The system is applicable for the total manufacturing process including,

- Raw material
- Production of process
- Finished products.

All our production centres are complying with the ISO 9000 quality system.

Aspects of quality

When describing the quality of a product, three aspects must be taken into account:

- Delivery quality
- Fitness for use
- Reliability.

DELIVERY QUALITY

After production, the ferrite components are tested once again for their main characteristics. Tests are conducted in accordance with the guidelines specified by IEC 62044. If a component does not comply with the specification published in this handbook, it is considered to be defective. A sampling system, in accordance with ISO 2859 and ISO 3951 is used. The Acceptable Quality Levels (AQL's) are generally set at 0.25%.

Different criteria can be agreed upon for customized products. Also PPM agreements with customers are encouraged.

Customers may follow the same system to carry out incoming inspections. If the percentage of defects does not exceed the specified level, the probability that the batch will be accepted is high (>90%), but rejection is still possible.

If the reject level is much lower than specified, quality complaints will disappear. We aim at very low reject levels to eventually allow any customers to dispose with incoming inspection.

FITNESS FOR USE

This is a measure of component quality up to the point where the component has been assembled into the equipment and is quoted in parts per million (PPM). After assembly, the component should function fully. The PPM concept covers the possibility of failures that occur during assembly. It includes line rejects that may occur for any reason.

For ferrite cores, co-operation between the component supplier and the customer is a very important aspect. The core is generally a building block for a wound component and many things can go wrong during the assembly process, but the core is not always the problem. A mutual quality control programme can be established to minimize line rejects for a specific application. For some product lines, levels of 30 PPM have already been realized.

RELIABILITY

Ferrite cores are known for their reliability. Once the assembly process has been successfully concluded, no real threats for the life of the ferrite are known.

Reliability is mainly governed by the quality of the total assembly of the wound component. Extreme thermal shocks should be avoided.