

INTERNATIONAL STANDARD

NORME INTERNATIONALE



Environmental testing –

Part 2-82: Tests – Test Xw₁: Whisker test methods for components and parts used in electronic assemblies

Essais d'environnement –

Partie 2-82: Essais – Essai Xw₁: Méthodes de vérification des trichites pour les composants et les pièces utilisés dans les ensembles électroniques



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INTERNATIONAL
ELECTROTECHNICAL
COMMISSION

COMMISSION
ELECTROTECHNIQUE
INTERNATIONALE

ICS 19.040

ISBN 978-2-8322-6863-6

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CONTENTS

FOREWORD	4
1 Scope	6
2 Normative references	6
3 Terms and definitions	7
4 Test equipment	9
4.1 General	9
4.2 Desiccator	9
4.3 Humidity chamber	9
4.4 Thermal cycling chamber	9
4.5 Equipment for visual inspection	9
4.5.1 Scanning electron microscope	9
4.5.2 Optical microscope/Confocal laser microscope	9
4.6 Fixing jig	9
5 Preparation for test	10
5.1 Selection of relevant tests	10
5.1.1 General	10
5.1.2 Storage conditions prior to testing	11
5.1.3 Pre-aging (storage in the supply chain) before testing	12
5.2 Handling of the specimens	12
5.3 Sample size	12
5.4 Surface and base materials for test selection	12
5.5 Preconditioning of test specimen not intended for soldering/welding	13
5.5.1 Preconditioning of test specimen intended for press-fit applications	13
5.5.2 Preconditioning of test specimen intended for mechanical loads other than press fit	14
5.6 Preconditioning of test specimen intended for soldering/welding	14
5.6.1 General	14
5.6.2 Mechanical pretreatment	14
5.6.3 Heat pre-treatment	15
6 Test conditions	15
6.1 General	15
6.2 Ambient test	15
6.3 Damp heat test	15
6.4 Temperature cycling test	16
6.5 Ambient test for press-fit applications	16
7 Monitoring and technological similarity	17
7.1 Monitoring	17
7.2 Technological similarity	17
8 Test and assessment	18
8.1 Whisker investigation	18
8.2 Initial measurement	18
8.3 Test	18
8.4 Recovery	18
8.5 Intermediate or final assessment for each test condition	18
8.5.1 Fixed threshold length for pass/fail classification	18
8.5.2 Statistical assessment of whisker lengths	19

9	Technology or manufacturing process changes	19
10	Content of final report.....	20
	Annex A (normative) Measurement of whisker length	22
	Annex B (informative) Examples of whiskers.....	23
	Annex C (informative) Guidance on acceptance criteria	25
	C.1 Risks attributed to whiskers	25
	C.2 Acceptance criteria for whisker length.....	25
	C.3 Acceptance criteria for whisker density	26
	C.4 Statistical evaluation of number and length of whiskers.....	26
	C.5 Example of statistic evaluation.....	26
	Annex D (informative) Technical background of whisker growth	29
	Annex E (normative) Transition scenarios for the changeover of the damp-heat test conditions	30
	Bibliography.....	32
	Figure 1 – Cross-sectional views of component termination surface finishes.....	8
	Figure 2 – Selection of test methods.....	11
	Figure 3 – Flow for treatment and/or bending and heat treatment.....	14
	Figure A.1 – Estimation of whisker length	22
	Figure A.2 – Example for whisker length measurement	22
	Figure B.1 – Nodule	23
	Figure B.2 – Column whisker	23
	Figure B.3 – Filament whisker.....	24
	Figure B.4 – Kinked whisker	24
	Figure B.5 – Spiral whisker	24
	Figure C.1 – Smallest distance of components and circuit boards	25
	Figure C.2 – Histogram of whisker lengths and fitted log-normal distribution	27
	Figure C.3 – Histogram of whisker lengths and fitted log-normal distribution	28
	Figure C.4 – Histogram of whisker lengths and fitted log-normal distribution	28
	Figure E.1 –Transition paths for damp-heat testing of components	30
	Table 1 – Material systems recognized for effective whisker mitigation	13
	Table 2 – Preconditioning conditions and test legs for components for different assembly processes	15
	Table 3 – Conditions for the ambient test.....	15
	Table 4 – Conditions for the damp heat test.....	16
	Table 5 – Conditions for the ambient test.....	16
	Table 6 – Conditions for the ambient test applicable to press-fit terminations.....	17
	Table 7 – Classification for measured whisker length.....	19
	Table 8 – Surface finish technology and manufacturing process change acceptance parameters	19
	Table 9 – Final report.....	21
	Table C.1 – Classification for measured whisker length	27
	Table E.1 – Conclusion matrix for parallel damp heat testing	31

INTERNATIONAL ELECTROTECHNICAL COMMISSION

ENVIRONMENTAL TESTING –

Part 2-82: Tests – Test Xw₁: Whisker test methods for components and parts used in electronic assemblies

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International Standard IEC 60068-2-82 has been prepared by IEC technical committee 91: Electronics assembly technology.

This second edition cancels and replaces the first edition published in 2007. This edition constitutes a technical revision.

This edition includes the following significant technical changes with respect to the previous edition:

- extension of the scope of the test standard from electronic to electromechanic components and press-fit pins, which are used for assembly and interconnect technology;
- significant reduction of the testing effort by a knowledge-based selection of test conditions i.e. tests not relevant for a given materials system can be omitted (see Annex D);
- harmonization with JESD 201A by omission of severities M, N for temperature cycling tests;

- highly reduced test duration (1 000 h instead of 4 000 h) for damp-heat test by introducing test condition at elevated humidity of 85 % R.H. and a temperature of 85 °C providing increased severity.

The text of this International Standard is based on the following documents:

FDIS	Report on voting
91/1562/FDIS	91/1573/RVD

Full information on the voting for the approval of this International Standard can be found in the report on voting indicated in the above table.

A list of all parts in the IEC 60068 series, published under the general title *Environmental testing*, can be found on the IEC website.

This document has been drafted in accordance with the ISO/IEC Directives, Part 2.

The committee has decided that the contents of this document will remain unchanged until the stability date indicated on the IEC website under "<http://webstore.iec.ch>" in the data related to the specific document. At this date, the document will be

- reconfirmed,
- withdrawn,
- replaced by a revised edition, or
- amended.

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ENVIRONMENTAL TESTING –

Part 2-82: Tests – Test Xw₁: Whisker test methods for components and parts used in electronic assemblies

1 Scope

This part of IEC 60068 specifies tests for the whiskering propensity of surface finishes of electric or electronic components and mechanical parts such as punched/stamped parts (for example, jumpers, electrostatic discharge protection shields, mechanical fixations, press-fit pins and other mechanical parts used in electronic assemblies) representing the finished stage, with tin or tin-alloy finish. Changes of the physical dimensions of mould compounds, plastics and the like during the required test flow are not considered or assessed. The test methods have been developed by using a knowledge-based approach.

This document can also be used at sub-suppliers, like plating shops, stamping shops or other service providers to ensure a consistent surface quality within the supply chain.

These test methods are employed with defined acceptance criteria by a relevant component or application specification.

The tests described in this document are applicable for initial qualification, for periodic monitoring in accordance with Clause 7, and for changes of technology or manufacturing processes of existing surfaces in accordance with Clause 9.

The mating area of connectors is not covered by this test method. IEC 60512-16-21 applies for the mating areas of connectors.

2 Normative references

The following documents are referred to in the text in such a way that some or all of their content constitutes requirements of this document. For dated references, only the edition cited applies. For undated references, the latest edition of the referenced document (including any amendments) applies.

IEC 60068-1:2013, *Environmental testing – Part 1: General and guidance*

IEC 60068-2-14:2009, *Environmental testing – Part 2-14: Tests – Test N: Change of temperature*

IEC 60068-2-20, *Environmental testing – Part 2-20: Tests – Test T: Test methods for solderability and resistance to soldering heat of devices with leads*

IEC 60068-2-58, *Environmental testing – Part 2-58: Tests – Test Td: Test methods for solderability, resistance to dissolution of metallization and to soldering heat of surface mounting devices (SMD)*

IEC 60068-2-67, *Environmental testing – Part 2-67: Tests – Test Cy: Damp heat, steady state, accelerated test primarily intended for components*

IEC 60068-2-78, *Environmental testing – Part 2-78: Tests – Test Cab: Damp heat, steady state*

IEC 61192-3:2002, *Workmanship requirements for soldered electronic assemblies – Part 3: Through-hole mount assemblies*¹

IEC 60512-16-21:2012, *Connectors for electronic equipment – Tests and measurements – Part 16-21: Mechanical tests on contacts and terminations – Test 16u: Whisker test via the application of external mechanical stresses*

3 Terms and definitions

For the purposes of this document, the following terms and definitions apply.

ISO and IEC maintain terminological databases for use in standardization at the following addresses:

- IEC Electropedia: available at <http://www.electropedia.org/>
- ISO Online browsing platform: available at <http://www.iso.org/obp>

3.1

whisker

metallic protrusion that grows spontaneously during storage or use

Note 1 to entry: Whiskers typically do not require any electrical field for their growth and are not to be confused with products of electrochemical migration. Signs of whiskers include:

- striations in growth direction;
- typically no branching;
- typically constant diameters.

Exceptions are known, but are rare and can require detailed investigation.

For the purposes of this document, whiskers are considered if:

- they have an aspect ratio (length/width) greater than 2;
- they have a length of 10 µm or more.

Note 2 to entry: For the purposes of this document, whiskers have the following characteristics (see also Annex B):

- they can be kinked, bent, or twisted; they usually have a uniform cross-sectional shape;
- they may have rings around the circumference of the column.

Note 3 to entry: Whiskers are not to be confused with dendrites, which are fern-like growths on the surface of a material, which can be formed as a result of electro(chemical)-migration of an ionic species or produced during solidification.

Note 4 to entry: Whiskers are not to be confused with slivers as generated by mechanical metal processing. Whiskers are not to be confused with tubular SnO structures, which may develop under damp-heat test conditions. These structures are hollow and are typically lacking striations occurring on Sn whiskers.

3.2

termination

solderable element of a component consisting of the following elements

- base material;
- underlayer (or underlayer system, if more than one underlayer is present), if any, located under the final plating;
- final tin or tin alloy finish

¹ Withdrawn publication.