



Protect your investment, reduce your liability

IECQ counterfeit avoidance programme: Leads the way in avoiding counterfeit and recycled electronic components

Why are counterfeit parts a problem?

Over the past decades, there has been a significant number of counterfeit electronic parts entering the supply chain, posing performance, reliability and safety risks.

Counterfeit electronic components can be dangerous due to the fact that they often use cheap raw materials, have poor assembly, lack original manufacturers' dye and/or third-party testing and qualification, which could mean catastrophe for a manufacturer or distributor.

Counterfeit electronic components include those that were removed from discarded devices and then cleaned, re-labeled and presented to the market as new. This takes place in uncontrolled environments and uses methods that are likely to result in either the destruction or degradation of the electronic components. It leaves you little assurance of the electronic components' compliance with the specification provided by the original manufacturer or distributor.



Counterfeit components can have dire consequences for ADHP industries



Counterfeit electronic products can generate significant safety hazards for you and, left undetected, can cause death, injuries and substantial property loss in your manufacturing plants. These fraudulent products also increase liability because they can void the guarantee of the whole device or system into which they are mounted.

The aerospace, defence and high performance (ADHP) industries are addressing this problem in part by using the IECQ counterfeit avoidance programme (IECQ CAP).

This programme, the first of its kind, uses a number of new standards that have been developed to avoid, detect, mitigate and dispose of counterfeit parts for manufacturers or distributors.

These standards have been created in response to the growing number of fraudulent electronic parts entering the aerospace, avionics and military supply chains, posing considerable performance, reliability and safety risks.

What is the counterfeit avoidance programme?

IECQ CAP allows an organization, including any equipment manufacturer or subcontractor the organization uses, to develop and implement the systems required to obtain an IECQ CAP certificate of conformity.

This provides confidence internationally that this organization has processes for managing counterfeit avoidance in the selection and use of components according to IECQ CAP technical and quality management system requirements. This is ensured through independent conformity assessment and ongoing surveillance by an IECQ certification body (IECQ CB).

The organizations will then be able to get approved process certification under the IECQ approved process scheme (IECQ AP).

IECQ CAP, based on these standards, will subsequently be expanded to address fraudulent risk mitigation on a global scale across multi-sector electronic supply chain industries. It will provide uniform requirements, practices and methods to mitigate the risks of receiving and installing counterfeit electronic parts.

Reducing risk and liability

With IECQ CAP, manufacturers and distributors will be able to:

- promote their products and services with greater confidence as the certification will be internationally recognized
- obtain independent monitoring and verification of their components and

their systems, including their auditing system

- benefit from advanced detection of potential technical problems in the supply chain
- eliminate duplicate testing
- achieve easier acceptance by regulators and others in the supply chain in many countries

The programme, based on these standards, will subsequently be expanded to address fraudulent/counterfeit risk mitigation on a global scale across multi-sector electronic supply chain industries and to provide uniform requirements, practices and methods to mitigate the risks of receiving and installing fraudulent/counterfeit electronic parts.

In the future

IECQ CAP addresses the needs of the ADHP industries; however, IECQ CAP will be developed to allow other industries to participate, noting that different industries may require different criteria. Other industries may include telecommunications, biomedical and automotive sectors.

Certified with confidence

You and your customers can trust that your products are genuine and perform as they should because IECQ CAP ensures that sampling, test processes, test results, along with production controls, are monitored and verified by an impartial third-party certification body.

Who issues certification

Manufacturers and distributors who are interested in applying for IECQ CAP can contact the IECQ Secretariat.

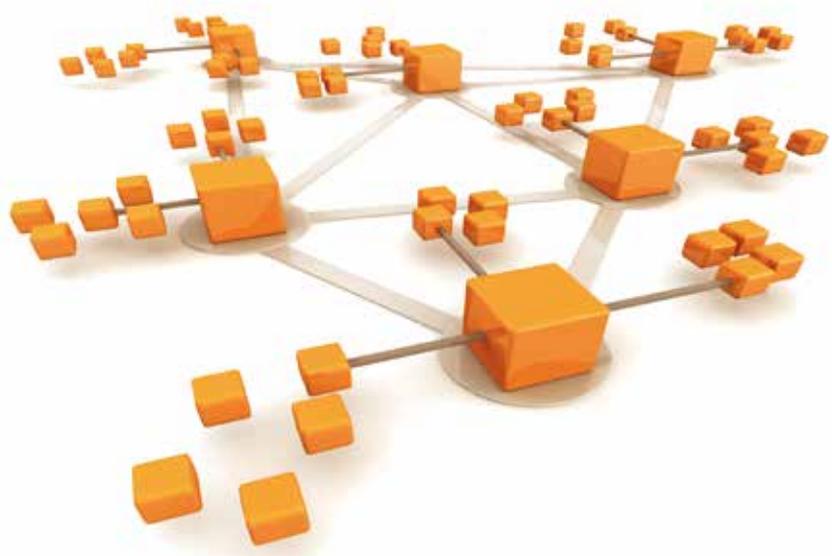
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Quality control, more than just a visual test

The IEC Conformity Assessment Systems are the largest and best known multilateral agreements that are based on one time testing of products globally. With hundreds of certification bodies and testing laboratories participating across the various IEC CA Systems and schemes and in some areas operating dedicated counterfeit avoidance programmes e.g. the IECQ CAP for electronic components and assemblies, IEC is well positioned to assist the global industry in this fight.



About IECQ

IECQ, the IEC Quality Assessment System for Electronic Components, is a worldwide approval and certification system that covers the supply, assembly, associated materials and processes of a large variety of electronic components that are used in millions of devices and systems.

The IECQ Certification System provides manufacturers with independent verification that IEC International Standards and other specifications were met by suppliers who hold an IECQ certification.

The avionics and increasingly other industries depend on the IECQ electronic component management plan to assess suppliers and safely manage their components' supply chain also to avoid counterfeit merchandise. IECQ also allows manufacturers to more easily comply with increasingly strict hazardous substances regulations.

IECQ operates the following certification schemes:

- IECQ approved process (IECQ AP)
 - IECQ counterfeit avoidance programme (IECQ AP-CAP)
- IECQ approved component (IECQ AC)
 - IECQ automotive qualification programme (IECQ AC-AQP)
 - IECQ scheme for LED lighting (LED components, assemblies and systems)
 - IECQ technology certification (IECQ AC-TC)
- IECQ avionics – IECQ aerospace, defence, and high performance (IECQ ADHP)
- IECQ hazardous substances process management (IECQ HSPM)
- IECQ independent testing laboratory (IECQ ITL)

www.iecq.org



Further information

Please visit the IEC website at www.iec.ch for further information. In the "About the IEC" section, you can contact your local IEC National Committee directly. Alternatively, please contact the IEC Central Office in Geneva, Switzerland or the nearest IEC Regional Centre.

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