

Obsolescence management — Code of practice for obsolescence notification and support from suppliers of electronic components

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Foreword

This Published Document is one of several which have been issued by the British Standards Society. Established in 1960, the Society has, as one of its key aims, assistance to management in the application of standards in design, manufacture, quality assurance, in-service support, information technology and other relevant activities. The Society has a number of special interest groups dealing with the application of standards in various technical areas, one of which is the Electronics Standards Group.

The Electronics Standards Group has prepared this Published Document in conjunction with the Component Obsolescence Group (see annex A) as a result of difficulties experienced throughout the electronics equipment manufacturing industry when components become obsolete or obsolescent. This Published Document gives recommendations to suppliers of components for notifying obsolescence and providing support to users of obsolescent components. It is intended that purchasing authorities make reference to this Published Document when placing orders for components, so that obsolescence notification and support can be regulated.

The document was drafted initially by members of the Component Obsolescence Group and refined in discussions with the Electronics Standards Group. The Component Obsolescence Group was formed in 1997 to provide a forum for industry professionals concerned with electronic component obsolescence management. It has a growing membership from various sectors including defence, telecommunications, medical, nuclear energy and railway industries. Information is provided through a website and members can help each other via an email server. Quarterly meetings enable members to hear presentations on current issues and discuss possible solutions.

The Society is grateful to everyone who has been involved in the preparation of this document, and particularly to Roger Rogowski (Arrow Electronics and Chairman of the Component Obsolescence Group), Graham Goring (Thomson Racal Avionics) and the Electronics Standards Group's Chairman, Bob Vallance.



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Chairman, British Standards Society

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This publication does not purport to include all the necessary provisions of a contract. Users are responsible for its correct application.

Summary of pages

This document comprises a front cover, an inside front cover, pages i and ii, pages 1 to 9 and a back cover.

Introduction

The objective of this Published Document is to give recommendations to suppliers of electronic components on what information on component obsolescence should be made available to users of components (or to manufacturers of electronic equipment).

The document is based on discussions held between component manufacturers, component distributors and equipment manufacturers at meetings of the Component Obsolescence Group. The views of the manufacturer's association FEI (see annex A) have been taken into account in preparing the document.

This document is aimed at:

- a) component engineers, post-design service engineers and product support engineers, quality and purchasing managers, electronic and system design engineers and component managers from the manufacturers of electronic equipment and from service organizations;
- b) component manufacturers and distributors responsible for the production and dissemination of product availability information to their customers.

Maximum benefit will be gained from this Published Document if it is quoted in the purchaser's terms and conditions to component suppliers.

See annex A for details of organizations that are referred to in this document. Further information on organizations that are considering the subject of component obsolescence is given in PD 6614:1999.

1 Scope

This Published Document gives recommendations on the supply of information concerning component obsolescence to users of electronic components. The recommendations are intended for manufacturers and distributors of electronic components.

2 Terms and definitions

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

2.1

component

item or sub-assembly of items used in the composition of an apparatus, but which is not itself an apparatus with an intrinsic function intended for the final customer

NOTE Examples of a component are integrated circuits, unpopulated boards, resistors and capacitors. A component can be more complex and can even be a sub-assembly as long as it does not have an intrinsic function and its only purpose is to be incorporated inside an apparatus.

2.2

data library

collection of data-sheets and data-books, both current and historic, in any medium suitable for reproduction and circulation

2.3

distributor

source of supply other than the manufacturer

NOTE A distributor may or may not be recognized or franchised by the manufacturer.

2.4

end of life

discontinuance of production by the original manufacturer

NOTE The abbreviation "EOL" is often used.

2.5

item

object which is identified by a part number and manufacturer

NOTE An item may also be defined by one or more specifications.