



IPC-4203B

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Cover and Bonding Material for
Flexible Printed Circuitry

Supersedes IPC-4203A

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An international standard developed by IPC

Association Connecting Electronics Industries



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Cover and Bonding Material for Flexible Printed Circuitry

Developed by the Flexible Circuits Base Materials Subcommittee (D-13)
of the Flexible Circuits Committee (D-10) of IPC

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Table of Contents

1	SCOPE	1	3.5.1	Marking	6
1.1	Classification System	1	3.5.2	Wrinkles, Creases, Streaks and Scratches	6
1.1.1	Nonspecific Designation	1	3.5.3	Inclusions	7
1.1.2	Specific Designation	1	3.5.4	Voids	7
1.1.2.1	Base Dielectric Material Type	2	3.5.5	Holes, Tears and Delaminations	7
1.1.2.2	Reinforcement Method	2	3.6	Dimensional Requirements	7
1.1.2.3	Reinforcement Type	2	3.6.1	Sheet Width and Length	7
1.1.2.4	Base Dielectric Material Thickness	3	3.6.2	Roll Width	7
1.1.2.5	Adhesive Type	3	3.6.3	Roll Length	7
1.1.2.6	Adhesive Thickness	3	3.6.4	Dielectric Thickness	7
1.2	Qualification	3	3.6.5	Adhesive Thickness	7
1.3	Quality Conformance	3	3.7	Physical Requirements	7
1.4	Material Characteristics	3	3.7.1	Dimensional Stability	7
1.5	New Materials	4	3.7.2	Peel Strength	7
2	APPLICABLE DOCUMENTS	4	3.7.2.1	Peel Strength As Received	7
2.1	IPC	4	3.7.2.2	Peel Strength After Solder Float	8
2.2	American Society for Testing and Materials (ASTM)	4	3.7.2.3	Peel Strength After Temperature Cycling	8
2.3	Underwriters Laboratories Standards	5	3.7.3	Flow	8
2.4	ISO	5	3.7.4	Volatile Content	8
3	REQUIREMENTS	5	3.8	Chemical Requirements	8
3.1	Terms and Definitions	5	3.8.1	Chemical Resistance	8
3.1.1	Qualification Testing	5	3.8.2	Solder Float	8
3.1.2	Quality Conformance Testing	5	3.9	Electrical Requirements	8
3.1.3	User Inspection Lot	5	3.9.1	Permittivity (Dielectric Constant)	8
3.1.4	Supplier Inspection Lot	5	3.9.2	Loss Tangent (Dissipation Factor)	8
3.1.5	Structurally Similar Construction	5	3.9.3	Volume Resistivity (Damp Heat)	8
3.1.6	Void	5	3.9.4	Surface Resistance (Damp Heat)	8
3.1.7	Inclusions	5	3.9.5	Dielectric Strength	8
3.1.8	Cover Material	5	3.10	Environmental Requirements	8
3.1.8.1	Coverlay	5	3.10.1	Fungus Resistance	8
3.1.8.2	Coverfilm	5	3.10.2	Moisture Absorption	9
3.1.8.3	Covercoat	5	3.10.3	Flammability	9
3.1.9	Bonding Material	5	3.10.4	Service Temperature	9
3.2	Specification Sheets	6	3.10.5	Moisture and Insulation Resistance	9
3.3	Conflict	6	3.11	Workmanship	9
3.4	Materials	6	4	QUALITY ASSURANCE PROVISIONS	9
3.4.1	Base Material	6	4.1	Responsibility for Inspection	9
3.4.2	Adhesive	6	4.2	Test Equipment and Inspection	9
3.4.3	Sheet Material	6	4.3	Preparation of Test Samples	9
3.4.4	Roll Material	6	4.3.1	Preparation of Cover Material Test Samples	9
3.5	Visual Requirements	6	4.3.1.1	Cover Material – General Testing	9
			4.3.1.2	Cover Material – Peel Testing	10

4.3.2	Preparation of Supported Bonding Material Test Samples	10	4.9.4.1	Sampling Plan	13
4.3.2.1	Supported Bonding Material – General Testing	10	4.9.4.2	Failures	13
4.3.2.2	Supported Bonding Material – Peel Testing	10	4.9.4.3	Noncompliance of Material	14
4.3.3	Preparation of Unsupported Bonding Material Test Samples	10	4.10	Statistical Process Control (SPC)	14
4.3.3.1	Unsupported Bonding Material – General Testing	10	4.10.1	Reduction of Quality Conformance Testing ...	14
4.3.3.2	Unsupported Bonding Material – Peel Testing	10	4.11	Change Notification and Authorization	14
4.4	Standard Laboratory Conditions	11	4.12	Certificate of Conformance	15
4.5	Tolerances	11	5	PREPARATION FOR DELIVERY	15
4.6	Classification of Inspections	11	5.1	Packaging	15
4.7	Materials Inspection	11	6	NOTES	15
4.8	Qualification Inspection	11	6.1	Ordering Data	15
4.8.1	Characterization Testing	11	6.2	Specific Chemical Exposure	15
4.8.2	Frequency	12	6.3	Storage/Shelf Life	15
4.9	Quality Conformance Inspection	12	6.4	References	15
4.9.1	Inspection of Product for Delivery	12		Tables	
4.9.2	Group A Inspection	12	Table 1-1	Base Dielectric Type Designation	2
4.9.2.1	Sampling Plan	12	Table 1-2	Reinforcement Method Designation	2
4.9.2.2	Failures	12	Table 1-3	Reinforcement Type Designation	2
4.9.2.3	User Sampling Plan	12	Table 1-4	Base Dielectric Thickness or Adhesive Thickness Designation	3
4.9.2.4	Rejected Lots	12	Table 1-5	Adhesive Type Designation	3
4.9.3	Group B Inspection	12	Table 3-1	Allowable Deviation from Nominal Thickness of Base Dielectric	7
4.9.3.1	Sampling Plan	12	Table 3-2	Allowable Deviation from Nominal Thickness of Adhesive	7
4.9.3.2	Failures	12	Table 4-1	Cleaning Process for Bright Copper	11
4.9.3.3	Noncompliance of Material	12	Table 4-2	Test Method Frequency	13
4.9.4	Group C Inspection	13	Table 4-3	Sampling Plan for Group A and Group B Inspection for Sheet Goods	13
			Table 4-4	Sampling Plan for Group A and Group B Inspection for Roll Goods	14

Cover and Bonding Material for Flexible Printed Circuitry

1 SCOPE

This standard establishes the classification system, the qualification and quality conformance requirements for dielectric films coated with an adhesive on one or both sides, which are to be used as cover material and/or bondply for flexible printed circuitry, and supported or unsupported adhesive films to be used in the fabrication of flexible printed circuitry. It does not cover non-flexible adhesives designed to be used in the rigid board areas of rigid flex constructions, which are covered in IPC-4101. Materials such as liquid-applied covercoat (see 3.1.8.3) are covered in IPC-SM-840 and are excluded from this document.

This specification supersedes both IPC-FC-232C and IPC-FC-233A and the requirements herein meet or exceed the requirements for Class 3 in these superseded documents. Note that conformance to Class 3 meets or exceeds conformance to Classes 1 and 2. IPC-4203 no longer utilizes the 3-class system.

1.1 Classification System The system described in 1.1.1 through 1.1.2.6 identifies adhesive coated dielectric films and flexible adhesive bonding films.

1.1.1 Nonspecific Designation A nonspecific designation is intended for use by designers on master drawings to designate their material choice. Further specification details may be indicated by using the specific designation in drawing notes and purchase documents. At the end of this standard is a series of material specification sheets designated by individual nonspecific designators. Each sheet outlines engineering and performance data for a flexible cover sheet and bonding film indicating base material type, adhesive type and method of reinforcement. The sheets are provided with a number for ordering purposes. For example, if a user wishes to order from specification sheet number 1, the number “1” would be substituted for the “S” in the designation example (i.e., IPC-4203/1).

Example of nonspecific designation: *IPC-4203/S* Where *S* is specification sheet number.

1.1.2 Specific Designation The specific designation **should** be as shown in the following example and is intended for use on purchase orders (see 6.1). The specific designation **should not** be used by designers on master drawings to indicate their material selection. Master drawings **shall** indicate the material design by the nonspecific designation, supplemented in notes with the material specification details as defined by the specific designation. This procedure is necessary because the specific designation is normally lengthy and will not fit the field for most computer cataloging.

NOTE: The alpha character “Z” replaces and is entirely equivalent to both the alpha character “N” (ref: Table 1-1) and the alpha character “N” (ref: Table 1-3) in the previous revision of this IPC standard. This interchange of alpha characters within the designation will help to alleviate confusion from using the alpha character “N” in both Tables 1-1 and 1-3 while retaining “N” in Table 1-5, Adhesive Type Designation, where “N” designates a Polyester Adhesive Type. Legacy designs that utilize a designation and material description from the original release of this IPC standard [alpha character “O” (from Table 1-1) and/or digit “0” (from Table 1-3)] may continue to be used. Supplier material certifications will reflect the current IPC standard’s revision, and accordingly, the alpha character “Z” in the designation.

Example of specific designation: *IPC-4203/S - C1E2M3/3*

Where:

IPC-4203/S - Nonspecific Designation (see 1.1.1)

C - Base Dielectric Type Designation (see 1.1.2.1)

1 - Reinforcement Method Designation (see 1.1.2.2)

E - Reinforcement Type Designation (see 1.1.2.3)

2 - Base Dielectric Thickness Designation (see 1.1.2.4)

M - Adhesive Type Designation (see 1.1.2.5)

3/3 - Adhesive Thickness Designation (see 1.1.2.6)

Note: The letter “X” **shall** be entered into the designation where an item is not specified (e.g., dielectric thickness).