

*ESD TR23.0-01-20*

# *ESD Association Technical Report*



*For the Protection of EOS/ESD  
Susceptible Items -*

*Electrical Overstress in Manufacturing  
and Test*

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## FOREWORD

The term, electrical overstress (EOS), is assigned to most of the electrical failures of devices that occur in factories and the field. EOS has many root causes. One EOS root cause, electrostatic discharge (ESD), has received much attention in technical literature, standards bodies and educational workshops and tutorials. The approach has been in a systematic manner which has resulted in relatively successful practice for design of robust devices and control procedures for the factory. However, the same is not true for the effects of the broader categories of electrical stresses that can be the root cause of EOS. These other root causes (over-voltage, over-current, over-power), when grouped, are more prevalent causes of failure (damage) than ESD by a wide margin because of the lack of a coherent design and mitigation (control) strategy.

The focus of this technical report<sup>1</sup> is the group of EOS root causes that can cause device damage in manufacturing and test. The working group anticipates frequently updating the document as additional information on the many root causes of EOS becomes available. This initial version describes the scope of possible damage root causes. Since there is more detailed information currently available on EMI sources, and IC and board-level test, these are described in greater detail. The document will be revised as best practices in use in the industry are shared and evaluated by the working group.

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<sup>1</sup> **ESD Association Technical Report (TR):** A collection of technical data or test results published as an informational reference on a specific material, product, system or process.

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**ESD Association Technical Report for the Protection of EOS/ESD Susceptible Items – Electrical Overstress in Manufacturing and Test****1.0 PURPOSE**

This document is the first in a series of documents intended to provide information that will promote the reduction of electrical overstress (EOS) damage in manufacturing and test, and provide the knowledge base for on-going mitigation and monitoring for possibly damaging electrical stresses. This document will be revised and expanded as others in the industry come forward with additional best practices used in their facilities. The content in this version represents best practices that have been shared and reviewed up to the time of its submission for publication.

**2.0 SCOPE**

This document covers certain aspects of the control, mitigation, and monitoring of electrical stresses which may cause EOS damage. These stresses may occur during the processing, assembly, installation, or testing, of electrical or electronic parts, assemblies, and equipment. In general, this includes sources of excessive voltage, current or power.

NOTE: Electrostatic discharge (ESD) is one possible root cause of EOS damage. However, several other ESDA documents [1] cover ESD control and event mitigation.

NOTE: This document does not apply to electrically-initiated explosive devices, flammable liquids or powders.

**3.0 DEFINITIONS**

The ESD Association Glossary of Terms, ESD ADV1.0, defines many terms related to this document. The following terms or acronyms may not be familiar to the reader. Recently revised definitions of EOS and related terms from the Industry Council White Paper on EOS [2] are used in this document. In some cases, this may depart from previous common usage of these terms.

The changes in the definitions related to EOS proposed by the Industry Council were made to provide a common terminology related to EOS. Common terminology is needed between suppliers of integrated circuits, system manufacturers, system designers, and users to assist in the determination of root cause when damage from EOS is suspected. The term EOS has had many definitions, but the most common have fallen into two categories:

- A violation of an electrical component's voltage, current, or power specifications.
- The physical damage to an electrical component due to excess current or voltage.

The most common example of this is the failure analysis (FA) diagnosis of EOS or EOS/ESD.

The Industry Council's EOS definition, shown below, is clearly within the first category above. This definition has the advantage of delineating responsibility when damage occurs. (If electrical damage has occurred, but there is no violation of electrical specifications, the device's manufacturer has responsibility. If a device specification is violated, the user can be said to have caused the damage.) If EOS is a violation of a device specification, there is a need for a term to describe damage seen in a component that appears to be due to excess current or voltage. From looking at failure, we cannot tell the root cause. Physical damage can occur from sources other than EOS including normal stress to a weak device. The term electrically induced physical damage (EIPD) was introduced to describe any damage from electrical stress and is a preferred term for use in FA reports since it does not presuppose the cause of the damage. The Industry Council defined a third term, absolute maximum rating (AMR), to define the device specification which when violated constitutes an EOS event.

**absolute maximum rating (AMR).** The values of voltage, current, temperature, power dissipation, etc., which should not be exceeded at any time.

NOTE: More information on AMR is available in Industry Council White Paper 4 [2].

**automated test equipment (ATE).** Computer-controlled equipment that tests electronic devices for functionality and performance. ATE also conducts stress testing with minimal human interaction.