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Potentiometers, sensors and thick-film custom applications

Tarazona, 24th January 2005

Re: RHOS and WEEE Directives on hazardous components and environmental issues.

Dear Partners and Friends,

According to the Directives mentioned above, from July 1st 2006, no company will be able to sell products containing lead, cadmium, mercury, chromium VI, PBB or PBDE in the European Union.

ACP has been working to find an alternative to lead-containing materials used in our production process. While our CA9 and CA14 potentiometer series have been completely lead-free for many years; series CA6, CE9 and CE14 had lead in small amounts.

We will start changing now to LEAD-FREE materials.

Until now, both in the CA6 and in the Cermet (CE series), brass terminals and collectors have had an intermediate copper plating, covered with a plating made of 90% Sn and 10% Pb, in glossy finish. The new materials will be as follows:

CA6 through-hole and SMD

We will have both terminals and collectors made in brass with an intermediate Ni plating and an external 100% Sn matte finish (lighter in color than the glossy finish, see picture on the right).

Soldering conditions are the standard for any lead-free product already available in the market; customers need not make any additional arrangements. Our technical department can clarify any doubt about this issue.

CE9 and CE14

We will have terminals in brass with an intermediate Ni plating and an external 100% Sn matte finish. The material for the collector will also be 100% Sn, but in glossy finish due to the different process used to obtain it. Therefore, the difference in color between terminals and collector will not affect the product in any way, it will only be a cosmetic difference.

Because of the production process and the existing stock of raw materials and finished product, the transition between the leaded materials and the lead-free ones will take about 3-4 months, in which potentiometers can be manufactured in any of the following possibilities:

- With leaded materials
- Terminals and collectors can each have different materials: leaded and lead-free. This will not cause any problem to the product at soldering, as both materials are perfectly compatible with the standard lead-free processes.
- All materials are lead-free.

We will try to keep this transition period as short as possible. We ask for your understanding in dealing with pieces that are perfect in electrical, mechanical features as well as soldering conditions but have different looks. Part numbers will not be changed.

Should you have any question, do not hesitate to contact us for further clarification.

Best regards,

Rosario Cano
Marketing Director

