

**INSTITUTE OF
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SCIENCES AND
TECHNOLOGY**

**Product Reliability Division
Recommended Practice 000.1**

IEST-RP-PRO001.1

**Management and Technical Guidelines
for the ESS Process**

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CONTENTS

SECTION

1	SCOPE AND LIMITATIONS	5
2	REFERENCES AND APPLICABLE DOCUMENTS	6
3	TERMS AND DEFINITIONS	6
4	BACKGROUND AND PURPOSE	9
5	ESS FUNDAMENTALS	10
6	EQUIPMENT AND SETUP	25
7	PROCEDURES	31

APPENDIX

A	VIBRATION STRESS SCREENING CHARACTERISTICS DEVELOPMENT	41
B	VIBRATION SURVEY GUIDELINES	51
C	THERMAL CYCLING STRESS SCREENING CHARACTERISTICS DEVELOPMENT	57
D	THERMAL SURVEY GUIDELINES	65
E	SUPPLIER ESS PROCESS REQUIREMENTS	69
F	BIBLIOGRAPHY	71
G	ACKNOWLEDGMENTS	72

FIGURE

1	Dynamics of the screening process	17
2	Deliverable product failure-free operation	21
3	Screening configuration example	28
4	Response of CCA "A" to fixed RS input	28

5	Response of CCA “A” to ED system input	29
6	Environmental condition/product characteristic	33
7	Product thermal response during thermal cycling screening	38
A1	Step stress concept relation of environmental levels	43
A2	Profile shaping for circuit card assemblies	45
A3	Flowchart of vibration screen derivation for FPT approach	47
A4	Range of mean response SUM-ASD	47
A5	RMS acceleration versus frequency range for mean SUM-ASD	48
B1	Typical box level assembly plan view	53
B2	Response measurement locations on rectangular CCA with base connector	54
C1	Prediction of thermal cycle fatigue life reduction due to contaminated solder joints	59
C2	Typical temperature cycling profiles and product thermal responses	60
C3	Chamber air and product temperatures with high chamber air speed and long dwell times	61
C4	Chamber air and product temperatures with low chamber air speed and short dwell times	61

TABLE

1	Characteristics of a well-designed screen	11
2	Effect of defective piece parts on printed wiring assembly yield	16
3	Screening environments versus typical failure mechanisms	19
4	ESS plan checklist	24
5	Vibration screen checklist	37
6	Thermal cycling screen checklist	40
A1	Considerations in selection of screening development method	42
A2	Flaw precipitation threshold RMS acceleration versus cutoff frequency	47
B1	Vibration survey checklist	55
D1	Thermal survey checklist	68

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1 SCOPE AND LIMITATIONS

1.1 Scope

This Recommended Practice (RP) supersedes the Environmental Stress Screening of Electronic Hardware (ESSEH) *Environmental Stress Screening Guidelines for Assemblies* (1990). This RP provides an overview of the techniques and considerations needed to define a viable Environmental Stress Screening (ESS) program. This RP uses language that can be used by the military, government, and commercial communities alike.

This RP is intended to be an important tool that can be used by the electronics industry for conducting ESS. This document applies to a knowledgeable ESS practitioner as well as to those individuals who are new to ESS. Additionally, it provides the practitioner all of the tools required to successfully plan, develop, and implement a viable ESS program.

The process elements required to successfully implement ESS will be discussed in this document. Those process steps necessary to keep the ESS process dynamic will be discussed, i.e., successful planning, implementation of ESS, the collection of failure data, the analysis of failures, and implementation of corrective action.

This document is not intended to describe engineering development or formal verification environmental tests. These subjects are valuable parts of the product development process, but because of their depth and complexity are beyond the scope of this document.

This document describes the application of thermal, vibration, and electrical performance forcing functions during the ESS process because of their nearly universal utility. However, other types of forcing functions (such as pressure cycling or acous-

tic noise) or performance evaluation (such as X-ray and infrared scanning) may be appropriate in special circumstances for particular products. This document should not be construed as discouraging the application of other relevant forcing functions when appropriate.

This document stresses the need to expose product to forcing functions as early in the life of the product as possible. This will ensure that the best product possible, given requisite economic considerations, is produced.

This document recognizes that a product will likely be composed of several different assemblies. As these assemblies are integrated and the product becomes more and more complex, the level of environmental loading that the lower level assemblies may experience can be greatly attenuated (i.e., thermal path restrictions and vibration dampening). With this in mind, and realizing that all assemblies are prone to process anomalies, this document emphasizes the need to perform ESS at the lowest practical assembly level.

This document discusses the screening environments of temperature cycling, random vibration, and power cycling. For each of these environments, a discussion of the steps required to successfully incorporate them into the ESS program will be provided. This discussion includes: facility requirements, establishing screening parameters based on product response to a forcing function, and how to keep the ESS process dynamic. Furthermore, every opportunity is given to tailor ESS parameters to account for both the inherent design capability and the customer environment of the product.

This document was prepared by the ESSEH Technical Committee Working Group over a three-year period. This document will make available to in-