



# **CeraDiodes**

## Cautions and warnings

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## Cautions and warnings

### General

Some parts of this publication contain statements about the suitability of our CeraDiodes for certain areas of application, including recommendations about incorporation/design-in of these products into customer applications. The statements are based on our knowledge of typical requirements often made of our CeraDiodes in the particular areas. We nevertheless expressly point out that such statements cannot be regarded as binding statements about the suitability of our CeraDiodes for a particular customer application. As a rule, EPCOS is either unfamiliar with individual customer applications or less familiar with them than the customers themselves. For these reasons, it is always incumbent on the customer to check and decide whether the CeraDiodes with the properties described in the product specification are suitable for use in a particular customer application.

- Do not use EPCOS CeraDiodes for purposes not identified in our specifications, application notes and data books.
- Ensure the suitability of a CeraDiode in particular by testing it for reliability during design-in. Always evaluate a CeraDiode under worst-case conditions.
- Pay special attention to the reliability of CeraDiodes intended for use in safety-critical applications (e.g. medical equipment, automotive, spacecraft, nuclear power plant).

### Design notes

- Always connect a CeraDiode in parallel with the electronic circuit to be protected.
- Consider maximum rated power dissipation if a CeraDiode has insufficient time to cool down between a number of pulses occurring within a specified isolated time period. Ensure that electrical characteristics do not degrade.
- Consider derating at higher operating temperatures. Choose the highest voltage class compatible with derating at higher temperatures.
- Surge currents beyond specified values will puncture a CeraDiode. In extreme cases a CeraDiode will burst.
- If steep surge current edges are to be expected, make sure your design is as low-inductance as possible.
- In some cases the malfunctioning of passive electronic components or failure before the end of their service life cannot be completely ruled out in the current state of the art, even if they are operated as specified. Do not use CeraDiodes in applications requiring a very high level of operational safety and especially when the malfunction or failure of a passive electronic component could endanger human life or health (e.g. in accident prevention, life-saving systems, or automotive battery line applications such as clamp 30), ensure by suitable design of the application or other measures (e.g. installation of protective circuitry or redundancy) that no injury or damage is sustained by third parties in the event of such a malfunction or failure.
- Specified values only apply to CeraDiodes that have not been subject to prior electrical, mechanical or thermal damage. The use of CeraDiodes in line-to-ground applications is therefore not advisable, and it is only allowed together with safety countermeasures like thermal fuses.

## Cautions and warnings

### Storage

- Only store CeraDiodes in their original packaging. Do not open the package before storage.
- Storage conditions in original packaging: temperature -25 to +45°C, relative humidity ≤75% annual average, maximum 95%, dew precipitation is inadmissible.
- Do not store CeraDiodes where they are exposed to heat or direct sunlight. Otherwise the packaging material may be deformed or CeraDiodes may stick together, causing problems during mounting.
- Avoid contamination of the CeraDiode surface during storage, handling and processing.
- Avoid storing CeraDiodes in harmful environments where they are exposed to corrosive gases for example (SO<sub>x</sub>, Cl).
- Use CeraDiodes as soon as possible after opening factory seals such as polyvinyl-sealed packages.
- Solder CeraDiodes after shipment from EPCOS within the time specified: 12 months.

### Handling

- Do not drop CeraDiodes and allow them to be chipped.
- Do not touch CeraDiodes with your bare hands - gloves are recommended.
- Avoid contamination of the CeraDiode surface during handling.
- Washing processes may damage the product due to the possible static or cyclic mechanical loads (e.g. ultrasonic cleaning). They may cause cracks to develop on the product and its parts, which might lead to reduced reliability or lifetime.

### Mounting

- When CeraDiodes are encapsulated with sealing material or overmolded with plastic material, be aware that potting, sealing or adhesive compounds can produce chemical reactions in the CeraDiode ceramic that will degrade its electrical characteristics and reduce its lifetime.
- Make sure an electrode is not scratched before, during or after the mounting process.
- Make sure contacts and housings used for assembly with CeraDiodes are clean before mounting.
- The surface temperature of an operating CeraDiode can be higher. Ensure that adjacent components are placed at a sufficient distance from a CeraDiode to allow proper cooling.
- Avoid contamination of the CeraDiode surface during processing.
- Only CeraDiodes with an Ni barrier termination are approved for lead-free soldering.

### Soldering

- Complete removal of flux is recommended to avoid surface contamination that can result in an instable and/or high leakage current.
- Use resin-type or non-activated flux.
- Bear in mind that insufficient preheating may cause ceramic cracks.
- Rapid cooling by dipping in solvent is not recommended, otherwise a component may crack.

## Cautions and warnings

### Operation

- Use CeraDiodes only within the specified operating temperature range.
- Use CeraDiodes only within specified voltage and current ranges.
- Environmental conditions must not harm a CeraDiode. Only use them in normal atmospheric conditions. Reducing the atmosphere (e.g. hydrogen or nitrogen atmosphere) is prohibited.
- Prevent a CeraDiode from contacting liquids and solvents. Make sure that no water enters a CeraDiode (e.g. through plug terminals).
- Avoid dewing and condensation.
- EPCOS CeraDiodes are designed for encased applications. Under all circumstances avoid exposure to:
  - direct sunlight
  - rain or condensation
  - steam, saline spray
  - corrosive gases
  - atmosphere with reduced oxygen content
- EPCOS CeraDiodes are not suitable for switching applications or voltage stabilization where static power dissipation is required.

This listing does not claim to be complete, it merely reflects the experience of EPCOS AG.

### Display of ordering codes for EPCOS products

The ordering code for one and the same EPCOS product can be represented differently in data sheets, data books, other publications, on the EPCOS website, or in order-related documents such as shipping notes, order confirmations and product labels. **The varying representations of the ordering codes are due to different processes employed and do not affect the specifications of the respective products.** Detailed information can be found on the Internet under [www.epcos.com/orderingcodes](http://www.epcos.com/orderingcodes)