



Film Capacitors

Cautions and warnings

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Cautions and warnings

- Do not exceed the upper category temperature (UCT).
- Do not apply any mechanical stress to the capacitor terminals.
- Avoid any compressive, tensile or flexural stress.
- Do not move the capacitor after it has been soldered to the PC board.
- Do not pick up the PC board by the soldered capacitor.
- Do not place the capacitor on a PC board whose PTH hole spacing differs from the specified lead spacing.
- Do not exceed the specified time or temperature limits during soldering.
- Avoid external energy inputs, such as fire or electricity.
- Avoid overload of the capacitors.
- Consult us if application is with severe temperature and humidity condition.
- There are no serviceable or repairable parts inside the capacitor. Opening the capacitor or any attempts to open or repair the capacitor will void the warranty and liability of EPCOS.
- Please note that the standards referred to in this publication may have been revised in the meantime.

The table below summarizes the safety instructions that must always be observed. A detailed description can be found in the relevant sections of the chapters "General technical information" and "Mounting guidelines".

Topic	Safety information	Reference chapter "General technical information"
Storage conditions	Make sure that capacitors are stored within the specified range of time, temperature and humidity conditions.	4.5 "Storage conditions"
Flammability	Avoid external energy, such as fire or electricity (passive flammability), avoid overload of the capacitors (active flammability) and consider the flammability of materials.	5.3 "Flammability"
Resistance to vibration	Do not exceed the tested ability to withstand vibration. The capacitors are tested to IEC 60068-2-6:2007. EPCOS offers film capacitors specially designed for operation under more severe vibration regimes such as those found in automotive applications. Consult our catalog "Film Capacitors for Automotive Electronics".	5.2 "Resistance to vibration"

Topic	Safety information	Reference chapter "Mounting guidelines"
Soldering	Do not exceed the specified time or temperature limits during soldering.	1 "Soldering"
Cleaning	Use only suitable solvents for cleaning capacitors.	2 "Cleaning"

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Topic	Safety information	Reference chapter "Mounting guidelines"
Embedding of capacitors in finished assemblies	When embedding finished circuit assemblies in plastic resins, chemical and thermal influences must be taken into account. Caution: Consult us first, if you also wish to embed other uncoated component types!	3 "Embedding of capacitors in finished assemblies"

Design of EMI Capacitors

EPCOS EMI capacitors use polypropylene (PP) film metalized with a thin layer of Zinc (Zn). The following key points have made this design suitable to IEC/UL testing, holding a minimum size.

- Overvoltage AC capability with very high temperature Endurance test of IEC 60384-14:2013 (4th edition) / UL 60384-14:2014 (2nd edition) must be performed at $1.25 \times V_R$ at maximum temperature, during 1000 hours, with a capacitance drift less than 10%.
- Higher breakdown voltage withstanding if compared to other film metallizations, like Aluminum. IEC 60384-14:2013 (4th edition) / UL 60384-14:2014 (2nd edition) establishes high voltage tests performed at $4.3 \times V_R - 1$ minute, impulse testing at 2500 V for $C = 1 \mu\text{F}$ and active flammability tests.
- Damp heat steady state: 40 °C/ 93% RH / 56 days. (without voltage or current load)

Effect of humidity on capacitance stability

Long contact of a film capacitor with humidity can produce irreversible effects. Direct contact with liquid water or excess exposure to high ambient humidity or dew will eventually remove the film metallization and thus destroy the capacitor. Plastic boxed capacitors must be properly tested in the final application at the worst expected conditions of temperature and humidity in order to check if any parameter drift may provoke a circuit malfunction.

In case of penetration of humidity through the film, the layer of Zinc can be degraded, specially under AC operation (change of polarity), accelerated by the temperature, provoking an increment of the serial resistance of the electrode and eventually a reduction of the capacitance value. For DC operation, the parameter drift is much less.

Plastic boxes and resins can not protect 100% against humidity. Metal enclosures, resin potting or coatings or similar measures by customers in their applications will offer additional protection against humidity penetration.

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