

# **Ceramic transient voltage suppressors, CTVS**

## **Cautions and warnings**

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## Cautions and warnings

### General

Some parts of this publication contain statements about the suitability of our ceramic transient voltage suppressor (CTVS) components (multilayer varistors (MLVs)), CeraDiodes, ESD/EMI filters, leaded transient voltage/ RFI suppressors (SHCV types)) 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 CTVS devices in the particular areas. We nevertheless expressly point out that such statements cannot be regarded as binding statements about the suitability of our CTVS components 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 CTVS devices with the properties described in the product specification are suitable for use in a particular customer application.

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

### Design notes

- Always connect a CTVS in parallel with the electronic circuit to be protected.
- Consider maximum rated power dissipation if a CTVS 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 CTVS. In extreme cases a CTVS 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. 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. Only use CTVS components from the automotive series in safety-relevant applications.
- Specified values only apply to CTVS components that have not been subject to prior electrical, mechanical or thermal damage. The use of CTVS devices 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 CTVS in their original packaging. Do not open the package before storage.
- Storage conditions in original packaging: temperature  $-25$  to  $+45^{\circ}\text{C}$ , relative humidity  $\leq 75\%$  annual average, maximum 95%, dew precipitation is inadmissible.
- Do not store CTVS devices where they are exposed to heat or direct sunlight. Otherwise the packaging material may be deformed or CTVS may stick together, causing problems during mounting.
- Avoid contamination of the CTVS surface during storage, handling and processing.
- Avoid storing CTVS devices in harmful environments where they are exposed to corrosive gases for example ( $\text{SO}_x$ , Cl).
- Use CTVS as soon as possible after opening factory seals such as polyvinyl-sealed packages.
- Solder CTVS components after shipment from EPCOS within the time specified:
  - CTVS with Ni barrier termination, 12 months
  - CTVS with AgPt termination, 6 months
  - SHCV, 24 months

### Handling

- Do not drop CTVS components and allow them to be chipped.
- Do not touch CTVS with your bare hands - gloves are recommended.
- Avoid contamination of the CTVS 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 CTVS devices are encapsulated with sealing material or overmolded with plastic material, electrical characteristics might be degraded and the life time reduced.
- Make sure an electrode is not scratched before, during or after the mounting process.
- Make sure contacts and housings used for assembly with CTVS components are clean before mounting.
- The surface temperature of an operating CTVS can be higher. Ensure that adjacent components are placed at a sufficient distance from a CTVS to allow proper cooling.
- Avoid contamination of the CTVS surface during processing.

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### 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.

### Operation

- Use CTVS only within the specified operating temperature range.
- Use CTVS only within specified voltage and current ranges.
- Environmental conditions must not harm a CTVS. Only use them in normal atmospheric conditions. Reducing the atmosphere (e.g. hydrogen or nitrogen atmosphere) is prohibited.
- Prevent a CTVS from contacting liquids and solvents. Make sure that no water enters a CTVS (e.g. through plug terminals).
- Avoid dewing and condensation.
- EPCOS CTVS components are mainly 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 CTVS devices are not suitable for switching applications or voltage stabilization where static power dissipation is required.

This listing does not claim to be complete, but 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)