

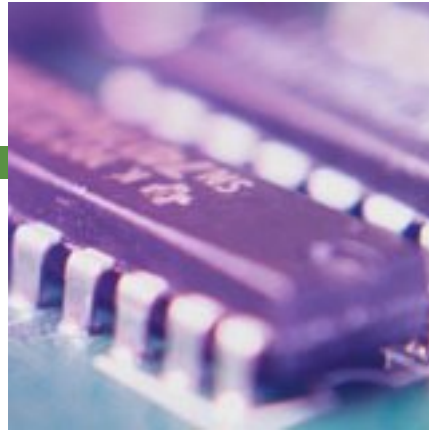


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Flux Classification - Part 2

Selecting the Right Flux for Your Application

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Purposes of Fluxes

- Prepares surfaces for soldering
- Protects the surfaces until it is soldered
- Enhance heat transfer

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Flux Residues

- **MUST NOT:**
 - Impact functionality
 - Impact reliability

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Typical Metal Combinations to be Soldered

- Cu to Cu
- Cu to Sn/Pb
- Pd to Sn/Pb
- Au to Sn/Pb
- Ag to Ag
- Sn to Ni
- SS to SS
- SAC to Sn/Pb
- ImAg to SAC
- ImSn to Sn/Pb
- ENIG to SAC & SnPb
- Etc.

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Flux Selection Process

- Two types of tests:
 - Flux Performance
 - Flux Characteristics

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Flux Selection Process

Recommended sequences for the selection process.

- First, check its performance to cull out fluxes that don't perform on your product.
- Second, check the fluxes to make sure they are chemically as advertised.

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Flux Performance: Qualification Specifications

- IPC/EIA J-STD-002, Solderability Tests for Component Leads, Terminations, Lugs, Terminals, and Wires.
- J-STD-003, Solderability Tests for Printed Boards.

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Flux Performance: Application Specifications

- The 002 and 003 documents provide information relative to physically conducting the solderability testing.
- They support the statement -
This is How it is Done

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J-STD-002 Par. 4.2.1.4.2 Accept/Reject Criterion

All leads shall:

- Exhibit a continuous solder coating free from defects for a minimum of 95% of the critical area of any individual lead.
- Anomalies other than dewetting, non-wetting, and pin holes are not cause for rejection.

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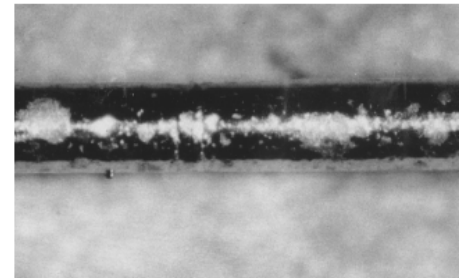


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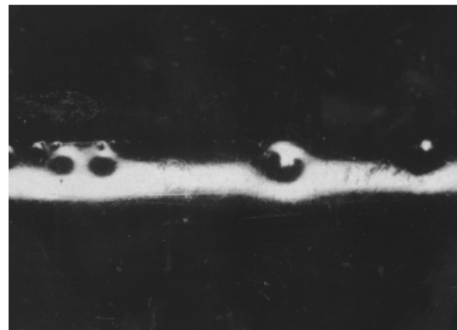
Evaluation Aids



a) Dewetting



b) Nonwetting



c) Pinholes

IPC-002b-b-2a, b-2b, b-2c

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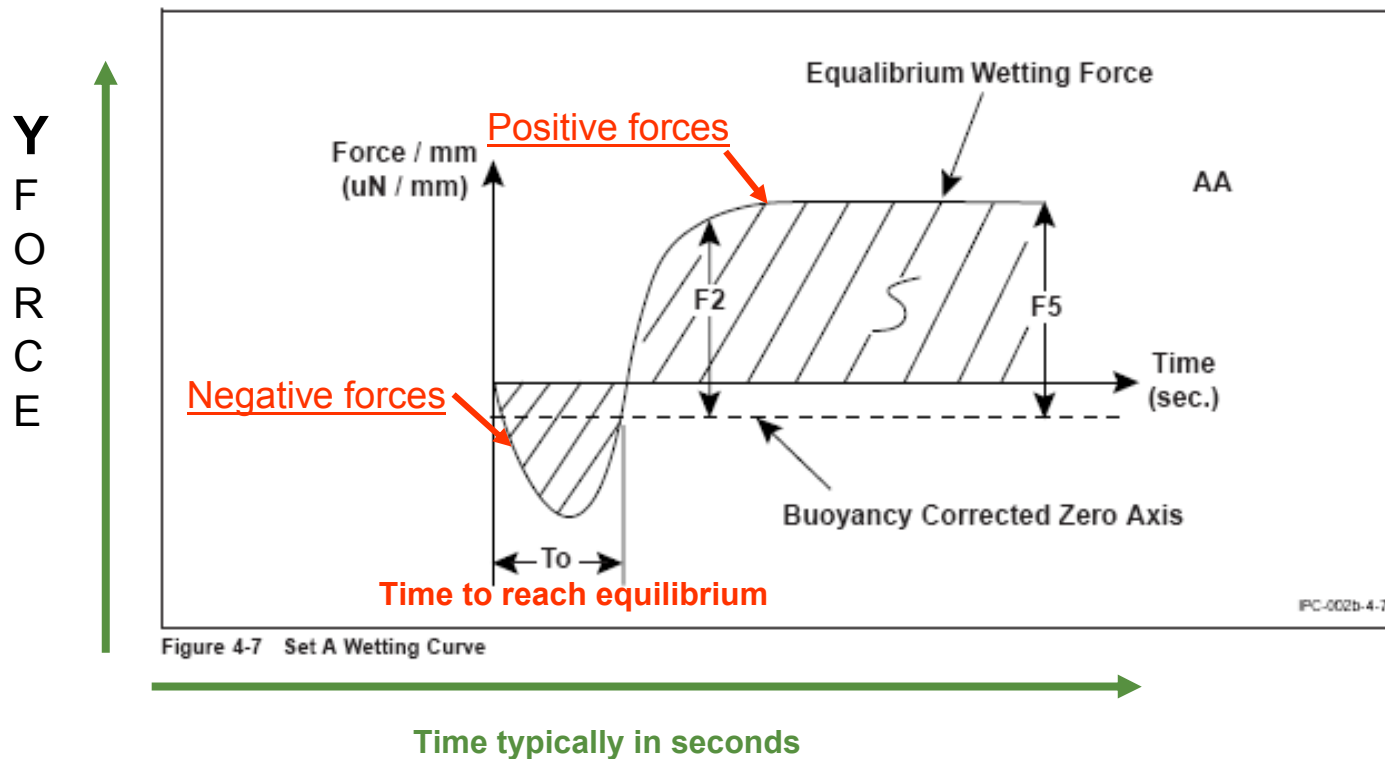


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Wetting Balance Graph





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Flux Performance: Application Specifications

- **These IPC specifications mention:**
 - The solder alloy and bath to be used
 - The activity level of the flux to use
 - The application of flux to the specimen
 - The flux removal process
 - Steam aging apparatus
 - Specimen surface preparation
 - Dipping methodology

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Flux Performance: Application Specification

- Dipping methodology are:
 - Wetting Balance
 - Wave Solder
 - Solder Dip
 - Dip and Look
- Solder spread
- Cleaning ability

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Flux Qualification J-STD-004

Paragraph 3.3

Classification System

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Flux Qualification Characteristics

3.3.1 Material of Composition

- Rosin
- Resin
- Organic
- Inorganic

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Flux Qualification Characteristics

3.3.2 Flux Type

Fluxes **shall** be classified according to the corrosive or conductive properties of the flux.

3.3.2.1 Activity

L = Low or no flux/flux residue activity

M= Moderate flux/flux residue activity

H = High flux/flux residue activity

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Flux Type Classification Test Requirements

Table 3-1 Test Requirements for Flux Type Classification

Flux Type	Qualitative Copper Mirror ²	Qualitative Halide (Optional)		Quantitative Halide	Qualitative Corrosion Test	Conditions for Passing 100 MΩ SIR Requirements ⁶	Conditions for Passing ECM Requirements ⁶
		Silver Chromate (Cl, Br)	Spot Test (F)	(Cl, Br, F) ⁵ (by weight)			
L0	No evidence of mirror breakthrough	Pass ³	Pass ³	0.0% ¹	No evidence of corrosion	Uncleaned ^{6,7}	Uncleaned ^{6,7}
L1		Pass ³	Pass ³	<0.5%			
M0	Breakthrough in less than 50% of test area	Pass ³	Pass ³	0.0% ¹	Minor corrosion acceptable	Cleaned ⁷ or uncleaned ⁸	Cleaned ⁷ or uncleaned ⁸
M1		Fail ⁴	Fail ⁴	0.5 to 2.0%			
H0	Breakthrough in more than 50% of test area	Pass ³	Pass ³	0.0% ¹	Major corrosion acceptable	Cleaned	Cleaned
H1		Fail ⁴	Fail ⁴	>2.0%			

1. 0.0% halide is defined as <0.05% by weight in flux solids and may be known as halide-free.
2. Refer to Figure 3-1.
3. False failure could result from non-halide constituents.
4. Depending on the type of halide, one or both tests will be failed.
5. If the total absence of covalently bonded halogens is required by the user, the Beilstein Test should be performed. (See *A New Dictionary of Chemistry*, Stephen Miall, Editor, Longmans Green & Co., 1940, p. 68)
6. If an assembly using low-solids, "no-clean" flux that has been tested and proven to pass SIR and ECM only in the uncleaned state by the flux manufacturer is to be cleaned prior to conformal coating, then the user should verify the SIR and ECM values for that flux after cleaning.
7. Fluxes that are not meant to be removed require testing only in the uncleaned state.
8. If the M0 or M1 flux passes SIR and ECM when cleaned, but fails when not cleaned, this flux **shall** always be cleaned. If the flux meets all other requirements for an L0 or L1 flux but doesn't pass SIR and ECM uncleaned, it is M0 or M1.

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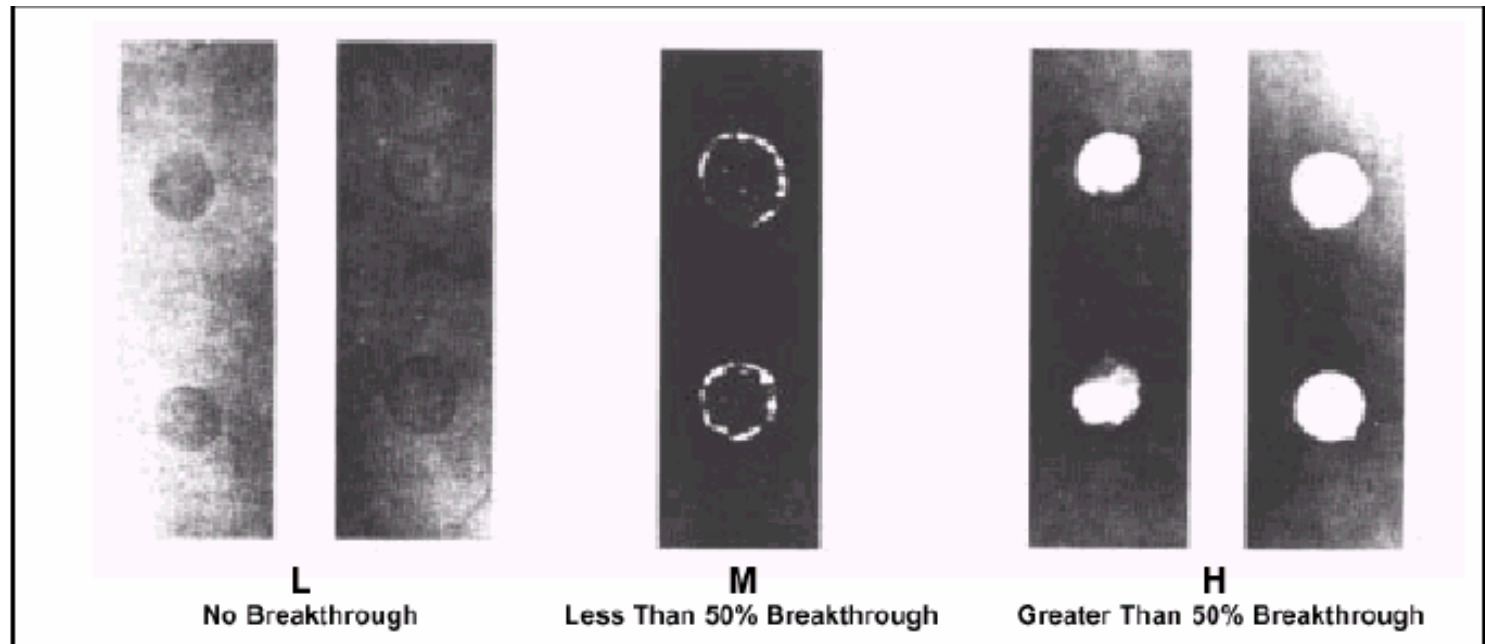


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Flux Type Classification Test Requirements



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Flux Qualification Characteristics

3.3.2.2 Halide

- Shall be characterized by 0 or 1

3.3.3 Flux forms

- Solid (S)
- Paste (P)
- Liquids (L)

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3.4 Flux Qualification Testing

Corrosivity

- 3.4.1 Copper Mirror
- 3.4.2 Qualitative Halide
 - Test Chlorides, Bromides and Fluorides
- 3.4.3 Quantitative Halide
- 3.4.5 SIR
- 3.4.6 ECM
- 3.5.1 Acid Value
- 3.5.2 Specific Gravity

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Qualification Responsibility

Section 4.1 states:

The flux manufacturer is responsible for all inspection specified herein except the performance inspections which are the responsibility of the user.

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[IPC-TM-650 Test Methods Download Page](#)

[Section 2.3](#)

Chemical Test Methods

[2.3.13A](#)

Determination of Acid Value of Liquid Solder Flux-
Potentiometric and Visual Titration Methods- 6/04

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IPC-TM-650 TEST METHODS MANUAL

1 Scope This test method specifies two methods for the determination of the acid value of a flux of type L, M or H.

Method A is a potentiometric titration method and is to be considered the reference method.

Method B is an alternative, visual end-point, titration method.

2 Applicable Documents

ISO 9455 Soft Soldering Fluxes, Test Methods

IPC-TM-650 Test Methods Manual

2.3.34 Solids Content, Flux

IPC J-STD-004 Requirements for Soldering Fluxes

3 Test Specimen A minimum of 2.0 grams of liquid flux, 10 grams of solder paste, 150 grams of cored wire or 10 grams of solder preforms.

Number 2.3.13	
Subject Determination of Acid Value of Liquid Solder Flux - Potentiometric and Visual Titration Methods	
Date 06/04	Revision A
Originating Task Group Flux Specifications Task Group (5-24a)	

4.2.3 Ethanol, anhydrous. Neutralized with tetrabutyl ammonium hydroxide solution (4.2.1) to a faint pink color using phenolphthalein as an indicator.

4.2.4 Toluene. Neutralized with tetrabutyl ammonium hydroxide solution (4.2.1) to a faint pink color using phenolphthalein as an indicator.

4.2.5 Ethanol/toluene mixture. Mix equal volumes of the neutralized anhydrous ethanol (4.2.3) and neutralized toluene (4.2.4).

4.2.6 Phenolphthalein Indicator.

4.2.7 Millivoltmeter or pH meter.

4.2.8 Glass electrode.

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Performance Testing for Fluxes

Table 4-1 Classification, Quality Conformance and Performance Testing for Flux

Test Method		Reference Paragraph	Classification Test R=Required O=Optional	Quality Conformance	Performance
Name	IPC-TM-650				
Copper Mirror	2.3.32	3.4.1	R		
Qualitative Halides, Silver Chromate	2.3.33	3.4.2.1	O		
Qualitative Halides, Fluoride Spot	2.3.35.1	3.4.2.2	O		
Quantitative Halides, Chloride, Bromide	2.3.35 or 2.3.28.1	3.4.3.1 or 3.4.3.3	R		
Quantitative Halides, Fluoride	2.3.35.2 or 2.3.28.1	3.4.3.2 or 3.4.3.3	R		
Quantitative Halides, Nonvolatile Determination	2.3.34	3.4.8	R		
Qualitative Corrosion	2.6.15	3.4.4	R		
Surface Insulation Resistance	2.6.3.3	3.4.5.1	R		
	*	3.4.5.2	O		
	**	3.4.5.2	O		
Electrochemical Migration	2.6.14.1	3.4.6	R		
Fungus	2.6.1	3.4.7	O		
Acid Value Determination	2.3.13	3.5.1		R	
Flux Specific Gravity Determination		3.5.2		R	
Viscosity-Paste Flux	2.4.34.4	3.5.3		R	
Visual		3.5.4		R	
Wetting Balance	2.4.14.2	3.6.1	O		O
Spread Test, Liquid Flux	2.4.46	3.6.2	O		O

*DIN 32513 **GR-78-CORE Section 13.1.3



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Upcoming . . .

November 14th

- Q & A on Solder Resists and Conformal Coating

December 12th

- Lead Protrusion and Damaged Pins

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