

Application Bulletin

CIRCUIT BOARD CLEANLINESS TESTING



Contamination of circuit boards can bring about severe degradation of insulation resistance and dielectric strength. Cleanliness of completed circuit boards is, therefore, of vital interest.

For those companies who have established circuit board cleaning procedures, the MIL Spec P-28809 has been used as a guideline for control. Now a simple "on line" test for the relative measurement of ionic contamination has been developed.

This fast and economical method for testing circuit board cleanliness uses a Myron L[®] Company Ultrameter 4PII, 6PIIFC^E, or 9PTK, a suitable container, and a mixture of DI (deionized) water and alcohol. The procedure is as follows:

1. Mix a stock quantity of solution using 25 parts by volume of DI water and 75 parts by volume of 99% isopropyl alcohol. The conductivity, measured with the Ultrameter 4PII, 6PIIFC^E, or 9PTK should be a maximum of 0.166 micromhos/microsiemens/cm.
2. Measure out an amount of the water/alcohol mixture equal to 100 ml per 10 square inches of circuit board surface to be tested (considering both sides of the board but not components), and add 60 ml additional. In other words: 2(L X W) (10ml) + 60 ml = total solution needed.
3. Fill a poly "zip-lock" bag or other suitable plastic or glass container with the measured water alcohol solution.

4. Using the measured water/alcohol solution in the poly bag, rinse out the Ultrameter's cell cup three (3) times, discarding the rinse solution each time. Fill the instrument cell cup a fourth time and take a meter reading. This value should be 0.166 micromhos/microsiemens/cm or less and is the very clean control (or "comparison") reading for the test.

5. Being very careful not to contaminate the PCB, totally immerse the circuit board in the solution Seal bag. Allow it to soak for three (3) minutes with mild agitation.

6. At the conclusion of the soaking, pour the solution directly into the instruments cell cup four (4) times; take the fourth reading.

7. Compare the control reading in Step 4 with the reading taken in Step 6. The higher the difference between the two readings, the greater the ionic contamination. Record this final extract reading for comparison with other boards tested in the same manner.

The level of cleanliness needed or desired can only be determined by each individual company. Mil Spec P-28809 can be used as a guideline, or standards can be established based upon available data. In either event, the comparative method using the Myron L[®] Company's Ultrameter will assist in the determination of that level of cleanliness.

See other side for additional applications for Myron L[®] Company instruments and controls.

PROBLEM	SOLUTION	BEST MYRON L MODELS
High water, sewer use, and waste treatment costs.	Myron L CONTROLSTIK II™ Rinse Tank System will automatically monitor the quality of rinse water ... and reduce usage by as much as 80%. Myron L continuous conductivity, Monitor/controller.	597 758II-XXX
Need to quickly verify DI water purity or “trouble-shoot” reverse osmosis equipment.	Portable conductivity instruments are easy to use, yet accurate and reliable enough for “field” testing of ultra-pure water.	Ultrameter 4PII, 6PIIFC ^E , 9PTK ULTRAPEN PT1 EP (5 microsiemen ranges; 1 resistivity range) 532T2 (3 ranges ppm/TDS)
As DI cylinders are used, quality decreases, falling below acceptable limits. This is not always noticed before cylinder can be replaced.	A Myron L continuous conductivity or resistivity monitor/controller. When DI cylinders approach exhaustion, an alarm, solenoid valve, etc. can be activated.	758II-101 753II-11

CONVERSION CHART				
Specific Resistance in Ohms	Specific Conductance in Micromhos/Microsiemens	Sodium Chloride Equivalent in Micro Grams/CM. ²	Sodium Chloride Equivalent in Micro Grams/In. ²	PPM Sodium Chloride
10 megohms	0.10	0.31	2.00	0.021
9 megohms	0.11	0.34	2.22	0.026
8 megohms	0.12	0.39	2.50	0.033
7 megohms	0.14	0.44	2.85	0.041
6 megohms	0.16	0.52	3.33	0.052
5 megohms	0.20	0.62	4.00	0.068
4 megohms	0.25	0.78	5.00	0.091
3 megohms	0.32	1.00	6.45	0.130
2 megohms*	0.50 *	1.56 *	10.06 *	0.207 *
1 megohm	1.00	3.10	25.80	0.575
775,000	1.29	4.00	32.25	0.725
620,150	1.61	5.00	38.71	0.878
517,000	1.94	6.00	45.16	1.027
443,000	2.26	7.00	51.61	1.176
388,000	2.58	8.00	58.06	1.324
345,000	2.90	9.00	64.52	1.476
310,000	3.22	10.00	0.440	
		20.00		

*Equivalent to 0.01 milligram NaCl/In.² (MIL-P-28809) maximum contamination level)
Note: Figures approximated to the second decimal place.

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Built On Trust. Founded in 1957, the Myron L® Company is one of the world's leading manufacturers of water quality instruments. Because of our commitment to product improvement, changes in design and specifications are possible. You have our assurance any changes will be guided by our product philosophy: accuracy, reliability, and simplicity.

