



October 9, 2002

Notification to Linear Technology Customers

Subject: Phosphorus Based Flame Retardant in Mold Compounds

Plastic mold compound manufacturers have historically included trace amounts of Bromine and Antimony as a flame retardant in order to comply with the UL94V-0 flammability rating. A few years ago there began an initiative in the industry to make the mold compounds more “environmentally friendly” by eliminating the Bromine and Antimony, while maintaining UL rating equivalency. To that end, one mold compound manufacturer introduced for sale a compound series (i.e., EMExxxxU), which replaced the Bromine and Antimony with Phosphorus. This compound formulation was made available to any IC Manufacturer or Assembly Subcontractor who wished to convert.

It is, and has been, Linear Technology’s policy that any change we deem as major (e.g., mold compound change) be extensively evaluated and qualified before any manufacturing change is implemented. Therefore, in late CY 2000, Linear Technology began an extensive evaluation of a mold compound containing a phosphorus based flame retardant. As a result of this evaluation, Linear Technology Corp. determined that this type of mold compound DID NOT meet our high standards of quality and reliability. In early CY 2001, the findings of our evaluation were made available to the mold compound manufacturer and we have subsequently learned that the EMExxxxU series of compound has been withdrawn from the market.

During the past few months we have been receiving customer inquiries as to whether Linear Technology Corporation has ever used a phosphorus based flame retardant mold compound. Through this notification we wish to assure all our customers that Linear Technology Corporation has never approved and has never sold products which incorporate a phosphorus based flame retardant mold compound.

If there are any questions, please contact:

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