



# **Ceramic transient voltage suppressors**

## **Soldering directions**

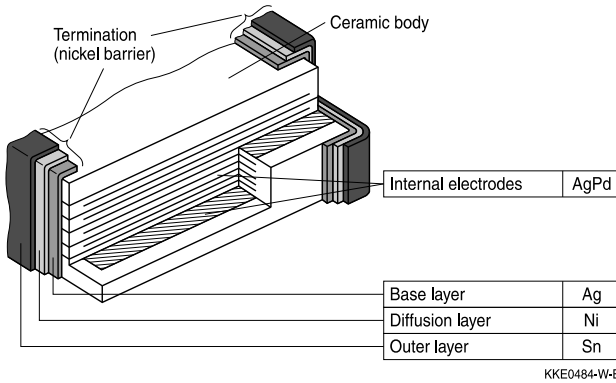
Date: November 2010

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**1 Terminations**

**1.1 Nickel barrier termination**

The nickel barrier layer of the silver/nickel/tin termination prevents leaching of the silver base metallization layer. This allows great flexibility in the selection of soldering parameters. The tin prevents the nickel layer from oxidizing and thus ensures better wetting by the solder. The nickel barrier termination is suitable for all commonly-used soldering methods.

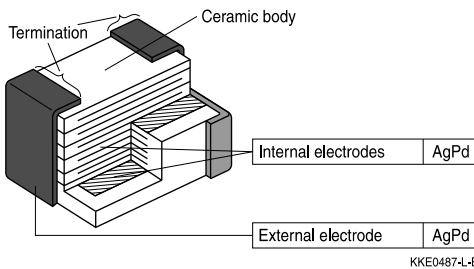


Multilayer CTVS: Structure of nickel barrier termination

**1.2 Silver-palladium termination**

Silver-palladium terminations are used for the large case sizes 1812 and 2220 and for chips intended for conductive adhesion. This metallization improves the resistance of large chips to thermal shock.

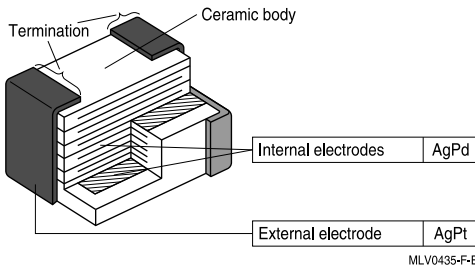
In case of conductive adhesion, the silver-palladium metallization reduces susceptibility to corrosion. Silver-palladium termination can be used for smaller case sizes (only chip) for hybrid applications as well. The silver-palladium termination is not approved for lead-free soldering.



Multilayer varistor: Structure of silver-palladium termination

### 1.3 Silver-platinum termination

Silver-platinum terminations are mainly used for the large case sizes 1812 and 2220. The silver-platinum termination is approved for reflow soldering, SnPb soldering and lead-free soldering with a silver containing solder paste. In case of SnPb soldering, a solder paste Sn62Pb36Ag2 is recommended. For lead-free reflow soldering, a solder paste SAC, e.g. Sn95.5Ag3.8Cu0.7, is recommended.

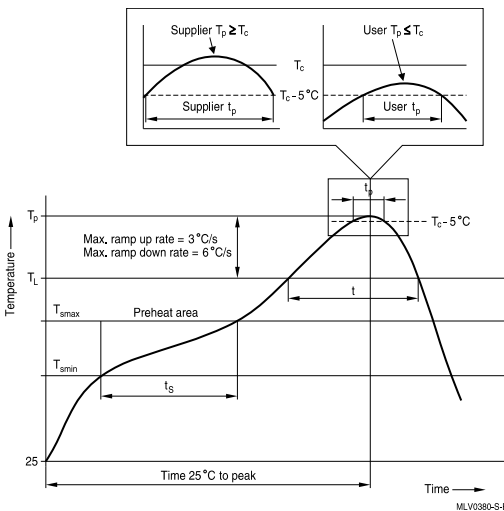


Multilayer varistor: Structure of silver-platinum termination

## 2 Recommended soldering temperature profiles

### 2.1 Reflow soldering temperature profile

Recommended temperature characteristic for reflow soldering following JEDEC J-STD-020D



## Soldering directions

Profile feature		Sn-Pb eutectic assembly	Pb-free assembly
Preheat and soak			
- Temperature min	$T_{smin}$	100 °C	150 °C
- Temperature max	$T_{smax}$	150 °C	200 °C
- Time	$t_{smin}$ to $t_{smax}$	60 ... 120 s	60 ... 180 s
Average ramp-up rate	$T_{smax}$ to $T_p$	3 °C/ s max.	3 °C/ s max.
Liquidous temperature	$T_L$	183 °C	217 °C
Time at liquidous	$t_L$	60 ... 150 s	60 ... 150 s
Peak package body temperature	$T_p$ <sup>1)</sup>	220 °C ... 235 °C <sup>2)</sup>	245 °C ... 260 °C <sup>2)</sup>
Time ( $t_p$ ) <sup>3)</sup> within 5 °C of specified classification temperature ( $T_c$ )		20 s <sup>3)</sup>	30 s <sup>3)</sup>
Average ramp-down rate	$T_p$ to $T_{smax}$	6 °C/ s max.	6 °C/ s max.
Time 25 °C to peak temperature		maximum 6 min	maximum 8 min

1) Tolerance for peak profile temperature ( $T_p$ ) is defined as a supplier minimum and a user maximum.

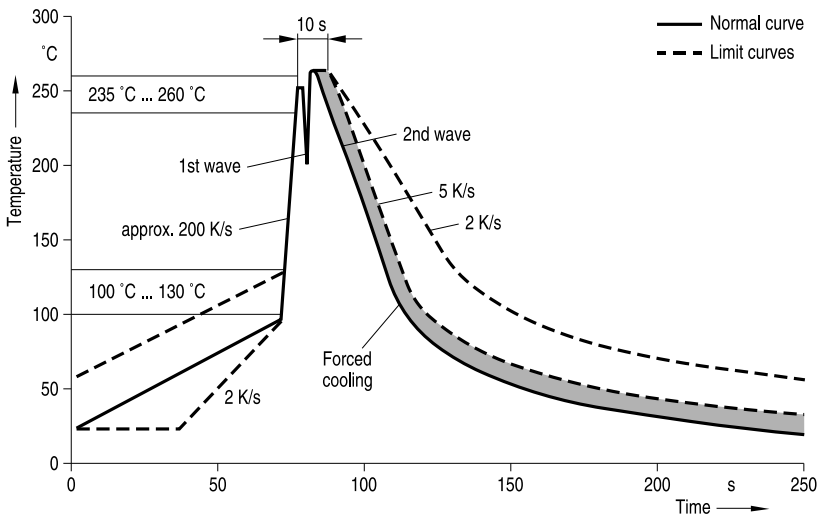
2) Depending on package thickness. For details please refer to JEDEC J-STD-020D.

3) Tolerance for time at peak profile temperature ( $t_p$ ) is defined as a supplier minimum and a user maximum.

**Note:** All temperatures refer to topside of the package, measured on the package body surface.  
Number of reflow cycles: 3

## 2.2 Wave soldering temperature profile

Temperature characteristics at component terminal with dual-wave soldering



## Soldering directions

### 2.3 Lead-free soldering processes

EPCOS multilayer CTVS with AgNiSn termination are designed for the requirements of lead-free soldering processes only.

Soldering temperature profiles to JEDEC J-STD-020D, IEC 60068-2-58 and ZVEI recommendations.

## 3 Recommended soldering methods - type-specific releases by EPCOS

### 3.1 Overview

Type	Case size	Reflow soldering		Wave soldering	
		SnPb	Lead-free	SnPb	Lead-free
CT... / CD...	0201/ 0402	Approved	Approved	No	No
CT... / CD...	0603 ... 2220	Approved	Approved	Approved	Approved
CN...	0603 ... 2220	Approved	No	Approved	No
CN...K2	1812, 2220	Approved	Approved	No	No
Arrays	0405 ... 1012	Approved	Approved	No	No
ESD/EMI filters	0405, 0508	Approved	Approved	No	No
CU	3225, 4032	Approved	Approved	Approved	Approved
SHCV	-	No	No	Approved	Approved

### 3.2 Nickel barrier and AgPt terminated multilayer CTVS

All EPCOS MLVs with nickel barrier and AgPt termination are suitable and fully qualified for lead-free soldering. The nickel barrier layer is 100% matte tin-plated.

### 3.3 Silver-palladium terminated MLVs

AgPd-terminated MLVs are mainly designed for conductive adhesion technology on hybrid material. Additionally MLVs with AgPd termination are suitable for reflow and wave soldering with SnPb solder.

**Note:**

Lead-free soldering is not approved for MLVs with AgPd termination.

### 3.4 Silver-platinum terminated MLVs

The silver-platinum termination is approved for reflow soldering, SnPb soldering and lead-free with a silver containing solder paste. In case of SnPb soldering, a solder paste Sn62Pb36Ag2 is recommended. For lead-free reflow soldering, a solder paste SAC, e.g. Sn95.5Ag3.8Cu0.7, is recommended.

**3.5 Tinned copper alloy**

All EPCOS CU types with tinned termination are approved for lead-free and SnPb soldering.

**3.6 Tinned iron wire**

All EPCOS SHCV types with tinned termination are approved for lead-free and SnPb soldering.

**4 Solder joint profiles / solder quantity**

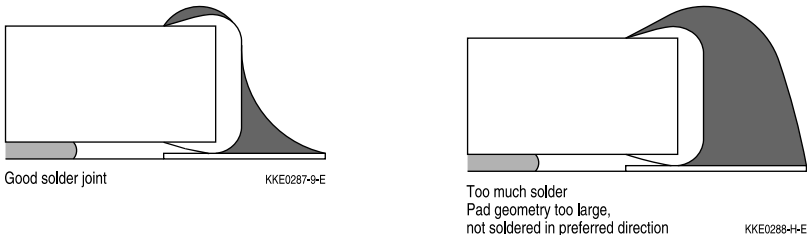
**4.1 Nickel barrier termination**

If the meniscus height is too low, that means the solder quantity is too low, the solder joint may break, i.e. the component becomes detached from the joint. This problem is sometimes interpreted as leaching of the external terminations.

If the solder meniscus is too high, i.e. the solder quantity is too large, the vise effect may occur. As the solder cools down, the solder contracts in the direction of the component. If there is too much solder on the component, it has no leeway to evade the stress and may break, as in a vise.

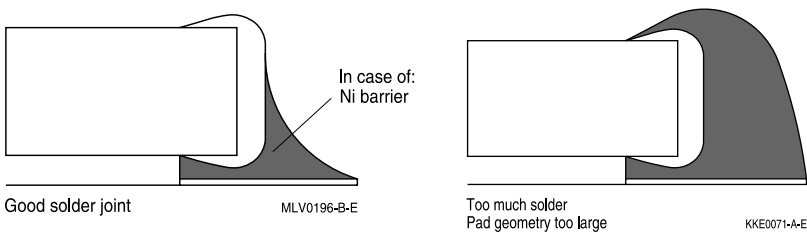
The figures below show good and poor solder joints for dual-wave and infrared soldering.

**4.1.1 Solder joint profiles for nickel barrier termination - dual-wave soldering**

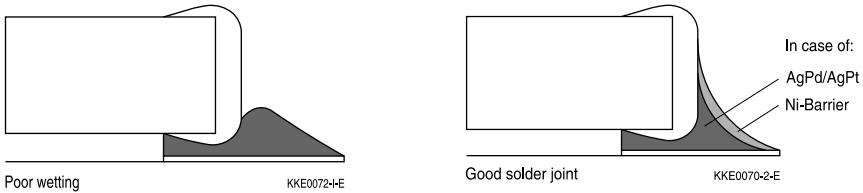


Good and poor solder joints caused by amount of solder in dual-wave soldering.

**4.1.2 Solder joint profiles for nickel barrier termination / silver-palladium / silver-platinum termination - reflow soldering**

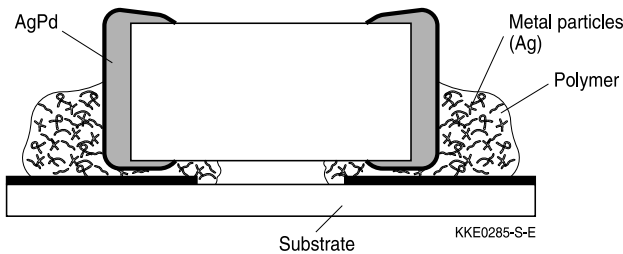


## Soldering directions



Good and poor solder joints caused by amount of solder in reflow soldering.

## 5 Conductive adhesion



Attaching surface-mounted devices (SMDs) with electrically conductive adhesives is a commercially attractive method of component connection to supplement or even replace conventional soldering methods.

Electrically conductive adhesives consist of a non-conductive plastic (epoxy resin, polyimide or silicon) in which electrically conductive metal particles (gold, silver, palladium, nickel, etc) are embedded. Electrical conduction is effected by contact between the metal particles.

Adhesion is particularly suitable for meeting the demands of hybrid technology. The adhesives can be deposited ready for production requirements by screen printing, stamping or by dispensers. As shown in the following table, conductive adhesion involves two work operations fewer than soldering.

Reflow soldering	Wave soldering	Conductive adhesion
Screen-print solder paste	Apply glue dot	Screen-print conductive adhesive
Mount SMD	Mount SMD	Mount SMD
Predry solder paste	Cure glue	Cure adhesive
Reflow soldering	Wave soldering	Inspect
Wash	Wash	
Inspect	Inspect	

## Soldering directions

A further advantage of adhesion is that the components are subjected to virtually no temperature shock at all. The curing temperatures of the adhesives are between 120 °C and 180 °C, typical curing times are between 30 minutes and one hour.

The bending strength of glued chips is, in comparison with that of soldered chips, higher by a factor of at least 2, as is to be expected due to the elasticity of the glued joints.

The lower conductivity of conductive adhesive may lead to higher contact resistance and thus result in electrical data different to those of soldered components. Users must pay special attention to this in RF applications.

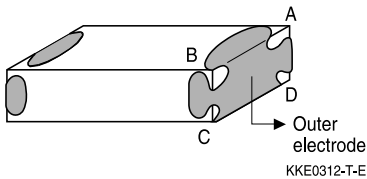
## 6 Solderability tests

Test	Standard	Test conditions Sn-Pb soldering	Test conditions Pb-free soldering	Criteria/ test results
Wettability	IEC 60068-2-58	Immersion in 60/40 SnPb solder using non-activated flux at $215 \pm 3$ °C for $3 \pm 0.3$ s	Immersion in Sn96.5Ag3.0Cu0.5 solder using non- or low activated flux at $245 \pm 5$ °C for $3 \pm 0.3$ s	Covering of 95% of end termination, checked by visual inspection
Leaching resistance	IEC 60068-2-58	Immersion in 60/40 SnPb solder using mildly activated flux without preheating at $260 \pm 5$ °C for $10 \pm 1$ s	Immersion in Sn96.5Ag3.0Cu0.5 solder using non- or low activated flux without preheating at $255 \pm 5$ °C for $10 \pm 1$ s	No leaching of contacts
Thermal shock (solder shock)		Dip soldering at $300$ °C/5 s	Dip soldering at $300$ °C/5 s	No deterioration of electrical parameters. Capacitance change: $\leq \pm 15\%$
Tests of resistance to soldering heat for SMDs	IEC 60068-2-58	Immersion in 60/40 SnPb for 10 s at $260$ °C	Immersion in Sn96.5Ag3.0Cu0.5 for 10 s at $260$ °C	Change of varistor voltage: $\leq \pm 5\%$
Tests of resistance to soldering heat for radial leaded components (SHCV)	IEC 60068-2-20	Immersion of leads in 60/40 SnPb for 10 s at $260$ °C	Immersion of leads in Sn96.5Ag3.0Cu0.5 for 10 s at $260$ °C	Change of varistor voltage: $\leq \pm 5\%$ Change of capacitance X7R: $\leq -5/+10\%$

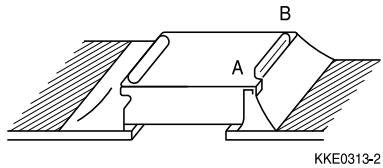
### Note:

#### Leaching of the termination

Effective area at the termination might be lost if the soldering temperature and/or immersion time are not kept within the recommended conditions. Leaching of the outer electrode should not exceed 25% of the chip end area (full length of the edge A-B-C-D) and 25% of the length A-B, shown below as mounted on substrate.



As a single chip



As mounted on substrate

## 7 Notes for proper soldering

### 7.1 Preheating and cooling

- According to JEDEC J-STD-020D. Please refer to chapter 2.

### 7.2 Repair / rework

Manual soldering with a soldering iron must be avoided, hot-air methods are recommended for rework purposes.

### 7.3 Cleaning

All environmentally compatible agents are suitable for cleaning. Select the appropriate cleaning solution according to the type of flux used. The temperature difference between the components and cleaning liquid must not be greater than 100 °C. Ultrasonic cleaning should be carried out with the utmost caution. Too high ultrasonic power can impair the adhesive strength of the metallized surfaces.

### 7.4 Solder paste printing (reflow soldering)

An excessive application of solder paste results in too high a solder fillet, thus making the chip more susceptible to mechanical and thermal stress. Too little solder paste reduces the adhesive strength on the outer electrodes and thus weakens the bonding to the PCB. The solder should be applied smoothly to the end surface.

## Soldering directions

### 7.5 Adhesive application

Thin or insufficient adhesive causes chips to loosen or become disconnected during curing. Low viscosity of the adhesive causes chips to slip after mounting. It is advised to consult the manufacturer of the adhesive on proper usage and amounts of adhesive to use.

### 7.6 Selection of flux

Used flux should have less than or equal to 0.1 wt % of halogenated content, since flux residue after soldering could lead to corrosion of the termination and/or increased leakage current on the surface of the component. Strong acidic flux must not be used. The amount of flux applied should be carefully controlled, since an excess may generate flux gas, which in turn is detrimental to solderability.

### 7.7 Storage of CTVs

Solderability is guaranteed for one year from date of delivery for multilayer varistors, CeraDiodes and ESD/EMI filters (half a year for chips with AgPd and AgPt terminations) and two years for SHCV and CU components, provided that components are stored in their original packages.

Storage temperature:  $-25\text{ }^{\circ}\text{C}$  to  $+45\text{ }^{\circ}\text{C}$

Relative humidity:  $\leq 75\%$  annual average,  $\leq 95\%$  on 30 days a year

The solderability of the external electrodes may deteriorate if SMDs and leaded components are stored where they are exposed to high humidity, dust or harmful gas (hydrogen chloride, sulfurous acid gas or hydrogen sulfide).

Do not store SMDs and leaded components where they are exposed to heat or direct sunlight. Otherwise the packing material may be deformed or SMDs/ leaded components may stick together, causing problems during mounting.

After opening the factory seals, such as polyvinyl-sealed packages, it is recommended to use the SMDs or leaded components as soon as possible.

### 7.8 Placement of components on circuit board

Especially in the case of dual-wave soldering, it is of advantage to place the components on the board before soldering in that way that their two terminals do not enter the solder bath at different times.

Ideally, both terminals should be wetted simultaneously.

### 7.9 Soldering cautions

- An excessively long soldering time or high soldering temperature results in leaching of the outer electrodes, causing poor adhesion and a change of electrical properties of the varistor due to the loss of contact between electrodes and termination.
- Wave soldering must not be applied for MLVs designated for reflow soldering only.
- Keep the recommended down-cooling rate.

## 7.10 Standards

CECC 00802

IEC 60068-2-58

IEC 60068-2-20

JEDEC J-STD-020D