



Inrush Current Limiters

Cautions and warnings

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Cautions and warnings

General

See "Important notes" on page 2.

Storage

- Store thermistors only in original packaging. Do not open the package before storage.
- Storage conditions in original packaging: storage temperature $-25\text{ °C} \dots +45\text{ °C}$, relative humidity $\leq 75\%$ annual mean, maximum 95%, dew precipitation is inadmissible.
- Avoid contamination of thermistors surface during storage, handling and processing.
- Avoid storage of thermistor in harmful environments like corrosive gases (SO_x , Cl etc).
- Solder thermistors after shipment from EPCOS within the time specified:
 - Leaded components: 24 months

Handling

- NTC thermistors must not be dropped. Chip-offs must not be caused during handling of NTCs.
- Components must not be touched with bare hands. Gloves are recommended.
- Avoid contamination of thermistor surface during handling.
- In case of exposure of the NTC thermistors to water, electrolytes or other aggressive media, these media can penetrate the coating and reach the surface of the ceramic. Low-ohmic or high-ohmic behavior may occur due to the formation of an electrolyte with metals (silver/lead/tin from metallization or solder). Low-ohmic behavior is caused by electrochemical migration, high-ohmic behavior by dissolving of the electrode. In either case, the functionality of the NTC thermistors can not be assured.

Bending / twisting leads

- A lead (wire) may be bent at a minimum distance of twice the wire's diameter plus 4 mm from the component head or housing. When bending ensure the wire is mechanically relieved at the component head or housing. The bending radius should be at least 0.75 mm.
- Twisting (torsion) by 180° of a lead bent by 90° is permissible at 6 mm from the bottom of the thermistor body.

Soldering

- Use resin-type flux or non-activated flux.
- Insufficient preheating may cause ceramic cracks.
- Rapid cooling by dipping in solvent is not recommended.
- Complete removal of flux is recommended.

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Mounting

- When NTC thermistors are encapsulated with sealing material or overmolded with plastic material, the precautions given in chapter "Mounting instructions", "Sealing and potting" must be observed.
- Electrode must not be scratched before/during/after the mounting process.
- Contacts and housings used for assembly with thermistor have to be clean before mounting.
- During operation, the inrush current limiters surface temperature can be very high. Ensure that adjacent components are placed at a sufficient distance from the thermistor to allow for proper cooling of the thermistors.
- Ensure that adjacent materials are designed for operation at temperatures comparable to the surface temperature of the thermistor. Be sure that surrounding parts and materials can withstand this temperature.
- Make sure that inrush current limiters are adequately ventilated to avoid overheating.
- Avoid contamination of thermistor surface during processing.

Operation

- Use thermistors only within the specified operating temperature range.
- Use inrush current limiters only within the specified voltage and current ranges.
- Environmental conditions must not harm the thermistors. Use thermistors only in normal atmospheric conditions.
- Contact of NTC thermistors with any liquids and solvents should be prevented. It must be ensured that no water enters the NTC thermistor (e.g. through plug terminals). For measurement purposes (checking the specified resistance vs. temperature), the component must not be immersed in water but in suitable liquids (e.g. Galden).
- In case of exposure of the NTC thermistors to water, electrolytes or other aggressive media, these media can penetrate the coating and reach the surface of the ceramic. Low-ohmic or high-ohmic behavior may occur due to the formation of an electrolyte with metals (silver/lead/tin from metallization or solder). Low-ohmic behavior is caused by electrochemical migration, high-ohmic behavior by dissolving of the electrode. In either case, the functionality of the NTC thermistors cannot be assured.
- Be sure to provide an appropriate fail-safe function to prevent secondary product damage caused by malfunction (e.g. use a metal oxide varistor for limitation of overvoltage condition).