

Product discontinuance of electronic components - Notification by suppliers and distributors

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English version

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This European Specification was approved by CENELEC on 1998-02-01.

CENELEC members are required to announce the existence of this ES in the same way as for an EN and to make the ES available promptly at national level in an appropriate form. It is permissible to keep conflicting national standards in force.

CENELEC members are the national electrotechnical committees of Austria, Belgium, Czech Republic, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Iceland, Ireland, Italy, Luxembourg, Netherlands, Norway, Portugal, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland and United Kingdom.

CENELEC

European Committee for Electrotechnical Standardization
Comité Européen de Normalisation Electrotechnique
Europäisches Komitee für Elektrotechnische Normung

Central Secretariat: rue de Stassart 35, B - 1050 Brussels

Foreword

This draft European Specification was prepared by the French National Committee and presented at the CENELEC TC CECC meeting in Madrid in September 1997.

It was submitted to the CENELEC combined questionnaire and vote procedure and was approved as ES 59003 on 1998-02-01.

The following date was fixed:

- latest date by which the existence of the ES
has to be announced at national level (doa) 1998-05-01

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Background

Obsolescence of electronic components: using the Internet to facilitate detection and solutions

Component obsolescence in the semiconductor industry is occurring ever more frequently as a direct result of fast-paced changes in technologies and markets.

■ Obsolescence overtakes reliability as today's major challenge

The commercial life of many semiconductors, especially integrated circuits, is shorter, in fact much shorter, than that of equipment. In some cases, this equipment may already involve several years of design work before being brought to market and installed at the customer's.

The industrial sector does not represent a large enough market to justify continuing the manufacture of certain components over long periods. The commercial life of components is determined by high-volume markets (such as IT, consumer goods, telecommunications, etc.), according to the life cycle of products developed for these markets. And the commercial life of components can be very short indeed (14 months in some cases).

The time needed to apply an alternative solution following the disappearance of a semiconductor is increasingly limited. Product obsolescence frequently occurs without sufficient prior warning following a decision to shut down manufacture. This is both detrimental to business relations and creates problems and high costs for the user.

Today, this problem is emerging as the major concern of most equipment manufacturers and major users of systems that involve a relatively long development and qualification process. In fact, obsolescence is now considered even more important than problems regarding product reliability, given the advances made in this area in recent years.

■ A first step: a few simple published rules

An "Obsolescence Task Force" has been created to address these issues. The enclosed recommendations, drafted in four committee sessions, constitute the task force's initial document and the first step toward dealing with obsolescence.

■ Guidelines for easy, rapid detection of obsolescence and how to deal with it

These recommendations define customer requirements concerning information about semiconductor obsolescence in order to improve detection of existing obsolescent components and facilitate possible replacement by alternative sources. The document stipulates the minimum information that all manufacturers should provide to customers before ceasing the manufacture of a component, and suggests how to distribute this information (for example, on a Web server).

■ Ensuring consistency and contacts with JEDEC

These recommendations are in line with those issued by JEDEC (JESD 48) in the United States, but contain more detailed requirements.

■ A contractual basis as part of an indispensable IEC strategy

Given the innovative ideas conveyed in these guidelines – and the lack of any experience feedback – they are intended solely as a set of provisional recommendations. These recommendations will only prove effective if they reach IEC level, since only the IEC is in a position to influence all major semiconductor manufacturers. This document will be submitted to the IEC by the end of 1997. In the meantime, it will form a contractual basis for many manufacturers.

PRODUCT DISCONTINUANCE OF ELECTRONIC COMPONENTS NOTIFICATION BY SUPPLIERS AND DISTRIBUTORS

1 PURPOSE

This document defines customer requirements with regards to notification of planned product discontinuance (production and/or sale) of electronic components, and more particularly of active components.

2 SCOPE

This document is applicable to suppliers and affected customers.

3 DEFINITIONS

3.1 Planned Product Discontinuance (obsolescence)

The cessation of the manufacture and/or sale of a product.

3.2 Affected Customer

Who has specified to the supplier or approved supplier agents in writing or electronically, a requirement to be notified of a planned product discontinuance.

AND

1) who has ordered or purchased a component from the supplier or approved supplier agent during the preceding two years

OR

2) who has formally communicated, in writing or electronically, to the supplier or approved supplier agent, within the past year, its intention to market its own system/assembly incorporating the affected supplier's product.

3.3 User

A user is someone affected by the planned product discontinuance, with regards to the maintenance or manufacture of the electronic equipment incorporating the affected supplier's product.

3.4 Approved Supplier Agent

A direct sales channel, an authorized distributor, or a contracted manufacturer's agent.

3.5 Multiple Source Product

A device (including package, temperature grade, etc.) that is manufactured by more than one independent manufacturer, and defined by common specifications.

3.6 Notification of planned product discontinuance

Notification of cessation of the manufacture and/or sale of a product that is planned and controlled by a manufacturer in the normal course of a product life cycle.

3.7 Single-Source Product

A device (including package, temperature grade, etc.) that is manufactured by only one supplier (even if it is marketed under different brand names).

4 INFORMATION REQUIREMENTS IN CASE OF PLANNED PRODUCT DISCONTINUANCE

4.1 Date of the public announcement of planned product discontinuance and date when manufacturing is ceased.

4.2 The effective date for last buy order, which shall be no later than the date at which manufacturing ceases.

4.3 Time limit for notice of date for last buy order :

- 6 months for multiple-source products

- 12 months for single-source products

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4.4 Delivery time limit: a minimum of 12 months following the date of final purchase order.

4.5 Minimum conditions for size of order

4.6 Full part number of components due to be discontinued.

4.7 Principal reason leading to planned product discontinuances. Indicates whether a product will no longer be manufactured, or whether it is simply no longer being marketed in a given geographic area.

4.8 Part number for replacement components:

- replacement by a fully compatible component, or

- replacement by similar product:

from either :

- the same supplier
- a different supplier, to be specified
- company acquiring the manufacturing process, to be specified.

4.9 Special precautions or recommendations concerning long-term packing and storage of components.

4.10 Availability of discontinued component data sheets for a period of five years following the date of the notice of planned product discontinuance, and the date of its archival storage.

5 CONDITIONS OF NOTIFICATION AVAILABILITY

5.1 Passive information

The manufacturer shall provide notice of any planned product discontinuance as rapidly as possible, preferably via an electronic communication, using an inexpensive and widely accessible medium (for example, a Web server, which is already widely used by manufacturers).

The manufacturer will indicate the corresponding contact point in its company.

5.2 Active information

Information will be communicated as rapidly as possible by the Approved Supplier Agent, as defined in § 3.4, to the Affected Customer, as defined in § 3.2.

Notice of any planned product discontinuance will include affected component references and, if possible, affected customer references.

The Approved Supplier Agent will indicate the corresponding contact point in its company.

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