

ALPHA[®] AND KESTER[®] SOLID SOLDER STORAGE, HANDLING AND SHELF LIFE

DESCRIPTION

This guide applies to SnPb and Pb-free solid solder alloys used in standard electronics assembly and industrial soldering applications, including the popular Sn63/Pb37, Sn60/Pb40, Sn100, SAC, SnCu, K100LD and all the SACX and SnCX alloys. It specifically covers these alloys supplied in bar, chunk, ingot or solid wire forms.

ALLOY STORAGE AND HANDLING

Always store the solid solder alloys in a cool, dry and non-corrosive environment. Wrap up the solder bar when not in use to reduce exposure to environment.

ALLOY SHELF LIFE

The shelf life of Alpha's and Kester solid solder alloy is generally considered to be 10 years, provided that proper storage methods and conditions are observed. This does not imply an automatic loss of solder product functionality after the lapse of the shelf life period. Customers should perform own tests to insure solder suitability for their specific applications and storage conditions after the shelf life period.

FACTORS INFLUENCING EACH ALLOY USEFUL LIFE

Even when subject to the optimum processing, handling, transportation and storage methods, most electronics solder alloys will form a small amount of surface oxidation. This oxidation generally inhibits further oxidation unless handling or storage conditions become worse. "Worse" conditions are generally viewed as when the alloy is subject to higher temperatures, higher humidity / moisture, high or low pH environments or storage in close proximity to strong oxidizing agents.

While the oxidized surface may lose its shine and appear a dull shade of grey, this is a surface phenomenon and is not detrimental to product functionality. Surface oxidation is separated as dross when the solder alloy is introduced and melted in a solder pot.

SAFETY & WARNING

It is recommended that the company/operator read and review the Safety Data Sheets for the appropriate health and safety warnings before use. **Safety Data Sheets are available.**

CONTACT INFORMATION

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Also read carefully warning and safety information on the Safety Data Sheet. This data sheet contains technical information required for safe and economical operation of this product. READ IT THOROUGHLY PRIOR TO PRODUCT USE. Emergency safety directory assistance: US 1 202 464 2554, Europe + 44 1235 239 670, Asia + 65 3158 1074, Brazil 0800 707 7022 and 0800 172 020, Mexico 01800 002 1400 and (55) 5559 1588

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