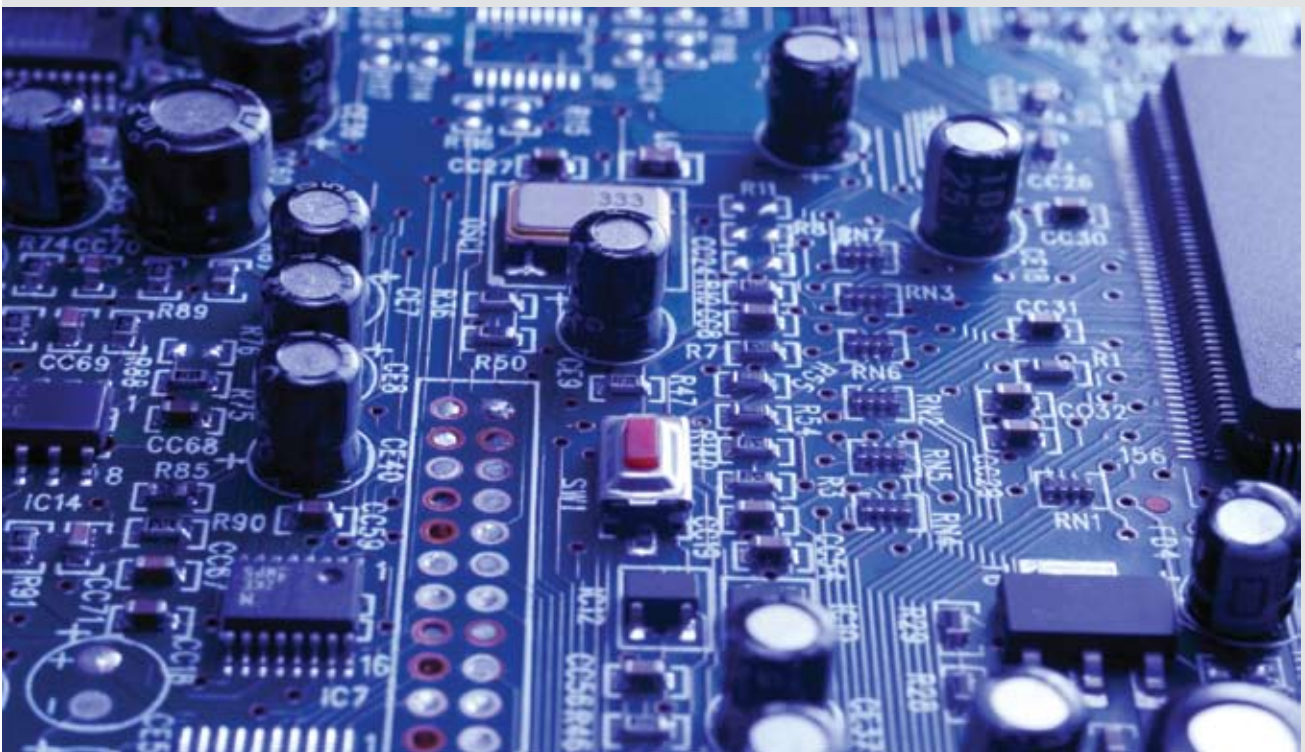




IECQ. ASSURE YOUR QUALITY IN THE ELECTRONICS INDUSTRY

IEC QUALITY ASSESSMENT
SYSTEM FOR ELECTRONIC
COMPONENTS (IECQ)



IECQ.

ASSURE YOUR QUALITY IN THE ELECTRONICS INDUSTRY

What is the IECQ?

The IECQ is a worldwide approval and certification system for covering the supply of electronic components and associated materials and processes. It uses quality assessment specifications that are based on International Standards prepared by the International Electrotechnical Commission (IEC).

The IECQ is about assurance and cost-cutting. Electrical and electronic products comprise many, sometimes hundreds of individual components and sub-assemblies. The well-known brand manufacturers and their purchasing managers want to be assured that the electronic components used in their products are of the required quality and reliability. To minimize incoming inspection costs and eliminate the quality auditing of suppliers, they can choose component suppliers who hold IECQ product approvals for their components.

What does the IECQ do?

The IECQ:

- helps purchasing managers and those involved in procurement to ensure that they are getting the quality electronic components that they order from their suppliers;
- helps component suppliers to provide the guarantee that their products are of the high quality that is expected today;
- provides a valuable “supply chain management and control system”;
- eliminates the need for “repeat” second party auditing of component suppliers.

What kind of components are we talking about?

At present there are eight families of electronic components covered by the IECQ:

- active components, including integrated circuits;
- electromagnetic components;
- electromechanical components;
- electro-optic components;
- hybrid integrated circuits;
- passive components;
- printed boards;
- wires and cables.

To support industry, the IECQ also operates the well-respected and known IECQ Hazardous Substance Process Management (IECQ HSPM) Certification programme providing suppliers holding IECQ HSPM Certification with a single global system of demonstrating their compliance with Stated Environmental and Green Process Management. For this, the IECQ developed the International IECQ Specification QC 080000, which takes the basic quality management system requirements of ISO 9001 and provides a specific focus for the legislative and customer requirements for the management of hazardous substances. These are now a very common requirement worldwide, e.g. European RoHS Directive.



The IECQ is continuously expanding into new fields, the most recent being Electronic Component Management Plan (ECMP) initially for the avionics industry. It now audits original equipment manufacturers that manage and control the use of electronic components for their avionics equipment. Suppliers to the avionics OEMs may also choose to have the IECQ audit them if they wish.

You can find a full list of companies, products and services approved by the IECQ on the website: www.iecq.org

How does the IECQ work?

There are two aspects to the IECQ: facility approval and product approval.

Facility approval: An IECQ Certification Body (IECQ CB) will evaluate the supplier's quality management system and grant facility approval for the family (or families) of component(s) concerned.

Product approval: Suppliers have to show through testing that the component conforms to the relevant quality assessment specification. They must demonstrate that their components do achieve the specifications declared by the manufacturers. Some suppliers have their own in-house testing facilities for making all of the tests required by the specification. The IECQ CB will ensure that these testing facilities are adequate. Those who do not have in-house testing facilities may use outside testing laboratories that are acceptable to the IECQ CB. A list of IECQ CBs appears on the website: www.iecq.org

Various IECQ product approval procedures are available, according to the degree of sophistication of the manufacturing operation.

What if my suppliers are in countries where the IECQ is not represented?

Your suppliers are free to contact any IECQ CB of their choice.

How can I find out more?

Please visit the IECQ website at www.iecq.org

You may also contact the IECQ Secretariat:

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The World of IEC

The IEC is the world leading organization that prepares and publishes International Standards for all electrical, electronic and related technologies – collectively known as “electrotechnology”. The IEC also administers three global conformity assessment systems, IECEE, IECEx and IECQ, for testing, certification and approval of equipment, systems and components to its International Standards. Wherever you find electricity – from generation, transmission and distribution, through industrial automation, healthcare, transport, multimedia in the home, to the battery in your phone – you will find the World of IEC supporting the environment, safety, performance and efficiency.