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EIA Component Bulletin CB-31 Connectors and Sockets Shelf-Life

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Electronic Components Industry Association

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Connectors and Sockets Shelf-Life

There have been industry wide discussions about shelf-life date codes for connectors and sockets (stored in inventory as components) as a means to establish when a component is no longer fit for use in an assembly process. The following is the position of the EIA/ECA CE2.0 Engineering Committee for Connectors and Sockets:

Connectors and Sockets have no significant shelf-life limitations that would categorically prevent their use after years of storage by a specific date. Storage conditions vary widely around the world and are difficult to predict. Establishing an absolute expiration date is not feasible. However, solderability is often the failure mode of most concern which can be evaluated prior to use per EIA/IPC/JEDEC-J-STD-002 - Revision F Solderability Tests for Component Leads, Terminations, Lugs, Terminals and Wires. Other concerns may include plastic deflection features, elastomers, and cover-tape peel strength which may be affected by storage conditions. As with solderability, quick functional tests can be performed to validate the suitability of connectors and sockets for assembly in a production process following extended storage. Consult individual manufacturers' data sheets for recommended storage and functional tests.



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