

ESD PROTECTION PROCEDURES

FOR THE ASSEMBLY & HANDLING OF ESD-SENSITIVE COMPONENTS



■ INTRODUCTION

Generation of electrostatic charges by friction

When rubbed with certain materials, non-conductive substances such as resin, glass, plastics show a separation of charges so the rubbed materials feature different polarities. Thus electrostatic situations occur. Due to the insulating effect of the substances the charging cannot spread out. This, however, is what they are always pushing for. If unloading is impossible an electric charging always causes an opposite charge in its area. This process is called electrostatic induction. A current or electric current, however only comes about if conducting material is involved or if the energy of the charges (the electrostatic field) is that high an unloading spark results.

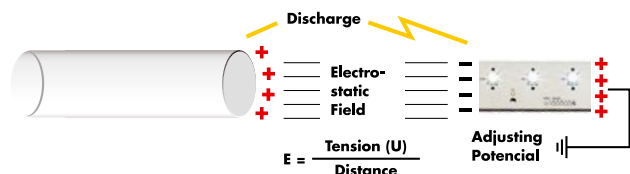
Examples for the generation of electrostatic charges:

- Falling rain in the atmosphere
- Walking on "man-made" materials
- Movement of clothing (dress and undress) containing "man-made" materials (nylon etc.)

Examples of typical electrostatic Voltages

	Relative air humidity		
	10%	40%	55%
Motion at working place	6000V	800V	400V
Walk on plastic tiles	12000V	5000V	3000V
Walk on carpet	35000V	15000V	7500V
Removing air pocket packaging	26000V	20000V	7000V

Flow of Electrostatic charges

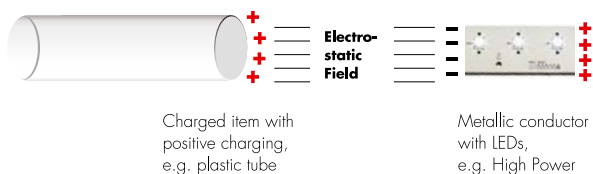


Metallic conductors are, e.g., electric contact points, circuit paths, bond wires or leadframes.

Electrostatic discharges

Case 1: Due to a large electrostatic field discharging occurs with a spark formation.

Case 2: The charges are abruptly compensated by free charge carriers



Important

Only small electrostatic voltages can destroy LED-chips and ICs.

■ GENERAL RECOMMENDATIONS

For work in electronic protective zones

- Access to electronic protective zones is only permitted in authorised clothing, i.e. a suitable protective white coat, shoes that can discharge and/or a wrist band.
- It is essential to point out the protective measures to any visitors.
- Visitors are only allowed access to protective zones if they are suitably dressed in the above indicated outfits.
- It is also essential to avoid "hard" discharges, for example, on metal foil or metal plate.
- The following applies to electrostatic sensitive components:
 - Only allow parts to contact material that can discharge in order to assure that eventual charges may "smoothly" flow off (controlled potential balancing).
 - Never work on components near to charged or chargeable items.
 - Only use appropriate tools, devices and materials.
 - Slit existing adhesive tapes, don't tear them.
 - Use gloves or finger stalls that can discharge.
 - The components may only leave the ESD-protective area in packing and transport boxes conforming to standards.

For single work places (ESD-islands), for technical customer service and for installation on site

The following also applies:

- Wear working clothes that can discharge.
- Always wear an earthed wrist band. For technical customer service the working mat and service suitcase must be connected with each other and earthed (permanent potential adjustment). In the event that the appliance to be repaired has a conductive housing, the mat, suitcase and wrist belt must be connected to it.
- Never remove the components in question from packaging outside the "ESD-island".
- If trolleys are required for transport, only trolleys that can discharge should be used. The trolleys should be integrated into the potential adjustment. In stand-by positions on ground that does not discharge, the trolleys must be earthed.

For examining and repairing ESD-sensitive components

- Test probes must show zero potential when contacting. Their environment must be free of any potential electrostatic charge (e.g. acrylic glass screens).
- Test holders must show zero potential when plugging or unplugging ESD-sensitive components.
- Test equipment must not generate voltage peaks when being switched on or off.
- All unused inputs should be connected either to the supply voltage or to the reference potential. All relevant information in technical literature has to be observed.
- At entries signal voltages must only be set before or after switching on the supply voltage. Signal voltages must be switched off before or at the moment of switching off the supply voltage.
- Soldering guns and final soldering devices must be equipped with grounded tips. No voltage peaks must be generated by controllers or power supply voltage.
- Coolant spray must only be used if the device to be examined is in an in-circuit emulator with adjusting potential.

■ WARNING NOTICES IN AN ELECTRONIC PROTECTIVE ZONE EPA (ESD-PROTECTED-AREA)



■ STANDARDS

DIN EN 61340-5-1

Electrostatics – Protection of electronic components against electrostatic phenomenon
General requirements

DIN EN 61340-5-2

Electrostatics – Protection of electronic components against electrostatic phenomenon
User manual

DIN IEC 61340-4-1

Electrostatics – Part 4-1: Standard test methods for specific applications – Electrical resistance of floor coverings and installed floors

ANSI/ESD S.20.20-1999

ESD Association standard for the development of an electrostatic discharge control program