

IPC/WHMA-A-620E

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# Requirements and Acceptance for Cable and Wire Harness Assemblies

Supersedes IPC/WHMA-A-620D

January 2020

*An international standard developed by IPC*

participants from  
**23** countries  
contributed to this standard



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# Requirements and Acceptance for Cable and Wire Harness Assemblies

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# 1.0 General

**1.1 Scope** This standard prescribes practices and requirements for the manufacture of cable, wire and harness assemblies. This standard does not provide criteria for cross-section or X-ray evaluation. For X-ray guidelines, see Appendix D X-Ray Guidelines.

**If a conflict occurs between the English and translated versions of this document, the English version will take precedence.**

The illustrations in this document portray specific points noted in the title of each section. The development committee recognizes that different parts of the industry have different definitions for some terms used herein. For the purposes of this document, the terms cable and wire harness are used interchangeably.

IPC/WHMA-A-620 can be used as a stand-alone document for purchasing products, however it does not specify frequency of in-process inspection or frequency of end product inspection. No limit is placed on the number of process indicators or the number of allowable repair/rework of defects. Such information should be developed with a statistical process control plan (see IPC-9191).

**1.2 Purpose** This standard describes materials, methods, tests and acceptability criteria for producing crimped, mechanically secured, or soldered interconnections and the related assembly activities associated with cable and harness assemblies.

The intent of this document is to rely on process control methodology to ensure consistent quality levels during the manufacture of products.

Any method that produces an assembly conforming to the acceptability requirements described in this standard may be used.

Standards may be updated at any time, including with the use of amendments. The use of an amendment or newer revision is not automatically required. The revision in effect **shall [D1D2D3]** be as specified by the User.

**1.3 Classification** Use of this standard requires agreement on the Class to which the product belongs. The User has the ultimate responsibility for identifying the Class to which the assembly is evaluated. If the User does not establish and document the acceptance Class, the Manufacturer may do so. Criteria defined in this standard reflect three Product Classes, which are as follows:

**Class 1 General Electronic Products**

Includes products suitable for applications where the major requirement is the function of the completed assembly.

**Class 2 Dedicated Service Electronic Products**

Includes products where continued performance and extended life is required, and for which uninterrupted service is desired but not critical. Typically, the end-use environment would not cause failures.

**Class 3 High Performance/Harsh Environment Electronic Products**

Includes products where continued performance or performance-on-demand is critical, equipment downtime cannot be tolerated, end-use environment may be uncommonly harsh, and the equipment must function when required, such as life support systems and other critical systems.

**1.4 Measurement Units and Applications** This document uses the International System of Units (SI) in accordance with IEEE/ASTM SI 10, American National Standard for Metric Practice (Section 3). Imperial English equivalent units follow in brackets. The derived SI units used in this document are millimeters (mm) [in] for dimensions and dimensional tolerances, Celsius (°C) [°F] for temperature and temperature tolerances, grams (g) [oz] for weight, and lux (lx) [foot-candles] for illuminance.

**1.4.1 Verification of Dimensions** Where not specifically invoked by this standard, actual measurements, e.g., of specific solder fillet dimensions, determination of damage and wrap percentages, are not required except for referee purposes.

**1.5 Definition of Requirements** The words “**shall**” or “**shall not**” are used in the text of this document wherever there is a requirement for materials, process or acceptance of cable, wire and harness assemblies.

Where the words “**shall**” or “**shall not**” indicates a requirement for at least one Class, the requirements for each Class are in brackets next to the “**shall**” or “**shall not**” requirement.

N = No requirement has been established for this Class

A = Acceptable

P = Process Indicator

D = Defect

**Examples:**

[A1P2D3] is Acceptable Class 1, Process Indicator Class 2 and Defect Class 3

[N1D2D3] is Requirement Not Established Class 1, Defect Classes 2 and 3