EFFECTS OF LUBRICATED CONTACTS

LSHM 10mm Stack Height
Hermaphroditic
Effects of Lubricant on Contacts

• **Purpose:** The purpose of this test is to determine the impact (if any) on electrical performance when using lubricant on the contacts of passive interconnects.

• **Test Parameters**
  – Impedance, Insertion Loss, & Return Loss

• **Test Samples**
  – PCB-102612-TST Rev, LSHM-DV/LSHM-DV Test Board, Best Case
  – PCB-102612-TST Rev, LSHM-DV/LSHM-DV (samples lubricated) Test Board, Best Case
    • Test board traces were slightly altered in the lab, in order to align their impedance profiles. Details are included in the appendix.
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• Lubricant
  – Santolubes ACCL-53T [PPE (OS-138)] lubricant used
  – Lubricant selectively applied to contacts per following drawing:
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- **Scope**
  - Test 1 GSG and 1 GSSG configuration on a DUT with lubricated contacts
  - Test 1 GSG and 1 GSSG configuration on a DUT with standard non-lubricated contacts
  - Evaluate effects of the lubricant applied to the contacts
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Single Ended Impedance Comparison

- Lumed
- Unlubed
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Differential Impedance Comparison

Time (ns)

Z (ohms)

Lubed
Unlubed
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Single Ended Insertion Loss Comparison

Frequency (MHz)

IL (dB)

-16

0 2000 4000 6000 8000 10000 12000 14000 16000 18000 20000

Lubed
Unlubed
-3 dB

0 2000 4000 6000 8000 10000 12000 14000 16000 18000 20000

-16
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Differential Insertion Loss Comparison

-3 dB
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Single Ended Return Loss Comparison

- Frequency (MHz)
- RL (dB)

Graph showing the comparison between lubed and unlubed contacts over a frequency range from 0 to 20,000 MHz.
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Differential Return Loss Comparison

RL (dB) vs. Frequency (MHz)

- Lubed
- Unlubed
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• Results
  – DUT with Lubricated Contacts
    • Average signal line impedance: single-ended, 48.4 Ω, differential, 95.2 Ω *(slides 4 & 5)*
      – Requirement: SE, 50Ω ±5%, diff, 100Ω ±5%,
    • Half Power (3dB) Point: single-ended, 6.737 GHz, differential, 2.275 GHz *(slides 6 & 7)*
    • Return Loss (10dB): single-ended, 6.738 GHz, differential, 1.150 GHz *(slides 8 & 9)*
    • Minimum Mated Connector Impedance: single-ended, 31.2 Ω, differential, 46.7 Ω *(slides 4 & 5)*

  – DUT with Standard Non-Lubricated Contacts
    • Average signal line impedance: single-ended, 48.6 Ω, differential, 95.4 Ω *(slides 4 & 5)*
      – Requirement: SE, 50Ω ±5%, diff, 100Ω ±5%,
    • Half Power (3dB) Point: single-ended, 6.950 GHz, differential, 2.450 GHz *(slides 6 & 7)*
    • Return Loss (10dB): single-ended, 7.187 GHz, differential, 1.500 GHz *(slides 8 & 9)*
    • Minimum Mated Connector Impedance: single-ended, 33.9 Ω, differential, 50.9 Ω *(slides 4 & 5)*
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• Summary
  – There are apparent signal integrity changes taking place within the DUT where the contacts have been coated with a lubricant. The most apparent change was the decrease in minimum impedance around the lubricated contact profiles. Impedance decreased 2.7 Ω for single-ended and 4.2 Ω for differential signals. Also decreasing were the frequency domain performance parameters. As an example single-ended half power point performance decreased by 213 MHz from 6950 MHz non-lubricated to 6737 MHz lubricated. Differential 10 dB return loss benchmark speed went from 1500 MHz to 1150 MHz. These decreasing performance speeds and impedance drops were consistent for the lubricated DUT throughout all the measurements, whether the applied signal was single-ended or differential.

• Conclusion
  – The application of a lubricant to the contacts will slightly degrade the electrical performance of the connector system. However the effects of the lubricant are felt to be minimal at best, when tested in an environment where PCB impedance and dielectric properties are well controlled.
Appendix

• **Background on test boards issues:**
  – Initial 10 mm LSHM connector tests used two PCB vendors and compared measurements made approximately 8 months apart. Un-expectantly the results introduced variables from two different PCB vendors and differences in signal line impedance. It was felt both variables would be eliminated by using one vendor, therefore allowing a proper evaluation of the effects of a lubricant applied to the contacts. One vendor (Cirexx) was chosen. Unfortunately signal line impedances again varied, producing almost identical results as in the first test. Why signal line impedance varied from same vendor is unknown. It was decided to manually lower and raise signal line impedances by in-house modification.

• **Solution:**
  – Modify the signal line impedances on each board type, lubricated contacts or non-lubricated, to match within the Samtec impedance tolerance guidelines
    • Single-Ended: 50 Ω ± 5%, range; 47.5 Ω → 52.5 Ω
    • Differential: 100 Ω ± 5%, range; 95.0 Ω → 105.0 Ω
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Contacts Lubricated

- Increase Signal Line Impedance
  - Remove solder mask and sand signal line with P400 grit paper
- Initial Signal Line Impedance (mean)
  - Single-Ended = 47.5 Ω
  - Differential = 93.1 Ω
- Final Signal Line Impedance (mean)
  - Single-Ended = 48.4 Ω
  - Differential = 95.2 Ω
- Increased Impedance
  - Single-Ended = 0.9 Ω
  - Differential = 2.1 Ω

Connector P/N: LSHM-150-06.0-L-DV-A, Qty. 1
LSHM-150-04.0-L-DV-A, Qty. 1
**Effects of Lubricant on Contacts**

**Standard Contacts**

- **Connector P/N:** LSHM-150-06.0-L-DV-A, Qty. 1  
  LSHM-150-04.0-L-DV-A, Qty. 1

- Decrease Signal Line Impedance
  - Apply thick application of polyurethane (d\(K\approx 2.3\)) over signal lines

- Initial Signal Line Impedance (mean)
  - Single-Ended = 50.5 Ω  
    Differential = 99.1 Ω

- Final Signal Line Impedance (mean)
  - Single-Ended = 48.6 Ω  
    Differential = 95.4 Ω

- Increased Impedance
  - Single-Ended = 1.9 Ω  
  - Differential = 3.7 Ω