



XRF Measurement of Residual Materials in Electronics Studio

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JIP Partners

RoHS RS Components Tin Technology Research in Motion Tin Whisker Mitigation Alcatel Alenia Space EADS Astrium MBDA Rolls-Royce

Suppliers Fischer Inst. Niton Oxford Inst. RMD Roentgenanalytik





Instrument Types

- Sources
 - Portable
 - Approx. 40kV, 10uA
 - Isotope
 - Benchtop
 - Approx. 50kV, 1000uA
- Detectors
 - Proportional (resolution ~1000eV)
 - Pin diode (resolution ~250eV)
 - Si(Li) diode (resolution ~140eV)







Instrument Types

BenchTop	Х	Х	Х	Х	Х	Х		Х	Х	Х			Х	Х	
Portable							Х				Х	Х			Х
SiLi								Х							
PIN	Х	Х	Х	Х	Х	Х	Х				Х	Х	Х		Х
Prop. Count									Х	Х				Х	
Partner	Α	В	Α	С	D	E	F	F	G	Н	J	J	L	Μ	Ν
System	Р	Р	Q	Q	Q	Q	R	S	Т	U	V	W	Х	Y	Z

Total of 15 XRF systems

- 11 Bench-tops
 - 8xPIN
 - 1xSiLi
 - 3xProportional Counters)
- 4 Portables (PIN) (1xCo57 source)
- 12 Partners, 11 different systems







Workplan

• Phase 1

- Acquire samples
- Undertake analysis of example of each sample
- Designate master sample for round-robin analysis
- Phase 2
 - Round-robin to partner or partners designated test house for testing for RoHS compliance
- Phase 3
 - Chemical analysis of round-robin samples (LGC)
 - Correlation of results
 - Report





Main Chemical Analysis

- Cadmium, mercury, lead and chromium
 - Microwave acid digestion and Inductively Coupled Plasma with Mass Spectrometry (ICP-MS).
- Bromine
 - Extraction by combusting sample in oxygenated atmosphere (Schöniger flask method) and dissolving free bromine ions into solution to be determined by ion chromatography.
- Chromium VI
 - Reaction of chromium VI with hydrogen peroxide to form a blue colouration being one such test.



Supplementary Chemical Analysis

- Cadmium and lead
 - Acid digestion and Inductively-Coupled Plasma Atomic Emission Spectrometry (ICP-AES)





NPL EDX Analysis

- Lead
 - Energy Dispersive X-ray Analysis attached to scanning electron microscope
 - Only analyses surface of sample (1 micron depth)







Typical Spot Sizes and Test Times

		Plastics		Metals		Bench				Prop.
Partner	System	SpotSize	TestTime	SpotSize	TestTime	Тор	Portable	SiLi	PIN	Count.
Α	Р	0.2 -2mm Φ	340s	0.2 -2mm Φ	210s	Х			Х	
В	Р	1-2mm Φ	340s	1-2mm Φ	205s	Х			Х	
Α	Q	$0.1-0.6$ mm Φ	340s	$0.1-0.6$ mm Φ	210s	Х			Х	
С	Q	$0.1-0.6mm\Phi$	350s	$0.1-0.6$ mm Φ	95s	Х			Х	
D	Q	$0.3-0.6$ mm Φ	360s	0.3 - 0.6 mm Φ	210s	Х			Х	
E	Q	0.6 mm Φ	200s	$0.1-0.6$ mm Φ	100s	Х			Х	
F	R	3x3mm	180s	3x3mm	30s		Х		Х	
F	S	1.2 mm Φ	120s	1.2 mm Φ	280s	Х		Х		
G	Т	0.5 -2mm Φ	120s	$0.4-0.5$ mm Φ	20-100s	Х				Х
Н	U			0.3 mm Φ	15s	Х				Х
J	V	3 mm Φ	120s	3 mm Φ	100-200s		Х		Х	
J	W	10x20mm	120s	10x20mm	200s		Х		Х	
L	Х	1 mm Φ	200s	0.3 -1mm Φ	210s	Х			Х	
М	Y	0.4 mm Φ	30s	$0.08-0.4$ mm Φ	30s	Х				Х
Ν	Z	3 mm Φ	120s	3 mm Φ	60s		Х		Х	







Spot Sizes

•Larger spot sizes –Less segregation





•Smaller spot sizes –Less background effects





Round Robin Samples

- 9 Plastics samples with either Pb, Cd, Hg
- Cr passivated Zn plated screw, poss Cr⁶⁺
- Sn contaminated with lead from 50 -> 20000ppm Pb
- SOIC solder joints from NPL test boards
 - 0,1,2,5,8% Pb in SAC joints from a manufactured PCB
- BGA, SnPb and LF, looking thru component and PCB
- Components in reels and sticks
- Solder paste

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Test Procedure

- Sample presented blind to equipment
- Equipment setup/programming defined by end-user
- Each sample analysed 3 times with sample removed from equipment between each test
- Designated test area to ensure same test area for each test
 - Circular section samples cut in half to determine which side to be tested





Differences Between Chemical and XRF Results

- Homogeneity of sample
 - Chemical analysis averages larger sample
 - XRF "spot sizes" vary
- Penetration of X-rays
 - Materials "behind" sample dilute result
- Inaccurate measurement bAgCu
 - Chemical analysis
 - XRF analysis

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Presentation of Results

- Results for plastic components
 - ROHS compatibility
- Results for solders
 - ROHS compatibility
 - Tin whisker mitigation
- Results for other electronics components/joints
 - ROHS compatibility
 - Tin whisker mitigation







Plastics





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1: SPDY

Yellow PVC M4 spade terminal
Tested sleeve only and asreceived











1: SPDY PIN/SiLi - Pb



1: SPDY



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1: SPDY PIN/SiLi - Cr



1: SPDY



1: SPDY PIN/SiLi – Hg/Br/Cd

1: SPDY



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1: SPDY



1:SPDY As Received

1: SPDY/SPDYAS Comparison











2: BACK

Black PVC Gland adaptor backshell

-	LGC Analysis
Pb	1.271
Cd	<0.001
Hg	<0.001
Br	<0.07
Cr	<0.001









2: BACK PIN/SiLi - Pb









2: BACK PIN/SiLi – Hg/Br/Cr/Cd



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2: BACK



IPC

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4: IDC











4: IDC PIN/SiLi - Pb



4: IDC





4: IDC PIN/SiLi – Hg/Br/Cr/Cd



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4: IDC





7: BEV

Silvered push button bezel
Chemical analysis is of whole sample not added coating

	LGC Analysis
Pb	<0.001
Cd	<0.001
Hg	<0.001
Br	N/A
Cr	0.139









7: BEV PIN/SiLi - Cr



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7: BEV PIN/SiLi – Pb/Hg/Br/Cd



7: BEV







9: PLUG

Non-PVC connector plug cover

	LGC Analysis
Pb	<0.001
Cd	0.236
Hg	<0.001
Br	N/A
Cr	<0.001









9: PLUG PIN/SiLi - Cd



9: PLUG







9: PLUG PIN/SiLi – Pb/Hg/Br/Cr





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Plastics Conclusions – Pb, Hg, Br, Cr

- Typical electronics components do not contain 1000ppm Pb, Hg, Br or Cr
- PIN/SiLi based bench-top and portable XRF systems are excellent for distinguishing between non-compliant components (typically 5000+ppm) and compliant components (typically 500ppm)
- For levels between 500ppm and 2000ppm, additional techniques are recommended
- XRF systems have been shown to determine the presence of Br and Cr but not to speciate these elements.





Plastics Conclusions – Pb, Hg, Br, Cr, Cd

- Of the 8 typical electronics components tested containing Pb, Cd or Hg, the 12 PIN/SiLi systems achieved 100% identification of noncompliant components
- Of the 3 typical electronics RoHS compliant components tested, the 12 PIN/SiLi systems achieved 100% identification of compliant components for Pb and Hg. 4 Systems gave false detects for Cd (BP, AQ, DQ & NZ)
- 3 typical components containing Br or Cr were correctly identified as containing these elements and requiring alternative tests for speciation
- For tests of 12 components using 12 PIN/SiLi systems only 2 false detects for Cr at around 1000ppm were registered (EQ and NZ)





Plastics Conclusions -Cd

- For Cd, again bench-top and portable XRF systems excellent at distinguishing non-compliant systems above 1000ppm Cd
- Below this figure, additional techniques may be required
- For tests of 10 components (without Cd) using 12 PIN/SiLi systems, 7 false detects for Cd, all at 260ppm or below, were registered (BP(2), EQ(2), AQ, DQ & NZ)





Plastics Conclusions – Proportional Counters

- Proportional counter based systems are capable of registering the presence of RoHS elements when they are at typical levels found in plastics (>3%) but below this level, their ability to find the elements is unproven
- Even at the higher levels, systems are not capable of given quantitative results






Solders





Pb Contaminated Sn Samples

- Pb1 to Pb8
- Nominal 0 to 20,000 ppm Pb in Sn
- Cd analysis for some samples









16: PB2 PIN/SiLi - Cd







17: PB3 PIN/SiLi

- 260ppm Pb
- One system with high Cd



17: PB3

Partner

		-												
		BenchTop	Х	Х	Х	Х	Х	Х		Х			Х	
	PB3	Portable							Х		Х	Х		Х
		SiLi								Х				
		PIN	Х	Х	Х	Х	Х	Х	Х		Х	Х	Х	Х
	ITRI	Prop. Count												
	Analysis	Partner	Α	В	Α	С	D	E	F	F	J	J	L	Ν
		System	Р	Р	Q	Q	Q	Q	R	S	V	W	Х	Z
Pb	0.026	Av.	0.031	0.035	0.028	0.020	0.024	NT	ND	0.048	0.012	0.010	0.033	0.055
		STD.	0.008	0.005	0.003	0.006	0.002			0.007	0.007	0.006	0.000	0.006
Cd	NT	Av.	0.009	ND	ND	0.058	ND	NT	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	NT
		STD.	0.003			0.018								
(IPC													





18: PB4 PIN/SiLi

• 490ppm Pb

 One system with high Cd



Partner

		BenchTop	Х	Х	Х	Х	Х	Х		Х			Х	
	PB4	Portable							Х		Х	Х		Х
		SiLi								Х				
		PIN	Х	Х	Х	Х	Х	Х	Х		Х	Х	Х	Х
	ITRI	Prop. Count												
	Analysis	Partner	Α	В	Α	С	D	E	F	F	J	J	L	N
		System	Р	Р	Q	Q	Q	Q	R	S	V	W	Х	Z
Pb	0.049	Av.	0.058	0.058	0.048	0.045	0.047	ND	0.048	0.065	0.040	0.031	0.061	0.067
		STD.	0.004	0.006	0.003	0.001	0.012		0.005	0.029	0.000	0.004	0.010	0.004
Cd	NT	Av.	ND	0.004	ND	0.062	ND	NT	ND	ND	ND	ND	0.008	NT
		STD.		0.004		0.019							0.008	
		310.		0.004		0.019							0.000	





19: PB5 PIN/SiLi

- 980ppm Pb
- Majority of systems failing for Pb
- One system with high Cd



Partner

		BenchTop	Х	Х	Х	Х	Х	Х		Х			Х	
	PB5	Portable							Х		Х	Х		Х
		SiLi								Х				
		PIN	Х	Х	Х	Х	Х	Х	Х		Х	Х	Х	Х
	ITRI	Prop. Count												
	Analysis	Partner	Α	В	Α	С	D	E	F	F	J	J	L	Ν
		System	Р	Р	Q	Q	Q	Q	R	S	V	W	Х	Z
Pb	0.098	Av.	0.124	0.107	0.103	0.101	0.093	0.047	0.116	0.144	0.103	0.094	0.141	0.123
		STD.	0.006	0.007	0.002	0.003	0.008	0.015	0.004	0.004	0.006	0.004	0.008	0.005
Cd	NT	Av.	ND	0.005	ND	0.067	ND	NT	ND	ND	ND	ND	0.001	NT
		STD.		0.004		0.018							0.002	
	100													

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20: PB6 PIN/SiLi

- 1910ppm Pb
- All systems failing for Pb
- Two systems with high Cd



20: PB6

Partner

											r	r		
		BenchTop	Х	Х	Х	Х	Х	Х		Х			Х	
	PB6	Portable							Х		Х	Х		Х
		SiLi								Х				
		PIN	Х	Х	Х	Х	Х	Х	Х		Х	Х	Х	Х
	ITRI	Prop. Count												
	Analysis	Partner	Α	В	Α	С	D	E	F	F	J	J	L	Ν
		System	Р	Р	Q	Q	Q	Q	R	S	V	W	Х	Z
Pb	0.191	Av.	0.217	0.195	0.198	0.199	0.194	0.167	0.171	0.277	0.190	0.191	0.258	0.232
		STD.	0.005	0.010	0.003	0.007	0.010	0.038	0.019	0.023	0.010	0.007	0.014	0.015
Cd	<0.001	Av.	ND	ND	0.006	0.083	ND	NT	ND	ND	ND	0.010	ND	NT
		STD.			0.005	0.034						0.005		
	IPC													





20: PB6 PIN/SiLi - Cd









21: PB7 PIN/SiLi

- 10300ppm Pb
- All systems failing for Pb
- Three systems with high Cd



21: PB7

Partner

		BenchTop	Х	Х	Х	Х	Х	Х		Х			Х	
	PB7	Portable							Х		Х	Х		Х
		SiLi								Х				
		PIN	Х	Х	Х	Х	Х	Х	Х		Х	Х	Х	Х
	ITRI	Prop. Count												
	Analysis	Partner	Α	В	Α	С	D	Е	F	F	J	J	L	Ν
		System	Р	Р	Q	Q	Q	Q	R	S	V	W	Х	Z
Pb	1.030	Av.	1.084	0.966	1.013	1.043	1.046	0.923	1.341	1.159	1.077	1.102	1.263	1.297
		STD.	0.019	0.003	0.014	0.023	0.035	0.059	0.025	0.002	0.032	0.008	0.007	0.028
Cd	<0.001	Av.	ND	0.014	0.005	0.048	0.012	NT	ND	ND	ND	ND	0.003	NT
		STD.		0.016	0.005	0.013	0.001						0.003	
(IPC													



21: PB7 PIN/SiLi - Cd



21: PB7







22: PB8 PIN/SiLi

• 19210ppm Pb

- All systems failing for Pb
- One system with high Cd



Partner

		BenchTop	Х	Х	Х	Х	Х	Х		Х			Х	
	PB8	Portable							Х		Х	Х		Х
		SiLi								Х				
		PIN	Х	Х	Х	Х	Х	Х	Х		Х	Х	Х	Х
	ITRI	Prop. Count												
	Analysis	Partner	Α	В	Α	С	D	E	F	F	J	J	L	N
		System	Р	Р	Q	Q	Q	Q	R	S	V	W	Х	Z
Pb	1.921	System Av.	P 2.483	P 2.209	Q 2.334	Q 2.360	Q 2.364	Q 2.200	R 3.119	S 2.690	V 2.450	W 2.514	X 2.878	Z 3.081
۶b			-	-							V 2.450 0.070		^	
		Av.	2.483	2.209	2.334	2.360	2.364	2.200	3.119	2.690		2.514	× 2.878	3.081
Pb Cd	1.921	Av. STD.	2.483 0.040	2.209 0.013	2.334 0.012	2.360 0.030	2.364 0.052	2.200 0.026	3.119 0.080	2.690 0.022	0.070	2.514 0.054	2.878 0.004	3.081 0.062



Pb in Sn PIN/SiLi Conclusions

- PIN/SiLi based XRF systems are excellent for distinguishing Pb levels in bulk solder samples down to levels around 500ppm Pb
- Some systems can achieve good repeatability at 50ppm Pb
- All systems achieved 100% successful identification of 2000ppm Pb in Sn
- At 1000ppm lead, 11 out of 12 systems indicated failure for lead or within 10% of RoHS limit





Cd in Sn/Pb Conclusions

- 10 PIN/SiLi systems completed full matrix for Cd in SnPb
- 50% of systems gave at least 1 fall detect for Cd







Pb Contaminated Sn Samples – Proportional Counters

		BenchTop	Х	Х	Х
	PB1	Portable			
		SiLi			
		PIN			
	ITRI	Prop. Count	Х	Х	Х
	Analysis	Partner	G	Н	М
		System	Т	U	Y
Pb	0.005	Av.	ND	NT	NT
		STD.			
Cd	NT	Av.		NT	NT
		STD.			

		BenchTop	Х	Х	Х
	PB2	Portable			
		SiLi			
		PIN			
	ITRI	Prop. Count	Х	Х	Х
	Analysis	Partner	G	Н	М
		System	Т	U	Y
Pb	0.011	Av.	ND	NT	NT
		STD.			
Cd	<0.001	Av.		NT	NT
		STD.			

		BenchTop	Х	Х	Х
	PB3	Portable			
		SiLi			
		PIN			
	ITRI	Prop. Count	Х	Х	Х
	Analysis	Partner	G	Н	М
		System	Т	U	Y
Pb	0.026	Av.	ND	NT	NT
		STD.			
Cd	NT	Av.		NT	NT
		STD.			

		BenchTop	Х	Х	Х
	PB4	Portable			
		SiLi			
		PIN			
	ITRI	Prop. Count	Х	Х	Х
	Analysis	Partner	G	Н	М
		System	Т	U	Y
Pb	0.049	Av.	ND	ND	ND
		STD.			
Cd	NT	Av.	NT	NT	NT
		STD.			







Pb Contaminated Sn Samples – Proportional Counters II

		BenchTop	Х	Х	Х
	PB5	Portable			
		SiLi			
		PIN			
	ITRI	Prop. Count	Х	Х	Х
	Analysis	Partner	G	Н	М
		System	Т	U	Y
Pb	0.098	Av.	0.05	ND	0.193
		STD.	0.006		0.225
Cd	NT	Av.		NT	NT
		STD.			

		BenchTop	Х	Х	Х
	PB7	Portable			
		SiLi			
		PIN			
	ITRI	Prop. Count	Х	Х	Х
	Analysis	Partner	G	Н	М
		System	Т	U	Y
Pb	1.030	Av.	0.99	1.333	1.107
		STD.	0.010	0.070	0.021
Cd	<0.001	Av.		NT	NT
		STD.			

		BenchTop	Х	Х	Х
	PB6	Portable			
-	_	SiLi			
		PIN			
	ITRI	Prop. Count	Х	Х	Х
	Analysis	Partner	G	Н	М
		System	Т	U	Y
Pb	0.191	Av.	0.15	0.167	0.170
		STD.	0.021	0.030	0.035
Cd	<0.001	Av.		NT	NT
		STD.			

		BenchTop	Х	Х	Х
	PB8	Portable			
		SiLi			
		PIN			
	ITRI	Prop. Count	Х	Х	Х
	Analysis	Partner	G	Н	М
		System	Т	U	Y
Pb	1.921	Av.	2.46	3.100	2.607
		STD.	0.017	0.170	0.040
Cd	NT	Av.		NT	NT
		STD.			







Pb Contaminated Sn Samples – Proportional Counters II



PB5 & PB6 Proportional Counters

PB7 & PB8 Proportional Counters



Pb Contaminated Sn Samples – Proportional Counters III

- All PC systems measuring Pb at 0.2%
- Only one system detecting at 0.1%
- No systems detecting below 0.1%
- Adequate for tin whisker mitigation where lead levels above 1% required
- Potential issue with smaller samples if minimum spot size too large
- For RoHS, problems for samples containing 0.1 to 0.2% lead, these will not be detected





Pb Contaminated SAC Same

- NPL1 to NPL5
- Nominal 0 to 20% Pb in SnAgCu



Pb in SnAgCu solder with Au Ni Cu Glass reinforced epoxy









23: NPL1 PIN/SiLi

- Lead-free system
- Two systems with high Cd



23: NPL1

Partner

		BenchTop	Х	Х	Х	Х	Х	Х		Х			Х	
	NPL1	Portable							Х		Х	Х		Х
		SiLi								Х				
	EDX	PIN	Х	Х	Х	Х	Х	Х	Х		Х	Х	Х	Х
	Analysis	Prop. Count												
	Termination	Partner	Α	В	Α	С	D	E	F	F	J	J	L	Ν
	NPL	System	Р	Р	Q	Q	Q	Q	R	S	V	W	Х	Z
b	<0.1	Av.	0.069	0.048	0.073	ND	0.070	ND	ND	0.089	ND	ND	0.075	0.081
		STD.	0.013	0.010	0.005		0.004			0.020			0.015	0.011
d	<0.1	Av.	ND	ND	0.022		ND	ND	ND	0.012	ND	ND	NT	NT
		STD.			0.032					0.004				

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24: NPL2 PIN/SiLi

- ~3% Pb in joint
- 3 handheld systems did not fail for Pb
- One system with high Cd



24: NPL2

Partner

		BenchTop	Х	Х	Х	Х	Х	Х		Х			Х	
NPL2		Portable							Х		Х	Х		Х
_		SiLi								Х				
	EDX	PIN	Х	Х	Х	Х	Х	Х	Х		Х	Х	Х	Х
	Analysis	Prop. Count												
	Termination	Partner	Α	В	Α	С	D	E	F	F	J	J	L	Ν
	NPL	System	Р	Р	Q	Q	Q	Q	R	S	V	W	Х	Z
b	2.8	Av.	3.520	3.662	3.187	2.973	3.170	3.657	ND	3.499	0.156	0.008	3.730	0.077
		STD.	0.362	0.107	0.087	0.150	0.026	0.638		0.131	0.016	0.002	0.062	0.009
d	<0.1	Av.	ND	ND	0.056	NT	ND	NT	ND	0.003	ND	ND	NT	NT
		STD.			0.044					0.003				





25: NPL3 PIN/SiLi

- ~11% Pb in joint
- 1 handheld system did not fail for Pb
- One system with high Cd



25: NPL3

		BenchTop	Х	Х	Х	Х	Х	Х		Х			Х	
NPL3		Portable							Х		Х	Х		Х
		SiLi								Х				
	EDX	PIN	Х	Х	Х	Х	Х	Х	Х		Х	Х	Х	Х
	Analysis	Prop. Count												
	Termination	Partner	Α	В	Α	С	D	E	F	F	J	J	L	Ν
	NPL	System	Р	Р	Q	Q	Q	Q	R	S	V	W	Х	Z
)	10.8	Av.	9.439	8.795	8.553	7.740	8.246	8.603	0.655	7.424	0.329	0.040	10.176	0.157
		STD.	0.218	0.188	0.121	0.142	0.119	0.184	0.064	0.029	0.049	0.011	0.094	0.011
k	<0.1	Av.	ND	ND	0.064	NT	ND	NT	ND	0.002	ND	ND	NT	NT
		STD.			0.033					0.003				







26: NPL4 PIN/SiLi

• ~19% Pb in joint

- 1 handheld system did not fail for Pb
- One system with high Cd



26: NPL4

		BenchTop	Х	Х	Х	Х	Х	Х		Х			Х	
NPL4		Portable							Х		Х	Х		Х
		SiLi								Х				Ĩ
	EDX	PIN	Х	Х	Х	Х	Х	Х	Х		Х	Х	Х	Х
	Analysis	Prop. Count												
	Termination	Partner	Α	В	Α	С	D	E	F	F	J	J	L	Ν
	NPL	System	Р	Р	Q	Q	Q	Q	R	S	V	W	Х	Z
b	19.1	Av.	15.030	13.133	13.533	11.500	13.193	13.100	3.038	11.229	0.661	0.068	15.750	0.166
		STD.	0.087	0.264	0.058	0.100	0.125	0.346	0.118	0.153	0.058	0.006	0.056	0.066
)d	<0.1	Av.	ND	ND	0.037	NT	ND	NT	ND	0.002	ND	ND	NT	NT
		STD.			0.011					0.002				







27: NPL5 PIN/SiLi

• ~17% Pb in joint

• One system with

high Cd

• 1 handheld system

did not fail for Pb



27: NPL5

BenchTop Х Х Х Х Х Х Х Х NPL5 Х Х Х Portable Х SiLi Х EDX PIN Х Х Х Х Х Х Х Х Х Х Х Prop. Count Analysis Termination В С D Ε F F Ν Partner Α Α J J L W Ρ Ρ Q S V Х Q Q Q R Ζ NPL System 2.454 0.087 16.8 17.510 15.667 11.800 15.397 14.433 11.338 Av. 15.633 0.820 18.673 0.498 STD. 0.020 0.225 0.153 0.361 0.096 1.305 0.204 0.376 0.075 0.011 0.225 0.008 ND <0.1 Av. ND 0.059 NT ND NT ND ND ND ND NT NT STD. 0.057

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NPL1-5 PIN/SiLi Conclusions

- Spot size is a issue for small samples
- For accurate Pb determination, sample should fill measuring window
- 8 systems completed the full matrix for Cd measurements, giving 6 false detects (40 measurements) on 2 systems







NPL1-5 Proportional Counters

NPL1-5 Proportional Counters









NPL1–5 Proportional counters

- Proportional counter performance was variable
- Only two systems completed measurements
- One system performed well giving acceptable levels for Pb in joints
- Other system gave high lead (8%) for lead free







Summary of Conclusions



Lead, Mercury, Bromine, Chromium

- Typical electronics components do not contain 1000ppm Pb, Hg, Br or Cr
- XRF systems generally excellent for distinguishing between non-compliant components (typically 5000+ppm) and compliant components (typically 500ppm)
- For levels between 500ppm and 2000ppm, additional techniques are recommended if accurate elemental analysis is required
- XRF systems have been shown to determine the presence of Br and Cr but to speciate these elements.





Cadnium

- For Cd, again XRF systems excellent at distinguishing non-compliant systems above 1000ppm Cd
- Below this figure, additional techniques may be required
- The lower RoHS limit for Cd did generate a level of false detects for this element





Proportional Counter Conclusions

- Primarily used for ensuring Pb levels in solder are above 1% for Sn whisker mitigation
- Acceptable for use for this purpose provided the sample is large enough to fill measurement window particularly where Pb levels are closer to 1%





Tin Whisker Mitigation Conclusions

- All systems proved capable of ensuring Pb levels above 1% in solder providing smaple size is large enough
- False positives can be given for samples which have Pb in base material beneath metallisation.

