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**TRACE LABORATORIES-CENTRAL ANNOUNCES THEIR NEW TIN WHISKER TESTING PROGRAM (iNEMI-SPECIFIED)**

PALATINE, IL - Trace Laboratories-Central, a full-service, internationally accredited, independent testing facility, has established a new certification and testing program for tin whisker growth on components that are to be designed for lead-free compliance with the European Union's Directive on the Restriction of Certain Hazardous Substances ("RoHS Directive"). The program incorporates the International Electronics Manufacturing Initiative (iNEMI) specification for the testing of components to determine if tin whisker growth occurs during the life of the product.

Trace Laboratories-Central will provide customers with a program that consists of three segments: two isothermal tests and one thermal cycling test. Trace Labs will assemble, pre-condition, and provide an electrical bias representing actual use conditions. The certified testing program typically consists of, as a minimum: 1) a high temperature/humidity aging test for 4,000 hours; 2) a storage test at ambient conditions for 4,000 hours; and 3) a rapid thermal cycle test for 1,000 cycles.

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Trace Labs is capable of meeting all three classes of testing specified by iNEMI: Class 1, Mission/Life Critical High-Reliability Applications for military, space, and medical equipment; Class 2, High-Reliability Business Applications for telecommunications infrastructure, high-end servers, and similar equipment; and Class 3, Consumer products that have a product life of five years maximum.

The Trace Laboratories program will inspect the product using SEM-certified optical equipment. Complete written reports will be made available as a part of the certified Tin Whisker Testing Program. Failure analysis is available through our Trace Laboratories-East facility.

Trace's equipment, testing experience, and understanding of the RoHS requirements make them an industry leader in testing electrical and electronic equipment and systems for reliability in the impending lead-free world-wide marketplace.

For more information on Trace Laboratories-Central's Tin Whisker Testing or any of the labs' other extensive testing capabilities, contact **Trace Laboratories-Central, Sales Department, 1150 West Euclid Avenue, Palatine, Illinois. Phone: 847-934-5300. Fax: 847-934-4600. [www.tracelabs.com](http://www.tracelabs.com) E-mail: [info@tracelabs.com](mailto:info@tracelabs.com).**

Trace Laboratories-Central is an internationally recognized A2LA accredited laboratory which specializes in taking existing standard test methods and modifying them to better suit our customer needs. Trace offers environmental simulation, electromagnetic compatibility (EMC), failure analysis, mechanical, materials, electrical, consulting, and training services to a wide range of industries. Trace has facilities located in Palatine, IL and Hunt Valley, MD.

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