

# **Technical Bulletin** Conformal Coating Thickness Measurement

Applying too much or too little conformal coating can affect long-term reliability and can be expensive. There are several methods for measurement of conformal coating thickness that fall into two categories.

## Wet Film Conformal Coating Measurement

The wet film conformal coating thickness method ensures quality control while the coating is still wet.

The wet film gauges are applied to the wet conformal coating and the teeth indicate the thickness of the conformal coating. The dry film thickness can then be calculated from the measurement using solids content as a ratio.



Wet Film gauge Measurement

### **Dry Conformal Coating Thickness Measurement**

An alternative method to wet film measurement is using an eddy current system like the <u>Positector 6000</u>. This system is extremely quick and accurate to  $\pm 1$  um.

Placing the test head on the surface of the conformal coating, the measurement is almost instantaneous and provides an immediate repeatable result for thickness measurement of conformal coating.



Dry Film Measurement of a conformal coating on a printed circuit board using a Positector 6000

Test coupons are the ideal method for measuring the coating thickness, whether is it spraying or dipping, and can be kept as a physical record of the performance. Apply the coating to the test coupons at the same time as the circuit boards and this provides a permanent measurement and an accurate guide to the coating thickness.

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