



POWERTRIP™ CONNECTORS FOR SPACE FLIGHT

OUTGASSING

- **Standard connectors must be baked out to meet outgassing requirements.**
- **Modification codes are a convenient way to specify special outgassing bakeout.**

Space flight equipment requires low-outgassing components in order to prevent degradation to optics and other sensitive instruments. The space industry has adopted a standardized test procedure, ASTM E595, to evaluate outgassing properties. In the ASTM test, material samples are heated to 125° C at a vacuum of 5 X 10⁻⁵ torr for 24 hours. The test sample is then weighed to calculate the Total Mass Loss (TML), which may not exceed 1.0% of the total initial mass. A collector plate is used to determine the Collected Volatile Condensable Material (CVCM), which may not exceed 0.1% of the total original specimen mass. Powertrip™ connectors contain nonmetallic materials such as rubber, plastic, adhesives and potting compounds which can give off gasses when subjected to a vacuum or high heat. Unless the connector is specially processed, the TML and CVCM can exceed allowable limits. Glenair is able to offer two bakeout processes which assure all materials comply with ASTM E595: an 8 hour oven bakeout at 400° F or a 24 hour thermal vacuum outgassing at 125° C. The table below shows suffix codes which specify outgassing processing.

CONNECTOR MATERIAL AND FINISH OPTIONS

- **Cadmium and silver plating are prohibited in space.**
- **Specify electroless nickel plating on connector shells and gold plating on contacts.**

Some types of metals are prohibited for space flight. "Cadmium, zinc, chemically coated cadmium or zinc, or silver shall not be used as a connector or contact finish" (NASA EEE-INST-002 Instructions for EEE Parts Selection, Screening, Qualification, and Derating). NASA recommends electroless nickel or gold plating on connector shells and gold plating for contacts.

NASA SCREENING

- **"Mission critical" connectors for space flight should undergo rigorous 100% final inspection.**
- **Modification codes are available to invoke special screening.**

NASA recommends that connectors for space flight be specially screened. NASA EEE-INST-002 Instructions for EEE Parts Selection, Screening, Qualification, and Derating contains three levels of screening: level 1 for highest reliability, level 2 for high reliability and level 3 for standard reliability. Glenair suffix codes are available to invoke NASA screening. The table below shows these "Mod" codes which can also include outgassing processing.

NASA SCREENING LEVELS AND MODIFICATION CODES			
NASA Screening Level	Special Screening Only	Special Screening Plus Outgassing Processing	
		48 Hour Oven Bake 175° C.	Thermal Vacuum Outgassing 24 hrs. 125° C.
Level 1 Highest Reliability	Mod 429B	Mod 429J	Mod 429C
Level 2 High Reliability	Mod 429	Mod 429K	Mod 429A
Level 3 Standard Reliability	(Use standard part number)	Mod 186	Mod 186M