



IC BLUE

the answer comes out of the Blue

QUALITY CONTROL PROCESS STATEMENT

The proliferation of counterfeit components within the electronics industry undermines the whole supply chain network. IC Blue LTD implemented in 2003 a rigorous vendor approval process and part inspection criteria to ensure as best we can that our supply chain is robust to deal with this problem.

We have a number of tools to deal with the prospect of counterfeit component infiltration:

VENDOR CHOICE

For the majority of our purchasing we source parts from:

1. MANUFACTURER DIRECT PURCHASING.
 - A IC Blue has a number of direct purchasing agreements in place.
2. FRANCHISE AND/OR AUTHORISED MANUFACTURER DIRECT CHANNEL.
 - A Business licences/ registration checked.
 - B Direct manufacturer link verified.
3. KNOWN AND ASSESSED EUROPEAN AND US DISTRIBUTORS.
 - A Multiple years trading, checked current references.
 - B ISO compliant working practices.
4. VERIFIED OEM EXCESS CHANNELS WHICH HAVE HAD:
 - A Visual onsite verification to cover audit trail and excess storage.
 - B Photographic verification.
 - C Title of ownership verification.
5. UPON FULL CUSTOMER DISCLOSURE AND AGREEMENT:
 - A Open market sources or those deemed as a higher risk.
This is relevant for long time obsolete components etc

Our list of approved vendors is continually reassessed and updated verification sought based on changing circumstances, industry news and the latest financial information.

PART INSPECTION

We operate a multi-faceted inspection process to all parts that come into our warehouse.

Utilising over 8yrs worth of data.

1. Part number/ date code/ lot code/ label/ package verification.
2. Photographic audit trail kept for all deliveries since inception.
3. C of C check and verified (if applicable)
4. Photographic comparison to a known good device.
5. Inspection under a microscope to highlight any anomalies or inconsistencies.
6. Manufacturer lot code verification.
7. Use of third party UK based specialist facilities if there is a need based on other findings.
 - A We always use independent facilities to ensure there is no conflict of interest.
 - B This may include use of co-planarity equipment on a transit damaged shipment or re-baking of parts where seals have opened.

Although we can make our process as robust as possible there may be occasion where we require the customer's help with verification, this will always be conducted with transparency to achieve a common objective.

Matthew Ward
DIRECTOR