

FOREWORD

The information in this database provides part acquisition guidelines for Program Managers, System Program Offices, and Original Equipment Manufacturers in using military and commercially specified parts for military equipment. It provides guidance on how the Department of Defense (DoD) and its contractors can cooperatively select devices that will result in the lowest cost of ownership for the DoD. Device selection is to be based on cost-effective performance, designed-in high quality and reliability for a given application.

The use of commercial parts and documents has increased in today's military system applications. Program Managers and system designers hear about and use commercial, consumer, industrial, and automotive product grade part designations. Because the parts are not as fully characterized as the traditional military parts have been in the past, the design implications of using these parts are not well understood.

Commercial parts, often have advantages in cost, size, weight, performance and availability, have attracted widespread attention for government and military applications. It is critical that we do not jeopardize performance of our weapon systems when selecting commercial parts. It is equally critical, however, to ensure that we can support new and legacy systems and avail ourselves of the best technology the commercial world has to offer. This database has been designed to assist with the critical step of selecting the right parts for the right application. The database defines three environmental categories from which to select when designing for an application. Within these categories more is known about the part's quality and reliability and this should result in less risk to the application. In addition, these categories, along with other information contained in this database, establish an avenue for insertion of non-military parts into military applications.

I encourage you to use the database during the design selection process. I also ask that you provide feedback as to the usefulness of the data and on things that might be done to make the database more useful.

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