



Aluminum Electrolytic Capacitors

Cautions and warnings

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Cautions and warnings

Personal safety

The electrolytes used by EPCOS have not only been optimized with a view to the intended application, but also with regard to health and environmental compatibility. They do not contain any solvents that are detrimental to health, e.g. dimethyl formamide (DMF) or dimethyl acetamide (DMAC).

Furthermore, part of the high-voltage electrolytes used by EPCOS are self-extinguishing. They contain flame-retarding substances which will quickly extinguish any flame that may have been ignited.

As far as possible, EPCOS does not use any dangerous chemicals or compounds to produce operating electrolytes. However, in exceptional cases, such materials must be used in order to achieve specific physical and electrical properties because no safe substitute materials are currently known. However, the amount of dangerous materials used in our products has been limited to an absolute minimum. Nevertheless, the following rules should be observed when handling aluminum electrolytic capacitors:

- Any escaping electrolyte should not come into contact with eyes or skin.
- If electrolyte does come into contact with the skin, wash the affected parts immediately with running water. If the eyes are affected, rinse them for 10 minutes with plenty of water. If symptoms persist, seek medical treatment.
- Avoid breathing in electrolyte vapor or mists. Workplaces and other affected areas should be well ventilated. Clothing that has been contaminated by electrolyte must be changed and rinsed in water.

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Product safety

The table below summarizes the safety instructions that must be observed without fail. A detailed description can be found in the relevant sections of chapter "General technical information".

Topic	Safety information	Reference chapter "General technical information"
Polarity	Make sure that polar capacitors are connected with the right polarity.	1 "Basic construction of aluminum electrolytic capacitors"
Reverse voltage	Voltages polarity classes should be prevented by connecting a diode.	3.1.6 "Reverse voltage"
Upper category temperature	Do not exceed the upper category temperature.	7.2 "Maximum permissible operating temperature"
Maintenance	Make periodic inspections of the capacitors. Before the inspection, make sure that the power supply is turned off and carefully discharge the electricity of the capacitors. Do not apply any mechanical stress to the capacitor terminals.	10 "Maintenance"
Mounting position of screw-terminal capacitors	Do not mount the capacitor with the terminals (safety vent) upside down.	11.1. "Mounting positions of capacitors with screw terminals"
Mounting of single-ended capacitors	The internal structure of single-ended capacitors might be damaged if excessive force is applied to the lead wires. Avoid any compressive, tensile or flexural stress. Do not move the capacitor after soldering to PC board. Do not pick up the PC board by the soldered capacitor. Do not insert the capacitor on the PC board with a hole space different to the lead space specified.	11.4 "Mounting considerations for single-ended capacitors"
Robustness of terminals	The following maximum tightening torques must not be exceeded when connecting screw terminals: M5: 2 Nm M6: 2.5 Nm	11.3 "Mounting torques"
Soldering	Do not exceed the specified time or temperature limits during soldering.	11.5 "Soldering"

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Topic	Safety information	Reference chapter "General technical information"
Soldering, cleaning agents	Do not allow halogenated hydrocarbons to come into contact with aluminum electrolytic capacitors.	11.6 "Cleaning agents"
Passive flammability	Avoid external energy, such as fire or electricity.	8.1 "Passive flammability"
Active flammability	Avoid overload of the capacitors.	8.2 "Active flammability"
		Reference chapter "Capacitors with screw terminals"
Breakdown strength of insulating sleeves	Do not damage the insulating sleeve, especially when ring clips are used for mounting.	"Screw terminals – accessories"