



ENVIRONMENTAL SERIES 23

Space-Grade Guidelines for SuperNine® Connectors

Outgassing

Space flight equipment requires low-outgassing components in order to prevent degradation to optics and other sensitive instruments. SuperNine® 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. The space industry has adopted a standardized test procedure, ASTM E595, to evaluate outgassing properties. The MIL-DTL-38999 specification Class G also details specific TVM and CVCM values in addition to finish specifications. In Glenair's 186T process, for example, connectors and connector materials are heated to 175° C at a vacuum of 5×10^{-6} Torr for 48 hours. Items under test are 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 for Class G rated connectors. Glenair is able to offer outgas processing which assures all materials comply with their respective standards.

Note on Connector Material and Finish Options

Some types of metals are prohibited for space flight. "Pure Tin, Cadmium and Zinc shall not be used as a final finish on EEE parts." (NASA EEE-INST-002 Instructions for EEE Parts Selection, Screening, Qualification, and Derating). NASA recommends electroless nickel or gold finish on connector shells and gold finish for contacts.

- SuperNine® environmental series connectors may be subjected to outgas processing and/or NASA screening IAW MIL-DTL-38999 Class G
- Modification codes are a convenient way to specify outgassing / screening requirements per NASA specifications and/or D38999 Class G
- Cadmium and silver finish are prohibited in space
- Specify electroless nickel finish on connector shells and gold finish on contacts

IAW Class G (and NASA screening) guidelines for space-grade applications • MIL-DTL-38999 Series III type

NASA and Class G Screening



The MIL-DTL-38999 specification defines TML and CVCM values for Class G space flight. Glenair modification code 186T assures parts are outgassed to meet the Class G requirements for outgassing.

Additionally, 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 for space-grade components. These outgassing and screening modification codes are listed at right. To add a modification code append code to end of part number: 253-016-00ME25-35PNMS-429C.

- **“Mission critical” connectors for space flight should undergo rigorous 100% final inspection**
- **Modification codes are available to invoke special screening for both MIL-DTL-38999 and NASA applications**
- **Outgassing properties of materials used in Glenair SuperNine® connectors are detailed in the table below**

Table I: Outgassing per NASA Screening Levels and D38999, Class G

Screening Level	No Outgas Processing	48 Hour Oven Bake 175° C 100%	Thermal Vacuum* Outgassing 24 Hour 125° C 100%	Thermal Vacuum* Outgassing 48 Hour 175° C 100%	Mod Code
38999, Class G (no screening)				●	186T
3			●		429L
2	●		●		429
		●			429A
					429K
1	●		●		429B
		●			429C
					429J

*Thermal vacuum of 10⁻⁶ Torr.

Table II: NASA EEE-INST-02, Table 2A Screening Levels

Inspection	Level 1	Level 2	Level 3
Visual	100%	100%	100%
Mechanical	2	2	
Dielectric Withstanding Voltage	2	2	
Insulation Resistance	2	2	
Contact Engagement & Separation Force	2		
Hermeticity (Sealed Receptacles Only)	100%	100%	100%
Coupling Force	2		

Note: required inspection quantity shown. Zero acceptance of failures allowed for all quantities inspected. Inspection is not performed/required for MIL-DTL-38999, Class G

Outgassing Properties of Materials Used in MIL-DTL-38999 Type SuperNine® Connectors

Component	Material	TML %	CVCM %	Test Reference
Front and Rear Insulator	Epiall 1908	0.84	0.0	NASA Test # GSC15435 (48 hours at 180°C)
Rear Grommet, Interfacial Seal, Peripheral Seal, and Special Auxiliary Seals	Blended fluorosilicone/silicone elastomer	0.04	0.0	Glenair test
Front-To-Rear Insulator Bonding Material	Eccobond 104 A/B	0.52	0.08	Emerson & Cuming Data Sheet
Insulator-to-Rubber Bonding Material	RTV, per MIL-A-46146	<1.0	<0.1	Glenair Test
White Epoxy Ink for Silk-screening	Markem 7224 White	0.49	0.03	NASA Test #GSC19899
Potting Compound	High-performance space-grade epoxy	<1.0	<0.1	Glenair Test

MIL-DTL-38999 Type SuperNine® Connector Materials Approved for Space Flight

Component	Material	Notes
Shells, Coupling Nuts, Jam Nuts	Aluminum alloy	Approved for Space Flight
Rigid Insulators	Glass reinforced thermoset plastic, Epiall 1908	Approved for Space Flight
Contact Retention Clip	Beryllium copper, heat-treated, unplated	Approved for Space Flight
Grommet, Peripheral Seal, Interfacial Seal, Special Auxiliary Seals, O-ring	Blended fluorosilicone/silicone elastomer	Requires outgassing processing
Pin/Socket Contact	Gold plated beryllium copper alloy	Approved for Space Flight
Socket Contact Hood	Stainless steel	Approved for Space Flight
Potting Compounds and Adhesives	RTV and epoxies	Requires outgassing processing

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