

Acronyms

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Should you have any comments or additions please contact us. Feedback will be appreciated.

Acronym	Description
AIMS	Auto Indexing Mass Storage – A standard card interface for storing large data sets such as image and multimedia files.
AMP	Ampere
ARINC	Aeronautical Radio, Inc.
ASTM	American Society for Testing & Materials
ATA	AT Attachment - Refers to the interface and protocol used to access a hard disk in AT compatible computers.
ATM	Atmosphere – The unit of pressure defined as the pressure of 760 mm mercury at 0°C. Approximately 14.7 pounds per square inch.
AWG	American Wire Gauge – A standard for wire diameters based on the approximate circular mil area of the wire. As numbers get larger, wire diameters decrease in size (a size 16 AWG wire has a larger diameter than a size 22 AWG).
BS	Prefix for a performance specification of the British Standards Institution. See BSI .
BSI	British Standards Institution – Deals with general, electrical, and telecommunication standards in Britain. BSI has a deliberate policy of republishing European standards in the English language as British standards. These usually bear the prefix BS EN . Specifications are based upon those of the CEN , CENELEC , ETSI , or international specifications of ISO , IEC , and ITU
BT	British Telecommunications
CECC	Electronic Components Committee of CENELEC – The European committee for Electro technical Standardization. CECC uses the IEC test methods, and thus is based upon worldwide standards
CEN	European Committee for Standardization – A European standards group corresponding to the ISO at the European level.
CENELEC	European Committee for Electrical Standardization – A European standards group corresponding to the IEC at the European level.
CFA	CompactFlash Association.
CPS	Cycles Per Second.
CSA	Canadian Standards Association
DDF	Digital Distribution Frame – A patch panel located between equipment in a Telephone Exchange (Central Office) using coaxial interconnections, but can also be used for fiber distribution.
DIN	Deutsches Institut für Normung, the German standards organization.
DWV	Dielectric Withstanding Voltage



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EMC	Electro-Magnetic Compatibility
EMI	Electro-Magnetic Interference
EMP	Electro-Magnetic Pulse
EMV	Europay/Mastercard/Visa
EN	Euro Norm – A European market-wide product standard.
ESA	European Space Agency
ETSI	European Telecommunications Standards Institute – A group which deals with telecommunications standards at the European level, corresponding to the <u>ITU</u> at the international level.
EU	European Union – A group of European community nations. In practice, they typically adopt standards set by the <u>ISO</u> , <u>IEC</u> , and <u>ITU</u> .
FMK	Fluoroelastomer
GEESC	General Electrotechnical Engineering Standards Committee – A European organization which sets standards for electrical devices.
GFE	Government Furnished Equipment
GSE	Ground Support Equipment
HDC	High Density Connection – A package including connectors, cables and distribution frames, offering a higher packing density of interconnect
H/PC	Hand-held Personal Computer (palmtop)
IEC	International Electrotechnical Commission – An international organization that develops standards exclusively for electrical engineering. <u>CENELEC</u> is the equivalent organization at the European level.
IDC	Insulation Displacement Connector – A connector contact with sharp tines which pierce and displace the wire insulation and make direct electrical connection with the conductor. Normally used with multipin connectors which must be terminated to flat cable. This is a fast, low cost method to terminate many conductors simultaneously.
IEEE	Institute of Electrical & Electronic Engineers
IF	Intermediate Frequency
IP	Ingress Protection Rating or International Protection Code. Degree of protection given by an enclosure to which a product is protected against dust and water.



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IR	Insulation Resistance – The minimum resistance (usually stated in Megohms) between adjacent contacts and between the contacts and the shell at a specific voltage. When not stated, values are typically given for new insulators. Most specifications also specify minimum resistance figures during or after each of a series of extreme tests, such as “Insulation Resistance During Dry Heat”. IR is measured in megaohms (MΩ).
ISO	International Standards Organization – A group that operates at the international level and sets most standards for industry, with the exception of electrical engineering and telecommunications which are set by the <u>IEC</u> and <u>ITU</u> respectively. <u>CEN</u> is the equivalent organization at the European level.
ITU	International Telecommunications Union. A group which sets international standards for telecommunications. <u>ETSI</u> is the equivalent organization at the European level.
LAN	Local Area Network – A system that connects a number of terminals within a local area such as an office or building.
LCP	Liquid Crystalline Polymer
L.E.D.	Light Emitting Diode – A solid state light source which may emit visible light or light of a higher or lower frequency. One application is for very long life, shock resistant lighted indicators.
MIL	One thousandth of an inch (.001). Used in the United States as unit of length in wire diameters and linear dimensions.
MIL-DTL	Military Details
MIL-PRF	Military Performance
MIL-SPEC	Military Specification
MIL-STD	Military Standards
MMC	Multi-Media Card
MS	Military Specification
MSD	Memory Stick Duo card
MTBF	Mean Time Between Failures
NASA/GSFC	National Aeronautics and Space Administration/Goddard Space Flight Center
NPT	National Pipe Thread – A standard system of threads used for pipe.
NEC	National Electrical Code – Regulations governing construction and installation of electrical wiring apparatus in the United States.
NEMA	National Electrical Manufacturer’s Association – An organization of manufacturers of electrical products that sets various standards for electrical devices. NEMA ratings for degrees of protection against environmental contamination for electrical devices is roughly equivalent to the IP rating system in Europe.



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PCB	Printed Circuit Board
PCMCIA	Personal Computer Memory Card International Association
PDA	Personal Digital Assistant
PES	Polyethersulphone
PTFE	Polytetrafluoroethylene
RF	Radio Frequency
RFI	Radio Frequency Interference
SD	Secure Digital memory card
SI	International System of Units. This system was formerly called the meter-kilogram-second (MKS) system.
SSA	Serial Storage Architecture
STP	Shielded Twisted Pair cable
TCAS	Traffic Collision Avoidance Systems
TEPLOCK	Telephone Equipment Practice Lock – A method of quick mounting for connectors to a distribution frame, using a ‘C’ clip to replace a nut, spacer and a couple of washers.
TPA	Terminal Position Assurance
UL	Underwriters Laboratories – A corporation supported by a group of underwriters for the purpose of establishing safety standards covering certain types of equipment and components in the United States.
USAF	United States Air Force
UTP	Unshielded Twisted Pair cable
USCAR	United States Council of Automotive Research
VDE	VDE Testing and Certification Institute – Accredited on a national and international level for the area of testing and certification of electrotechnical equipment, components and systems. Testing of electrotechnical products is conducted for safety, electromagnetic compatibility and other characteristics.
VG	Verteidigungsgeräte – Defense Equipment
VME	Versa Module Europa
VSWR	Voltage Standing Wave Ratio – If a signal is sent down a transmission line any discontinuity will send a reflection back in the opposite direction.
XIP (eXecute-In-Place)	The specifications for directly executing code from a PC Card without first having to load it into system memory.
ZIF	Zero Insertion Force



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