

TOTAL DOSE RADIATION TEST

I. INTRODUCTION

Total dose radiation tests are designed to characterize changes in device performance due to total dose radiation. These tests are not intended to classify maximum radiation tolerance of any particular device, rather, they simply show trends in the critical parameters as a function of total dose. Whether a device meets tolerance requirements is left up to the designer. In many occasions, designers have the ability to circumvent radiation effects by adding appropriate shielding or compensating for the variations in performance.

MIL-STD-883 method 1019 is used as a guideline for these tests. National's gamma radiation source is kept in compliance with method 1019 and radiation test samples are irradiated under dose rate condition A, which tests for total-dose effects. Samples are kept biased while irradiating. Dose rate is maintained between 50 - 300 Rads(Si)/sec and all samples are exposed to a total dose of 200 kRads(Si).

II. RADIATION SOURCE

A. Type

Atomic Energy of Canada Limited cobalt 60 irradiation unit model Gammacell 220 is used to irradiate the devices under test. The Gammacell 220 produces gamma radiation photons approximately 1.25MeV in energy. Dose rate in the gammacell is maintained between 50 and 300 Rads(Si)/sec with an accuracy of +/- 10%.

B. Dosimetry

Thermoluminescence Dosimetry is performed according to MIL-STD-883 method 1019. Actual dose rate for individual test is calculated from the exponential decay approximation of the dosimetry data.

III. TEST SETUP AND PROCEDURE

A. Pre-radiation Electrical Test

All test samples are verified to be functionally and parameterically working prior to irradiation. They are subject to group A qualification test including burn in. Samples are also verified to be within room temperature acceptance limits.

B. Test Environment

Samples are enclosed in a lead/aluminum container vertically aligned with the source of radiation while being irradiated. Ambient temperature throughout the test is approximately 25°C.

C. Biasing

All devices under test are kept biased during irradiation. Bias circuit used for burn-in is also used for irradiation.

C. Electrical Test

Remote electrical tests are performed on the irradiated devices at several total dose levels. All samples are short circuited while transporting to the automatic electrical tester. Electrical tests are completed within two hours of each irradiation step.

IV. DATA PRESENTATION

A Test Summary sheet provides details on the origins of test samples, dose rate, list of parameters tested and total variation in those parameters. Details of the test consists of select device parameter plotted and tabulated as a function of total dose. Test conditions for each parameter are also specified. Acceptance limits specified in RETS or MDS are also plotted on the graph for reference purpose.

Care should be taken when interpreting the data presented in these reports. The samples used in the radiation test generally come from more than one lot and more than one wafer. Their combined data is presented to give a realistic picture of actual device performance in a radiation environment. At each radiation exposure level, minimum and maximum shows a plausible variation in the parameter values. It is important to remember that this variation includes variation due to radiation exposure as well as variation between lots and variation between wafers. Measurement variation is assumed insignificant. Whenever possible, radiation test reports will provide an estimate of the percentage of total variation that can be attributed to radiation exposure. This estimate is calculated by analysis of variance (ANOVA) or similar statistical method.