

To: Maxim's Valued Customers

Date: March 11, 2011

Subject: Datacode Policy

Maxim occasionally receives inquiries regarding our date code policy. It is Maxim's experience that date code restrictions have grown obsolete. In general, Maxim recommends customers avoid general date code restrictions when ordering product from Maxim or our authorized distributors as industry experience and data has proven date codes restrictions to be unnecessary and add cost and waste to the overall supply chain.

Historically, a few customers have expressed concerns that after a period of time, electronic components are no longer acceptable for use in electronic products. Twenty years ago, there may have been some validity to this concern. However, during the past twenty years, dramatic improvements in IC assembly materials and processes have eliminated failures previously attributed to component age concerns. As the result of advances made in engineering, design, manufacturing technology, handling, and inventory logistics, component shelf life is essentially unlimited (with the exception of moisture sensitive components which are shipped with special labeling and packaging) and component age does not adversely affect performance to product specifications. Product inventoried by Maxim and authorized distributors using industry guidelines for packing and handling is guaranteed to meet the Maxim electrical and mechanical specifications including solderability regardless of the date code of the material at the time of shipment.

To illustrate the validity for removal of date code restrictions, prior to 1995 the military specification MIL-PRF38535 (section 3.10) required that a military part be re-tested if not used within three years of the marked date code. In 1995, after extensive study, this military specification was revised to remove date code restrictions altogether. The revised version simply states that product must be "...solderable upon delivery". MIL-PRF-19500M now prohibits date code restrictions on military component orders (section 6.2.j.). It is Maxim's belief the origin of many customer date code specifications may be attributed to this now revised military standard, and as a result have no technical basis.

All product shipped by Maxim is guaranteed to meet published datasheet specifications and Mil-Std-883 solderability requirements. Maxim's standard warranty applies to all product shipped regardless of the date code of the material at the time of shipment. This provides Maxim customers with increased assurance of supply due to improved product availability.

In summary, it is Maxim's intent to serve our customers with the best possible quality and product availability in the analog and mixed signal industry.

Sincerely,



Bryan J. Preeshl  
Vice President  
Quality