

Application Note

323-ITM flux**Description product**

323-ITM is an alcohol based flux for wave soldering applications with or without N2 atmosphere. This flux offers outstanding soldering results for use in industrial applications.

323-ITM is Rosin based and is classified according IPC-J-STD-004 as **ROL1**. The product contains a small amount of halides to offer best performance with the lowest possible residues.

See the Product Data Sheet (PDS) for the specification of the product concerned. Read the Safety Data Sheet (SDS) before handling and/or using this product.

Receiving and storage

Store unopened cans in an explosion free storage preferable at a temperature below 20 °C or normal ambient temperature. Fluxes are shelf-life items and should therefore be handled as FIFO supply

DO NOT: Expose to heat or frost

DO NOT: store the flux at temperatures below 4 °C

DO NOT: exceed storage temperatures above 30 °C.

Flux that has been exposed to frost should be placed in a room with central heating for at least 4 hours and shaken before use.

Handling

The recommended ambient conditions for applying the flux are 18-25 °C.

Prior to using the flux, tank, spray nozzle, fingers, pallets/carriers and tubes should be cleaned properly. If pneumatic air is used to apply the flux, the air must be dry, free of oil and temperature controlled. A water and oil separator for the supplied air is strictly necessary.

It is important to start with components and board materials that meet requirements for solder ability and ionic cleanliness.

DO NOT: mix the flux with other fluxes

DO NOT: leave the flux can opened when remainder flux is still in the can.

DO NOT: utilize the flux in the fluxing system before flushing the tubing with IPA.

Flux application

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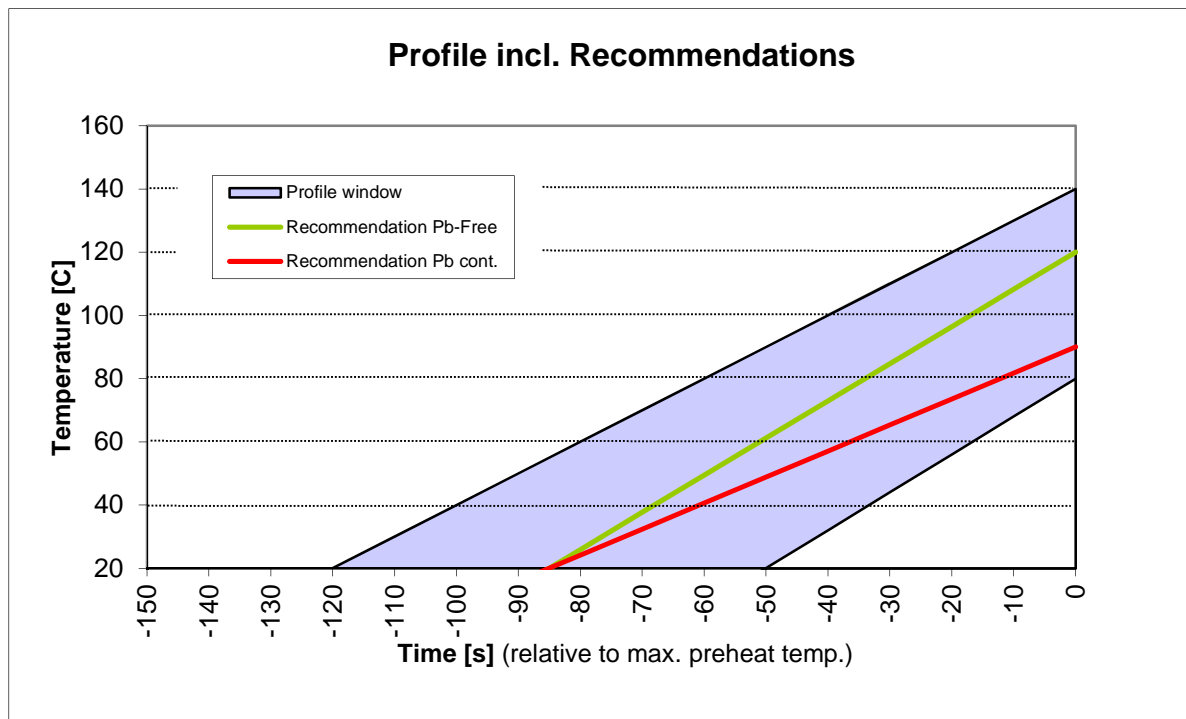
The preferred application to apply this flux is using a spray fluxer unit. Make sure that the unit has a stable and uniform spray-cone. The flux should have the finest droplets at the lowest possible setting for the atomizing air pressure. Too low air pressure gives bigger and unstable droplets; high air pressure cause bouncing effects of the flux against the PCB surface.

Use a scrap/bare board or a carton board to set-up the spray parameters. Turn the board upside down after spraying for inspection. It is essential that a continuous, uniform spray pattern has been deposited all across the board.

DO NOT: apply too much flux as this will result in excessive residues.

Preheating

The solder target side (component side) should be according specifications. To ensure a smooth and complete evaporation of the flux a linear profile with a temperature gradient $< 2 \text{ }^\circ\text{C/s}$ is recommended.



DO NOT: Use too high pre-heat temperatures as this will degrade the flux performance.

DO NOT: Use too long pre-heat times as this will degrade the flux performance.

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Soldering

In order to obtain clean and well-soldered assemblies, a contact time in the solder wave between 2.5 and 4 seconds is recommended. This time is temperature dependent. For a typical SnPb process (solder temperature 250 °C) the initial setting is approximately 2.5 seconds.

For lead-free (solder temperature 260-265 °C) up to 4 seconds soldering time may be required depending on the application.

Residues/cleaning

323-ITM is a No-Clean flux. Depending on the type of solder resist and when properly applied it shows hardly any visual residues. Board surface will be dry and non-sticky and residues do not need to be removed for typical applications.

In cases however where cleaning is still prescribed, cleaning can still be performed using Cobar MCA-1424 Aqueous cleaner

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