



The processing guidelines contained in this document were developed through in-house testing and field experience. However, they should be considered to be starting points that will require further adjustment. Read the following review of processes for applicability to your particular Printed Wiring Board fabrication environment. Remember that the suggestions contained herein can't account for all possible board designs or processing environments. Additional adjustments by the fabricator will be necessary. Isola can and will assist with this process, but the fabricator, not Isola, is ultimately responsible for their process and the end results. **Fabricators should verify that PWB's made using these suggestions meet all applicable quality and performance requirements.**

## Part 1: Prepreg Storage and Handling

Isola Group's prepreg bonding sheets for use in multilayer printed circuit board applications are manufactured to specifications that include physical and electrical properties and processing characteristics relative to the laminating application. Handling and storage factors have an important influence on the desired performance of the prepreg. Some parameters are affected by the environment in which prepreps are stored. They can also deteriorate over extended periods of storage. The prepreg received by the customer is a glass fabric that has been impregnated with a stated quantity of low volatile, partially polymerized resin. The resin is tack-free but somewhat brittle. Many lamination problems arise from resin loss off the fabric due to careless handling. The fabric used is based on the order and supplies the required thickness. In most cases the amount of resin carried by the fabric increases as the fabric thickness decreases.

Isola Group offers a product line of polyimide-based prepreps and copper clad laminates for high temperature printed circuit applications. These products consist of an all polyimide resin system suitable for military (P95/25), and flame resistant products (P96/26) for commercial or industrial electronic applications requiring superior performance and the utmost in thermal properties. They utilize bismaleimide resin, fully cured without the use of MDA (Methylene Dianiline). The resulting polymer has a high Tg without the characteristic difficulties of brittleness and low initial bond strength associated with traditional thermoset polyimides.

### Handling Suggestions:

Handle all prepreg using clean gloves. Use sharp, precision equipment when cutting or paneling

prepreg. Treat all prepreg as being very fragile. Use extreme care when handling very high resin content prepreg (glass fabrics 1080 and finer).

### Storage Suggestions:

Upon receipt, all prepreg should be immediately moved from the receiving area to a controlled environment. All prepreg should be used as soon as possible. A FIFO (first-in-first-out) inventory management system should be used.

Prepreg properties will be maintained for at least 3 months when stored at 68°F and below 50% relative humidity. If extended storage is required, separate facilities should be reserved with appropriate environmental control. **However, refrigeration at temperatures less than 41 °F have limited effect on the useful life of polyimide prepreps. Long-term vacuum storage is not recommended.**

Polyimide prepreg flow characteristics are more responsive than typical epoxies to external factors such as moisture. Prepreg packages should be allowed to equilibrate in a temperature-humidity controlled area to layup room conditions before opening to prevent moisture condensation on the prepreg. Stabilization time will depend on storage temperature. In cases where storage temperature is significantly below room temperature, keep prepreg in package or plastic wrapping during stabilization period to prevent moisture condensation. Storage should be in the absence of catalytic environments such as high radiation levels or intense ultraviolet light.

Prepreps are sold to IPC-4101B specifications, **except that storage in a cooler at or below 41°F does not extend the product's shelf life to 6 months.** After delivery to the customer, retesting services are available, but passing retest results do

not constitute a re-certification. Prepregs will be tested at the original manufacturing site or at another appropriate site to be determined by Technical Service.

**Prepreg Selection**

Minimize the use of high resin content prepreg whenever possible to prevent excessive layer movement, z-axis CTE, and thickness variation. For best drilling and hole quality, selection of glass styles to match core constructions is recommended. For more information and assistance, consult with an Isola Group Technical Service Representative.

P25 prepreg is typically paired with P95 cores. Both materials are UL listed as “HB” material.

P26 prepreg is typically paired with P96 cores. Both materials are UL listed as “V-0” material.

**Part 2: Innerlayer Preparation**

Isola Group’s P95 & P96 laminates are fully cured and ready for processing. It has been the experience of most fabricators that stress relief bake cycles are not effective in reducing any movement of high performance laminates such as P95 & P96. Therefore, it is recommended that the movement of unbaked laminate be characterized and the appropriate artwork compensation factors are used.

**Dimensional Stability**

The net dimensional movement of laminate after the etch, oxide and lamination processes is typically shrinkage. This shrinkage is due to the relaxation of stresses that were induced when the laminate was pressed as well as shrinkage contribution from the resin system. Most of the movement will be observed in the grain direction of the laminate.

There are situations that have been known to alter the proportion of shrinkage in grain versus fill direction in some board shops. These include

autoclave pressing and cross plying laminate grain direction to that of prepreg. While both of these practices have their advantages, material movement must be uniquely characterized.

The dimensional movement of high performance laminates is generally greater than that of epoxies.

**Table 1** illustrates the suggested approach to characterizing laminate movement and provides approximate artwork compensation factors for P95 & P96 laminate when using a hydraulic press.

**Table1: Initial Artwork Compensation Factors**

| Base Thickness | Configuration   | Direction    | Comp (in/in)    |
|----------------|-----------------|--------------|-----------------|
| < 0.005”       | signal / signal | Warp (grain) | 0.0008 - 0.0010 |
|                | “               | Fill         | 0.0001 - 0.0003 |
| “              | signal / ground | Warp (grain) | 0.0006 - 0.0008 |
|                | “               | Fill         | 0.0001 - 0.0003 |
| “              | ground / ground | Warp (grain) | 0.0002 - 0.0004 |
|                | “               | Fill         | 0.0000 - 0.0002 |
| 0.006-0.009    | signal / signal | Warp (grain) | 0.0006 - 0.0008 |
|                | “               | Fill         | 0.0001 - 0.0003 |
| “              | signal / ground | Warp (grain) | 0.0004 - 0.0006 |
|                | “               | Fill         | 0.0001 - 0.0003 |
| “              | ground / ground | Warp (grain) | 0.0000 - 0.0002 |
|                | “               | Fill         | 0.0000 - 0.0002 |
| 0.010-0.014    | signal / signal | Warp (grain) | 0.0002 - 0.0004 |
|                | “               | Fill         | 0.0000 - 0.0002 |
| “              | signal / ground | Warp (grain) | 0.0001 - 0.0003 |
|                | “               | Fill         | 0.0000 - 0.0002 |
| “              | ground / ground | Warp (grain) | 0.0000 - 0.0002 |
|                | “               | Fill         | 0.0000 - 0.0002 |

**Table 1 is for reference only.** This table assumes that laminate and prepreg grain directions are oriented along the same dimension. Each shop must characterize material behavior given their particular lamination cycles, border designs and grain orientation of laminate to prepreg. It is also suggested that specific laminate constructions are specified and adhered to so those dimensional variations due to changes in construction are avoided. Table 1 assumes that signal layers are either half or 1 ounce copper and ground layers are either one or 2 ounce copper. Thicker copper will generally contribute to greater dimensional movement in designs where the majority of the copper is removed.



### Imaging & Etching

P95 & P96 laminates are imaged using standard aqueous dry films and are compatible with both cupric chloride and ammoniacal etchants.

As with any polyimide laminate, prolonged or repeated exposure (such as image rework) to aqueous resist stripper baths with higher levels of alkalinity should be avoided. Strip and rinse should be thorough and finished with high quality water at neutral pH.

### Bond Enhancement

Both reduced oxides and oxide alternative chemistries have been used successfully in fabricating P95/25 & P96/26 multilayer boards to date. Make sure the oxide or oxide replacement coating exhibits a consistent, uniformly dark color.

Final rinses should be very thorough and include tempered high quality water at neutral pH. Polyimide innerlayers should be thoroughly dried in an oven prior to lay-up. Bake cycles that fall between 200°F and 250°F for 60 minutes are generally acceptable. If reduced oxides are used, consult the chemical supplier for post oxide baking considerations as excessive baking may lead to lower pink ring resistance. It is generally recommended that post-oxide drying be performed vertically, in racks.

For conveyORIZED oxide replacements, an efficient dryer at the end of a conveyORIZED oxide replacement line should remove all moisture from the innerlayer surface. However, drying of polyimide layers for 30 minutes minimum @ 100°C or higher is considered a requirement, regardless of whether or not the polyimide boards will be subjected to “Lead-Free” processes or not. Drying in racks is preferred.

Peel strengths will be slightly lower as compared to FR406 due to the higher modulus properties of the resin system along with the chemical nature of polyimide resin. The use of DSTFoil™ will typically increase the bond strength by approximately 1 to 1.5 lbs as compared to non-DSTFoil copper foil.

If immersion tin adhesion treatments are used, the fabricator should test the coating to verify adequate bond strength is developed with P25 & P26 prepregs.

### Automatic Optical Inspection

P95 & P96 etched polyimide laminates do not naturally fluoresce for enhancement of laser-based AOI systems. However, the dark tan-orange color provides contrast to copper for reflectance based AOI systems.



### Part 3: Lamination

#### Package Lay-Up

If the prepreg has been stored such that moisture absorption may have occurred, it should be conditioned prior to lay-up. Subjecting the prepreg to vacuum desiccation for 8-24 hours prior to lay-up (24-hour duration using small stack height is suggested) will improve the flow consistency and produce higher Tg and superior product properties.

#### Standard Lamination

The use of **Advanced Bond** or **Polytreat copper foil** is **strongly recommended**. (Contact an Isola representative if additional help or process information is needed.)

The amount of time at cure temperature, and to some extent the actual cure temperature of P95/25 & P96/26 multilayer boards, will be determined by the thickness of the multilayer package being produced. Very thick boards will require a longer cure time to assure optimum material performance.

#### Sequential Lamination

Use a 120-minute cure for sub-assemblies below 0.070" thick and a 150-180-minute cure for the final assembly, depending on thickness. This suggestion assumes a final assembly thickness  $\geq 0.125$ ".

**Table 2** outlines general suggestions for lamination pressure. However, the fabricator should take board design characteristics and panel size into account when setting pressure.

**Table 2 – P25 & P26 Lamination Pressure**

| LAMINATION METHOD   | SUGGESTED PRESSURE RANGE  |
|---|---|
| Hydraulic Pressing:<br>(without vacuum assist)                        | 300 - 350 PSI<br>(21.1 – 24.6 Kg/cm <sup>2</sup> )<br>(20.7 – 24.1 Bar) |
| Hydraulic Pressing:<br>(with vacuum assist via vacuum frames or bags) | 250 - 300 PSI<br>(17.6 – 21.1 Kg/cm <sup>2</sup> )<br>(17.2 – 20.7 Bar) |
| Hydraulic Pressing:<br>(vacuum enclosure)                             | 200 - 250 PSI<br>(14.1 – 17.6 Kg/cm <sup>2</sup> )<br>(13.8 – 17.2 Bar) |
| Autoclave Pressing:   | 150 - 175 PSI<br>(10.6 – 12.3 Kg/cm <sup>2</sup> )<br>(10.3 – 12.1 Bar) |

**Removal of Polyimide flash should be performed by routing rather than shearing to minimize crazing along the panel edges.**

### Single Stage and Dual-Stage Press Cycles

The following 2 pages outline the suggested lamination parameters for the Single-Stage and Dual-Stage lamination cycles. The lamination cycle selected will be a function of board stackup, complexity and thickness as well as the lamination press’s capability. Note that the attached graphs are for reference purposes only and may require adjustment depending on the board size, thickness and complexity. **Thicker boards may require additional dwell time at curing temperature to achieve full cure.** See “Standard Lamination” above. Choosing a dual stage or “kiss” cycle for P95/25 & P96/26 multilayer boards may improve results in some applications. Use these cycles to enhance the wetting of the glass along the extreme edges and corners of the panel or to minimize circuit image transfer (“telegraphing”) on foil constructions.

All cycles include a pressure reduction step in the lamination cycle, which facilitates stress relief of the package during the cure step. Further, all cycles assume vacuum is maintained throughout the heating cycle and all cycles presume that the book is cooled to a temperature well below the Tg of the material before the press is opened. All three conditions are considered to represent “best practice” conditions during lamination by Isola.

**However, while use of both the pressure drop cycle and cooling well below Tg in the “hot” press are strongly suggested, they are considered to be “optional” and the PCB fabricator may have equipment or capacity limitations which prevent following these suggestions.**



**Single-Stage Lamination (No “kiss” cycle):**

The amount of time at cure temperature and to some extent the actual cure temperature of P25 & P26 prepregs will be determined by the thickness of the multilayer package being produced. Very thick boards will require a longer cure time to assure optimum material performance.

1. Load/center the package as quickly as possible. Pull vacuum for 30 minutes on lifters.
2. Apply full pressure of 200-350 psi (14.1 – 24.6 kg/cm<sup>2</sup>) on the panels. See **Table 2**.
3. Adjust heat rise to approximately 9-13°F/min (5.0-7.2°C/min), as measured between 175-275°F (79-135°C) by controlling the platen ramp rate and/or by using the appropriate amount of pressure padding.

4. Cure for a minimum of **150 minutes @ 425°F (218°C)** once the center of package reaches 425°F.

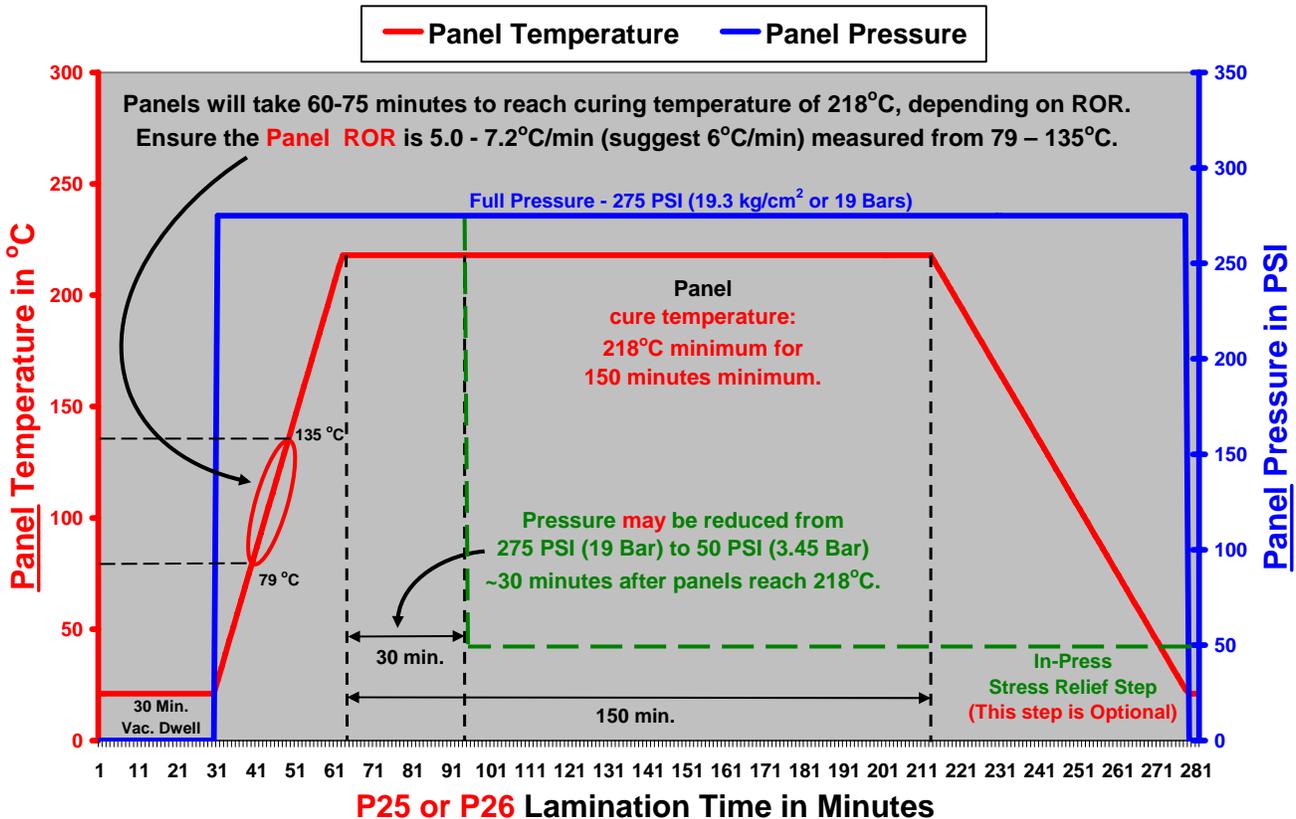
**NOTE: 180 minute cures may be appropriate for high layer count boards or boards exceeding 0.125” in thickness.**

5. Reduce the pressure to 50 psi (3.5 kg/cm<sup>2</sup>) after package has been at cure temperature for 30 minutes. This will relieve stress, which will assist subsequent Lead-Free processing.
6. Cool material as slowly as possible or at 5°F/minute (2.8°C/minute) down from 425°F (218°C) through 275°F (135°C).
7. No postbake is required to reach full cure.

**SUGGESTED P25-P26 SINGLE-STAGE PRESSURE-TEMPERATURE PROFILE**

Please note: This is not a press control program! The graph represents the preferred pressure/temperature profile panels are subjected to during the lamination program cycle. Note that the actual high pressure setting and cure duration chosen may differ from the settings shown in this graph. Press pressure and cure duration selected may depend upon board design as well as other factors.

**P25 & P26 "SINGLE-STAGE" PRESS CYCLE**



**Dual-Stage Lamination (with “kiss” cycle):**

As with FR-4 epoxies, choosing a dual stage or “kiss” cycle for P25 & P26 may improve results in some applications. Use these cycles to enhance the wetting of the glass along the extreme edges and corners of the panel or to minimize circuit image transfer (“telegraphing”) on foil constructions.

Develop dual-stage cycles based on the temperature of the stack at various locations. It is essential that the temperatures of the top and bottom panels in the stack be below full fluidity temperature when high pressure is applied. **Ensure that the temperature difference between the center and outside of the stack is less than 40°F (22°C) when full pressure is applied. Also note that exterior (top and bottom) panel temperature must be ≤ 250°F when full pressure is applied.**

1. Load/center all packages as quickly as possible.
2. Close press doors and pull vacuum for 30

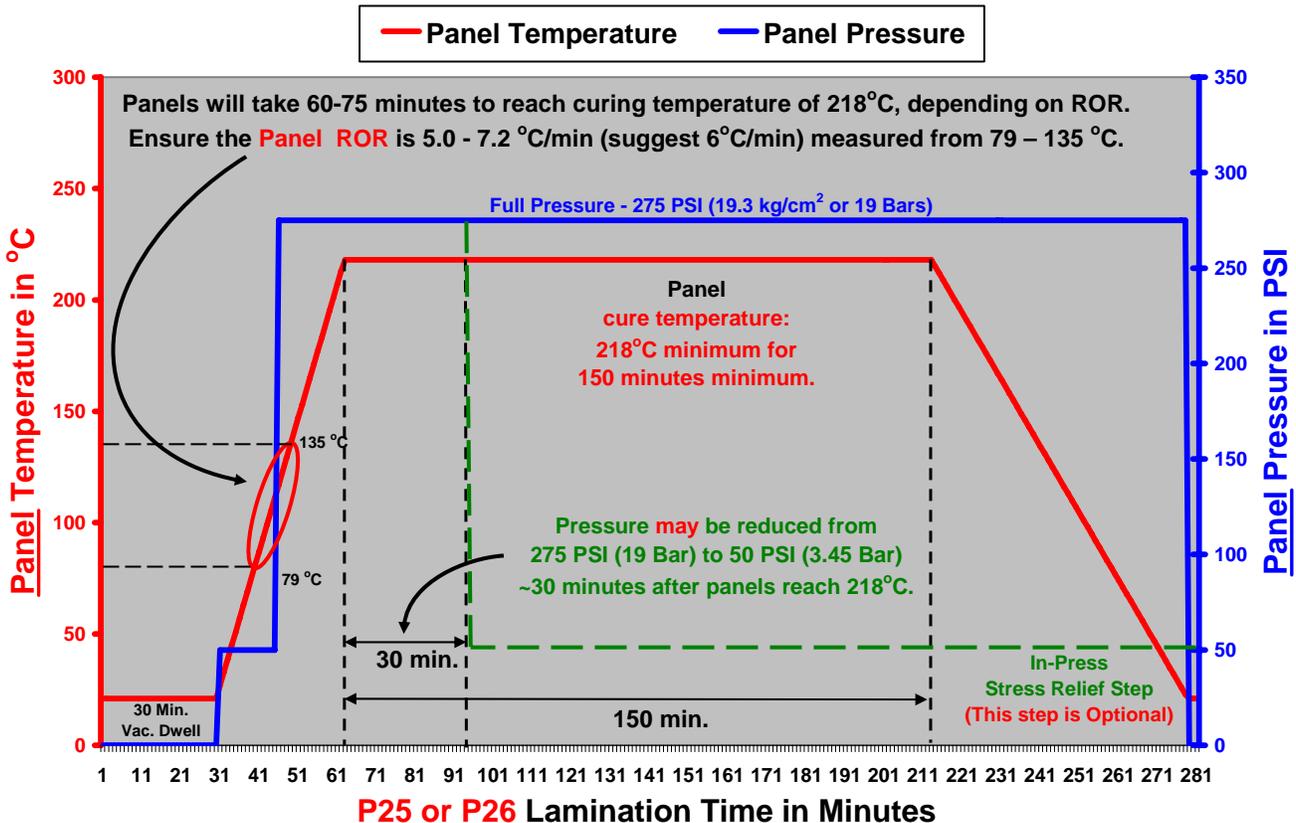
minutes without pressure on lifters.

3. Close press and apply **50** psi (3.5 kg/cm<sup>2</sup>) pressure. Adjust heat rise to approximately 9-13°F/min (5.0-7.2°C/min), as measured between 175-275°F (79-135°C) by controlling the platen ramp rate and/or by using the appropriate amount of pressure padding.
4. Apply full pressure of 200-350 psi (14.1 – 24.6 kg/cm<sup>2</sup>) on the panels when the center of the stack reaches 190-210°F (88–99°C). See **Table 2**. Make sure the outer (top & bottom) panel temperature is ≤ 250°F (121°C) when full pressure is applied.
5. Based on thickness (see Single-Stage section), cure for 150-180 minutes @ 425°F (218°C) once center of package reaches 218°C.
6. Use stress relief & cooling cycles as with single-stage lamination. Post baking is not required.

**SUGGESTED P25-P26 DUAL-STAGE PRESSURE-TEMPERATURE PROFILE**

Please note: This is not a press control program! The graph represents the preferred pressure/temperature profile panels are subjected to during the lamination program cycle. Note that the actual high pressure setting and cure duration chosen may differ from the settings shown in this graph. Press pressure and cure duration selected may depend upon board design as well as other factors.

**P25 & P26 "DUAL-STAGE" PRESS CYCLE**



### Oven Cure Option

For those situations where either press capacity or press temperature capability is a restricting factor, boards can be cooled after 60 minutes at 360 °F and removed from the press. A post-lamination bake in a convection oven will be necessary to complete the cure, using the following process:

1. Carefully remove packages from tooling and remove all flash from panels. The flash should be removed by routing processes instead of than shearing processes in order to avoid crazing.

**NOTE:** Polyimide in an undercured state will be very brittle. Handle panels very carefully.

2. Vacuum all debris and dust from panels.
3. Stack panels on flat shelves or a flat support apparatus so that the panels remain flat. Keep stack height to less than 1.0”.
4. Place the panels in an air circulating convection oven and raise the oven temperature to a temperature that permits all panels in the stack to reach 425°F for a minimum of 3 hours. It is strongly recommended that the fabricator place a thermocouple in the center of the stack when setting up the process conditions (oven temperature set point & total dwell time) to ensure that the panels are exposed to the suggested curing conditions.
5. Allow panels to cool slowly by shutting the oven heaters off and opening the oven door. Allow the panels to cool until they are cool enough to handle before removing them from the oven. Note that handling hot panels can induce warpage.

## Part 4: Drill

### General

Polyimide materials are more difficult to drill than conventional FR-4 epoxy materials. The material is very abrasive and drill wear will occur more quickly than with conventional epoxy laminates. Drilling

parameters and other processing conditions are very dependent on circuit boards features, including thickness, number of conductor layers, etc. The following information should be considered for initial set-up and modified as is appropriate for the individual situation.

### Panel Stack Height

Panel stacks should not exceed 0.200” in total height of board material. If the individual panel thickness exceeds 0.100”, then better results will be attained by drilling the boards 1-high.

### Hit Count (Number of Hits)

The number of hits on a single drill bit should be limited to 750 to 1,200. This is dependent on the board design and build, board/stack thickness, number of copper layers, etc. The bit size will also dictate the number of hits. Note that an excessive hit count will produce excessive drill bit wear and will impact hole wall roughness and quality.

### Drilling Support Materials

Drill bit suppliers and drill entry/backup material suppliers should be consulted when choosing entry and backup materials for polyimide drilling. Proper choice of entry material can help to reduce drill bit entry burrs, can reduce drill wander and in some cases can assist in heat dissipation.

Backup materials provide stack support and can facilitate both chip removal and heat dissipation, depending on the material chosen. Lubricated materials and materials designed specifically to reduce bit temperature can be advantageous when drilling polyimide materials due to the higher heat levels generated during drilling of polyimides vs epoxy materials.

### Drill Bits

**Use only new bits.** Conventional geometry bits are acceptable for larger holes, (>0.021” in diameter). Undercut bits are recommended for holes less than 0.021” diameter. Justification depends on board configuration (thickness, aspect ratio, total copper, etc.) and drill limitations.



**Cutting Speed & Chipload**

Maximum cutting speeds of 300 to 500 SFPM are recommended. Chiploads should not exceed 2.5 mils for bit diameters of .040” and above. **Table 3** provides a set of suggested parameters for initial

set-up of the drill operation for Isola polyimide laminates. It provides drill parameters by bit diameter for a maximum cutting speed of 500 SFPM

and maximum chipload of 2.5 mils. Modifications may be necessary given the individual drill application. Thick boards with heavy copper or special cladding such as invar will require more conservative drill parameters.

It is suggested that drill bit suppliers also be contacted for drilling parameter suggestions that are specific to their drill bit geometries.

**Table 3**  
**Suggested Drilling Parameters For Initial P95-P96 Setup**

| DRILL SIZE |        | SPINDLE SPEED | Surface Speed per Minute |        | INFEEED             |                      | CHIPLOAD           |                   |
|------------|--------|---------------|--------------------------|--------|---------------------|----------------------|--------------------|-------------------|
| inch       | mm     | RPM           | SFPM                     | SMPM   | <u>inch</u><br>min. | <u>meter</u><br>min. | <u>mil</u><br>rev. | <u>mm</u><br>rev. |
| 0.0100     | 0.2540 | 75,000        | 196                      | 59.85  | 60                  | 1.524                | 0.80               | 0.020             |
| 0.0150     | 0.3810 | 70,000        | 275                      | 83.79  | 70                  | 1.778                | 1.00               | 0.025             |
| 0.0200     | 0.5080 | 57,000        | 298                      | 90.97  | 57                  | 1.448                | 1.00               | 0.025             |
| 0.0250     | 0.6350 | 54,000        | 353                      | 107.73 | 80                  | 2.032                | 1.48               | 0.038             |
| 0.0300     | 0.7620 | 48,000        | 377                      | 114.91 | 85                  | 2.159                | 1.77               | 0.045             |
| 0.0350     | 0.8890 | 44,000        | 403                      | 122.89 | 88                  | 2.235                | 2.00               | 0.051             |
| 0.0400     | 1.0160 | 43,000        | 450                      | 137.25 | 107                 | 2.718                | 2.49               | 0.063             |
| 0.0500     | 1.2700 | 34,000        | 445                      | 135.65 | 85                  | 2.159                | 2.50               | 0.064             |
| 0.0600     | 1.5240 | 30,000        | 471                      | 143.63 | 72                  | 1.829                | 2.40               | 0.061             |

**Part 5: Hole Wall Preparation**

**General**

Good desmear and electroless copper deposition performance are more easily achieved when the drilled hole quality is good. The generation of smooth, debris free hole walls is influenced by the degree of resin cure, drilling conditions and board design considerations. The elimination of 7628 or similar heavy glasses (whenever possible), coupled with properly adjusted drill parameters on fully cured boards has been shown to improve overall drilled hole quality. This helps reduce smear generation, which improves desmear performance and can ultimately help to reduce copper wicking.

Factors which influence chemical desmear rates, **AND THEREFORE THE SUGGESTIONS IN THIS DOCUMENT**, include: resin type, chemistry type, bath dwell times, bath temperatures, chemical concentrations in each bath and the amount of solution transfer through the holes.

Factors which influence the amount of solution transfer through the holes include: hole size, panel thickness, work bar stroke length, panel separation in the rack and the use of solution agitation, rack vibration and rack “bumping” to remove air bubbles from the holes.



### Chemical Desmear

Although the term “desmear” is usually a misnomer when dealing with polyimides, standard permanganates have provided a satisfactory hole wall cleaning of Isola Group polyimides prior to plating. Consult your chemical supplier in setting up a permanganate process, as there are specific solvent baths available for polyimides.

### Plasma Desmear

Plasma processing can be used to remove drill smear and debris. During plasma processing, polyimide hole walls tend to become very smooth, which can result in low electroless copper adhesion. Further, some ash may also be present after plasma etching is complete.

Boards should be subjected to a single pass through the permanganate desmear line to provide suitable roughness in the hole wall and remove the residual ash. Although not mandatory, this “best practice” increases process latitude in subsequent metallization steps and is strongly suggested.

### 3-Point Etchback

True 3-point “Etchback” exposes the innerlayer “post” on all three sides for subsequent plating processes. This will require a more robust approach compared to simple desmear, which is designed only to remove resin smear from the vertical surface of the innerlayer interconnect “posts”.

When using wet chemistry to achieve 3-point etchback, a 2-hour bake at 425°F prior to hole wall preparation has been determined to enhance the performance of the various permanganate baths in achieving a full military etchback of Isola Group polyimides. Depending on the permanganate desmear chemistry used, a double pass process may be necessary in getting the amount of etchback required.

If plasma is used for 3-point etchback, boards should be subjected to a single pass through the permanganate desmear line to provide suitable roughness in the hole wall and remove the residual ash. Although not mandatory, this “best practice” increases process latitude in subsequent metallization steps and is strongly suggested.

### Glass and Drill Debris Removal

Conventional hydrofluoric acid or fluoboric type etchants are acceptable for glass bundle removal.

### Secondary Drilling

As common with most high Tg epoxy materials with increased modulus properties, the use of entry and backer material may be necessary during the secondary drilling of larger hole sizes on polyimide materials to avoid crazing/ fracturing at the hole perimeter. Additionally, sharper plunge point angle geometries may be necessary to avoid crazing around secondary drilled hole perimeters.

Special attention should be paid to the curing process is secondary drilling operations are to be utilized. Excessive curing can render the laminate matrix brittle, which can lead to crazing issues during secondary drilling operations, even when proper entry and backup materials are used.

### Solder Leveling

All board types and configurations should be baked to remove moisture prior to any solder leveling and fusing procedures, which includes HASL and reflow by IR or hot oil. Suggested bake cycle is 250°F to 275°F for minimum of 4 hours to as long as 12 hours or as required to remove all moisture.

### Routing and Scoring

Due to the greater modulus properties and hardness of the P95/P96 materials, modifications of the final PWB rout fabrication process will be necessary. **It is strongly suggested that the router bit manufacturer be contacted for polyimide-specific parameters.**

For PWB designs requiring scored geometries, the testing of various Tgs and resin content materials has determined that adjustments to the process will be necessary. As the modulus strength of materials increases, the maximum resultant web thickness (dependent on the scored edge depth) must be decreased to avoid excessive fracturing upon breaking away the scored materials.



Individual board designs/stackups may require adjustment of score depth geometries. **Thinner web thicknesses are typically required.** This is influenced by layer count, glass types and retained copper in the design.

The customer should contact the scoring equipment and/or bit supplier for application specific suggestions for use with polyimide laminate materials.

Your Isola Technical Account Manager may also be able to provide some initial suggestions, but these should be reviewed with the scoring equipment supplier and validated through testing by the individual PWB fabricator.

## Part 6: Health & Safety

Always handle laminate with care. Laminate edges are typically sharp and can cause cuts and scratches if not handled properly. Handling and machining of prepreg and laminate can create dust (see P95/P96 Material Safety Data Sheet). Appropriate ventilation is necessary in machining/punching areas. The use of protective masks is recommended to avoid inhaling dust. Gloves, aprons and/or safety glasses are recommended if individuals have frequent or prolonged skin or eye contact with dust.

Isola Group does not use polybromidebiphenyls or polybromide-biphenyloxides as flame retardants in any product or MDA (Methylene Dianiline) as a curing agent. Material Safety Data Sheets are available upon request.

## Part 7: Ordering Information

Contact your local sales representative or:

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The Isola logo consists of the word "isola" in a bold, lowercase, sans-serif font. The letters are white with a red outline, set against a blue background that features a faint, stylized circuit board pattern.