



268 Flux-Cored Wire

Zero-Halogen, No-Clean Cored Wire for Robotic & Manual Soldering

Product Description

Kester 268 Flux-Cored Wire is a zero-halogen wire optimized for robotic soldering applications. With its unique chemistry system, 268 provides consistent workability performance for both robotic and manual soldering in the electronics industry, with performance equivalent to conventional halogen/ halide-based systems. 268 provides a clean release which prevents occurrences of bridges and protrusions, even in narrow-pitch automated drag soldering. The use of 268 results in a clear post-soldering residue without the need for cleaning. 268 is classified as Type ROL0 flux under J-STD-004B specifications. 268 is zero-halogen and halide-free with no intentional addition of bromine and chlorine, conforming to the strictest requirements of IEC 61249-2-21, JPCA-ES-01 and IPC-410B specifications.

Performance Characteristics:

- Low occurrence of solder ball spatter
- Conforms to halogen-free requirement of IEC 61249-2-21, JPCA-ES-01 and IPC-410B specifications with no intentionally added halogens and halides
- Low smoke and odor
- Clear residue, resulting in excellent joint aesthetics after soldering
- Excellent surface wettability and spreading suitable for robotic soldering and manual soldering
- Excellent manufacturing consistency and uniform quality, minimizes defects for all types of soldering
- Excellent wetting speed and spread; superior to halogenated materials
- Classified as ROL0 per J-STD-004B

RoHS Compliance

This product meets the requirements of the RoHS (Restriction of Hazardous Substances) Directive, 2002/95/EC Article 4 for the stated banned substances. (Applies only if this core flux is combined with a lead-free alloy)

Reliability Properties

Copper Mirror Corrosion: Low

Tested to J-STD-004B, IPC-TM-650, Method 2.3.32

Corrosion Test: Low

Tested to J-STD-004B, IPC-TM-650, Method 2.6.15

Silver Chromate: Pass

Tested to J-STD-004B, IPC-TM-650, Method 2.3.33

Quantitative Halides: None Detected

Tested to J-STD-004, IPC-TM-650, Method 2.3.28.1

Quantitative Halogens: None

Detected
Tested to IPC-TM-650, Method 2.3.35, JPCS-ES-01, prEN14582 and IEC 61189-2 Test 2C12 specifications

Surface Insulation Resistance (SIR)

40°C/90% RH, IPC (typical): Pass
Tested to J-STD-004B, IPC-TM-650, Method 2.6.3.7

Availability

268 is most commonly available in SAC 305 lead-free alloy at 3.3% flux in a wide variety of wire diameters and roll sizes. For low-cost, lead-free soldering applications, the K100LD alloy is ideal. Wire diameters typically range from 0.25-1.6mm (0.010-0.062in). For other alloys and flux percentages, please contact Kester Customer Service. Please refer to www.kester.com for more information.

Note: Core size 50, 58 and 66 = 1.1%, 2.2% and 3.3% flux core.

Process Considerations

Solder iron tip temperatures are most commonly between 320-400°C (600-750°F) for lead-free alloys. Heat both the land area and component lead to be soldered with the iron tip prior to applying the solder wire to land area or component lead. In order to maximize tip life and reduce solder spattering, do not feed wire directly to iron tip.

Additional liquid flux should only be used as a last resort. Any flux applied to the solder location should be kept to the area of the connection being reworked. If needed, Kester NF372-TB may be used as a compatible liquid flux to aid in enhancing solderability of soldered joints. Kester NF372-TB is also available in Flux-Pens® for optimum board cleanliness.

Cleaning

268 possesses excellent fluxing ability. The flux residues are non-corrosive, non-conductive, and do not require removal for most applications under normal conditions of use. IPA will not clean the residues off the surface of the circuit board after the soldering process. If removal is required, a saponifier or cleaning agent specifically designed to clean a no-clean flux is required to clean the residues. Please contact Kester Technical Support for further information.

Storage and Shelf Life

Storage must be in a dry, non-corrosive environment. The surface may lose its shine and appear a dull shade of grey. This is a surface phenomenon and is not detrimental to product functionality. Flux cored solder wire has a limited warrantee period determined by the alloy used in the wire. Lead-free alloys have a warrantee period of 3 years from the date of manufacture.

Health and Safety

This product, during handling or use, may be hazardous to your health or the environment. Read the Safety Data Sheet (SDS) and warning label before using this product.