

Minimizing Supply Chain Risk – Obsolete Parts & Counterfeit Risk Mitigation

Managing Part Lifecycles

Many of the active aircraft in the USAF are well over 20 years old. This causes a demand for electronic parts that are no longer manufactured or have been designated obsolete.

Global Supply Chain Challenges

There are many factors of global supply chain challenges rising that are associated with obsolete parts and the risk of counterfeit components entering the supply chain such as:

- Long term relationships have eroded
- Consolidated suppliers within the semi-conductor industry
- Obsolete parts no longer available from Original Equipment Manufacturer (OEM)
- Increased regulatory pressure to assure authenticity

Aircraft Type	Number of Aircraft	Average Age	Projected Retirement
B-52	76	48.8	2040
F-16	1023	20	2026

Ref. SAB-TR-11-01

Changing Regulatory Landscape

In August 2016 the DoD issued DFAR regulations further expanding on the detection & avoidance policy for counterfeit electronic parts. Within the DFAR 252.246.7008, new guidance was given on how parts can be procured regarding liability and safe harbor for Government contractors and their supply chain.

Trusted Supplier is no longer an acceptable form of risk mitigation

- Category 1: Original Equipment Manufacturer is the preferred supplier
- Category 2: Contractor Approved Supplier (CAS)
- Category 3: Appropriate Inspection Test & Authentication (IT&A)

> 50% of counterfeit electronics have obsolete part numbers

Contractor Approved Supplier (CAS)

Each contractor must define, identify, select, and approve their supplier in conjunction with their own criteria to meet the DFAR requirements.

IEC Electronics is an Electronic Manufacturing Service (EMS) provider that

- Utilizes an established counterfeit prevention process aligned with DFAR guidance
- Provides an on-site laboratory that is approved by the Defense Logistics Agency (DLA) for their Qualified Testing Supplier List (QTSL)
- Conducts inspection, test, and authentication (IT&A) services



Not all Inspection, Test, and Authentication (IT&A) standards are the same in terms of the detail and rigor provided to ensure due diligence is performed.

Inspection Test & Authentication (IT&A)

The DFAR does not specify which testing standard must be followed, however the DoD has its own program with the Defense Logistics Agency (DLA) regarding Qualified Testing Suppliers List (QTSL) which is a pre-qualified source for certain electronic components.

IEC Electronics is the only EMS with on-site laboratory approved by the Defense Logistics Agency (DLA) for their Qualified Testing Supplier List (QTSL) program. The lab conducts counterfeit screening using destructive and non-destructive testing methods including enhanced DPA testing per MIL-STD-1580.

Contact us today for a consultation on how we can help develop and execute your risk mitigation plan.