

**October 13, 2010**

**Heilind Electronics  
58 Jonspin Road  
Wilmington, MA 01887**

**Attention:** Leeann Simard

**Subject:** Tyco Electronics Suspect Condition Alert

**Component:** Tyco Electronics AMP-LATCH™ NOVO Receptacle Connectors.  
All dash numbers of base part numbers 1658620, 1658621, 1658622, and 1658623

**Condition:** Tyco Electronics has determined that certain manufacturing lots of its RoHS compliant AMP-LATCH™ NOVO product produced from June 2005 through May 2010 have a higher than normal risk of developing tin whiskers. During connector assembly, compressive stress is induced on the lead-free tin plated contacts by the plastic housing in the contact retention area. This compressive stress may accelerate the growth of tin whiskers. If a tin whisker grows to a sufficient length to bridge the adjacent contact, an electrical short could result.

**Summary:** In conjunction with RoHS directives, Tyco Electronics changed the plating requirement from tin-lead to lead-free tin effective June 2005. As a result of further tin whisker risk assessments of this and similar designs, Tyco Electronics identified the higher potential for tin whiskers resulting from compressive stress and in October 2006 changed the plating requirements to address this issue. The change identified the retention area on the contact where no tin plating was allowed.

As a result of analysis of recent customer complaints for shorting, tin whiskers were identified as the failure mode. Contrary to the print requirements, certain manufacturing lots produced since the change in 2006 were found to have tin applied to the retention area of the contact where the print specifies no tin allowed.

**Corrective Action Summary:** Effective May 20, 2010, the plating facility has corrected the plating process so that the contact is produced as specified, with no tin allowed in the contact retention area. Beginning with Date Code 10205 (Year 2010, Week 20, Day 5), all connector assemblies have been produced as specified.



Customers with **unapplied product** in stock with a Date Code prior to 10205, please contact Tyco Electronics for return and replacement within 90 days of the date of this letter. Please contact the Customer Return and Corrective Action Department at (800) 526-5136.

To provide assistance to those Customers who have already applied product, please consider the following:

**For connectors in application for more than six months that were applied and tested in accordance with Tyco Electronics Application Specification 114-40005 (AMP-LATCH™ NOVO Receptacles for Ribbon Cables with Conductors Having 1.27 mm (0.050 in) Centerlines), additional tin whisker growth of a length sufficient to bridge an adjacent contact should be minimal.**

For additional information and assistance please contact Tyco Electronics Product Engineer Carl Rohde at (717) 592-4409 or myself at the number below.

Respectfully submitted,

Lee A Emenheiser  
Tyco Electronics  
Quality Manager  
(717) 986-7485