

Establishing Component Test Standards. By Richard R. Vensel

It's way past time that test standards were established for your components. Everyone wants OEM test standards for their parts yet they know this will never happen. If you were to get the OEM Test Standards, you would find that you have no test equipment that would perform their tests. The cost for acquiring this equipment would probably exceed the worth of your business in many cases. So what can you do about developing component standards?

You need to develop your own standard and it can be as easy as using a 3 X 5 index card or setting up an Excel File on your computer. You could start a simple system based on the manufacturer, car make or Lester number. I like the manufacturers number myself with "PIC #" as a sub file.

Example:

OEM# _____ NO OEM# _____
Part: _____ PIC # _____
Manufacturer: _____
Family: _____
Readings
Standard or Avalanche Diode: _____
Leakage: _____
Voltage Junction Drop: _____
Leakage: _____
Misc: _____
Notes:

Just fill in the blanks and save or keep a file:

OEM# _____ No OEM# _____
Part: <u>Rectifier</u> PIC # <u>7740-1155</u>
Manufacturer: <u>Delco</u>
Family: <u>24Si, 160 Amp</u>
Readings
Std or Avalanche Diode: _____
Leakage: _____
Voltage Junction Drop: _____
Leakage: _____
Misc: _____
Notes:

This will soon become one of the most important tools in your shop. Everyone has some form of tester for their components, so all you need to do is start with any OEM made part, (not just any new part), it has to specifically be an OEM part. If you do not have the OEM part, you can start with what you have, but reference it as not being OEM, so it can be corrected as soon as possible. The more

different readings you get per parts the better, as this will move you towards more consistent quality. Keep in mind as you do this to record your findings on non-OEM parts as well as watching out for failures on your bench and any returns from the field. You will be creating a history that will tell you what to use and what not to use based on your test results and returns/failures. If your equipment is old, you may be missing a lot of very important information especially in the testing of diodes and regulators. Your component testers are the biggest moneymakers in your shop, keep them updated and make more profit.