Increased Risk of Counterfeit Electronics Materiel / Components

Who should read this notice: All MOD Personnel and MOD Suppliers engaged in the acquisition of equipment and services for use by HM Armed Forces

Validity Period: Effective immediately

Point of contact: MOD QUALITY AND CONFIGURATION MANAGEMENT POLICY
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References:
- a. Joint Service Publication (JSP) 940 Part 2, Managing Quality
- c. Allied Quality Assurance Publication (AQAP) 2110 NATO Quality Assurance Requirements for Design, Development and Production
- d. Allied Quality Assurance Publication (AQAP) 2310 NATO Quality Assurance Requirements for Aviation, Space and Defence Suppliers
- e. Defence Condition 524a - Counterfeit Materiel

Background
1. During a recent joint industry and MOD Counterfeit Avoidance Working Group (CAWG) Industry members highlighted increased potential risk regards:
   - a. Lot number / dates and Quick Response (QR codes) being redacted and changed on electronic components. Note: although this is a known risk area, it appears to be on the increase due to shortages and long lead times in the marketplace.
   - b. Counterfeit test house accreditations and certification, especially in the electronic markets against standards such as AS6081 (linked to AS5553). This is also driven by shortages and long lead times, where suppliers are looking to certify stock that is currently not traceable.

Action to be taken
2. MOD Acquisition Teams are requested to consider the potential increased risk detailed at paragraph 1a and 1b as part of their product / materiel, supplier and supply chain management risks processes, required by JSP940 Part 2 (Reference a).
3. MOD Acquisition Teams should consider the source, product and its application, and if appropriate also request that their suppliers to consider the heightened risk areas detailed at paragraphs 1a and 1b when undertaking risk reviews within their supply chain, as required by Defence Standard 05-135 (Reference b) and Allied Quality Assurance Publication (AQAP) 2110 (Reference c) and AQAP 2310 (Reference d).
4. Where potential risk(s) are identified, appropriate risk mitigation actions are to be taken. Should suspect materiel be identified, arrangements for quarantine and reporting, and treatment of materiel subsequently confirmed as counterfeit, are also contained at reference a and c.