



120 San Gabriel Drive
Sunnyvale, CA 94086
Phone: 408-737-7600

TO: Maxim's Valued Customers

DATE: August 6, 2007

SUBJECT: Datecode Policy

Maxim occasionally receives inquiries regarding our datecode policy. In general, it is Maxim's policy to ship product with a 24-month datecode at the time of shipment to direct customers.

It has been Maxim's experience that datecode restrictions have grown obsolete. At one time, a datecode limitation was found in USA military requirements, primarily due to solderability concerns. The industry has since found that solderability of components is maintained for greater than 3 years provided the components are not subjected to adverse storage conditions. The US government has since deleted the datecode restriction. Furthermore, customers and industry groups have been unable to correlate failures of IC's that come as a direct result of datecodes > 2 years. Our own experience with nearly ~25 years of IC manufacturing has found no relationship between assembly dates of > 2 years and field failures. The military and industry experience is consistent with and supports Maxim's own experience.

As a natural consequence of our very flexible product discontinuance policy, we often find that Maxim may carry stock 2 years and more. Maxim inventories natural rise as we continue to be a leader in introducing more innovative analog and mixed signal products than our competitors. In order to provide the best possible leadtimes and minimize costs to our customers, material within the 24-month datecode window is made available for shipment.

As always, all product shipped by Maxim is guaranteed to meet published datasheet specifications and Mil-Std-883 solderability requirements. Maxim's standard warrantee applies to all product received regardless of the date code of the material.

In summary, it is our intent to serve our customers with the best possible leadtimes without compromising the level of quality in our products.

Sincerely,

Bryan J. Preeshl
Managing Director
Quality