



# Institute of Circuit Technology

**Hayling Island Autumn Seminar 2017**

**“Discussion on the proposed banning of PTFE on IEC TC111”**

**Chair: Jim Francey  
Sales Manager – Northern Europe, Optiprint AG**

[j.francey@Optiprint.co.uk](mailto:j.francey@Optiprint.co.uk)



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- JF interest prompted by article circulated by Bill Wilkie 27 July 2017:  
<http://pcb.icconnect007.com/index.php/column/105891/mr-laminate-tells-all/105894>
- Draft IEC Standard “IEC CD 63031 ☐ IEC:201X”; “
- DEFINITION OF LOW HALOGEN MATERIALS 1 FOR ELECTRICAL AND ELECTRONIC PRODUCTS”  
 (“This document is still under study and subject to change. It should not be used for reference purposes.”)
  - Copyright © 2017 International Electrotechnical Commission, IEC.
- Clause 4 reads:

## 4 Specifications

Materials defined as “Low Halogen” shall contain less than 0,9% (by mass) total elemental halogen content (F+Cl+Br+I) and meet the thresholds of all halogenated substances in IEC 62474 database

- The standard is in the Committee Draft Phase, was circulated for comments to all the IEC TC111 member countries (<http://www.iec.ch/dyn/www/f?p=103:5:0> ). The deadline for comment submission was September 15, 2017.



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## Status and Discussion

- UK IEC National Committee (hosted by BSI) has made its submission, dated 11 September 2017, complementary copy available on the ICT website:  
[http://www.instct.org/images/stories/BSI\\_Standards/2017\\_09/GEL\\_111\\_17\\_0058.pdf](http://www.instct.org/images/stories/BSI_Standards/2017_09/GEL_111_17_0058.pdf)
- UK IE NC comments:
  - Unless there is scientific evidence that a total mass of halogens greater than a particular value (e.g. 0.9%) is environmentally hazardous then there should not be such a limit contained in the document.
  - Typically, environmental restrictions are based on the properties of a compound / substance rather than the elements forming that compound. Consequently we do not see, unless there is evidence to the contrary, why a limit on elemental halogens is valid.
  - IEC 62474 (Material Declaration for Products of and for the Electrotechnical Industry) contains declarable halogenated compounds that are identified to cause concerns to human health and the environment. It makes sense to use the IEC 62474 database as the single source of halogens that are under this low halogen definition.