



Industrial Laminates Norplex, Inc.
665 Lybrand St, P.O. Box 977
Postville, IA 52162 – 0977
Customer Service Phone: 800-350-9490
General Phone Number: 800-848-4431
Customer Service Fax: 800-350-9491
Email: info@ilnorplex.com
Web Site: www.norplex-micarta.com

September 10, 2015

NIST G10CR PROCESS SPECIFICATION

In August of 2015, Norplex-Micarta attempted to locate and review the NIST G10CR Process Specification to ensure our compliance. During this investigation, we contacted NIST Archives, the NIST Cryogenic Labs, and past members of the NIST Cryogenic Materials team.

No one is able to locate a current specification. Moreover, no one is able to locate a specification other than an initial draft.

Norplex-Micarta, as a supplier to this industry for over 40 years under the Norplex trade name, and more than 100 years under the Micarta name, has internal records detailing when the NIST G10CR Process Specification work was begun in 1980. Unfortunately, this preliminary draft contains materials that are now listed as known carcinogens.

We do not know why the standards process was not formally completed. After consultation with NIST, we have decided to remove the language stating compliance to the NIST G10CR Process Specification from our marketing materials since no such specification exists.

Please rest assured, our NP500CR product has not changed. This product is still produced as it was before in both Postville, Iowa and Changzhou, China.

We understand this change may affect your business. Therefore, we have prepared a FAQ section to address some concerns that we have heard expressed by the industry:

Is NP500CR different from other G10 materials, such as NP500A?

Yes.

NP500CR is produced on a specific style of fiberglass and has modified resin chemistry. These modifications are contemplated in the preliminary specification by NIST that we have. These changes cause the material to have higher production costs.

Is NP500CR better than other G10 materials, such as NP500A?

Both materials will meet the standard performance requirements for NEMA G-10, which were the performance requirements recommended for the NIST G10CR draft. While we do not have specific data at this time showing how NP500CR performs at cryogenic temperatures relative to NP500A, the successful history of NP500CR over the years in cryogenic applications in aerospace, oil and gas, and cryogenic equipment applications brings confidence in the NP500CR formulation.

What if my customer demands a material that is certified to the NIST G10CR Process Specification?

We have asked NIST for a formal letter stating that this process specification does not exist. Unfortunately, we are unable to secure this document. We would be happy to discuss your specific case, and what we can do to support your customer's understanding of this situation.

Why did Norplex-Micarta claim NIST G10CR Process Specification compliance for NP500CR in the past?

This claim was originally made on product literature in the 1980's. Unfortunately, this claim was not reviewed until now. Our desire to provide the most accurate information possible initiated the search for the most current specification. When NIST (the standards authority) was unable to produce a final standard, even one that is no longer current, we decided that we should no longer make this claim.

Will Norplex-Micarta make a product that complies with the draft NIST G10CR Process Specification dated 1980?

No.

The draft NIST G10CR specification contains materials that are now listed as known carcinogens. In order to protect our employees and customers, we will not introduce those raw materials to manufacturing process.

Is Norplex-Micarta willing to consider alternate approaches or formulations for materials?

As a leading supplier of thermoset composite laminate materials, we welcome the opportunity to discuss how we can assist your development needs.



Dan Krammen
QA / ME Manager
Norplex-Micarta



Dennis Ford
Vice President & General Manager
Norplex-Micarta