



Standard Test Method for Non-Destructive Short Circuit Testing of a Membrane Switch¹

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1. Scope

1.1 This standard establishes a test method for detecting unwanted electrical shorts in a membrane switch.

1.2 Since this is a non-destructive test, it can be performed on a membrane switch that is going to be mounted and used in its intended environment.

1.3 *This standard does not purport to address all of the safety concerns, if any, associated with its use. It is the responsibility of the user of this standard to establish appropriate safety and health practices and determine the applicability of regulatory limitations prior to use.*

2. Referenced Documents

2.1 ASTM Standards:

F 1680 Test Method for Determining the Circuit Resistance of a Membrane Switch²

3. Terminology

3.1 Definitions:

3.1.1 *short*—unwanted electrical connection between two test points having a resistance lower than, or equal to, the specified open circuit resistance.

3.1.2 *membrane switch*—a momentary switching device in which at least one contact is on, or made of, a flexible substrate.

3.1.3 *open circuit resistance*—minimum allowable resistance as measured between two test points that, if lower than, will indicate an electrical short.

3.1.4 *test point*—an electrical input or outpoint connection on the membrane switch.

4. Significance and Use

4.1 Destructive and non-destructive tests characteristics must be evaluated to ensure the membrane switch will operate and survive the application it was designed for. It is not feasible for all tests to be performed on each membrane of a production

lot. However, there are some non-destructive tests that must be performed on each switch assembly to ensure 100 % functionality and checking each i/o point for unwanted electrical continuity to any other i/o point is one of these characteristics.

4.2 Since this is a non-destructive test the applied voltage should not exceed operating voltage.

5. Apparatus

5.1 *Electrical Tester*, capable of measuring the electrical resistance between two test points.

5.1.1 Electrical Tester must be capable of detecting a short when a resistance is measured between any of the test points that fall below an open circuit resistance.

6. Procedure

6.1 Pretest Setup:

6.1.1 Connect all test points of the switch assembly to the Electrical Tester.

6.2 In-Process Test:

6.2.1 Adjust voltage source to specified voltage.

6.2.2 Adjust threshold resistance to the open circuit resistance.

6.2.3 Test first test point for shorts between all other test points.

6.2.4 Test second test point for shorts between all other test points.

6.2.5 Repeat until all test points are checked between all other test points.

7. Report

7.1 Report the following information:

7.1.1 Specified Voltage,

7.1.2 Specified shorts resistance,

7.1.3 Shorts found,

7.1.4 Test points associated with each short, and


7.1.5 Resistance value of each short.

8. Keywords

8.1 electrical short; insulation resistance; membrane switch; open circuit; resistance; short circuit; switch short

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² *Annual Book of ASTM Standards*, Vol 10.05.

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