EOS - Electrical Overstress in the Automotive Industry
The new guide to dealing with claims

An exciting affair!
Electrical Overstress (EOS) is an electrical overload that causes thermal destruction or damage to electronic components such as diodes, ICs and sensors.

The EOS-related damages represent a major problem in the field of electronics in the automotive industry. Above all it has to be taken into consideration that the amount of electronic components in vehicles is continuously increasing over the years and will continue to increase in the future further on.

With the VDA guideline "EOS - Electrical Overstress in the Automotive Industry", the German Association of the Automotive Industry e.V. (VDA) for the first time releases a systematic approach to processing such cases of damage caused by this kind of overload.
In addition to that, the search for the particular root cause of the overload is impossible for the supplier alone - the interrelationship between a semiconductor component and its use on application or vehicle level is very complex and the individual history of the failing component is often unknown in sufficient detail.

Since the parties involved in the supply chain often do not cooperate sufficiently with one another, such cases of damage usually take a long time to process and close. In addition, there were no rules for classifying failures or further guidelines on how to proceed - until now!
The recommendations in the new VDA guideline EOS provide instructions on how damages that show signs of electrical overload are to be handled within the supply chain:

- Definition of a two-level complaint process that enables prioritization and targeted processing of such damages
- Definition of simple trigger criteria for an assignment to one of these two levels of the complaint process
- Provision of EOS guidelines and a questionnaire on which information has to be exchanged by the parties involved in the supply chain
- Creation of a common point of view and understanding for EOS along the supply chain and use a unique nomenclature.
Outlook

Thanks to the instructions in the VDA volume "EOS - Electrical Overstress in the Automotive Industry", the available resources can be spent wisely thus increasing the success rate in solving EOS-like failures.

In addition, the structured communication and processing within the supply chain should be optimized and their common level of knowledge increased. Ultimately, the target is to reduce the EOS failure rates and thus to minimize safety risks.

The VDA guideline EOS is available in German, English and Mandarin while the VDA QMC has started offering training courses on EOS in 2020.
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