

Book Review

Burn In (An Engineering Approach to the Design and Analysis of Burn-In Procedures)

by Finn Jensen and Nils Erik Petersen, John Wiley & Sons (UK), pp 167, (£17.00).

As the preface of this book states it is written for the practising reliability engineer who needs to know about the techniques and benefits of performing burn-in on components, sub-assemblies, or complete systems. Most manufacturers of electronic components and equipment are today finding it necessary to use reliability screening techniques to minimize the numbers of failures in the field of an independent plant burn-in procedure as a way of at least minimizing numbers of failures and the resultant cost of failures.

The essentially practical nature of the book is very stimulating and provides a practising engineer with the material required to design and analyse burn-in procedures in a meaningful manner.

Approximately half the book is concerned with the problems of components both in theoretical terms and also with regard to their behaviour in specific environments, including the controversial area of accelerated life test experiments. It is the reviewers opinion, in this area, that the authors are so clear and helpful in establishing an understandable pattern between accelerated life test results, and those that will be observed in the field.

The other half of the book is concerned with the burn-in of systems, the most essential feature of systems being that they are repairable. This aspect is considered in great detail by the authors.

The very valuable appendix of a teaching nature on Weibull analysis is included, and I think it is worth adding that the clear presentation of material of this sort is a very real reflection on the work of one of the authors Finn Jensen, who as an independent consultant in reliability engineering, has been responsible for many stimulating seminars on reliability.

The book is well produced with excellent clear diagrams and, therefore, I thoroughly recommend it to engineers. It is also thoroughly recommended as a suitable text for teaching undergraduate students though in this case the price of £17.00 is a little high for the average student, and we look forward to a paper back edition with hope.

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