

CUSTOMER ADVISORY TOP MARK TRACEABILITY ENHANCEMENTS

As Altera adds additional sources of supply and in order for customers to maintain product traceability via device top mark, Altera will enhance its top marking scheme. In order to facilitate die identification, Altera will expand its current six character top mark date code and implement the new nine character top mark date code format outlined as follows:

X β Z $\alpha\alpha$ YYWW, where

X	=	Test site identifier
β (new)	=	Base die identifier
Z	=	Die revision
$\alpha\alpha$ (new)	=	Fab process code
YY	=	Year
WW	=	Work Week

Altera is creating a new 'base die identifier, β ,' which will uniquely identify the die, and which will be used as a reference in future customer notifications. The base die identifier, β , will also be used as the 2nd character of the Altera lot number which will continue to be marked on the bottom side of the device. (i.e. N β Z $\alpha\alpha$ 1234).

A two character fab process code, $\alpha\alpha$, will be added to the top mark so as to easily identify the fabrication process even if the device is soldered to a board. The fab process code, $\alpha\alpha$, will also continue to be marked as part of the bottom side lot number. Altera will standardize on a two character process code (e.g. 01, 02, instead of 1, 2,)

You may receive product with this new date code as early as June 1997 (topside date code 9719). Until Altera transitions over completely to the new format, both date code formats will be shipped, and in some cases possibly in the same shipment. The transition is expected to be complete on products with a topside date code of 9731. If you need additional information or assistance, please contact your local Altera sales representative.