

Application Sheet

Cleaning Angled Physical Connector (APC) End Faces With the QbE® Cleaning System

The Need For Cleaning

Choosing the right cleaning solution is slightly more complex than simply using isopropyl alcohol (also known as IPA). IPA, especially in highest purities, is hygroscopic (absorbs moisture from the air). Ambient moisture attracted to IPA can attach to the connector end face. The drying procedures for residual alcohol, and ultimately residual moisture, are difficult at best. IPA does not adequately clean some non-ionic contaminants and can leave a thin layer of surface residue. Since isopropyl alcohol is relatively slow to dry, it can attract more airborne contamination leaving the surface more contaminated than before cleaning. Using excessive amounts of isopropyl alcohol can contribute to signal loss and “haloing”, which is believed to be residual alcohol and moisture contamination from inefficiently dried connectors.

The Better Way

The ITW Chemtronics Fiber Optic Cleaning Process™ begins with an optical review of the surface to be cleaned. Light soils can be safely removed using the QbE® Cleaning System. Dust, air borne particles and other contaminants such as grease or buffer gel from soiled hands, are most safely removed using the combination of Electro-Wash® PX Fiber Optic Cleaner and the QbE®. In those instances where visual inspection is not possible, the best practice method is to clean the end face with Electro-Wash® PX in conjunction with QbE®. This assures that statically charged dust particles and complex soils are safely removed.

APC's present a unique cleaning challenge. End face cleaning with any “dry” device requires the technician to position the surface to be cleaned at the correct perpendicular angle. With the APC this is somewhat problematic when using a small cleaning surface. This requires the technician to “find the angle” with a tactile motion of the surface to be cleaned positioned against the cleaning surface. In those instances where the soil is unknown or non-ionic dust, the end face can be damaged.

The large cleaning surface of the QbE®, in conjunction with the solvency of Electro-Wash® PX Fiber Optic Cleaner, offers the technician the dual advantage of a large, safe cleaning surface as well as the superior cleaning ability of both ionic and non-ionic contaminants.

How to Clean the End Face:

- Pull one QbE® Wipe over the Fiber-Safe™ neoprene platen
- Spray a small amount of Electro-Wash® PX Fiber Optic Cleaner in one corner of the Wipe
- “Find the Angle” by lightly drawing the APC connection from “wet” to “dry”
- Hold the end face at 90 degrees perpendicular to the platen
- Draw the end face lightly over the platen in a smooth linear motion
- Do not press too hard: Do not retrace your cleaning procedure in the same area.
- Check your work with a fiber scope or measuring device

Availability:

Electro-Wash® PX Fiber Optic Cleaner: ES810 5 oz. aerosol

QbE® Cleaning System: QbE® 200 wipe cleaning platform

MANUFACTURED BY:

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