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Thermal Transfer Printer cleaning instructions

1. Introduction

The purpose of this document is to provide instruction for cleaning the TE Connectivity (TE) range of Identification Thermal Transfer (TT) printers.

2. Cleaning interval

It is important to clean TT printers on a regular basis to ensure good print quality and the functionality of the printer. The interval between cleaning is strongly dependent on:

- Type of ribbon
- Printed products
- Printing environment.
- Standard of cleaning
- Cleaning frequency

As guidance to the minimum cleaning interval, the printhead and drive roller must be cleaned before each TT ribbon roll is changed.

3. Safety Notes:

- Before carrying out any cleaning or maintenance on printers ensure the power is switched off and disconnected.
- The printhead remains hot immediately after printing, allow the printhead to cool before carrying out any maintenance.
- Always consult the Material Safety Data Sheets (MSDS) for any chemical used to clean a printer.
- Always use appropriate Personal Protective Equipment detailed in the MSDS such as suitable protective gloves.
- Never spray cleaners onto a naked flame, incandescent material or hot surfaces if the cleaner is marked as flammable or highly flammable.

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4. General notes:

- 4.1. Under no circumstance are sharp or hard objects (such as screwdrivers or blades) to be used to clean printheads or drive rollers.
- 4.2. Do not touch the protective glass layer of the printhead.
- 4.3. Ensure the printer cover is closed at all times apart from during maintenance and loading the printer with ribbon and media. This will minimise environmental contamination.
- 4.4. To further protect against premature wear and subsequent degradation of print quality, it is recommended that TT printers are used in a clean environment (dust free). Media to be printed should also be stored in a dust free environment in original packaging when possible.
- 4.5. When cleaning a printer part such as the printhead evidence of dirt will be left on the cleaning wipe in the form of a black mark. When no fresh marks are being left on the cleaning wipe the part is considered clean.

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5. Ordering information for TE cleaning kit

Part description	Part number
TT-PRINTER-CLEANING-KIT	CP5431-000

Table 1 TT Printer cleaning kit

Part description	Part number
TT-PRINT-HEAD-CLEANER	CP5435-000
TT-PLATEN-CLEANER	CP5437-000
TT-LABEL-REMOVER	CP5438-000
TT-CLEANING-WIPES	CP5439-000
TT-CLEANING-BUDS	CP5440-000
TT-FOAM-CLEANER	CP5441-000

Table 2 TT Printer cleaning kit, individual items

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6. Cleaning the printhead

- 6.1. Switch the printer power off, open the cover and remove any product and ribbon.
- 6.2. Allow printhead to cool
- 6.3. When using the TE cleaning kit, spray the TT printhead cleaner onto a TT cleaning wipe.
- 6.4. With the printhead open and in situ, wipe the print head surface with the damp wipe until clean. (Clean as defined in General notes 4.5)
- 6.5. Allow the printhead to dry for 3 minutes before reconnecting power and re-loading product and ribbon.

7. Cleaning the drive roller (Platen)

- 7.1. Switch the printer power off, open the cover and remove any product and ribbon.
- 7.2. When using the TE printer cleaning kit, spray the TT Platen cleaner onto a TT cleaning wipe.
- 7.3. Clean the drive roller with the damp wipe ensuring the whole of the roller is cleaned. (Clean as defined in General notes 4.5)
- 7.4. Allow 3 minutes to dry before reconnecting the power and re-loading product and ribbon.

8. General printer cleaning of outside surfaces

- 8.1. Switch the printer power off, open the cover and remove any product and ribbon.
- 8.2. When using the TE printer cleaning kit, spray the TT foam cleaner (Anti static foam) onto a TT cleaning wipe.
- 8.3. Wipe all outer areas and allow 3 minutes to dry before reconnecting the power and re-loading product and ribbon.

9. Removing Labels (detached from the label roll and adhered to the printer)

- 9.1. Switch the printer power off, open the cover and remove any product and ribbon.
- 9.2. When using the TE printer cleaning kit, to remove adhesive labels from the printer, spray the TT label remover on a TT cleaning wipe. Hold the damp wipe on the label to soak the label for 4 to 5 minutes then peel off the labels and wipe dry the surrounding area before reconnecting the power and re-loading product and ribbon.
- 9.3. Repeat operations 9.1 to 9.2 in case of strong label adhesive.

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