

QLE Programming Notes

Table 1: Cross Reference of Applicable Products

Radiation Hardened PROMs:	Manufacturer Part Number	SMD #	Device Type	Internal PIC Number:*
32K x 8, 5V PROM	UT28F256QLE	5962-96891	09 and 10	WE50 / WE60
32K x 8, 3.3V PROM	UT28F256LVQLE	5962-01517	04,05,and 06	WE30 / WE40

* PIC = Aeroflex internal Product Identification Code

1.0 Overview

The following information is provided to assist users during programming of the Aeroflex Radiation Hardened 256K 5V and 3.3V PROMs listed in Table 1.

2.0 PROM Technical Background

The two devices listed in Table 1 are 256Kbit PROMs organized as 32K x 8bits. The PROM devices feature a redundant ViaLink™ structure for each memory cell which provides unprecedented reliability. The redundant ViaLink™ creates a parallel path. During the programming phase, both primary and redundant paths must program and verify successfully. During device operation, either or both paths will result in valid data.

2.1 One Time Programmable

The Aeroflex PROMS are one time programmable devices. When programming is complete (successful or otherwise), a security fuse is blown which disables the test modes used during programming. The programming algorithm will not start a device with disabled test modes. For this reason, it is important to program each device correctly and completely.

3.0 Programming Time

Due to the redundant cell structure, the programming time of the Aeroflex 256K PROMs may take longer than other industry compatible PROM devices. Aeroflex believes the increased programming time is warranted for systems demanding higher reliability. Programming times will vary depending on the amount of bits being programmed. The devices are supplied in an all 0's state which is the native state of each memory cell. Only bits requiring 1's data are programmed. Bits remaining as 0's retain the native clear state. Therefore, the fewer set bits in the source code, the shorter the programming time. Some industry comparable devices recommend that set data be programmed into the unused memory space. This is not recommended for Aeroflex PROMs. Aeroflex recommends leaving unused areas in the default clear state. Default programming large areas with 1's data increases programming time and increases the chances of programming yield loss. Page two of the QLE Programming Guide notes that programming time can vary and may take up to 4 hours to complete programming a typical program with full utilization of the PROM's addressable space. For reference, it takes approximately 85msec to program each set bit.

3.1 Programming Instructions and Equipment

Aeroflex's QLE PROMs are programmed using a BPM Microsystems' programmer in conjunction with Aeroflex's QLE Programming Guide [1]. BPM Microsystems provides several models supporting these devices. The programmer information can be found at BPM Microsystems' Website [2]. BPM provides both single and multi socket programmers which can program up to 6 devices concurrently for increased throughput (provided they are using the same source code). Model numbers 1610 (single site) or 2610 (2, 4, or 6 sites) support Aeroflex PROM programming requirements.

Programming setup per Aeroflex's QLE Programming Guide, enables a continuity and blank check prior to programming. If a continuity fail occurs, reseat the device in the socket and restart. If continuity fails persist, please inspect device pins and socket for any signs of contaminants or damage. Devices are supplied in carriers and orientated to properly interface with the programmer's socket. If continuity problems persist, verify the device is orientated correctly in the carrier per Figure 1. After the continuity test, a quick blank check verifies the device contains all native 0's data. If blank check fails, the device may contain some data, implying it has been programmed previously. After a successful blank check, device programming begins. Once this occurs, the programming must complete without interruption. Any interruption in programming renders the device unusable. When programming is complete (successful or otherwise) a security fuse is programmed and the device cannot be programmed again. Devices failing to verify during the programming phase are considered failing devices. Due to the nature of one time programmable devices, expect some small programming yield loss.

Devices also contain a factory programmed device code designed to correlate to the correct programming algorithm. If the device code does not match the algorithm code, the programmer aborts programming and a fail message "Failed to perform operation on device. Cannot program" or similar, will be displayed. If this occurs, please verify the correct algorithm has been selected for the applicable device type. Device security fuse is not affected by internal device code to algorithm mismatches.

3.1.0 Programming Failures and Yield

Aeroflex PROM devices contain test rows and columns, which are used by Aeroflex production test programs to verify the ability to program all rows and columns of the memory array structure. Individual memory cells, necessarily cannot be tested. This is inherent with unprogrammed devices. Because memory cells are not verified, expect a small programming yield loss. During the programming phase, the set bits are programmed and verified serially from the beginning of the programming buffer through the end. If at any point during programming, a cell cannot be verified correctly, the programming will halt. An error message similar to, "Failed to perform operation on device. Cannot program" will be displayed. This can occur at any time during the programming depending on when an un-programmable ViaLink™ is encountered. When programming and verification completes successfully, the green "pass" LED on the socket module will illuminate and a, "function complete" statement will appear in the lower left corner of the BPwin programming window.

4.0 Conclusion

Aeroflex PROMs contain redundant ViaLinks™ for higher reliability. Because of this, it may take several hours to program a device. Devices are one time programmable. Once programming starts, allow programming to complete uninterrupted. To guarantee the highest reliability, Aeroflex's PROMs contain a security fuse to inhibit reprogramming. Aeroflex PROMs contain an internal device code to assure use of the correct programming algorithm.

5.0 References

- [1] QLE Programming Guide: <http://aeroflex.com/ams/pagesproduct/datasheets/promprogrammingQLE.pdf>
- [2] BPM Microsystems Website: at <http://www.bpmicro.com/multi-site-engineering.html>.

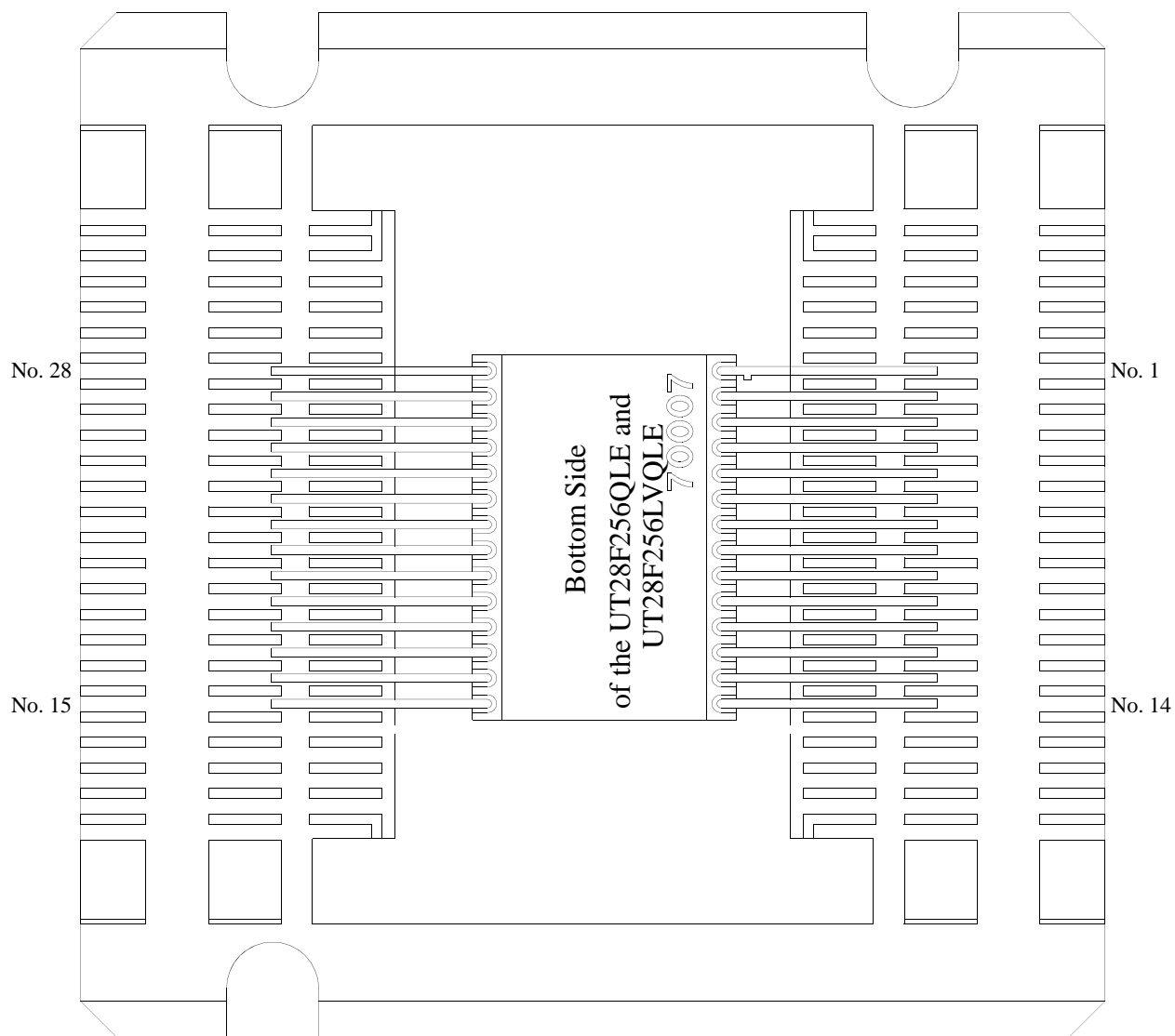


Figure 1. Diagram of the UT28F256QLE and UT28F256LVQLE PROM 28-Pin Flat Pack in Carrier