

6 W single-output VIPer17 demonstration board

Introduction

The new VIPer17 device integrates in the same package two components: an advanced PWM controller with built-in BCD6 technology and an 800 V avalanche rugged vertical power MOSFET. The device is suitable for offline power conversion operating either with wide range input voltage (85 $V_{AC} - 270 V_{AC}$) up to 6 W or with single range input voltage (85 $V_{AC} - 132 V_{AC}$ or 175 $V_{AC} - 265 V_{AC}$). With European range input voltage (175 $V_{AC} - 265 V_{AC}$) the device can handle up to 10 W of output power. The proposed solution has the advantage of using few external components compared to a discrete solution, providing several switch mode power supply protections and very low standby consumption in no-load condition. The device operates at fixed frequency that can be 115 kHz or 60 kHz. Frequency jittering is implemented which helps to meet the standards regarding electromagnetic disturbance. The protections present on the device such as overload and output overvoltage protections, secondary winding short-circuit protection, hard transformer saturation and brownout protections improve the reliability and safety of the design. Moreover internal thermal shutdown and an 800 V avalanche rugged power MOSFET improve the robustness of the system.

The VIPer17 demonstration board is a standard single-output isolated flyback converter that uses all the protections mentioned above. If brownout and overvoltage protection are not necessary, the number of external components is further reduced.



Figure 1. VIPer17HN demonstration board

Note:

VIPer17HN is the full order code.

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1 Board description

The electrical specifications of the VIPer17 demonstration board are listed in the table below.

Parameter	Symbol	Value
Input voltage range	V _{IN}	90 V _{RMS} ; 265 V _{RMS}
Output voltage	V _{OUT}	12 V
Max output current	I _{OUT}	500 mA
Precision of output regulation	Δ_{VOUT_LF}	±5%
High frequency output voltage ripple	$\Delta_{VOUT_{HF}}$	50 mV

Table 1.Electrical specification

The schematics and bill of material of the board are shown in *Figure 2* and *Table 2* respectively and the transformer description is given in *Table 3*.

In order to minimize magnetic component size, the higher operating frequency device (VIPer17) in the DIP7 package was selected. The average switching frequency (f_{SW_avg}) is 115 kHz (typ.). The switching frequency is modulated by a triangular waveform at 250 Hz between $f_{SW_avg} = \Delta f_m$ and where Δf_m is 8 kHz (typ.). This frequency modulation (frequency jittering) spreads the spectrum of the electromagnetic interference generated by the switching of the MOSFET, reducing its maximum value and facilitating compliance with EMI standards.

In order to obtain good precision in the output regulation, a secondary regulation scheme was used, monitoring directly the output voltage.

Thanks to the adjustable primary current limitation it is possible to fix the maximum power that the converter can deliver to the output. The overload protection offers a good degree of safety under output short-circuit or overload condition. As the protection is tripped the system operates in hiccup mode reducing the power throughput to a few hundreds of milliwatts. A second level of current limitation that latches the device if exceeded ensures safety also in case of output diode failure (short) or secondary winding short-circuit. Output overvoltage protection and brownout protection are also implemented. By simply changing the position of a jumper in the board it is possible to disable the brownout protection if it is not necessary in the specific application.

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Item	Quantity	Reference	Reference Part	
1	1	BR1	Bridge	
2	1	C1	X2	
3	2	C2,C3	Rubycon YXA 10 µF 450 V	
4	1	C4	22 µF 25 V	
5	1	C5	47 pF 630 V (not mounted)	
6	1	C6	3.3 nF	
7	2	C7,C11	33 nF	
8	1	C8	Y1 1.8 nF	
9	1	C9	Rubycon ZL 470 µF 25 V	
10	1	C10	Rubycon ZLG 47 µF 25V	
11	1	C12	10 nF	
12	1	D1	BAT46	
13	1	D2	1N4148	
14	1	D3	STTH1L06	
15	1	D4	STPS2H100	
16	1	D5	P6KE250	
17	1	F1	500 mA fuse	
20	1	L1	10 µH	
21	1	NTC1	10 Ω NTC	
22	1	OPTO1	PC817	
23	1	R1	10	
24	2	R2,R4	1500 kΩ	
25	1	R3	47 kΩ	
26	1	R5	18 kΩ	
27	2	R6,R13	1 kΩ	
28	1	R8	15 kΩ 1%	
29	1	R9	3.9 kΩ 1%	
30	1	R10	82 kΩ	
31	1	R12	10 kΩ	
32	1	R14	180 kΩ	
33	1	T1	Transformer	
34	1	T2	Coilcraft BU9-10325BL	
35	1	U1	VIPer17	
36	1	VR1	TL431	

Table 2. Bill of materials



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1.1 Transformer

Transformer characteristics are listed in the table below.

Table 3. Transformer chara	acteristics
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Item name	Value	Measure condition
Manufacturer	Magnetica	
Part number	1335.0034 Rev01	
Primary inductance	1.2 mH +/- 15%	Fr = 1 kHz, Ta = 20 °C
Leakage primary inductance	3.2% of primary	Pins 1 & 2 shorted, pins 7 & 8 shorted Fr=10 kHz, Ta = 20 °C
Primary to secondary turn ratio	7.85 ± 5%	Fr = 10 kHz Ta = 20 °C
Primary to auxiliary turn ratio	7.85 ± 5%	Fr = 10 kHz Ta = 20 °C
Insulation	4 kV	Primary to secondary

Figure 3, *4*, *5*, *6* show size (mm), pin connection and pins distances (mm) of the transformer.





2 Testing the board

2.1 Typical board waveforms

The board operates with wide range input voltages and the relevant waveforms are shown with the minimum, maximum and nominal input voltages.

Figure 7 and *Figure 8* show the drain current and the drain voltage waveforms at the nominal input voltages, that are 115 V_{AC} and 230 V_{AC} when the load is the maximum (500 mA). *Figure 9* and *Figure 10* show the same waveforms for the same load condition, but the input voltages are the minimum (90 V_{AC}) and the maximum (265 V_{AC}).





Figure 9. Drain current and voltage at full load and minimum input voltage (90 V_{AC})





Figure 11 shows the drain current and the voltage on the feedback pin in a time interval of about 10 ms. The system is working with a constant load but the voltage on the feedback pin is a triangular wave shape as well as the peak drain current. These changes are the result of the frequency jittering.

In a fixed frequency flyback converter, operating in discontinuous conduction mode, the output power is proportional to the switching frequency according to the following formula:

Equation 1

$$\mathsf{P}_{\mathsf{OUT}} = \frac{1}{2} \cdot \mathsf{L}_{\mathsf{P}} \cdot \mathsf{I}^{2}_{\mathsf{PK}} \cdot \mathsf{f}_{\mathsf{SW}} \cdot \eta$$

where L_P is the transformer primary inductance, I_{PK} is the drain peak current and η is the converter's efficiency. The VIPer17 internal oscillator gives a switching frequency modulated by a triangular waveform of 250 Hz (typ.). The power demand of the load is constant, but, due to the variable switching frequency, the power delivered is not constant if I_{PK} is constant. The control loop reacts to the unsteady switching frequency, modulating the feedback pin voltage and then, the drain peak current.



Figure 11. Frequency jittering (115 V_{IN AC}, full load)



3 Precision of the regulation and output voltage ripple

The output voltage of the board was measured in different line and load conditions. The results are given in *Table 3*. The output voltage variation range is a few mV for all tested conditions. The V_{DD} voltage was also measured to verify that it is inside the operating range of the device.

V . (1)	No load		Half load		Full load	
	V _{OUT} (V)	V _{DD} (v)	V _{OUT} (V)	V _{DD} (V)	V _{OUT} (V)	V _{DD} (V)
90	12.068	10.67	12.066	19.35	12.064	21.16
115	12.068	10.60	12.066	19.33	12.064	21.23
230	12.068	10.29	12.066	19.36	12.064	21.24
265	12.068	10.21	12.066	19.28	12.064	21.22

 Table 4.
 Output voltage & V_{DD} line-load regulation

The ripple at the switching frequency superimposed at the output voltage was also measured. The board is provided with an LC filter to better filter the voltage ripple. The high frequency voltage ripple across capacitor C9 (V_{OUT_FLY}), that is the output capacitor of the flyback converter before the LC filter, was also measured to verify the effectiveness of the LC filter and for completeness of results.

Table 5. High frequency output voltage ripple

V (0)	No load		Half load		Full load	
VINAC (V)	V _{OUT} (V)	V _{OUT_FLY} (V)	V _{OUT} (V)	V _{OUT_FLY} (V)	V _{OUT} (V)	V _{OUT_FLY} (V)
90	20	150	24	508	30	520
115	22	164	24	504	40	520
230	22	200	24	512	30	524
265	26	212	24	508	32	536

Waveforms of the two voltages (V_{OUT} and V_{OUT} FLY) are reported in *Figure 12* and *13*.

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Figure 12. Output voltage ripple 115 $V_{IN AC}$ full load





In the V_{OUT_FLY} (CH1) waveform shown in the previous figures we see a high frequency oscillation. This oscillation is due to a parasitic inductance (ESL) present in series with the flyback output capacitor. This parasitic inductance is partially the parasitic inductance of the capacitor itself and partially is due to the printed circuit wires.

A lower frequency ripple is present when the device is working in burst mode. In this mode of operation the converter does not supply continuous power to its output. It alternates a period when the power MOSFET is kept off and no power is processed by the converter and a period when the power MOSFET is switching and power flows towards the converter output. Even if no load is present at the output of the converter, during non-switching periods the output capacitors are discharged by their leakage currents and by the currents needed to supply the part of the feedback loop present at the secondary side. During the switching period the output capacitance is recharged. *Figure 14* and *15* indicate the output voltage

and the feedback voltage when the converter is not loaded. In *Figure 14* the converter is supplied with 115 V_{AC} and with 230 V_{AC} in *Figure 15*.





Figure 15. Output voltage ripple 230 V_{IN_AC} no load (burst mode)



Table 6 shows the measured value of the burst mode frequency ripple measured at different operating conditions. The measured ripple in burst mode operation is very low and always below 25 mV.



V _{IN}	No load (mV)	10 mA load (mV)	25 mA load (mV)			
90	6.02	8.96	10.6			
115	6.63	9.68	10.4			
230	7.58	11.0	13.3			
265	7.35	11.8	13.6			

 Table 6.
 Burst mode related output voltage ripple

3.1 Efficiency

The converter's efficiency is measured under different loads and input voltage operating conditions. This efficiency was measured at full load and with 75%, 50%, and 25% with respect to the full load condition for different input voltages applied. The results are given in *Table 7*.

	Efficiency (%)						
	Full load (0.5 A)	75% load (0.375 A)	50% load (250 mA)	25% load (125 mA)			
90	76.92	79.62	80.76	80.32			
110	79.33	80.89	81.19	79.48			
115	79.75	81.03	81.19	79.48			
120	80.17	81.03	81.19	79.48			
132	80.70	81.18	80.98	78.66			
175	80.91	80.60	79.71	75.17			
220	79.64	79.48	77.28	71.98			
230	79.33	78.93	76.50	71.31			
240	79.02	78.39	74.99	70.65			
265	78.11	77.33	72.93	69.05			

Table 7.Efficiency

These results were plotted in the following diagrams. In *Figure 16* the efficiency versus V_{IN} for four different load values was plotted. In *Figure 17* the value of the efficiency versus load for four different input voltages was plotted.





The converter's active mode efficiency is defined as the average of the efficiencies measured in different load conditions. These different load conditions are the 25%, 50% and 75% of maximum load and the maximum load itself. *Table 8* gives the active mode efficiency calculated from the measured value in *Table 7*. For clarity the values in *Table 8* are plotted in *Figure 18*. In *Figure 19* the averaged (average was done considering the efficiency at different input voltages) values of the efficiency versus load are shown.

Active mode efficiency				
V _{INAC}	Efficiency			
90	79.41			
110	80.22			
115	80.36			
120	80.47			
132	80.38			

Table 8.Active mode efficiencies

Active mode efficiency		
V _{INAC}	Efficiency	
175	79.10	
220	77.10	
230	76.52	
240	75.76	
265	74.35	

 Table 8.
 Active mode efficiencies (continued)

Figure 18. Active mode efficiency vs. V_{IN}

Table 9.	Line voltage averaged efficiency vs.	load
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Load (% of full load)	Efficiency
100	79.39
75	79.85
50	78.67
25	75.56

Figure 19. V_{IN} Average efficiency vs. load

In order to be compliant with ENERGY STAR[®] recommendations regarding the efficiency in active mode (recommendation is given in table below) the active mode efficiency has to be higher than 65.13% (use *Equation 1* considering 6 W as nameplate output power) at the nominal input voltages (115 V_{AC} and 230 V_{AC} in our case).

Nameplate output power (Pno)	Minimum average efficiency in active mode (expressed as a decimal)
$0 \text{ to} \le 1 \text{ W}$	≥ 0.49 * Pno
> 1 to ≤ 49 W	\geq [0.09 * In (P _{no})] + 0.49
> 49 W	≥ 0.84

Table 10. E		recommended active mode efficiency vs.	Pno	, [<mark>1</mark>	[]
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For all the considered input voltages the efficiencyresults (see *Table 8*) are higher than the recommended value.

3.2 Light-load performance

The majority of consumer electronic manufacturers want to be compliant with the standby mode recommendations and the device helps to achieve compliance. If the feedback pin voltage falls below 450 mV (typ.), the MOSFET is kept off and it restarts switching when the feedback pin voltage value exceeds 500 mV (typ.). The resulting behavior is an intermittent working (burst mode) of the device. When the MOSFET is switching, the power delivered is higher than necessary but it compensates the missing power during the periods where the MOSFET is not switching. Thanks to this burst mode operation, the average switching frequency is strongly reduced and consequently the switching losses, which are the majority of the losses when the system is not loaded or very lightly loaded, are minimized and the very low power consumption of the VIPer17 itself further reduces the average power that the system has to process. The input power of the converter was measured in no-load condition for different inputs.

Vin AC (VRMS)	Pin (mW)
90	53
115	57
230	88
265	100

	Table 11.	No-load	input	power
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3.3 Soft-start

When the converter starts to operate, the output capacitor is totally discharged and it needs some time to reach the nominal output power as well as the steady state condition. During this time the power demand from the control loop is the maximum while the reflected voltage is low. These two conditions could lead to a deep continuous operating mode of the converter. When the MOSFET is switched on, it cannot be switched off immediately as the minimum on time (t_{on}) has to be elapsed. Even if VIPer17 has a very low minimum t_{on} , because of the deep continuous working mode of the converter, during this minimum t_{on} , an excess of drain current is possible which can overstress the component of the converter as well as the device itself, the output diode, and the transformer. Transformer saturation is also possible under these conditions.

To avoid all the described negative effects possible during the startup phase VIPer17 has on board a soft-start feature. As the device starts to work, even if the control loop asks for the maximum power (maximum drain current), the drain current is allowed to increase from zero to the maximum value gradually.

The drain current limit is incremented in steps, and the values range from 0 to the fixed drain current limitation value (value that can be adjusted through an external resistor) which is divided in 16 steps. Each step length is 64 switching cycles. The total length of the soft-start phase is about 8.5 ms. *Figure 20* shows the soft-start phase of the presented converter when it is operating at minimum line voltage and maximum load.

Figure 20. Soft-start feature waveforms

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3.4 Overload protection

If the load power demand increases, the output voltage decreases and consequently the feedback loop reacts, increasing the voltage on the feedback pin.

The feedback pin voltage increase leads to the PWM current set point increase, with the rise of the power delivered to the output. This process ends when the delivered power equals the load power request.

If the load power demand exceeds the converter power capability (that can be adjusted using R_{LIM}), the voltage on the feedback pin continuously rises, but the drain current is limited to the fixed current limitation value.

When the feedback pin voltage exceeds V_{FB_lin} (3.3 V typ), VIPer17 assumes it to be a warning status of an output overload condition. Before stopping the system, the device waits for a time fixed by the capacitor present on the feedback pin. When the voltage on the feedback pin exceeds V_{FB_lin} , an internal pull-up circuit is disconnected and the pin starts sourcing a 3 µA current that charges the capacitor connected to the feedback pin itself. As the feedback pin's voltage reaches the V_{FB_olp} threshold (4.8 V typ.), the power MOSFET stops switching and is not allowed to switch again until the V_{DD} voltage falls below V_{DD} RESTART (4.5 V typ.).

The following waveform shows the behavior of the converter when the output is shorted.

Figure 21. Output short-circuit

If the short-circuit is not removed, the system starts to work in auto-restart mode. The behavior when a short-circuit is permanently applied on the output is a short period of time where the MOSFET is switching and the converter tries to deliver to the output as much power as it can, and a longer period where the device is not switching and no power is processed.

If the duty cycle of power delivery is very low (around 2%), then the average power throughput is also very low.

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Figure 22. Operation with output shorted

3.5 Secondary winding short-circuit protection

The VIPer17 is provided with a first adjustable level of primary overcurrent limitation that switches off the power MOSFET if this level is exceeded. This limitation acts cycle by cycle and its main purpose is to limit the maximum deliverable output power. A second level of primary overcurrent protection is also present and in this case it is fixed to 600 mA (typical value). If the drain current exceeds this 2^{nd} OCP (second overcurrent protection) threshold, the device enters a warning state. If in the following cycle the drain current goes higher than the second level of overcurrent protection, a secondary winding short-circuit or a hard saturation of the transformer is assumed and the power MOSFET is no longer allowed to be switched on. In order to enable the power MOSFET to be switched on again, the V_{DD} voltage has to be recycled which means that V_{DD} has to go down up to V_{DD_RESTART}, then rise up to V_{DD_ON}. When the VIPer17 is switched on again (V_{DD} equals V_{DD_ON}), the MOSFET can restart to switch. If the cause of the primary overcurrent is permanently present, the device goes in auto-restart mode.

This protection was tested on the VIPer17 board. The secondary winding of the transformer was shorted in different operating conditions. The following *Figure 23* and *24* show the behavior of the system during these tests.

In *Figure 23* when the board is working in full load condition with an input voltage of 115 V_{AC} the secondary winding has been shorted. The short condition on the secondary winding leads to high drain current. After two switching cycles, the system stops and continuous running with high currents in the primary as well as in the secondary windings are avoided

Figure 24. Operating with secondary winding shorted

3.6 Output overvoltage protection

Monitoring the voltage across the auxiliary winding during the MOSFET off time, through the D2 diode and the resistor divider R3 and R14 (see *Figure 2*) connected to the CONT pin of the VIPer17, allows the implementation of the output overvoltage protection. If the voltage on CONT pin exceeds the V_{OVP} thresholds (3 V typ.) an overvoltage event is assumed and

the device is no longer allowed to switch. To re-enable operation the V_{DD} voltage has to be recycled. In order to provide high noise immunity and to avoid that the spikes erroneously trip the protection, a digital filter was implemented. The CONT pin has to sense a voltage higher of V_{OVP} for four consecutive cycles in a row before it stops operation.

The value of the output voltage when the protection has to be tripped can be fixed by properly selecting the resistor divider R2 and R14. With R2 selected and considering the maximum power that the converter has to manage, output R14 has to be selected according to the following formula.

Equation 2

$$R_{OVP(R14)} = \frac{R_{LIM(R2)}}{3V} \cdot \left(\frac{N_{AUX}}{N_{S}} \cdot V_{OUTQVP} - V_{dropDovp(D2)} - 3V\right)$$

The protection has to be tested by disconnecting the opto-coupler from the feedback pin and supplying the converter with a minimum load at its output. In this way the converter operates in open loop condition and delivers the maximum power it can to output . The excess of power with respect to the load charges the output capacitance, increasing the output voltage until the OVP is tripped and the converter stops working.

In *Figure 26* the output voltage increases as a consequence of the excess of power and the output voltage reaches the value of 16 V when the power MOSFET stops switching. In *Figure 27* the CONT pin voltage, the drain current, and the output voltage are shown in detail from when the converter is supplied up to when the overvoltage protection is tripped. The crest value of the CONT pin voltage tracks the output voltage. *Figure 27* shows the detail of the last switching cycles before the protection is tripped.

If this protection is not desired, it is possible to not implement it. Not mounting diode D2 and resistor R14 (see *Figure 2*) reduces the number of components.

3.7 Brownout protection

The brownout protection is basically an unlatched device shutdown functionality whose typical use is to sense a mains undervoltage. The VIPer17 has a pin (BR, pin 5) dedicated to this function that must be connected to the DC HV bus. If the protection is not required, it can be disabled by connecting the pin to ground. In the presented converter the brownout protection is implemented but can be disabled by changing the jumper J3 (see *Figure 2*) settings. The settings of the jumper J3 are shown in *Figure 28* and *29*. The converter's shutdown is accomplished by means of an internal comparator internally referenced to 450 mV (typ, VBRth) that disables the PWM if the voltage applied at BR pin is below the internal reference, as shown in *Figure 30*. PWM operation is re-enabled as the BR pin voltage is more than 450 mV plus 50 mV of voltage hysteresis that ensures noise immunity. The brownout comparator is also provided with current hysteresis. An internal 10 μ A current generator is ON as long as the voltage applied at the brownout pin is below 450 mV and is OFF if the voltage exceeds 450 mv plus the voltage hysteresis.

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Figure 28. Jumper J3 setting for brownout protection - brownout disabled

Figure 29. Jumper J3 setting for brownout protection - brownout enabled

When the brownout protection is enabled, through a partition divider R4, R2 (R_H in the block diagram of *Figure 30*) and R5 (R_L in *Figure 30*) in the schematic of *Figure 2*, the flyback input voltage is sensed and feeds to the brownout pin.

The converter shutdown can be accomplished by means of an internal comparator internally referenced to 450 mV (typ, V_{BRth}) that disables the PWM if the voltage applied at its externally available (non-inverting) input is below the internal reference, as shown in *Figure 30.* PWM operation is re-enabled as the voltage at the non-inverting input is more than 450 mV plus 50 mv of voltage hysteresis that ensure noise immunity. The brownout comparator is also provided with current hysteresis. An internal 10 µA current generator is ON as long as the voltage applied at the non-inverting input is below 450 mV and is OFF if the voltage exceeds 450 mv plus the voltage hysteresis.

The current hysteresis provides an additional degree of freedom. It is possible to set the ON threshold and the OFF threshold for the flyback input voltage separately by properly

choosing the resistors of the external divider. The following relationships can be established for the ON ($V_{IN ON}$) and OFF ($V_{IN OFF}$) thresholds of the input voltage:

Equation 3

$$V_{INOFF} = V_{BR} \cdot \left(\frac{R_{H} + R_{L}}{R_{L}}\right)$$

Equation 4

$$V_{I\underline{N}ON} = (V_{BR} + V_h) \cdot \left(\frac{R_H + R_L}{R_L}\right) + R_H \cdot I_H$$

where: $I_h=10 \ \mu A$ (typ.) is the current hysteresis, $V_h=50 \ mV$ (typ.) is the voltage hysteresis and $V_{BB}=450 \ mV$ (typ.) is the brownout comparator internal reference.

The following figures show how the brownout protection works in the VIPer17 board when used. *Figure 31* shows the behavior of the board when the input voltage is changed from 90 V_{AC} to 75 V_{AC} with full load applied. The system stops switching and the output load, no longer supplied, decays monotonically to zero.

Figure 32 shows in the same situation the behavior of the voltage on the V_{DD} pin of the VIPer17. After the device stops switching, the V_{DD} decays to the V_{DD_RESTART} value (4.5 V typ.), then the internal high voltage startup current source starts to charge the capacitor connected at that pin (C4 in the schematic) with a constant current. When the V_{DD} voltage reaches the V_{DD_ON} threshold, the VIPer17 is on, but it is not allowed to switch as the input voltage is below the correct value.

Figure 32. Operating with brownout protection activated

Figure 34. Restart after brownout

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3.8 EMI measurements

A pre-compliant test to EN55022 (Class B) European normative was also performed and the results are shown in the two figures below.

4 Conclusion

A general-purpose single-output flyback converter demonstration board using the new VIPer17 device was presented and the results show that very good efficiency can be obtained using this new device. The various protections that this new device has on board and the 800 V power section allow improving safety of the converter. Power consumption of the converter in no-load condition is very low and good efficiency is obtained even in light-load condition.

5 References

- 1. ENERGY STAR[®] program requirements for single voltage external AC-DC adapter (Version 1.1)
- 2. VIPer17 datasheets.

6 Revision history

Table 12. Document revision history

Date	Revision	Changes
12-Jun-2008	1	Initial release

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