Glossary of Common Terms

Adjustable Insertion Force – Adjustability in the force required to install the mating connector\PCB.
Adjustable Row Spacing – Adjustability in the distance between the pins located within the same position of an edgecard.
Back Up Springs - Contacts on an unused side of a connector that act as springs to maintain acceptable insertion/withdrawal forces.
Bi-Level - A connector containing two staggered levels of contacts, creating a double density connector.
Cantilever - A contact style where there is only one flex point.
Card Edge - A connector that acts as the mechanical interface between the mother and daughter cards, in a multi-board assembly.
Card Extender Termination - A termination style where the contacts straddle the motherboard on both sides.
Card Slot - The part of an edgecard connector that the daughter card is plugged into.
Connector - A device that is used to achieve electrical connections between other devices, such as circuit boards.
Contact - The pin enclosed in a connector that carries the electrical signal.
Contact Area - The area of the pin that makes contact with the mating connector\PCB.
Contact Center - The distance between contacts on a connector, as measured from center to center.
Contact Material - The base material of the contact, determining conductivity, flexibility, stress relaxation, and other characteristics.
Contact Point - The point of a contact that makes physical connection with the mating connector\PCB.
Cycle Rating - The number of times a daughter card can be inserted and withdrawn without failure of the edgecard.
Daughter Card - The circuit board that is plugged into the cardslot side of an edgecard connector.
Dip Solder Termination - A termination style where the contacts dip straight through the motherboard for easy soldering.
Dual Row - Containing two rows of pins.
Edgecard - A connector that acts as the mechanical interface between the mother and daughter cards, in a multi-board assembly.
Eyelet Contacts - A type of termination where the pin has a hole through it for the purpose of soldering a wire to the contact.
Full Loop Contacts - A contact type where the head of the contact loops around in a manner that the pin has three flexing points.
Hairpin Contacts - A contact type where the head has one loop over the top and comes down.
Half Load - Edgecard where only one row of pins are loaded. Typically used for one-sided daughter cards.
Header - A connector style that consists of one or two rows of contacts (male) or sockets (Female)
High Cycle - Withstanding a large number of mating cycles (usually 500 or more) without failure.
High Density - Having a small pin pitch, with contacts very close together (usually .050" or closer).
High Profile - Having a tall overall height (usually indicates .710")
High Temp – Withstanding continuous operating temperatures of 150°C or higher
Injection Molding - The method where molten plastic is pushed into a mold and cooled to form a solid connector housing.
Insertion Force - The amount of force (usually in ounces) it takes to insert a daughter card or mating connector into an edgecard.
Insulator - The plastic connector housing, which holds and insulates the contacts. Material depends on application requirements.
Lead Time - The length of time between when an order is placed to when it is shipped.

Glossary of Common Terms

Low Insertion Force - The force required to install the mating connector\PCB is lower than normal.
Low Profile – Having a low overall height (usually indicates .431").
Mold Tooling - The individual pieces of steel that make up the mold.
Mold - The complete steel tool that the molten plastic is injected into, to create the connector housing.
Molded Key - A plastic divider in the card slot. Commonly used to ensure the daughtercard can be installed in only one direction.
Mounting Styles - The various options to mount the connector to the PCB; also known as "mounting ears".
Nickel Under Plating - The first plating layer (nickel) protects from corrosion, contamination and improves gold plating adhesion.
Open Cardslot - A card slot with no walls at either end. Commonly used to accommodate PCBs with a long flat edge.
Part Marking - The application of ink to the edgecard to identify its part number and lot code.
PCB - Printed Circuit Board. A flat plastic or fiberglass board on which integrated circuits and other components are attached.
Plating - The coating applied over the base contact material that protects from corrosion and contamination.
Position - The number of "sets" of contacts in an edgecard connector.
Press Fit - A contact shape that provides an interference fit with the PCB, eliminating the need to solder the connection.
Private Label – Part marking with customer label instead of manufacturer label, under special permission.
Right Angle Termination – A termination style where the contacts are bent at a 90° angle.
Row Spacing - The distance between the contacts, located within the same position of an edgecard connector.
Seater - A piece of production tooling that is used to set the pins in their proper position during the assembly procedures.
Selective Plating - Plating the contact area or head of a contact with gold, and the tail section (soldered side) with tin.
Single Row – When two rows of contact tails are bent to form a single row, on the termination side of an edgecard connector.
Surface Mount – A termination style that allows the connector to be soldered to the PCB on it's surface, with no holes in the PCB.
Tail Length - The distance from the bottom of the insulator body (FB) or the insulator standoffs (FS) to the tips of the contact tails.
Termination - The shape of the contact on the tail side.
Tooling - The tools that are used to mold, assemble, or shape a connector.
Traceability – The ability to track an individual part from raw material all the way to the customer, or the other way around.
Wire Wrap Termination - A termination style where the tails are long and square, ideal for wrapping and soldering wire around.
Withdrawal Force - The amount of force that is required to remove a daughter card from the card slot of an edgecard connector.