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RF DEPT.

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SERVICE MEMO

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SUBJECT: Reverse Power Limit for 618B, 620A and 624C Output  
Attenuators

Since some customers are using 618B, 620A and/or 624C Signal Generators in applications where external power is fed back into the signal generator's output attenuator, we've run some tests to see how much reverse power can be handled safely.

It looks like 80 to 100 mw average power is a typical, yet conservative, figure. For pulsed signals, approximately 5 volts peak appears permissible as long as the average power figure isn't exceeded. Please bear in mind that these are not specs; the only valid specification is that the attenuator be able to withstand the maximum power developed within the signal generator.

If your customer suspects that his application is feeding higher power into the attenuator, he should be advised to insert additional isolation, such as a directional coupler, pads, or a ferrite isolation.

Dean Abramson/fd