

### Used / Recertified / Reconditioned / Recycled Tape – Is It Worth the Risk?

**Fujifilm high capacity data cartridges are consistently manufactured to the highest standards, certified, guaranteed, fully supported and backed by a Lifetime Warranty.**

Fujifilm always recommends against used/recertified media because the customer can never be assured of the quality, performance, and reliability in several key areas:

- **Recertified** - The equipment and procedures to fully certify and control the quality of tape performance are available only to licensed manufacturers. No one else has it – so used tape can't be "recertified" by third parties. Fujifilm does not recertify tape. Fujifilm only provides new/unused product to the marketplace.
- **Reconditioned** - A tape cartridge cannot be reconditioned. Once a tape is scratched, creased, edge damaged, degraded – it can't be restored to its original factory-new condition. Additionally, a recertifier's equipment and practices could damage the tape.
- **Storage Environment** - Tape must be properly stored and cared for in controlled environments. Used tapes may have been stored for extended periods under poor environmental controls. Tape media degradation and damage are all possibilities that will not be readily apparent to the end user.
- **Care and Handling** - Tape must be properly handled. Poor transportation and handling practices, (dropped tapes) could result in internal damage, poor tape pack, and tape edge damage.
- **Proper Tape Operating Environment During Prior Usage**
  1. Airborne contaminants or dust can get wound into the tape-pack and damage the tape.
  2. Excessive heat at the tape head interface can damage tape. This can be a result of drives that were running above maximum operating temperature *specification* due to integration inside units lacking sufficient ventilation. Or, a combination of ambient room temperature being too hot and the drive being inside a unit or rack with marginal allowance for thermal transfer (not enough cooling capability under higher ambient temperature conditions).
- **Drive Maintenance** – A previous user's improperly maintained or malfunctioning tape drive could have damaged the tape, or mechanical functionality of the cartridge.
- **Risk of Damage to Existing Drives and Tapes** - Many tapes share the same drives in a typical usage environment. Debris left behind by used tape that is scratched or otherwise physically damaged will certainly contaminate good tapes that follow on those same drives.
- **Blank Tape**- Used tape typically contains the previous user's proprietary data – possibly with a corrupted or an incompatible format. Today's high coercivity tapes require a very powerful and expensive degausser to be properly erased – not something many "recertifiers" of used tape are likely to invest in. And many formats, with magnetic servo tracks such as LTO Ultrium cannot be degaussed without also destroying the servo tracks required for read/write head positioning.
- **Tape Performance** – Many used tapes in the marketplace have some level of damage and exhibit high error rates, leading to poor data transfer rates, and backup/retrieval problems.
- **Reliability** – Recertified/Recycled tape is used tape in a used cartridge; any or all of the components – the tape, the cartridge shell and its internal components, may be severely degraded or physically damaged.
- **Tape Warranty** – used tape sellers may provide a warranty. But any problem tape will be replaced with another used tape. Used tape does not have the original manufacturer's lifetime warranty. (Note: Fujifilm Limited Lifetime warranty is non-transferrable, and only applicable to the original end-user purchaser of the tape.)

***The highest priority must always be to safeguard vital data.*** Used tape and its inherent risks should never be employed. Only new tape can assure the best possible performance, reliability, and lifetime warranty from the manufacturer.