

This bulletin provides an overview of Axon's five-year useful life recommendation for its TASER conducted electrical weapons (CEWs).

Despite their rather simple external appearance, TASER CEWs are complex electrical devices. A typical TASER X26 CEW is composed of hundreds of individual electronic components and several printed circuit boards and their associated interconnections. The internal components of a TASER CEW represent two unique electronic circuit types. The first and most obvious is the High Voltage Section. Its job is to convert a relatively low battery power into a complex precision-shaped high voltage, low current output. The high voltage section by nature is an electrical circuit that relies on electromagnetic components, transformers, high voltage coils, electrolytic, and polymer capacitors. The controller section, by contrast, is an infinitely more complex sub-circuit system consisting of multiple microprocessors responsible for keeping track of time, displaying information to the user, maintaining the accountability systems of the device, and controlling the output of the high voltage system.

As with other sophisticated electrical devices, TASER CEWs wear out over time. Indeed, the following chart shows the recommended useful life of several common consumer electronic products (Figure 1):

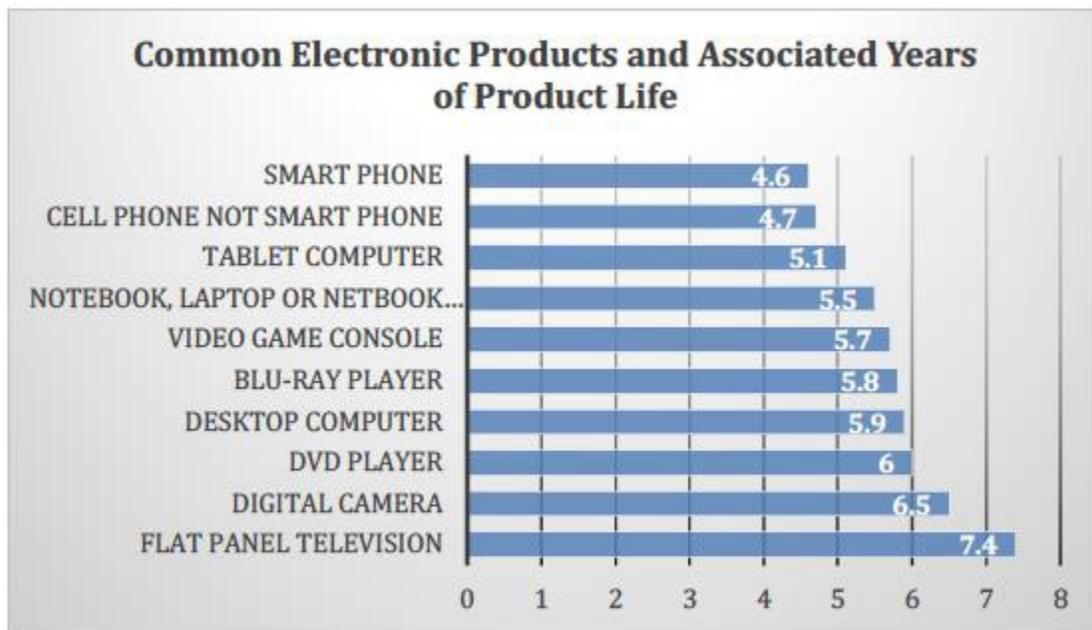


Figure 1

A fundamental difference between TASER CEWs and the consumer products listed above is that TASER CEWs are regularly exposed to far harsher conditions than most consumer products, including inclement weather (which can cause thermal shock and electrical overstress) as well as the constant physical stress associated with law enforcement work. It is for these reasons that Axon strongly discourages the use of TASER CEWs after five years of use. Further, while Axon will indefinitely defend TASER technology, the defense of outdated devices poses substantial challenges

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and the risk increases with time. It is for these same reasons that Axon will not service or repair weapons older than five years and does not provide its product liability insurance certificate to agencies fielding weapons of this age.

If you have any questions concerning this matter, please contact your Axon Regional Sales Manager or a Customer Support team member at 800-978-2737 or Training@axon.com.

