# EVM User's Guide: TPS62968EVM TPS62968 Step-Down Converter Evaluation Module

# TEXAS INSTRUMENTS

# Description

The TPS62968 evaluation module (EVM) (SR073) facilitates the evaluation of the TPS62968, TPS62966, and TPS62964. The SR142 uses the 8A TPS62968 to output a 0.6V output voltage from input voltages between 3V and 17V. Due to extremely low noise, the TPS62968 is a high-efficiency alternative to low-dropout (LDO) linear regulators in noise-sensitive circuits.

### Features

- Low output 1/f noise < 30µV<sub>RMS</sub> (100Hz to (100kHz)
- Low output voltage ripple < 10µV<sub>RMS</sub> after ferrite bead
- High PSRR of > 65dB (up to 100kHz)
- 1.1MHz, 700kHz, or 500kHz fixed frequency peak current mode control
- Synchronizable with external clock (optional)

- Integrated loop compensation supports ferrite bead for second stage L-C filter with 30dB attenuation
- · Spread spectrum modulation (optional)
- 3.0V to 17V input voltage range
- 0.6V to 5.5V output voltage range
- Output voltage accuracy of ±1% over temperature
- Precise enable input allows user-defined undervoltage lockout and exact sequencing
- Adjustable soft start
- Power-good output
- Output discharge (optional)
- · Fully assembled, tested, and proven PCB layout

### Applications

- Wireless infrastructure
- Test and measurement
- · Aerospace and defense (radar, avionics)
- Medical



TPS62968EVM



# **1 Evaluation Module Overview**

### **1.1 Introduction**

The TPS62968 is a low noise, low ripple, synchronous step-down converter in a small 2.5mm × 3mm QFN package. This user's guide describes the characteristics, operation, and the use of the TPS62968EVM evaluation module (EVM). This user's guide includes EVM specifications, connectors, schematics, bill of materials, and the board layout of the evaluation module (EVM) for the TPS62968.

### **1.2 Kit Contents**

- TPS62968EVM Circuit Board
- EVM Disclaimer Read Me

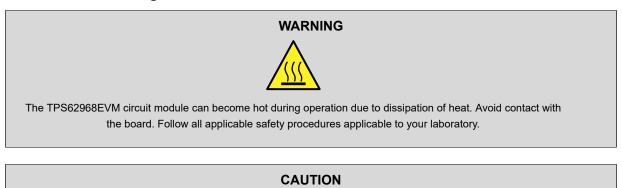
### **1.3 Specification**

TPS62968EVM primary function is to evaluate the TPS62968, TPS62966, and TPS62964 low noise, low ripple devices. Multiple test points enable monitoring of the various input and output signals for thorough performance evaluation. The EVM can be configured to synchronize to an external clock as well as configured for a bode injection signal.

### **1.4 Device Information**

The switching frequency of this EVM is set to 500kHz by default but can be easily adjusted to 700kHz, 1.1MHz, or to a synchronized clock. This evaluation module is provided with the TPS62968, however, the EVM also supports the TPS62966 and TPS62964. TPS62968, TPS62966, and TPS62964 are low-noise (<  $30\mu$ VRMS) and low-ripple (<  $10\mu$ VRMS) buck power modules in a small 2.5mm × 3mm QFN package.

### 1.5 Cautions and Warnings





Do not leave the EVM powered when unattended.

### WARNING

The circuit module has signal traces, components, and component leads on the bottom of the board. This can result in exposed voltages, hot surfaces, or sharp edges. Do not reach under the board during operation.

### CAUTION

The circuit module can be damaged by over temperature. To avoid damage, monitor the temperature during evaluation and provide cooling, as needed, for the system environment.



### CAUTION

Some power supplies can be damaged by application of external voltages. If using more than one power supply, then check the equipment requirements and use blocking diodes or other isolation techniques, as needed, to prevent damage to the equipment.

### CAUTION

The communication interface is not isolated on the EVM. Be sure no ground potential exists between the computer and the EVM. Also be aware that the computer is referenced to the battery-potential of the EVM.

# 2 Hardware

# 2.1 Setup

This section describes how to properly use the EVM.

### 2.1.1 Input and Output Connector Descriptions

JB1 – V <sub>IN</sub>	Positive input connection from the input supply for the EVM. Connect the input power supply between VIN and GND.
TP1/TP2- S+/ S-	Input voltage sense connection. Measure the input voltage at these test points.
JB2 – V <sub>OUT</sub> _FILT	Filtered output voltage connection. Connect any resistive or electronic load here.
TP4/TP5– S+/ S–	Filtered output voltage sense connections. Measure the output voltage at these test points.
TP6/TP7- S+/ S-	Output voltage sense connections. Measure the output voltage at these test points.
J3 – PG/GND	The PG output is on pin 1 of this header with a convenient ground on pin 2.
J1 – V <sub>OUT</sub> Ripple Measurement	Use this SMA connector to measure the output voltage ripple before the second LC filter.
J2 – V <sub>OUT</sub> _FILT Ripple Measurement	Use this SMA connector to measure the output voltage ripple after the second LC filter.
JP1 – EN/SYNC	EN/SYNC pin input jumper. Place the supplied jumper across ON and EN to turn on the IC. Place the jumper across OFF and EN to turn off the IC. Remove the jumper to set a configurable enable threshold voltage with R6 and R7.
	With the jumper removed, a clock signal can be applied on JP1 to synchronize the IC switching.
JP2 – S-CONF	S-CONF pin input jumper. Place the supplied jumper across 2.2MHz and S-CONF to operate the IC with a 2.2MHz switching frequency without spread spectrum or output discharge. Place the jumper across 1MHz and S-CONF to operate the IC with a 1MHz switching frequency without spread spectrum or output discharge. Remove the jumper to operate the IC with the S-CONF settings set by R4 and to allow clock synchronization.
	Note
	Set the JP2 jumper position before enabling the IC. Changing JP2 after enabling the IC has no effect.
	Note
	When using the 2.2MHz setting, make sure that the input voltage and output voltage do not violate the minimum on-time in the <i>TPS6296x 3V</i> to 17V, 4.5A/6A/8A, Low Noise and Low Ripple Buck Converter With Integrated Ferrite Bead Filter data sheet.
JP3 – PG Pullup Voltage	PG pin pullup voltage jumper. Place the supplied jumper on JP3 to connect the PG pin pullup resistor to $V_{OUT}$ . Alternatively, the jumper can be removed and a different voltage can be supplied on pin 2 to pull up the PG pin to a different level. This externally applied voltage must remain below 18V.





## **3 Implementation Results**

### 3.1 Test Results

The TPS62968EVM was used to take all the data in the TPS62968 data sheet. See the device data sheet for the performance of this EVM.

The thermal performance of the EVM is shown in the following figure.

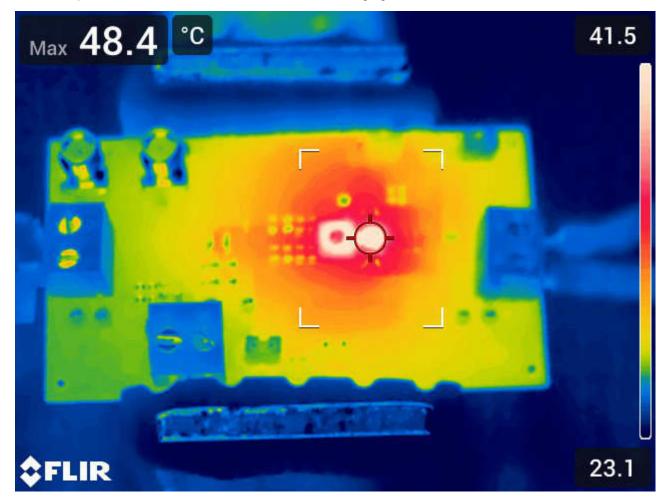


Figure 3-1. Thermal Performance ( $V_{IN}$  = 12V,  $V_{OUT}$  = 0.6V,  $I_{OUT}$  = 8A, JP2 700kHz)



### 3.2 Ripple Measurement Setup

The extremely low noise and low ripple levels of the TPS62968 necessitate a low-noise test setup for accurately measuring the output voltage ripple. Use the SMA connectors, J1 and J2, to measure the output voltage ripple, before and after the second LC filter. Do not use a normal 10x oscilloscope probe with a high-impedance termination to the oscilloscope. Instead, connect the SMA connector directly to the oscilloscope with a coaxial (coax) cable through a DC blocker. A DC blocker enables the use of the smallest V/div setting on the oscilloscope to view the ripple. To prevent noise pickup and block reflections on the coax cable, the oscilloscope must be set to full bandwidth (BW) and DC coupling with a  $50\Omega$  termination.

### 3.3 Modifications

The printed-circuit board (PCB) for this EVM is designed to accommodate some modifications by the user. Additional input and output capacitors can be added. Also, the input voltage at which the IC turns on can be adjusted with two resistors, the soft-start time, and low frequency noise filtering can be changed, a feedforward capacitor can be added, and the switching frequency, output discharge setting, and spread spectrum setting can be changed. Finally, the loop response can be measured. See the *TPS6296x 3V to 17V, 4.5A/6A/8A, Low Noise and Low Ripple Buck Converter With Integrated Ferrite Bead Filter* data sheet for details of the various settings.

### 3.3.1 Input and Output Capacitors

C5 is provided for an input bulk capacitor. C1 and C2 are the additional bulk input capacitors and C3 and C4 are the input high-frequency bypass capacitors.

C16 and C17 are provided for additional bulk output capacitors for the first stage LC filter. C20, C21 and C22 are provided for additional bulk output capacitors for the second stage LC filter. These capacitors are not required for proper operation but can be used to reduce the output voltage ripple. The total output capacitance must remain within the recommended range in the *TPS6296x 3V to 17V*, *4.5A/6A/8A*, *Low Noise and Low Ripple Buck Converter With Integrated Ferrite Bead Filter* data sheet for proper operation. C18 and C23 are provided for high-frequency bypass capacitors.

### 3.3.2 Configurable Enable Threshold Voltage

With JP1 removed, R6 and R7 can be installed to set a user-selectable input voltage at which the IC turns on.

#### 3.3.3 NR/SS Capacitor

C6 sets the soft-start time and the low frequency noise filtering. This capacitor can be changed to set other soft-start times and noise filtering levels.

#### 3.3.4 Feedforward Capacitor

C8 is provided as a feedforward capacitor ( $C_{FF}$ ). Installing this capacitor can reduce the low-frequency noise, especially for higher output voltages.

#### 3.3.5 S-CONF Resistor

R4 selects the switching frequency, spread spectrum, output discharge, and clock synchronization settings. This resistor can be changed and JP2 also selects different settings.



### 3.3.6 Loop Response Measurement

The loop response can be measured with simple changes to the circuitry. First, cut the short section of trace on the bottom layer between the pads of R5 resistor. Second, cut the trace on the bottom layer that connects to R8. These changes are shown in Figure 3-2. Third, install a  $49.9\Omega$  resistor across R5 pads on the back of the PCB and install a  $0\Omega$  resistor across R8 pads on the back of the PCB. The pads are spaced to allow installation of a 0603-sized resistors. Lastly, replace the ferrite bead (FB1) with a  $0\Omega$  resistor and remove any second LC stage output capacitors C19 to C23. The second LC filter must be removed to break the complete feedback loop and measure the loop response. With these changes, an AC signal (10mV, peak-to-peak amplitude recommended) can be injected into the control loop across the added  $49.9\Omega$  resistor.

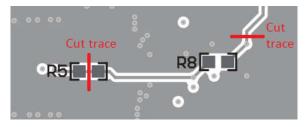


Figure 3-2. Loop Response Measurement Modification (Bottom Layer)

### 3.3.7 Single LC Filter Operation

For applications which do not require the lowest output voltage ripple, the TPS62968 can be operated without the second LC filter. To operate with a single LC filter, replace FB1 with a  $0\Omega$  resistor. The total output capacitance must remain within the recommended range in the *TPS6296x 3V to 17V, 4.5A/6A/8A, Low Noise and Low Ripple Buck Converter With Integrated Ferrite Bead Filter* data sheett for proper operation.

### 3.4 Performance Specification

A summary of the TPS62968EVM performance specifications is provided in the following table.

SPECIFICATION	TEST CONDITIONS	MIN	TYP	MAX	UNIT			
Input voltage		3	12	17	V			
Output voltage setpoint			0.6		V			
Output current		0		8	А			
S-CONF (R4) setting	700kHz, no spread spectrum, output discharge disabled		6.04		kΩ			

#### Table 3-1. TPS62968EVM Performance Specification Summary

# 4 Hardware Design Files

### 4.1 Schematic

The EVM schematic is illustrated in Figure 4-1.

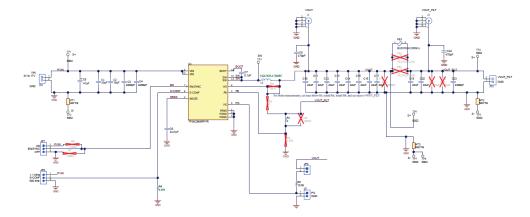


Figure 4-1. TPS62968EVM Schematic



# 4.2 PCB Layout

This section provides the EVM board layout and illustrations in Figure 4-2 through Figure 4-5. The Gerber files are available on the TPS62968EVM product page.

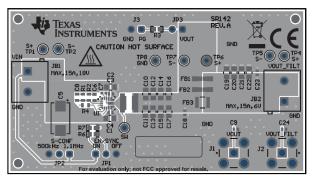


Figure 4-2. Top Layer

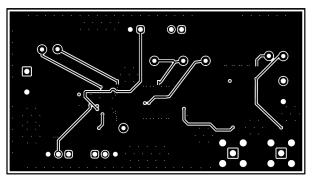


Figure 4-4. Internal Layer 2

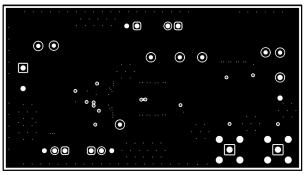


Figure 4-3. Internal Layer 1

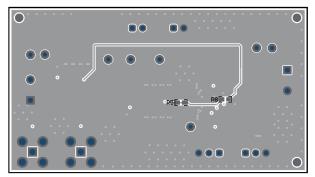


Figure 4-5. Bottom Layer (Mirrored)

### 4.3 Bill of Materials

The bill of materials for this EVM is listed in the following table.

Table 4-1. TPS62968EVM Bill of Materials							
Reference Designator	Value	Description	Package	Part Number	Manufacturer		
C1, C2	10µF	CAP, CERM, 10µF, 25V, +/- 10%, X7S	0805	C2012X7S1E106K125AC	TDK		
C3, C4, C23	2200pF	CAP, CERM, 2200pF, 50V, +/- 10%, X7R	0402	GRM155R71H222KA01D	MuRata		
C5	47µF	CAP, TA, 47μF, 35V, +/- 10%, 0.3Ω	7343-43	T495X476K035ATE300	Kemet		
C6	0.47µF	CAP, CERM, 0.47µF, 25V, +/- 10%, X7R	0603	C1608X7R1E474K080AE	TDK		
C7	0.1µF	CAP, CERM, 0.1µF, 50V, +/- 10%, X7R	0402	C1005X7R1H104K050BB	TDK		
C9, C24	470pF	CAP, CERM, 470pF, 50V, +/- 5%, C0G/NP0	0402	GRM1555C1H471JA01D	muRata		
C10, C11, C12, C13, C14, C15, C16, C17, C19, C20	22µF	CAP, CERM, 22uF, 10V, +/- 20%, X7S	0805	C2012X7S1A226M125AC	ток		
L1	0.47µH	470nH Shielded Molded Inductor 16A 4.3mOhm Max Nonstandard	SMT2	XGL5020-471MEC	Coilcraft		
FB3		Ferrite bead, 12Ω at 100MHz, 20A	1210	BLE32SN120SN1L	muRata		
R1	2.43kΩ	RES, 2.43kΩ, 1%, 0.1W	0603	Std	Std		
R2	4.87kΩ	RES, 4.87kΩ, 1%, 0.1W	0603	Std	Std		
R3	10.0kΩ	RES, 10.0kΩ, 1%, 0.1W	0603	Std	Std		
R4	6.04kΩ	RES, 6.04kΩ, 1%, 0.1W	0603	Std	Std		
U1	TPS62968 <sup>(1)</sup>	$3V$ to $17V,8A$ Low Noise $(30\mu V_{RMS})$ and Low Ripple $(200\mu V_{PP})$ buck module	2.5 × 3mm	TPS62968RPYR	Texas Instruments		

(1) The TPS62968EVM can be populated with TPS62968 (U1) devices that do not contain the correct top-side markings on the top of the device. These devices are still fully-tested TPS62968 devices.



# **5** Additional Information

### 5.1 Trademarks

All trademarks are the property of their respective owners.

#### STANDARD TERMS FOR EVALUATION MODULES

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  - 1.2 EVMs are not intended for consumer or household use. EVMs may not be sold, sublicensed, leased, rented, loaned, assigned, or otherwise distributed for commercial purposes by Users, in whole or in part, or used in any finished product or production system.
- 2 Limited Warranty and Related Remedies/Disclaimers:
  - 2.1 These terms do not apply to Software. The warranty, if any, for Software is covered in the applicable Software License Agreement.
  - 2.2 TI warrants that the TI EVM will conform to TI's published specifications for ninety (90) days after the date TI delivers such EVM to User. Notwithstanding the foregoing, TI shall not be liable for a nonconforming EVM if (a) the nonconformity was caused by neglect, misuse or mistreatment by an entity other than TI, including improper installation or testing, or for any EVMs that have been altered or modified in any way by an entity other than TI, (b) the nonconformity resulted from User's design, specifications or instructions for such EVMs or improper system design, or (c) User has not paid on time. Testing and other quality control techniques are used to the extent TI deems necessary. TI does not test all parameters of each EVM. User's claims against TI under this Section 2 are void if User fails to notify TI of any apparent defects in the EVMs within ten (10) business days after delivery, or of any hidden defects with ten (10) business days after the defect has been detected.
  - 2.3 TI's sole liability shall be at its option to repair or replace EVMs that fail to conform to the warranty set forth above, or credit User's account for such EVM. TI's liability under this warranty shall be limited to EVMs that are returned during the warranty period to the address designated by TI and that are determined by TI not to conform to such warranty. If TI elects to repair or replace such EVM, TI shall have a reasonable time to repair such EVM or provide replacements. Repaired EVMs shall be warranted for the remainder of the original warranty period. Replaced EVMs shall be warranted for a new full ninety (90) day warranty period.

# WARNING

Evaluation Kits are intended solely for use by technically qualified, professional electronics experts who are familiar with the dangers and application risks associated with handling electrical mechanical components, systems, and subsystems.

User shall operate the Evaluation Kit within TI's recommended guidelines and any applicable legal or environmental requirements as well as reasonable and customary safeguards. Failure to set up and/or operate the Evaluation Kit within TI's recommended guidelines may result in personal injury or death or property damage. Proper set up entails following TI's instructions for electrical ratings of interface circuits such as input, output and electrical loads.

NOTE:

EXPOSURE TO ELECTROSTATIC DISCHARGE (ESD) MAY CAUSE DEGREDATION OR FAILURE OF THE EVALUATION KIT; TI RECOMMENDS STORAGE OF THE EVALUATION KIT IN A PROTECTIVE ESD BAG.

3 Regulatory Notices:

3.1 United States

3.1.1 Notice applicable to EVMs not FCC-Approved:

**FCC NOTICE:** This kit is designed to allow product developers to evaluate electronic components, circuitry, or software associated with the kit to determine whether to incorporate such items in a finished product and software developers to write software applications for use with the end product. This kit is not a finished product and when assembled may not be resold or otherwise marketed unless all required FCC equipment authorizations are first obtained. Operation is subject to the condition that this product not cause harmful interference to licensed radio stations and that this product accept harmful interference. Unless the assembled kit is designed to operate under part 15, part 18 or part 95 of this chapter, the operator of the kit must operate under the authority of an FCC license holder or must secure an experimental authorization under part 5 of this chapter.

3.1.2 For EVMs annotated as FCC – FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION Part 15 Compliant:

#### CAUTION

This device complies with part 15 of the FCC Rules. Operation is subject to the following two conditions: (1) This device may not cause harmful interference, and (2) this device must accept any interference received, including interference that may cause undesired operation.

Changes or modifications not expressly approved by the party responsible for compliance could void the user's authority to operate the equipment.

#### FCC Interference Statement for Class A EVM devices

NOTE: This equipment has been tested and found to comply with the limits for a Class A digital device, pursuant to part 15 of the FCC Rules. These limits are designed to provide reasonable protection against harmful interference when the equipment is operated in a commercial environment. This equipment generates, uses, and can radiate radio frequency energy and, if not installed and used in accordance with the instruction manual, may cause harmful interference to radio communications. Operation of this equipment in a residential area is likely to cause harmful interference in which case the user will be required to correct the interference at his own expense.

#### FCC Interference Statement for Class B EVM devices

NOTE: This equipment has been tested and found to comply with the limits for a Class B digital device, pursuant to part 15 of the FCC Rules. These limits are designed to provide reasonable protection against harmful interference in a residential installation. This equipment generates, uses and can radiate radio frequency energy and, if not installed and used in accordance with the instructions, may cause harmful interference to radio communications. However, there is no guarantee that interference will not occur in a particular installation. If this equipment does cause harmful interference to radio or television reception, which can be determined by turning the equipment off and on, the user is encouraged to try to correct the interference by one or more of the following measures:

- Reorient or relocate the receiving antenna.
- Increase the separation between the equipment and receiver.
- Connect the equipment into an outlet on a circuit different from that to which the receiver is connected.
- Consult the dealer or an experienced radio/TV technician for help.
- 3.2 Canada

3.2.1 For EVMs issued with an Industry Canada Certificate of Conformance to RSS-210 or RSS-247

#### Concerning EVMs Including Radio Transmitters:

This device complies with Industry Canada license-exempt RSSs. Operation is subject to the following two conditions:

(1) this device may not cause interference, and (2) this device must accept any interference, including interference that may cause undesired operation of the device.

#### Concernant les EVMs avec appareils radio:

Le présent appareil est conforme aux CNR d'Industrie Canada applicables aux appareils radio exempts de licence. L'exploitation est autorisée aux deux conditions suivantes: (1) l'appareil ne doit pas produire de brouillage, et (2) l'utilisateur de l'appareil doit accepter tout brouillage radioélectrique subi, même si le brouillage est susceptible d'en compromettre le fonctionnement.

#### **Concerning EVMs Including Detachable Antennas:**

Under Industry Canada regulations, this radio transmitter may only operate using an antenna of a type and maximum (or lesser) gain approved for the transmitter by Industry Canada. To reduce potential radio interference to other users, the antenna type and its gain should be so chosen that the equivalent isotropically radiated power (e.i.r.p.) is not more than that necessary for successful communication. This radio transmitter has been approved by Industry Canada to operate with the antenna types listed in the user guide with the maximum permissible gain and required antenna impedance for each antenna type indicated. Antenna types not included in this list, having a gain greater than the maximum gain indicated for that type, are strictly prohibited for use with this device.

#### Concernant les EVMs avec antennes détachables

Conformément à la réglementation d'Industrie Canada, le présent émetteur radio peut fonctionner avec une antenne d'un type et d'un gain maximal (ou inférieur) approuvé pour l'émetteur par Industrie Canada. Dans le but de réduire les risques de brouillage radioélectrique à l'intention des autres utilisateurs, il faut choisir le type d'antenne et son gain de sorte que la puissance isotrope rayonnée équivalente (p.i.r.e.) ne dépasse pas l'intensité nécessaire à l'établissement d'une communication satisfaisante. Le présent émetteur radio a été approuvé par Industrie Canada pour fonctionner avec les types d'antenne énumérés dans le manuel d'usage et ayant un gain admissible maximal et l'impédance requise pour chaque type d'antenne. Les types d'antenne non inclus dans cette liste, ou dont le gain est supérieur au gain maximal indiqué, sont strictement interdits pour l'exploitation de l'émetteur

- 3.3 Japan
  - 3.3.1 Notice for EVMs delivered in Japan: Please see http://www.tij.co.jp/lsds/ti\_ja/general/eStore/notice\_01.page 日本国内に 輸入される評価用キット、ボードについては、次のところをご覧ください。

https://www.ti.com/ja-jp/legal/notice-for-evaluation-kits-delivered-in-japan.html

3.3.2 Notice for Users of EVMs Considered "Radio Frequency Products" in Japan: EVMs entering Japan may not be certified by TI as conforming to Technical Regulations of Radio Law of Japan.

If User uses EVMs in Japan, not certified to Technical Regulations of Radio Law of Japan, User is required to follow the instructions set forth by Radio Law of Japan, which includes, but is not limited to, the instructions below with respect to EVMs (which for the avoidance of doubt are stated strictly for convenience and should be verified by User):

- 1. Use EVMs in a shielded room or any other test facility as defined in the notification #173 issued by Ministry of Internal Affairs and Communications on March 28, 2006, based on Sub-section 1.1 of Article 6 of the Ministry's Rule for Enforcement of Radio Law of Japan,
- 2. Use EVMs only after User obtains the license of Test Radio Station as provided in Radio Law of Japan with respect to EVMs, or
- 3. Use of EVMs only after User obtains the Technical Regulations Conformity Certification as provided in Radio Law of Japan with respect to EVMs. Also, do not transfer EVMs, unless User gives the same notice above to the transferee. Please note that if User does not follow the instructions above, User will be subject to penalties of Radio Law of Japan.

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- 3.3.3 Notice for EVMs for Power Line Communication: Please see http://www.tij.co.jp/lsds/ti\_ja/general/eStore/notice\_02.page 電力線搬送波通信についての開発キットをお使いになる際の注意事項については、次のところをご覧くださ い。https://www.ti.com/ja-jp/legal/notice-for-evaluation-kits-for-power-line-communication.html
- 3.4 European Union
  - 3.4.1 For EVMs subject to EU Directive 2014/30/EU (Electromagnetic Compatibility Directive):

This is a class A product intended for use in environments other than domestic environments that are connected to a low-voltage power-supply network that supplies buildings used for domestic purposes. In a domestic environment this product may cause radio interference in which case the user may be required to take adequate measures.

#### 4 EVM Use Restrictions and Warnings:

- 4.1 EVMS ARE NOT FOR USE IN FUNCTIONAL SAFETY AND/OR SAFETY CRITICAL EVALUATIONS, INCLUDING BUT NOT LIMITED TO EVALUATIONS OF LIFE SUPPORT APPLICATIONS.
- 4.2 User must read and apply the user guide and other available documentation provided by TI regarding the EVM prior to handling or using the EVM, including without limitation any warning or restriction notices. The notices contain important safety information related to, for example, temperatures and voltages.
- 4.3 Safety-Related Warnings and Restrictions:
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