



# Electric Motor Testing Tip of the Week

revolutionizing *electrical* reliability

**September 10, 2007**

## The Seven-step Process for Basic Electrical Troubleshooting

Step one of the seven-step troubleshooting approach is *Gathering Information*. This is a logical first step in any troubleshooting endeavor. The saying “look before you leap” always holds true.

Therefore, ask yourself about or perform the following:

- What technical documentation about the equipment is available?
- How exactly is the equipment supposed to operate?
- Are there any previous lessons learned?
- Review any material history that exists for the equipment.
- Identify similar equipment to which you can compare the malfunctioning equipment. This can be especially helpful if there is limited technical data available for the equipment that is malfunctioning.

To read more about this step and see it applied to a boiler feed pump example, read the Basic Electrical Troubleshooting document at <http://www.pdma.com/pdfs/Articles/Troubleshooting.pdf>.

Over the next six weeks we are going to detail each step and provide examples of each. Next week's topic will be *Understanding the Malfunction*.

---

You are invited to submit an Electric Motor Testing Tip of your own and receive a free PdMA mug or hat if we publish it! Contact Lou at 813-621-6463 ext. 126 or [lou@pdma.com](mailto:lou@pdma.com).