



Tip Of The Week

September 28, 2009

Testing Variable Frequency Drives

The MCEMAX is often used to test motors powered by a variable frequency drive (VFD), and provides analysis data on both the motor and drive. PdMA suggests testing the Load and the Line side of the drive, but remember many of the power quality standards do not apply on the load side of the VFD. Additionally, since the VFD is not a motor, the default alarm settings in the MCEGold software, such as Total Harmonic Distortion (THD) and voltage amplitude, will need to be adjusted. Once you have acquired a healthy motor and drive baseline go back to the warning settings selection and adjust your alarms accordingly. For more information on adjusting warning alarms for variable frequency drive applications go to <http://www.pdma.com/pdfs/app-notes/0301-VFD.pdf>

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.

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