



Electric Motor Testing Tip of the Week

revolutionizing *electrical* reliability

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Using the In-Rush/Start-Up Test for Special Start Applications

The In-Rush/Start-Up test was designed to look at the in-rush and decay of current during a direct start. But what about variable frequency drives (VFD's) and soft start units? Well, the answer lies once again on the same test. Although the exponential in-rush current does not exist on a circuit under such applications, there is a repeatable pattern that can be analyzed. Both VFD's and soft starts are designed to start a motor in a specific way. Two examples are Step-Starts or Ramps. Either one should be smooth and repeatable every time the unit starts. Changes on a start profile, or the presence of an in-rush peak can be evidence of a unit out of adjustment, or a faulty unit.

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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