



A Leader in Electric Motor Testing

Tip Of The Week

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The Five Whys of Motor Failure

The five whys refers to the practice of asking five times why a motor failure occurred in order to get closer to the root cause of the problem. Failure to determine the root cause can result in treating the symptoms of the problem instead of its cause, in which case you will continue to have the same problems over and over again.

- Why did the motor fail? It shorted to ground.
- Why did it short to ground? The ground wall insulation failed.
- Why did the ground wall insulation fail? The insulation overheated.
- Why did the insulation overheat? Excessive ambient temperature.
- Why was the ambient temperature so high? The cooling fan motor was not operating correctly.

Just replacing the motor would not solve the cooling fan problem and the new motor would be in the same high risk environment.

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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