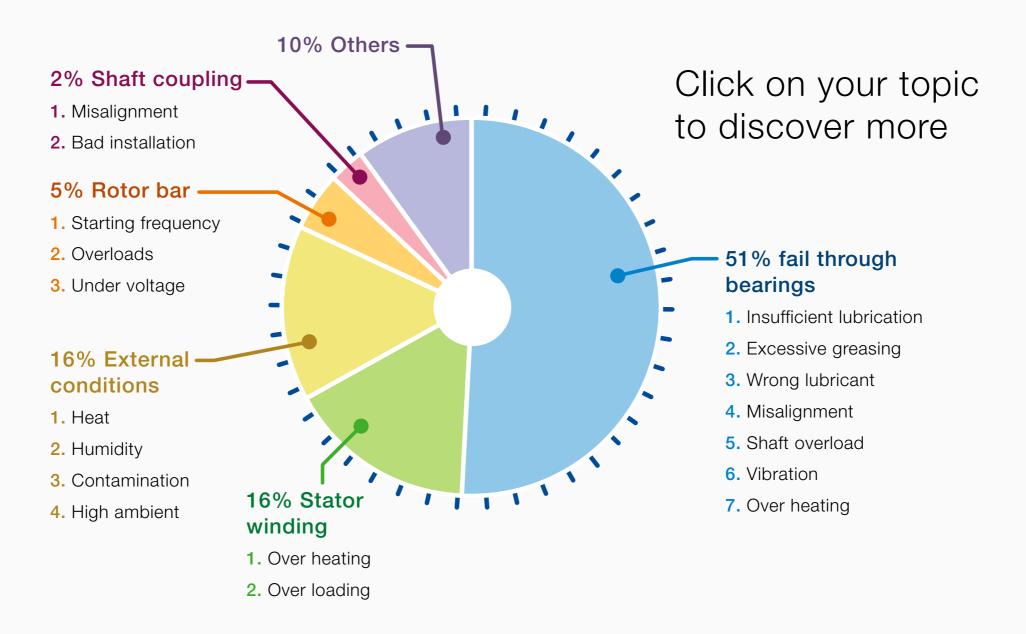


Motors don't just fail...do they? A guide to preventing failure

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# Why motors fail Contents





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# Bearing failure The facts

Motors don't fail just because of age or operating hours...

510/offailures are bearing related\*

\*Based on IEA data









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# Reasons why 51% of motors fail through bearings

#### 1. Insufficient lubrication

Re-greasable bearings need regular maintenance...

...don't fit and forget...for example...



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#### **Technical**

#### 1. Insufficient lubrication

Refer to the manufacturer operation and maintenance manual for specific re-lubrication intervals for your motor.



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## **Tips**

#### 1. Insufficient lubrication

Look for this plate on your motor...
...it gives you the detail you need to re-grease your motor bearings.

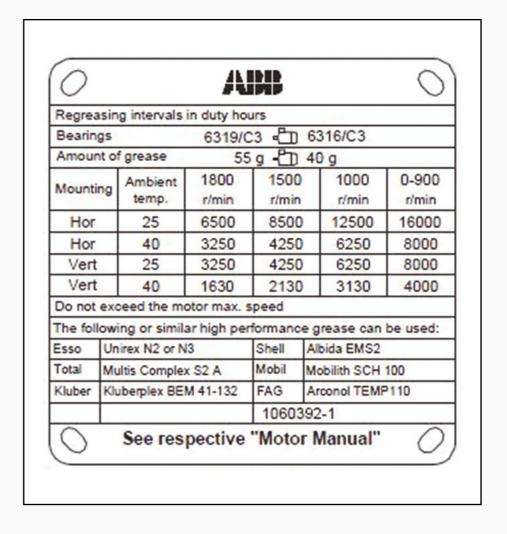








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#### 1. Insufficient lubrication

Do I have to re-grease sealed for life bearings?

No, these bearings are permanently greased (sealed for life) and can not be re-greased



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# Reasons why 51% of motors fail through bearings

## 2. Excessive greasing

Yes this can overheat bearings and lead to failure.

Ensure grease relief valves are open during the re-greasing process to allow excess grease to purge from the bearing housing.



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## **Tips**

#### 2. Excessive greasing

A bearing lip seal will typically fail at 500 psi, yet grease guns can produce up to 1500 psi

Add each shot of grease slowly to avoid pressure build-up



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## 2. Excessive greasing

What is the best way to control over-greasing?

- 1. Always make sure relief valves are cleaned out of any dirt or hardened grease
- 2. Remove grease outlet plug or open outlet valve where fitted
- 3. Slowly pump grease into the bearings every few seconds (avoid quick-lever actions as pressure will build and damage seals)
- 4. Discontinue greasing if any abnormal back pressure is felt



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## Reasons why

## 51% of motors fail through bearings

## 3. Wrong lubricant

Check that you are using the right grade or type of grease.

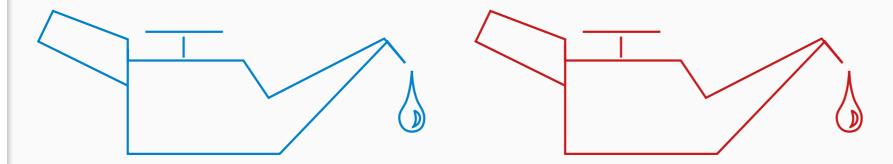




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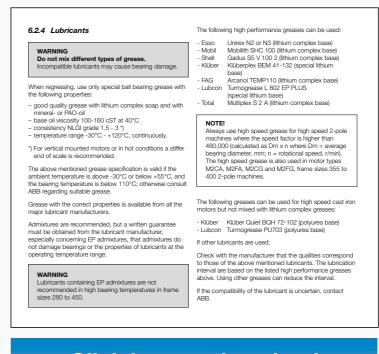
#### **Technical**

## 3. Wrong lubricant

When re-greasing, use only special ball bearing grease with the following properties:

- Good quality grease with lithium complex soap and with mineral or PAO-oil
- Base oil viscosity 100-160 cST at 40°C
- Consistency NLGI grade 1.5 3
- Temperature range -30°C +120°C, continuously.

Refer to the lubricants section of your motor operations manual.



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## **Tips**

# 3. Wrong lubricant

Do not mix different types of grease.

Incompatible lubricants may cause bearing damage.



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## 3. Wrong lubricant

Are there any specific greases I need to use in specific applications?

Yes, there are specific greases you need to use for say high temperature or hygienic applications....
...refer to the lubricants section of your motor operation manual.



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# Reasons why 51% of motors fail through bearings

## 4. Misalignment

It's essential that the motor and load be correctly aligned under actual operating temperatures and conditions. Machines that are correctly aligned at room temperature may become badly misaligned due to deformation or different thermal growth associated with temperature change. The alignment must be checked, and corrected, if necessary, after the motor and driven machine have reached their maximum temperature under load.

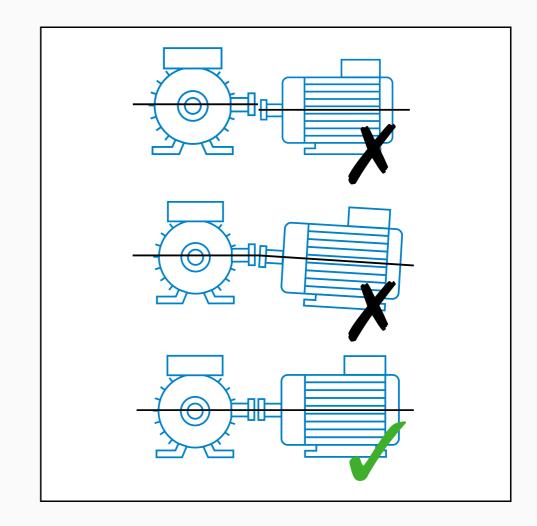








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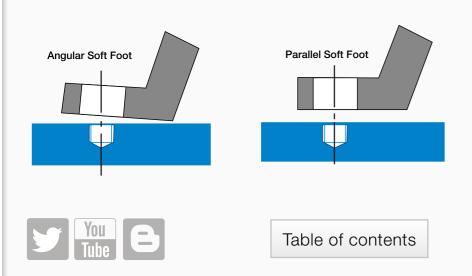
#### **Technical**

## 4. Misalignment

Soft foot is one of the main causes of misalignment.

The 2 types of Soft Foot are:

- Angular Soft Foot
- Parallel Soft Foot



Common Causes of Soft Foot:

- Bent or deformed shim
- Bolt hole with a burr
- Bent motor foot
- Deformed machine base

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## **Tips**

# 4. Misalignment

When torqueing the holdingbolts of your motor, use a cross-torque pattern to ensure an even secure fit.

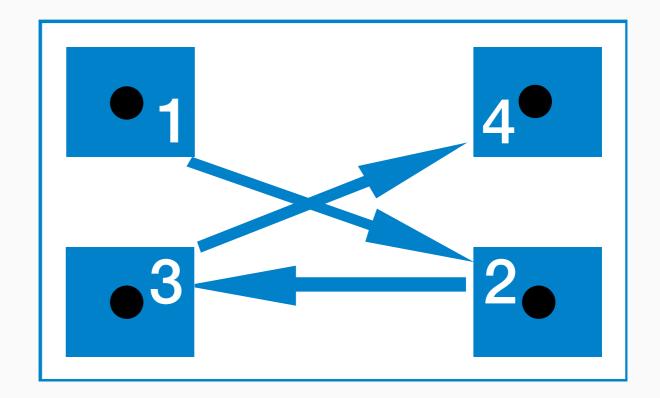




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## 4. Misalignment

How often should I check the alignment of a motor?

ABB technicians recommend a motor should be checked approximately every 2,000 hours.

Both operating and non-operating alignment should be checked.



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# Reasons why 51% of motors fail through bearings

#### 5. Shaft overload

Excessive loading through the shaft of your motor may cause failure.

Belt driven pulleys often put high load directly onto the shaft bearing.

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# Technical<br/>5. Shaft overload

#### **Pulley diameter**

When the desired bearing life has been determined, the minimum permissible pulley diameter can be calculated with FR as follows:

$$D = \frac{1.9 \cdot 10^7 \cdot K \cdot P}{n \cdot F_0}$$

#### Where:

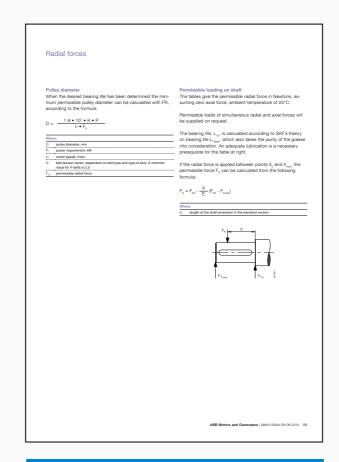
D: pulley diameter, mm

P: power requirement, kW

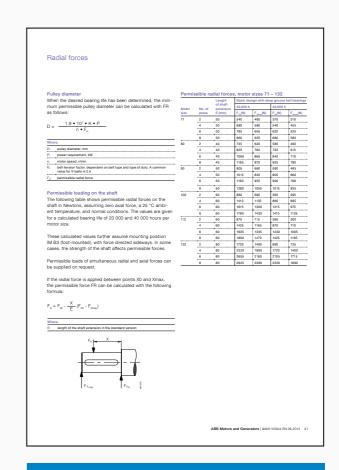
: motor speed, r/min.

K: belt tension factor, dependent on belt type and type of duty. A common value for V-belts is 2.5

Fa: permissible radial force



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# **Tips**

#### 5. Shaft overload

For motors in frame sizes 160 and above, on belt driven applications fit roller bearings.



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#### 5. Shaft overload

How do I tell if an existing motor is suffering from shaft overload?

Rapid wear of belts is a simple visual sign of an overloaded shaft.

Check how often your belts are bottoming out - if it is happening a lot - shaft overload could be the cause.

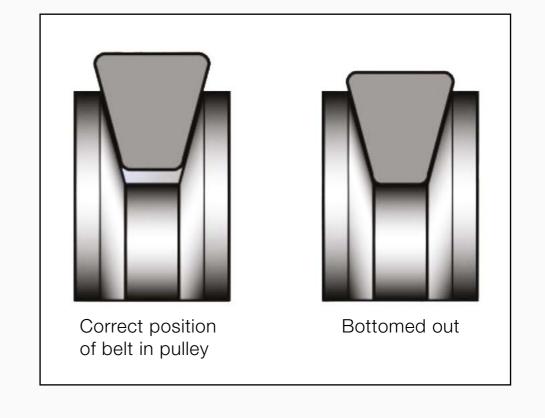








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# Reasons why 51% of motors fail through bearings

#### 6. Vibration

Excessive vibration can also lead to premature bearing failure.

Check motor mounting bolts are secure as vibration may cause them to become loose during operation.



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# Technical 6. Vibration

Motor vibration causes can be:

- Electromagnetic
- Mechanical imbalance
- Rubbing parts
- Bearing failure
- Resonance

Measure vibration on all 3 planes:

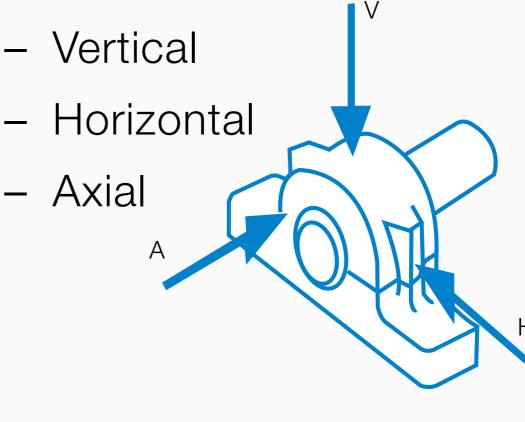




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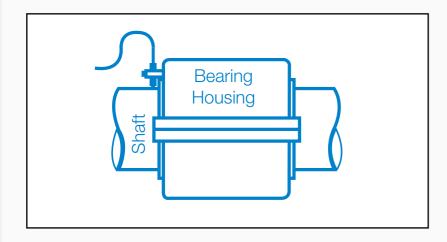


# **Tips**

#### 6. Vibration

Vibration causes are often in one of two areas:

- Shaft vibration
- Housing vibration



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Check vibrations with a combination of:

- Magnetic accelerometers (ensure they are mounted correctly)
- Proximity probes
   (commonly known as Eddy probes)

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# 6. Vibration

How do I tell if the vibration on my motor is normal?

Stringent specifications for Motor vibration call for:

- A maximum velocity level of 0.1 in./sec on the housing
- 1.5 mm of displacement vibration on the shaft

Refer to the Vibration Severity tolerances set out by ISO 10816 for guidance.

VIBRATION SERVERITY PER ISO 10816						
Machine			Class I	Class II	Class III	Class IV
	in/s	mm/s	small machines	medium machines	large rigid foundation	large soft foundation
Vibration Velocity Vrms	0.01	0.28				
	0.02	0.45				
	0.03	0.71		go	od	
	0.04	1.12				
	0.07	1.80				
	0.11	2.80		satisf	actory	
	0.18	4.50				
	0.28	7.10		unsatis	factory	
	0.44	11.2				
	0.70	18.0				
	0.71	28.0		unacce	eptable	
	1.10	45.0				

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# Reasons why 51% of motors fail through bearings

## 7. Over-heating

Make sure your motor is designed to cope with the heat it is subjected to...

Bearings have different clearances to allow for thermal expansion in operation.



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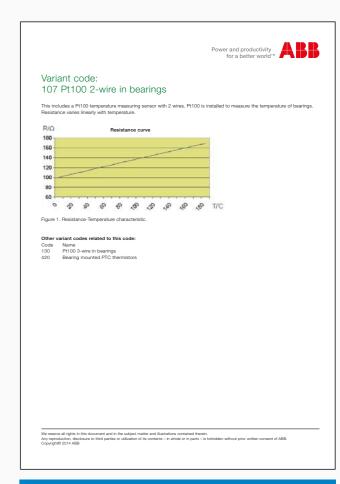
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# Technical<br/>7. Over-heating

Keep an eye on your bearing temperature... and ensure you use the correct grease for high temperature applications. See the ABB guides...





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## **Tips**

## 7. Over-heating

For every 15°C cooler you typically double the re-greasing interval / bearing life!

Keeping the motor operating environment as cool as possible will greatly increase motor life.



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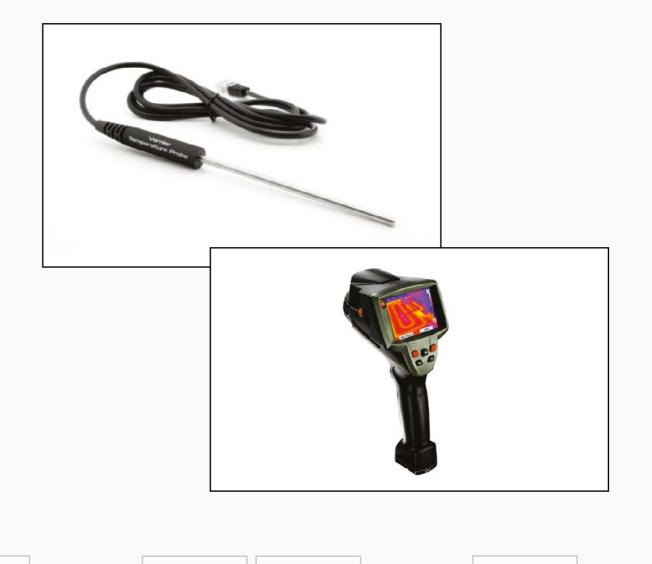


## 7. Over-heating

How do I tell if the motor bearings are overheating?

Use a temperature probe or thermal imaging camera to test bearing temperature.

Make sure the readings are within the tolerances of the installed bearing.









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# Stator winding failure The facts

# 16% of motor failures are stator winding related\*

\*Based on IEA data



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## Reasons why

## 16% of motors fail due to stator winding failure

## 1. Over-heating...

The cooler the motor operates, the longer its expected life...

A 10°C reduction in operating temperature typically doubles the motors lifetime.



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#### **Technical**

## 1. Over-heating

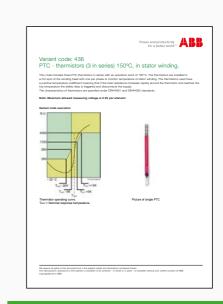
# Excessive starts are a major cause of over-heating.

During start-up a motor typically sees between 6 to 8 times its rated current.

This increases the thermal status of the motor, increases thermal stress on the windings and can cause failure.

PTC Thermistors are a common protection method to protect against over-heating.

Thermistors have a positive temperature coefficient meaning that the resistance is increasing rapidly around the trip temperature. Connected to a thermistor relay this will trip preventing over-heating. Normal operating conditions will not cause this to happen.



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#### 1. Over-heating

How do I tell if the windings on a motor are under thermal stress?

Look for darkened areas on the motor windings – these marks are signs of over-heating.









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## Reasons why

## 16% of motors fail due to stator winding failure

## 2. Over-loading

Motor windings can fail due to over-loading at the motor shaft which causes excessive heat build-up and failure.

Fit thermal thermistor protection to guard against failure.



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# Technical Over-loading

A thermal overload relay is a common protection method used to protect against over-load. It is a bimetallic strip that bends when over-loaded due to heat build up.

Normal operating currents will not cause this to happen.



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#### 2. Over-loading

Connect thermistors to a thermistor relay in the motor control package and set the current overload limits to the rating plate FLC.

Follow manufacturer manuals for correct installation and limits for your motor.







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### External conditions failure The facts

# 16% of motor failures are due to external factors\*

\*Based on IEA data



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### Reasons why 16% of motor failures are due to external conditions

#### 1. Motor operating temperature

The industry standard for LV motor insulation systems is class F, with a limit on temperature rise of class B.

Other insulation systems offering higher levels of protection are available. Ask your ABB contact or ABB authorized value provider.



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#### 1. Motor operating temperature

Ensure that the cooling systems of the motor are suitably maintained.

Broken fans, clogged vents and blocked or damaged cooling fins can cause excessive heat build-up.

Check motor cooling regularly.



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### Reasons why 16% of motor failures are due to external conditions

#### 2. Humidity & Environment

Electricity and water are a bad mix; high humidity can allow moisture to enter the motor and cause damage and corrosion.



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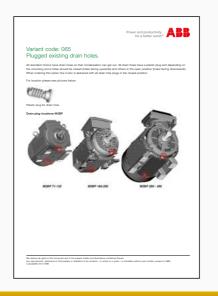
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#### **Technical** 2. Humidity & Environment

This can be combatted by.....

- Opening drain hole plugs
- Fitting anti condensation heaters
- Utilizing addition corrosion protection
- Enhanced paint systems

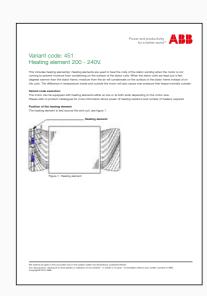




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#### 2. Humidity & Environment

Where motors are operating in harsh outdoor conditions, consider the effects of cold as well as heat.

Condensation heaters should be fitted to motors used outdoor in cold winter months to minimise condensation within the motor.



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#### FAQ

#### 2. Humidity & Environment

What do I do if I can't seal completely against moisture ingress?

Ensure that breather plugs are fitted and are kept clear – this will ensure any moisture that does enter can drain away.







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#### Reasons why 16% of motor failures are due to external conditions

#### 3. Contamination

Ingress of foreign particles into the motor enclosure can cause damage - particularly to a motors bearings or windings.

Use the correct IP ratings to protect your motor.



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### Technical 3. Contamination

#### Motor IP ratings explained...

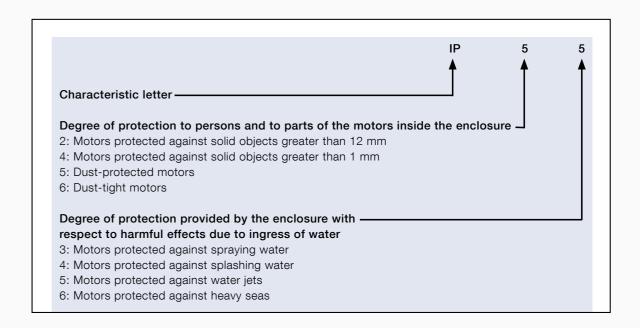
#### 3.5 Degrees of protection: IP code/IK code

Classifications of the degrees of protection provided by enclosures of rotating machines are based on:

- IEC / EN 60034-5 or IEC / EN 60529 for IP code
- EN 50102 for IK code

#### IP protection:

Protection of persons against getting in contact with (or approaching) live parts and against contact with moving parts inside the enclosure. Also protection of the machine against the ingress of solid foreign objects. Protection of machines against the harmful effects of the ingress of water.



#### Refer to the ABB LV Motor Guide for more details







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### Tips 3. Contamination

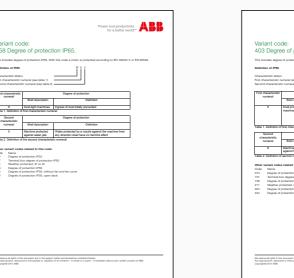
Other basic measures to protect your motors against ingress are...

- Labyrinth seals
- Radial seals
- Using IP56 or IP65 rated motors





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#### **FAQ**

#### 3. Contamination

What about protection against mechanical impacts?

IK codes outline the degree of protection of a motor against external mechanical impact.

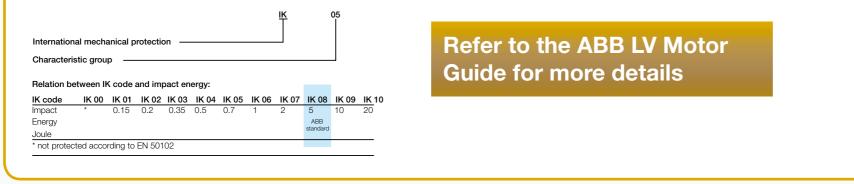








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### Reasons why 16% of motor failures are due to external conditions

#### 4. Ambient temperatures

Ensure motors are rated for the ambient condition in which they operate.

Derating is often necessary for high ambient temperatures whilst low ambients may require special materials.



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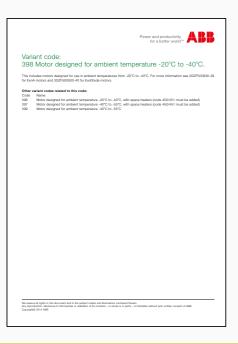
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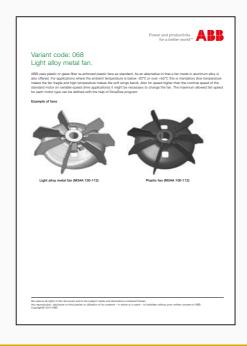


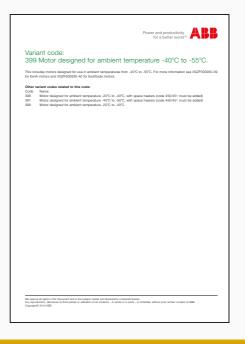
#### **Technical**

#### 4. Ambient temperatures

Check your motor is suited to its operating environment...







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#### 4. Ambient temperatures

Basic motors are designed for operation in a maximum ambient temperature environment of 40° C and at a maximum altitude of 1000 meters above sea level.

If a motor is to be operated in higher ambient temperatures,

it should normally be derated, as a guide use the table below.

Ambient temperature, °C	30	40	45	50	55	60	70	80
Permitted output, % of rated output	107	100	95.5	93	90	80.5	79	70
Height above sea level, m	1000	1500	2000	2500	3000	3500	4000	
Permitted output, % of rated output	100	96	92	88	84	80	76	

Refer to the ABB LV Motor Guide for more details



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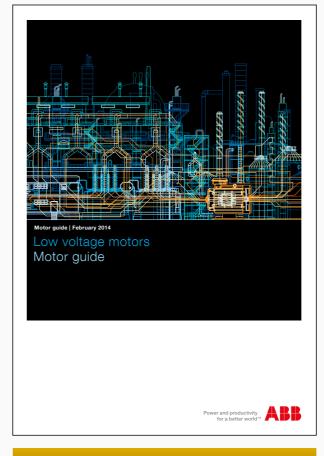
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#### **FAQ**

#### 4. Ambient temperatures

For more information about motor derating consult the ABB Motor Guide.



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### Rotor bar failure The facts

5% of motor failures are due to rotor failures\*

\*Based on IEA data



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### Reasons why 5% of motor failures are due to the rotor bar

#### 1. Excessive starting frequency

This puts high electro-mechanical stress on the rotor.

Heating, cooling, acceleration & deceleration can cause thermal stress and inertia fractures.



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#### **Technical**

#### 1. Excessive starting frequency

Starting time is a function of load torque, inertia and motor torque. As the starting current is always very much higher than the rated current, an excessively long starting period will cause a harmful temperature rise in the motor.

## Consult the **ABB Motor Guide** for maximum starting times.

Number of poles										
Motor size	Starting method	2	4	6	8					
56	D.O.L.	25	40	NA	NA					
63	D.O.L.	25	40	NA	NA					
71 80	D.O.L.	20 15	20	40 40	40					
90	D.O.L. D.O.L.	10	20 15	35 30	40 40					
112	D.O.L. Y/A	20	15 45	25 75	50 150					
132	D.O.L.	15	10	10	20					
	Y/A	45	30	30	60					
160	D.O.L.	15	15	20	20					
	Y/A	45	45	60	60					
180	D.O.L.	15	15	20	20					
	Y/A	45	45	60	60					
200	D.O.L.	15	15	20	20					
	Y/A	45	45	60	60					
225	D.O.L.	15	15	20	20					
	Y/A	45	45	60	60					
250	D.O.L.	15	15	20	20					
	Y/A	45	45	60	60					
280	D.O.L.	15	18	17	15					
	Y/A	45	54	51	45					
315	D.O.L.	15	18	16	12					
	Y/A	45	54	48	36					
355	D.O.L.	15	20	18	30					
	Y/A	45	60	54	90					
400	D.O.L.	15	20	18	30					
	Y/A	45	60	54	90					
450	D.O.L.	15	20	18	30					
	Y/A	45	60	54	90					



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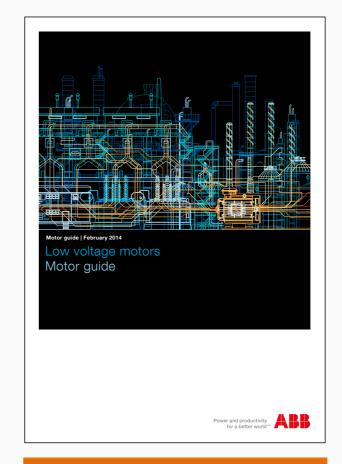


#### 1. Excessive starting frequency

When a motor is subjected to frequent starting, it cannot be loaded at its rated output due to the thermal starting losses in the windings.

Consult the <u>ABB Motor</u>

<u>Guide</u> to calculate the permissible output power or Contact ABB.



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### Reasons why 5% of motor failures are due to the rotor bar

#### 2. Overloads

In a locked rotor or stall condition the rotor can experience sudden and excessive temperature rise that can cause the rotor cage to fail.



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### Technical 2. Overloads

Sudden increases in temperature often occur during start-up.

High currents combined with low cooling air flows (low motor speed and small amount of air from the cooling fans)



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### Tips 2. Overloads

Motors can stall during normal operation due to mechanical faults.

Seized bearings, heavy loading or foreign objects caught in an application could be the possible causes.

See the **Bearing Failure section** of this eBook for more information.



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#### FAQ 2. Overloads

How can I protect a motor from a stalled condition?

A stalling relay should be used. The most common type of stall protection uses a relay, which uses the principles of a standard thermal relay but operates faster.

By passing a portion of the motor current directly through bimetallic elements in the relay, heating is immediate, just as it would be experienced in the windings of the motor.

This makes the stalling relay act quickly to protect the motor.



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### Reasons why 5% of motor failures are due to the rotor bar

#### 3. Under voltage

This increases running current, causes overheating and reduces efficiency - eventually causing failure.



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### Shaft coupling failure The facts

2% of motor failures are due to the shaft coupling\*

\*Based on IEA data



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### Reasons why 2% of motor failures are due to shaft coupling

#### 1. Misalignment

A coupling that is badly aligned suffers unusual load stresses and can lead to failure.

Ensure the coupling is aligned parallel to the shafts.



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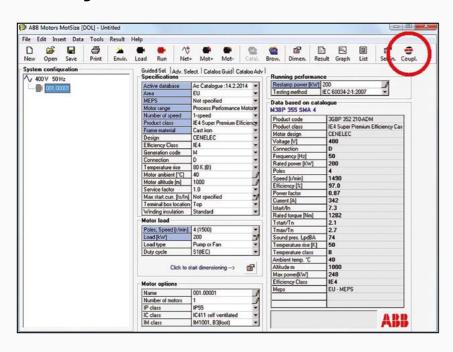
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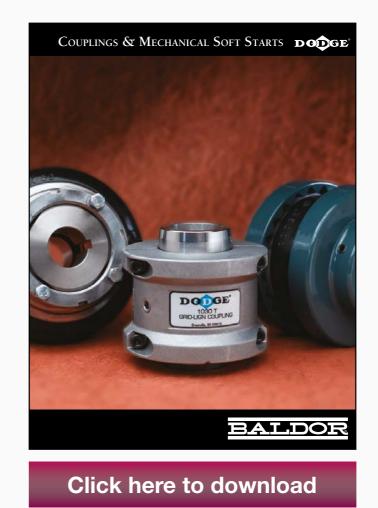


#### **Technical**

#### 1. Misalignment

Use the ABB MotSize Software to identify the correct coupling for your motor...





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#### 1. Misalignment

#### Check all 3 types of alignment of your motor...

#### Mechanical alignment:

Experience has shown that any base-mounted assembly of motor and driven load, no matter how rugged or deep in section, may twist out of alignment during shipping or moving, and that alignment by eye is ineffective. Proper alignment of direct-coupled drives can be accomplished by a dial-indicator, laser, or computerised instrumentation.

#### Parallel misalignment:

This is the offset between the centrelines of the two shafts. This can be determined by mounting a dial indicator on one coupling half with the indicator probe bearing radially on the other coupling half, and then rotating both shafts together through 360 degrees.

#### Angular misalignment:

This is the amount by which the faces of the two coupling halves are out of parallel. This may be determined by mounting a dial indicator on one coupling hall with the indicator probe on the face of the other half, and then rotating both shafts together through 360 degrees to determine any variation in reading. During this check, you must keep the shaft of a motor with endplay against its thrust shoulder and the shaft of a driven load with endplay against its thrust shoulder to prevent false readings due to shaft movements in the axial direction.







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#### **FAQ**

#### 1. Misalignment

What is the best way to ensure my coupling is aligned correctly?

Laser alignment is the best way to ensure accurate alignment. Contact your coupling manufacturer for the alignment tolerances for your coupling.

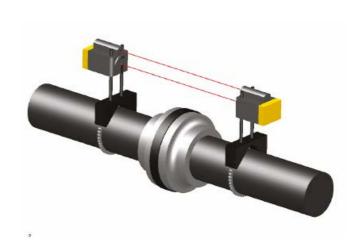








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#### Reasons why 2% of motor failures are due to shaft coupling

#### 2. Bad installation

The biggest cause of coupling failure is due to incorrect mounting.

Research and use appropriate fitting techniques for your motor.



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#### **Technical** 2. Bad installation

There are two main types of couplings available:

- 1. Rigid couplings for use when shafts are coaxially aligned.
- 2. Flexible or compensating couplings for use when shafts alignment cannot be guaranteed or there is expected distortion or movement that could be transmitted through the shaft.



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#### 2. Bad installation

When installing a shaft coupling, ensure that you are using the correct coupling type.

> If there is a degree of distortion or shock expected through the shaft, then a flexible coupling should be used.



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#### **FAQ**

#### 2. Bad installation

Can rigid couplings be used on misaligned shafts?

Rigid couplings should not be used on misaligned shafts. Misalignment could generate lateral forces which could lead to premature failure of the shaft, bearings or couplings from wear and metal fatigue.



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