

## ***Frequently Asked Questions On Rotary Electric Vibrator Use, Mounting, and Maintenance.***

### **CAN ALL SIZES OF ROTARY ELECTRIC VIBRATORS BE PURCHASED IN 120V SINGLE-PHASE?**

**No.** 120V Industrial Vibrators are only available in a limited line of smaller sized Vibrators. The reason for the size limitation is the torque requirement during start-up. Electrically, a stator can only provide a fixed amount of torque. The amount of torque required to rotate a specifically sized set eccentric weights (used to generate force output), increases dramatically as the size of the weights increases. 120V single-phase Vibrators are limited in the amount of torque the Motor can effectively produce based on the size and efficiency of the electrical characteristics of the Motor.

### **CAN A 120V SINGLE-PHASE ROTARY ELECTRIC VIBRATOR BE DIRECTLY PLUGGED INTO A 120V OUTLET?**

**No.** Typically you cannot simply plug a 120V single-phase Vibrator into an outlet and operate the Motor. Most 120V Vibrators require a start and/or run capacitor in order to operate correctly. The capacitor requirements vary according to the size of the Vibrator Motor.

### **CAN A RHEOSTAT BE USED ON A SINGLE-PHASE ROTARY ELECTRIC VIBRATORY MOTOR TO ADJUST THE RPM?**

**Yes.** Depending on the design of the Vibrator, a rheostat can be used to adjust RPM. Some single-phase Motor manufacturers allow the use of a rheostat on their Motors and some do not. Initially, it must be determined if the Vibrator being used is suited to have the RPM adjusted via a rheostat. If the answer is "yes", the user must be aware that because a rheostat drops the voltage, there will also be a drop in starting torque. With this in mind, it is recommended to always start the Vibrator with the rheostat set at maximum RPM, and to then slow the Vibrator down to the required speed. It is also important to note that most single-phase Vibratory Motors require capacitors for start-up and/or running. This capacitor requirement means that if a rheostat to be used, it must be compatible with capacitor operation.

### **ARE THREE-PHASE ROTARY ELECTRIC VIBRATORY MOTORS PREFERRED OVER SINGLE-PHASE VIBRATORY MOTORS?**

**Yes.** There are a number of reasons why three-phase Vibratory Motors are preferred over single-phase Industrial Vibrators. The primary reason is the size limitation of single-phase versus three-phase Vibratory Motors. Single-phase Motors are limited to smaller force output Motors. This size limitation can be attributed to two major factors. First, the amount of torque required to rotate a Vibrator's set of eccentric weights. A Vibrator's starting torque increases as the weight sizes increase which means the current required also increases. Single-phase power will quickly and dramatically increase the amperage required to overcome the starting torque requirements, it simply becomes inefficient to use single-phase power as Vibratory Motor size increases. Further, single-phase Motors don't react well to cold temperatures. The lower the temperature, the higher the starting torque – a problem in cold temperature applications. Second, the nature of electricity when used in a single-phase applications. This type of electricity is not suited for higher amperage usage. Typically, capacitors are needed to increase the amperage required to power the start-up. In order to use single-phase electric in a high amp situation, both the capacitors and conductor wire-gauge required become large quickly.

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Again, it becomes very inefficient to use larger capacitors as the power consumption increases, and, of course, single-phase power is more expensive to use than three-phase power. In summary, single-phase Vibratory Motors do have value in some specific applications, but they are limited by size and application.

### **CAN A 50HZ ROTARY ELECTRIC VIBRATOR BE RUN AT 60HZ, OR A 60HZ VIBRATOR AT 50 HZ?**

**Yes and No.** Using 3000/3600 RPM Motors as an example, 50Hz (3000 RPM) and 60 Hz (3600 RPM) Vibrators of the same size typically use the same stator. As long as the Motors share the same stator design, and the stator is designed to run at variable frequencies, you can run the Motors safely at the other frequency. Where problems will be encountered is mechanically with the eccentric weight sets. Example, assume a 50 Hz Motor running at 3000 RPM, producing 1107 lbs of centrifugal force (CF) output, and using a weight with a static moment rated at 4.3 in-lbs. Taking the same 50 Hz/3000 RPM Motor and running it at 60 Hz/3600 RPM, the 4.3 in-lbs weight set will produce 1583 lbs of CF. At 60 Hz/3600 RPM, the 1583 pounds of CF is too much for the bearings and they will fail. In the alternative, running the 60 Hz/3600 version of the Motor at 50Hz/3000 RPM will produce much less CF than anticipated. Example, assume a 60 Hz motor running at 3600 RPM, producing 1036 lbs of CF output, and using a weight with a static moment rated at 2.8 in-lbs. Taking the same 60 Hz/3600 RPM Motor and running it at 50 Hz/3000 RPM, the 2.8 in-lbs weight set will produce only 716 lbs of CF. At 50 Hz/3000 RPM, the 716 lbs of CF is far less than this Motor can safely produce with properly sized weights. The same type of relationships exist with Vibratory Motors at other operating speeds, ie, 1500/1800 RPM, 1000/1200RPM and 750/900RPM.

To summarize the results, we can safely operate a higher frequency/speed Vibrator Motor at a lower frequency/speed and not damage the Motor, albeit with much lower CF results. We cannot operate a lower frequency/speed Motor at a higher frequency/speed without subjecting the bearings to excessive stress due to the weight sizes associated with the specific speed requirements.

### **CAN A ROTARY ELECTRIC VIBRATOR BE RUN ON AN INVERTER?**

**Yes.** It is generally ok to run Vibratory Motors on an Inverter. Most three-phase 60Hz Vibrators are designed to run safely between 20 Hz to 60 Hz with no issue. Also, most three-phase 50Hz Vibrators can be run safely between 20 Hz to 50 Hz with no issue. Typically, it is stated on the Vibrator's nameplate if it is safe to operate on an Inverter. It is important to note, nameplate amp-draw should never be exceeded throughout the entire frequency range.

### **CAN THE CENTRIFUGAL FORCE OUTPUT OF A ROTARY ELECTRIC VIBRATORY MOTOR BE INCREASED OR DECREASED BY ONLY CHANGING THE ECCENTRIC WEIGHTS ON ONE SIDE OF THE MOTOR?**

**No.** Weights on an individual Vibratory Motor must be set equal to each other. The eccentric weights or both ends of the Vibrator must be adjusted to exactly the same setting. Failure to adhere to this rule will result in premature failure of the Vibrator.

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### **DO TWO INDIVIDUAL ROTARY ELECTRIC VIBRATORS ON A SINGLE PIECE OF VIBRATORY EQUIPMENT NEED TO BE ELECTRICALLY INTERLOCKED?**

**Yes.** When operating two electric Vibrators on a single piece of Vibratory Equipment, the Vibrators should be controlled with a single motor starter that has overload protection dedicated to each individual Vibrator. The overloads must be electrically interlocked such that a fault with one Vibrator will de-energize both Vibrators. This is required to avoid damage to the Vibratory Equipment and/or the individual Vibrators.

### **HOW FLAT AND THICK DOES A MOUNTING SURFACE NEED TO BE TO CORRECTLY MOUNT A ROTARY ELECTRIC VIBRATOR?**

The Vibrator mounting surface must be ridged and strong enough for the vibration energy transfer to take place without damaging the structure or the Vibrator. The mount surface must be clean and flat within 0.010-inches across mounting feet, and free of paint, rust and foreign debris. The minimum thickness of the plate should be equal to or greater than the major diameter of the mounting bolts, eg, ½" mount bolts means a  $\geq \frac{1}{2}$  " thick plate is needed. It is also important that the feet of the Vibrator are clean and free of debris prior to installation.

### **WHAT TYPE OF MOUNTING HARDWARE SHOULD BE USED TO MOUNT A ROTARY ELECTRIC VIBRATOR?**

Always use new bolts, nuts and compression washers for each installation or reinstallation. Never reuse hardware that has been previously torqued. The bolts should be a Grade-5 or Grade-8 (Internationally 8.8 and 12.9 respectively). Grade-5 bolts are suitable for the majority of applications. Use only compression washers – do not use split lock washers or any other kind of washer or nut with a locking feature. All bolts must be torqued to the manufacturer's recommended torque values. After initial installation, the bolts should be torque-checked after the first 15-minutes of run-time, and then again after 8-hours of Vibrator run-time. Thereafter, the bolt torque should be checked at every 6-month interval.

### **WHAT OPERATIONAL PARAMETERS NEED TO BE INSPECTED DURING INITIAL START-UP OF A ROTARY ELECTRIC VIBRATOR?**

Make sure the power supplied matches the nameplate requirements. Assure the mounting hardware is properly sized, is minimum Grade-5, and is torqued to the manufacturer specifications. Verify the motor starter is properly sized and set to protect the Vibrator during operation. While a slight bearing noise is normal and should be expected, excessive noise during operation could indicate a problem. Upon start-up, the amp-draw line current could exceed the nameplate value, but this should drop quickly after the motor is broken-in. If, after a few hours, the amp-draw still exceeds the nameplate value, there could be problems with the mounting or the Vibrator, and the Vibrator must be shut-off until the issue(s) is resolved. Never permanently operate the Vibrator above the amp-value shown on the nameplate. After 15-minutes, and then again after 8-hours of operation, re-torque the mounting hardware. After 8-hours, verify the amp-draw is at or below the nameplate value.

**HOW OFTEN SHOULD A ROTARY ELECTRIC VIBRATOR BE LUBRICATED?**

Typically every 2000-hours. It is important to use only the specified type and amount of the manufacturer recommended grease. Use of non-recommended grease and/or over- or under-lubricating the Vibrator will result in shorted Vibrator life. Vibrators in some specific applications, and Vibrators exposed to excessive heat and/or high wear applications will require more frequent lubrication.

**CAN ROTARY ELECTRIC VIBRATORY MOTORS BE REBUILT MECHANICALLY AND ELECTRICALLY?**

**Yes and No.** It depends on the size of the Vibrator. All Vibrators, no matter the size, can have the bearings replaced in the event of a mechanical failure, as long as it is cost effective. Only factory supplied bearings should be installed and the manufacturer's recommended type and quantity of grease must be used. In the event of a stator failure, some stators are replaceable. The ability to replace a failed stator depends on the OEM's method of installation. If the stator has been installed in the housing with epoxy, it is probably not cost effective to replace or rewind the stator. If the stator has been press fitted into the housing, it is usually cost effective to replace or rewind the stator. Rewinding of a stator should only be performed by qualified electrical rewind shops that are both aware of and follow the special requirements of a stators used in Vibratory Motors.

**CAN A ROTARY ELECTRIC VIBRATOR BE TEST RUN WITH THE WEIGHTS SET AT ZERO PERCENT OR WITH THE WEIGHTS REMOVED?**

**No.** Do not test run a Vibrator with no centrifugal load on the bearings. Vibratory Motor bearings are oversized to handle the extreme loads they encounter during operation. Operation of the Vibrator without a centrifugal weight load will cause the bearings to skid (rather than rotate) and build-up excessive heat which deprives the bearings of lubrication. This bearing damage occurs rapidly when no bearing load is used during testing.

**CAN I GET ADDITIONAL INFORMATION ON TROUBLESHOOTING ROTARY ELECTRIC VIBRATORS?**

Yes, Contact us at [infocenter@airmatic.com](mailto:infocenter@airmatic.com) for a complimentary copy of the AIRMATIC Guide: How to Select, Locate, Mount, Repair, and Troubleshoot Rotary Electric Vibrators.