

Specificational Notes for VFD Secondary Circuit Design to Prevent Resonance & Common Mode Noise

Engineering a well-designed VFD secondary circuit is a combination of dielectric stress reduction, and avoidance of reflective wave creation (ringing), both will compromise the life expectancy of the motor/load structure and can impact on the inverter operation and Variable Frequency Drive. Another key objective is to mitigate common mode nose (phase to ground) which can significantly compromise the motor/load via partial discharge across the bearing structures and can compromise the cable insultation due to phase to ground parasitic capacitance reactance. This condition can develop significant currents within the neutral and ground system, as well as induce ground and neutral voltage due to the resistance of the ground grid.

To the left is a wave-trace of a typical VFD output PWM waveform, as can be seen there is a repetitive zero to peak voltage sequence exposing the secondary circuit components cabling and motor to high dv/dt stress. This is typically referred to as differential noise and will lower the life cycle of the load structures unless the load components are built to an "Inverter Duty" specification. So, Inverter Duty rated Motors and Shielded Inverter Duty rated cables will be required. These enhancements are very expensive compared to standard cable and standard induction motors.

Secondary inductors and dv/dt filters do not change the functional dielectric stress within the system, they are simply attempting to "detune" the secondary circuit to avoid reflective wave/ringing/resonance. They also do little to avoid Common Mode Noise applicational challenges.

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Typical Voltage Waveform and Spectrum from a typical Inverter PWM Output

Common Mode Noise Challenge:

The damage from common mode noise within the secondary circuit is created by partial discharge across the motor bearings and associated mechanical load structures, and parasitic capacitance compromising cable insulation to the system ground.

The graphic to the right highlight's common mode levels on a 7.5 HP VFD/VSD highlighting the substantial high frequency currents associated with common mode noise within the secondary circuit. It also shows that a Sinewave filter alone is not a viable solution for the common mode challenge. As the motor HP/load increases, the associated CM noise current levels will increase significantly. The remedy to avoid premature motor and cable failures is to eliminate potentially destructive dielectric stress (dv/dt) by converting the PWM waveform to a Sinusoidal waveform and the use of a Common Mode Choke is required. This combination eliminates both differential and common mode dielectric stress associated with PWM inverter VFD/VSD secondary operations.

In most cases, the addition of the Sinewave filter and Common Mode Choke is more than offset by cost saving by the ability to utilize Standard Unshielded Cable and Standard Induction Motors

Common-mode Current of 7.5HP VSD 15 kHz

versus Inverter Duty components. In addition, adding a Mirus AUSF Sine wave filter can increase the efficiency of the output circuit from 2% - 5% due to the elimination of eddy currents and secondary PWM losses associated with the mitigation of the voltage distortion of the PWM waveform harmonic spectrum.

See cost savings potential with a payback analysis from utilization of a Sinewave filter w/CMC and the material savings by utilizing XHHW Type 2 cable versus Inverter Duty rated cable and a Std. Induction Motor versus an Inverter Duty rated Motor, as well as potential operating costs reduction due to operating efficiencies enhancement in Appendix A.

If you combine the Sinewave Filter and Common Mode Choke into a single assembly/solution, the customer/user can avoid the need for Shielded Inverter Duty rated cables and utilize Std. Induction motors versus Inverter Duty rated motors while increasing the efficiency and life cycle of the secondary installation.

Key Specificational Points: Clean Power VFD's w/ Sinewave Filter & Common Mode Choke Assembly

Reference Materials:

FIVE STAR ELECTRIC

- **•** Improving Motor Performance and Runtime in ESP Applications with Novel Sinewave Filter SPE-204493-MS: Anthony (Tony) Hoevenaars, P. Eng & Michael McGraw Mirus International, Colt Burley & Elizabeth Bierhaus Denbury Onshore.
- PPT: Mirus International Available Models and Options for MIRUS Passive Harmonic Filters, 02/03/2022
- A Practical Application of a Sinewave Filter to Resolve to Resolve ESP Motor Failures, PCIC 2019-34, Anthony Hoevenaars P. Eng – Mirus International, Mike McGraw – Mirus International, Colt Burley Denbury Onshore LLC.
- AUSF-TS001-A0: Mirus International Advanced Universal Sinewave Filter (AUSF) Typical Specification
- SA-Water 2019 Sinewave Filter Project Test Data Program
- Mirus Series AUSF Inversine Sinewave Filter versus dV/dT Filter Discussion: San Antonio Water Authority Case Review, Aron Sekula - Five Star Electric, San Antonio & Mike McGraw – Mirus International

Appendix A: Cost Payback Example 480V/200HP

- The typical minimum cable length purchase for Beldon Shielded Inverter Cable is 1000 foot, an analysis of both secondary circuit distance and a review of the cost of a 1000' cable reel length minimum purchase has been included. When considering a minimum cable reel length, under all distance considerations there is an immediate payback utilizing a Mirus AUSF-CMC filter saving significant project costs even up to 1000 cable lengths.
- If the AUSF-CMC filter is being utilized versus an inductor or dv/dt filter the immediate breakeven is just above 150' distance between the VFD and motor.

The key to the AUSF-CMC is the integrated Common Mode Choke, which other manufacturers do not normally offer due to cost considerations. To utilize the XHHW unshielded cable and Std. Induction Motors, you must mitigate both the differential mode noise and common mode noise to eliminate the dielectric stress and parasitic capacitance that will impact on the secondary circuit.

With considerations of additional efficiencies from the Sinusoidal waveform feeding the secondary circuit and motor load, there could be a efficiency improvement within the operation of the loads and an associated energy savings which can result in a 2% -5% improvement. The schedule below highlights the additional energy savings payback on top of the payback noted below…

The potential energy saving enhances the payback of adding a Sinewave Filter w/ Common Mode Choke and additional future energy cost savings making this circuit design a prudent engineering requirement.