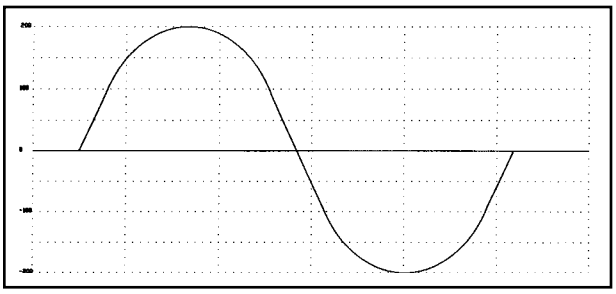
Why Choose A Line Reactor?

Utilizing variable speed drives to control motor speed has impacted industry both in energy savings and increased efficiencies. The challenge for today's designers is dealing with non-linear wave shapes generated by solid state devices.

By choosing a HPS line reactor, many line problems can be eliminated. Additionally, performance, life expectancy and efficiency of both the motor and the drive itself are significantly enhanced.

ELIMINATE NUISANCE TRIPPING

Transients due to switching on the utility line and harmonics from the drive system can cause intermittent tripping of circuit breakers. Furthermore, modern switchgear, equipped with solid state trip sensing devices is designed to react to peak current rather than RMS current. As switching transients can peak over 1000 volts, the resulting overvoltage will cause undesirable interruptions. A reactor added to your circuit restricts the surge current by utilizing its inductive characteristics, and therefore eliminates nuisance tripping.



Normal sine wave from the utility supply.

EXTEND THE LIFE OF SWITCHING COMPONENTS

Due to the attenuation of line disturbances, the life of your solid state devices are extended when protected by the use of a HPS line reactor.

SATURATION

Due to the care in the selection of the core material with its optimum flux density, HPS line reactors will not saturate under the most adverse line conditions. Since the inductance is linear over a broader current range, equipment is protected even in extreme overcurrent circumstances.

EXTEND THE LIFE OF YOUR MOTOR

Line reactors, when selected for the output of your drive, will enhance the waveform and virtually eliminate failures due to output circuit faults. Subsequently, motor operating temperatures are reduced by 10 to 20 degrees and motor noise is reduced due to the removal of some of the high frequency harmonic currents.

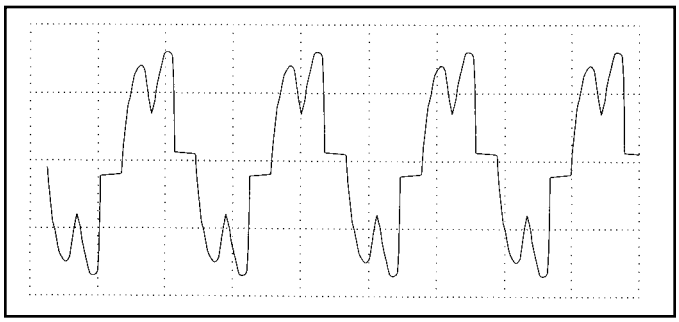
LOW HEAT DISSIPATION

Particular attention has been focused on the design and field testing of this product line. The result is reactors with ideal operating features including low temperature rises and reduced losses. HPS reactors will operate efficiently and heat dissipation in your equipment will be of minimal concern.

MINIMIZE HARMONIC DISTORTION

Non-linear current waveforms contain harmonic distortion. By using a HPS line reactor you can limit the inrush current to the rectifier in your drive. The peak current is reduced, the waveform is rounded and harmonic distortion is minimized. Current distortion typically is reduced to 30%.

Severe harmonic current distortion can also cause the system voltage to distort. Often, high peak harmonic current drawn by the drive, causes “flat-topping” of the voltage waveform. Adding a reactor controls the current component, and voltage harmonic distortion is therefore reduced.



The total harmonic distortion of variable speed drives produces complex wave shapes such as the phase current shown above. The challenge for today’s designers is to effectively minimize these line problems.

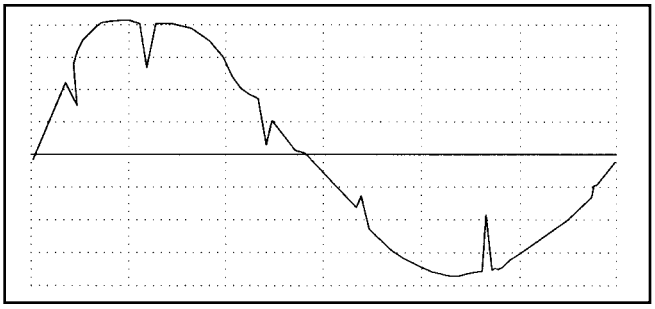
SHORT CIRCUIT CAPABILITY

HPS line reactors can withstand current under short circuit conditions, reducing the potential of severe damage to electronic equipment. In a short circuit, the inductance of the coil is necessary to limit overcurrent after the core has saturated. HPS has extensive experience in designing and testing dry-type transformers to withstand short circuits for the most demanding applications, and this experience has been applied to line reactor design.

REDUCE LINE NOTCHING

Whenever AC power is converted to DC by a rectifier using a non-linear device, such as an SCR, the process of commutation occurs. The result is a notch in the voltage waveform. The number of notches is a function of both the number of pulses and the number of SCR’s in the rectifier.

Line reactors are used to provide the inductive reactance needed to reduce notching, which can adversely effect equipment operation.



A voltage waveform illustrating line notching. Line reactors are used to provide the inductive reactance needed to reduce such notches.

Why Choose A Line Reactor continued...

IMPEDANCE RATINGS

Definition:

$$\% Z = \frac{(VD \times 100)}{VS} \times \sqrt{3}$$

Z = IMPEDANCE (three phase)

VD = VOLTAGE DROP ACROSS REACTOR

VS = VOLTAGE SUPPLY FOR RATED CURRENT TO FLOW THROUGH REACTOR

SELECTION - 3% OR 5% IMPEDANCE REACTOR

Choose 3% impedance reactors to satisfy most solid state applications in North America. Reactors rated for 3% impedance are ideal for absorbing normal line spikes and motor current surges, and will prevent most nuisance line tripping of circuit protection devices or equipment.

Where considerably higher line disturbances are present, a 5% impedance reactor may be required. Additionally, if the application is overseas, or when it is necessary to comply to IEEE 519, the higher impedance reactor is recommended. These units may also be selected to further reduce harmonic current and frequencies if desirable or to both extend motor life or diminish motor noise.

LINE REACTORS OR DRIVE ISOLATION TRANSFORMERS ?

When true line isolation is required, such as limiting short circuit current, or where it is necessary to step up or step down voltage, use a drive isolation transformer. HPS carries an extensive line of drive isolation transformers in stock. Refer to Section 4 for information on Drive Isolation transformers.