Operating Characteristics of the CVS & MCR Series

Except as noted, all characteristics of SolaHD's CVS products also apply to the MCR series.

Regulation

SolaHD's CVS power conditioners will hold output voltages to ±1.0% or less with input variations as great as ±15% (115V ±15% or 120 V +10%/-20%). Units operated at less than rated load will maintain approximately ±1% regulation over a wider input line voltage variation. Output meets NEMA voltage specifications even when input voltage drops to 65% of nominal. The output versus input voltage relationship for a typical CVS is show in Figure A.

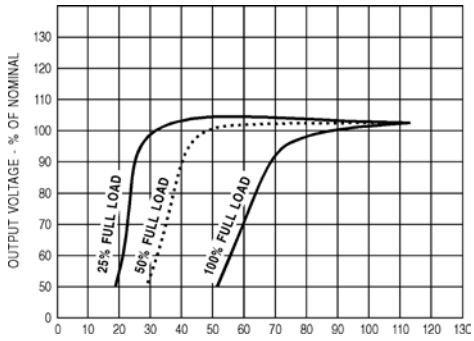

Figure A: Load Variation

Note: MCR line regulations: ±3% for 60 Hz; ±5% for 50 Hz. The typical performances shown in Figure B indicate that most of the residual changes take place near the lower (95 V) and upper (130 V) ends of the input range. It is possible to improve output regulation if line variations remain within a restricted range near the center of the nameplate range (for example, 100-120 V).

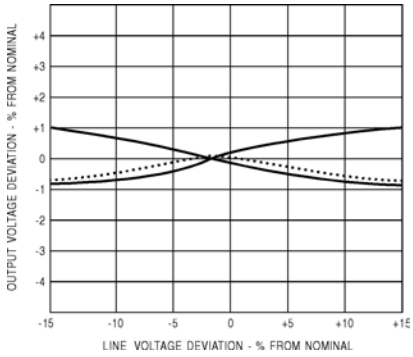

Figure B: Line Regulation

Normally, the output voltage will rise as the load is decreased. Typical percentages for changes in resistive load from full to zero load as shown below.

CVS Conditioner Rating – VA	Increase in Output Voltage due to Load Removal
30	3%
60 & 120	2%
250 & over	1%

Input Characteristics

SolaHD power conditioners include a resonant circuit that is energized whether or not it is serving load. The input current at no load or light load may run 50% or more of the full primary current. As a result, the temperature of the unit may rise to substantially full-load level, even at light or no load. Input power factor will average 90-100% at full load, but may drop to about 75% at half load and 25% at no load. In any case, the current is always leading. The input no load watts are about 12.5% of the VA rating.

Frequency

Output voltage varies linearly with a change of frequency of the input voltage. This change is about 1.5% of the output voltage for each 1% change in input frequency and in the same direction as the frequency change.

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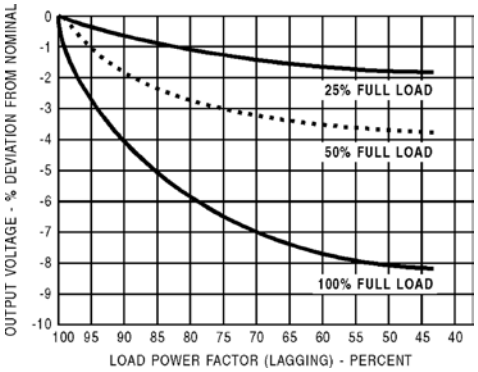

Figure C: Power Factor

Power Factor

SolaHD power conditioners regulate any power factor load. Output voltage is a function of load current and load power factor (see Figure C). If lower voltage under lagging power factor is objectionable, correction may be made with capacitors at the load. "Median" value of output voltage will vary from the nameplate rating if the load has a power factor other than that for which the transformer was designed. Load regulation will also be relatively greater as the inductive load power factor is decreased (see Figure C). However, the resulting median values of output voltage will be regulated against supply line changes at any reasonable load or load power factor.

Efficiency

The copper magnet wire and lamination material used in SolaHD ferroresonant products are selected to achieve efficiencies of 90% or higher. Whether or not an external load is being served, current will be drawn from the line whenever the primary is energized, since the capacitor remains connected in the circuit.

Overload and Short Circuits

When the load is increased beyond the regulator's rated value, a point is reached where the output voltage suddenly collapses and will not regain its normal value until the load is partially released. Under direct short circuit, the load current is limited to approximately 150-200% of the rated full load value and the input watts to less than 10% of normal.

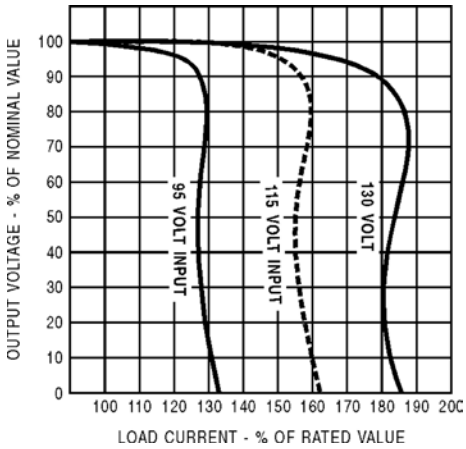

Figure D: Overload Performance

A constant voltage regulator will protect both itself and its load against damage from excessive fault currents. Fusing of load currents may not be necessary. The actual value of short-circuit current varies with the specific design and rating. Units may be operated indefinitely at short-circuit. This characteristic protects the unit itself as well as the load and load circuit being served. Typical overload performance is shown in Figure D.

Motor Loads

Because of the fast response time of the SolaHD circuit, any current-limiting characteristic must be taken into account for transient overloads such as motor starting and solenoid operation. In general, the SolaHD constant voltage regulator must have a capacity nearly equal to the maximum demand made on it, even for an instant. To determine the power rating of the regulator, peak motor-starting current or solenoid inrush current should be measured or power factor correcting capacitors should be used to reduce the starting VA of the load.

Response Time

An important advantage of SolaHD's ferroresonant transformer is its fast response time compared with other types of AC regulators. Transient changes in supply voltage are usually corrected within 1½ cycles or less; the output voltage will not fluctuate more than a few percent, even during this interval.

Operating Characteristics of the CVS & MCR Series

Except as noted, all characteristics of SolaHD's CVS products also apply to the MCR series.

Temperature

SolaHD's ferroresonant power conditioners are very stable with respect to temperature. The change in output voltage is only 0.025%/°C. Units are factory adjusted to +2%/-0% of nominal, with full load and nominal input voltage. This adjustment to the high side of nominal is to compensate for the natural temperature drift of about 1% that takes place during initial turn-on or warm-up. When the unit warms up to operating temperature, the voltage typically falls about 1%.

At a stable operating temperature, the output voltage will change slightly with varying ambient temperatures. This shift is equal to approximately 1% for each 40°C of temperature change. The normal maximum temperature rise of a SolaHD power conditioner may fall anywhere in the range of 40°C to 110°C depending on the type and rating. The nominal design ambient range is between -20°C and +50°C (-20°C to +40°C for 70 - 1000 VA, 60 Hz portable models).

External Magnetic Field

In almost all applications, this effect may be disregarded.The exclusive SolaHD "wide outside leg" construction reduces stray magnetic fields to a practical minimum. On critical applications, care should be taken in orientation of the core with respect to critical circuits to minimize the effect of the field.

Phase Shift

The phase difference which exists between input and output voltages is in the range of 120 degrees to 140 degrees at full load. This phase difference varies with the magnitude and power factor of the load, and to a lesser extent, with changes in line voltage and load power factor.

Transient Protection

Ferroresonant power conditioners protect input transients (caused by lightning and load switching) from damaging the sensitive electronic load. A typical surge protective device (SPD) tries to 'clamp' a transient by diverting it to ground. A ferroresonant power conditioner "blocks" the transient. This 'blocking' action is achieved by total physical separation from input (primary) to output (secondary). Because of this difference in operation, it is difficult to apply the same specifications to a ferroresonant power conditioner. Some parallels can be made however.

One, is that under load, the let-through voltage of a ferroresonant power conditioner (SPD refers to "clamping voltage") is less than 10 V above the point where the sine wave would normally be at any given time. The ferroresonant power conditioner is an 'active tracking' suppressor with several advantages. The Ferro power conditioner will not shunt the transient to the ground line as SPD devices typically do. Shunting the transient to ground can cause the disturbance to be transmitted to other sensitive loads within a facility. This can pose serious problems with electronic or microprocessor-based equipment, especially if there is poor grounding within a facility. Other advantages provided by ferroresonant power conditioners include noise filtering, filtering of harmonic distortion and protection against voltage fluctuations such as sags or swells. These features are not provided by standard surge protection devices but are often misrepresented or misused by SPD manufacturers trying to market their product as a "Do All" power quality device.

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