Electrical Life in Utilization Category

## Load-Life Curves

Bulletin 300 Line starters are designed to provide superior performance in a variety of applications. These load-life curves are based on Allen-Bradley tests according to the requirements defined in IEC 947-4. Actual contact life may vary based on the application, duty cycle and environmental conditions from that indicated by the curves.

To find the contactor's estimated electrical life, follow these guidelines:

1. Choose the appropriate graph that most closely approximates the utilization category of the application.
2. Locate the intersection of the life-load curve of the appropriate contactor with the application's operational current $\left(\mathrm{l}_{\mathrm{e}}\right)$ found on the horizontal axis.
3. Read the estimated contact life in millions of operations along the vertical axis.

## Contact Life for Mixed Utilization Categories AC3 and AC4

In many applications, the utilization category cannot be defined as either purely AC3 or AC4. In those applications, the electrical life of the contactor can be estimated from the following equation:
$L_{\text {mixed }}=\frac{L_{A C 3}}{1+P_{A C 4}\left(\frac{L_{A C 3}}{L_{A C 4}}-1\right)} \quad$ Where

| $\mathrm{L}_{\text {mixed }}$ | Approximate contact life for a mixed AC3/AC4 <br> utilization category application. |
| :--- | :--- |
| $\mathrm{L}_{\text {AC3 }}$ | Approximate contact life in operations for AC3 <br> utilization category (from AC3 life-load curves <br> below). |
| $\mathrm{L}_{\text {AC4 }}$ | Approximate contact life in operations for AC4 <br> utilization category (from AC4 life-load curves <br> below). |
| $\mathrm{P}_{\text {AC4 }}$ | Percentage of AC4 operations. |

## Utilization Categories

## Category Typical Duty

AC3
AC4
Starting of squirrel-cage motors and switching only after the motor is up to speed.
Starting of squirrel-cage motors with inching and plugging duty.

Bulletin 300
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Bulletin 300 Load/Life Curves - AC3 and AC4

## NEMA Size 0... 2

Starting and stopping of running motors: $\mathrm{Ue}=230 \ldots 460 \mathrm{~V}$ AC


Starting and inching and plugging: $\mathrm{Ue}=230 \ldots 460 \mathrm{~V}$ AC


## Bulletin 300 Load/Life Curves

## NEMA Size 3... 5

AC-1
Non- or slightly-inductive loads, resistance furnaces; $U_{e}=400 \mathrm{~V}$
AC-3
Switching of squirrel-cage motors while starting Bulletin 300


## AC-4

Stepping of squirrel-cage motors; $U_{\mathrm{e}}=400 \mathrm{~V}$


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Mechanical


