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SERVICE Bulletin

Bulletin #1

June 2000

To: Rotary Authorized Installers, Distributors, and Representatives

Subject: Thermal Overloads (SP/SL/SM Power Units)

Ladies and Gentlemen:

Occasionally you may run into an electrician that refuses to wire up a power unit. They may state that the unit requires thermal overload protection. This may be a true statement if a motor is considered Continuous Duty. But, according to the National Electric Code (NEC), automotive lifts do not fall under this category. They normally would fall under Intermittent Duty category. The statement below should clarify the reasoning on why the motors do not have thermal overload protection. Feel free to share this information with anyone questioning this issue.

If you have any questions or comments, please contact Rotary Customer Service at (800) 445-5438.

Thank you,

Brad Enevoldsen
Product Consultant

cc: U.S. Field Offices
Headquarters Personnel

Automatic Thermal Overloads

As typical with power units for automotive lifts, Rotary power units do not incorporate *Automatic Thermal Overloads* (ATO) in the motors. This is for the following reasons:

1. The motors on automotive lifts have relatively short periods of operation (usually less than one minute) with long periods of rest between these periods of operation. This is defined as Intermittent Duty according to the National Electric Code (NEC) as described in Article 100 - Definitions.
2. According to NEC Article 430-33, a motor that is used as intermittent service is permitted to be protected against overloads by the branch-circuit short-circuit and ground-fault protection device.
3. According to NEC Article 430-43, a motor cannot automatically restart after an overload trip if personal injury can result. An ATO could cause an automatic restart by masking a failed switch that has stayed in the normally closed position. This condition would allow the motor to restart after the ATO reset.
4. With Intermittent Duty, the overcurrent protection is more likely to trip before an ATO; this renders the ATO useless.