



ACTUATOR ACCESSORY & RATING TERMS

Duty Cycle - The capability of an Electric actuator motor to operate or “cycle” continuously - a 100% Duty Cycle. Ratings less than 100% mean that the actuator motor is capable of intermittent operation, as is the case with most actuation applications. For example, a 25% Duty Cycle means that for each 1-minute of operation, 3-minutes of non-operation is required. Duty cycles greater than 25% are generally needed only when additional work loads are encountered, such as valve modulation or in actuation of larger butterfly valves.

Limit Switches - Electrical switches which may be applied to either electric or Pneumatic actuators to supply a signal that the valve cycle has been completed. In Electric actuators, the primary limit switches are used to control the open and closed position of the valve. Auxiliary limit switches may be used to perform other functions such as starting or stopping a pump. Limit switches are most often mechanical and are activated by physical contact with either a lever or plunger. Proximity switches are electrically tripped without physical contact and may be used with certain computer or micro processor controls.

NEMA Rating - National Electric Manufacturers Association standard for rating electrical component enclosures. The most commonly used NEMA ratings for electric actuator and electrical accessory enclosures are NEMA 4 and NEMA 4X.

NEMA 1: General Purposes - for indoor use without unusual service conditions, primarily to protect components from contact.

NEMA 2: Drip proof - for indoor use with degree of protection against limited amounts of falling water or dirt.

NEMA 3: Rain tight - for outdoor use with protection from windblown dust, rain and sleet, and undamaged by ice formation.

NEMA 4: Watertight and Dust tight - for indoor/outdoor use with a protection from windblown dust, rain or hose directed wash down environments.

NEMA 4X: Watertight and Dust tight - same as NEMA 4 with addition of corrosion resistance.

NEMA 7: Explosion Proof (class I, division 1, groups A, B, C, D) - designed to contain an internal explosion without causing an external hazard when installed in a designated environment group. Group A= atmospheres containing acetylene; Group B = atmospheres containing hydrogen; Group C = atmospheres containing ethyl-ether vapors, ethylene, or cyclopropane; Group D = atmospheres containing gasoline, hexane, naphtha, benzene, butane, propane, alcohol, acetone, benzol, lacquer, solvent vapors or natural gas.

NEMA 9: Explosion Proof (class II, division 1, groups E, F, G) - Dust-ignition-proof enclosures designed to prevent both entrance of dust and external heating capable of igniting dust on the enclosure or in the surrounding atmosphere. Group E = atmospheres containing metal dust including aluminum, magnesium, their commercial alloys, and other metals of similar hazardous characteristics; Group F = atmospheres containing carbon black, coal or coke dust; Group G = atmospheres containing flour, starch, or grain dust.

Positioner - Attachment for either electric or Pneumatic actuators which provides automatic modulating control of the valve position from open to closed. Electric positioners work by comparison of 2-currents, one derived from the input signal and one from the actuator. Pneumatic positioners increase, decrease and balance the air supply according to an input signal from an external control source. Input signals are generated by either a 3 to 15 psi pneumatic signal, or a 4 to 20 milliamp electro-pneumatic signal.

Solenoid Valve - An electro-magnetically operated valve which enables electrical control of air supply to a pneumatic actuator. Solenoids are wired to a manual switch or any electric controller. Double Acting actuators require a 4-way solenoid, Spring-Return actuators require a 3-way solenoid for proper air control. As electrical devices, solenoid valves are available in various NEMA ratings.

Transducer - A device that converts one signal type to another. In actuation controls, the most common use of a transducer is in conversion between electrical signals and pneumatic signals.

