

Thermal Unit Selection Guidelines

All thermal unit specifications are based on the motor and controller being operated in an ambient temp. of 40°C (104°F) or less.

A Regular Enclosure is defined as the standard-size enclosure that is included with an “enclosed” starter. The Large Enclosure column should be used when the starter is being installed in an oversized control panel or cabinet.

1. Determine motor full load current (amperage) rating and service factor.

2. Motor and controller in same ambient temp.:

For 1.15 to 1.25 service factor motors, use 100% of motor full load current for thermal unit selection. For 1.0 service factor motors, use 90% of motor full load current for thermal unit selection.

3. Motor and controller in different ambient temp.:

If motor ambient temp. is 18°F higher than motor starter’s ambient temp., derate full load current value from step 2 by an additional 10%. If motor ambient temp. is 18°F lower than motor starter’s ambient temp., increase full load current value from step 2 by an additional 5%. Use the resultant full load current value for thermal unit selection.

4. Locate the proper thermal unit selection column using the thermal unit code associated with the motor starter.

5. Match motor full load amperage to the closest thermal unit code without going over.

6. Do not exceed amp rating of motor starter.

7. 1-phase starters require 1 thermal unit. 3-phase starters require 3 thermal units.