



Knowledge Is Power<sub>SM</sub> Apparatus Maintenance and Power Management for Energy Delivery

# Understanding Transformer Nameplates



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### **Serial Numbers**

- Identifies a specific transformer
- Key to locating differences between one transformer and others of the same type and rating
- Provides access to pertinent factory information such as test reports, etc.



#### Class

- Refers to the type of insulating medium and the method by which the transformer is cooled.
- Indicated by a group of letters (i.e. OA/FA/FOA)
- Same nomenclature is used for askarelimmersed transformers as is for oil-filled units.



| Cooling Method  | CSA       | ANSI      | BESA | Temp<br>Rise |
|---|-----------|-----------|------|--------------|
| Oil Immersed, Natural<br>Circulation, Self-Cooled   | ONAN      | OA        | ON   | 55/65        |
| Oil Immersed, Natural<br>Circulation, Water-Cooled  | ONWF      | OW        | oW   | 55/65        |
| Oil Immersed, Natural<br>Circulation, Forced Air Cooled   | ONAF      | OA/FA     | OB   | 55/65        |
| Oil Immersed, Forced Oil,<br>Water Cooled   | OFWF      | FOW       | OFA  | 55/65        |
| Oil Immersed, Forced Oil,<br>Forced Air Cooled  | OFAF      | OA/FA/FOA | ORB  | 55/65        |
| Oil Immersed, Natural<br>Circulation, Forced Air Cooled,<br>Second Stage of Forced Air<br>Cooling | ONAN/ONAF | OA/FA/FA  | ÷.   | 55/65        |

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### **Load Capacity**

| Type of Cooling | Loading<br>Capacity % |  |  |
|-----------------|-----------------------|--|--|
| ONAN            | 100                   |  |  |
| ONAN/ONAF       | 100/133               |  |  |
| ONAN/ONAF/ONAF  | 100/133/167           |  |  |
| ONAN/ONAF/OFAF  | 100/133/167           |  |  |
| ONWF            | 125                   |  |  |
| OFWF            | 167                   |  |  |

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#### **Temperature Rise**

KVA/MVA and temperature rise are associated with each set of letters in the class designation that is separated by diagonals (/). (i.e. 30000/40000/50000 KVA or 30/40/50 MVA)



#### **Temperature Rise**

### ➤ Example:

- Transformer Class OA/FA/FOA may be rated:
  - 30MVA continuous at 55° C Rise, Self-Cooled (OA rating)
  - 40 MVA continuous at 55° C Rise, Forced Air-Cooled (FA rating)
  - 50 MVA continuous at 55° C Rise, Forced Oil and Forced Air-cooled (FOA rating)



#### **Temperature Rise**

- Temperature Rise given is the average winding rise by resistance over maximum ambient temperature.
- The hottest spot temperature rises corresponding to various winding rises are shown below:

| Transformer Type     | Winding Rise<br>(by Resistance) |        | Hottest Spot<br>Rise |  |
|----------------------|---------------------------------|--------|----------------------|--|
| 55 °C Rise Oil-Immer | sed                             | 55 °C  | 65 °C                |  |
| 65 °C Rise Oil-Immer | sed                             | 65 °C  | <b>3° 08</b>         |  |
| 55 °C Rise Dry-Type  |                                 | 55 °C  | 65 °C                |  |
| 80 °C Rise Dry-Type  |                                 | 80 °C  | 110 °C               |  |
| 150 °C Rise Dry-Type | •                               | 150 °C | 180 °C               |  |

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#### **Temperature Rise**

- Temperature Rise is based on a maximum ambient of 40° C, with an average ambient cooling air for any 24 hr. period of 30° C for air-cooled units
- For water-cooled, the temperature of the cooling water must not exceed 30° C, within a 24 hr. average not over 25° C.
- Based on altitude no greater than 1000m (3300 ft).



#### **Temperature Rise**

- The temperature indicator on a transformer indicates the operating temperature, not temperature rise.
- To determine temperature rise in an operating transformer, use the following equation:
- Temp rise = Operating temp ambient temp.
- Example: Transformer rated for 55° C rise, operating at 30° C ambient should not exceed 85° C operating temperature.



### Voltage

- Each winding voltage rating is separated from other winding ratings by a dash (-)
- The nominal rating of the highest voltage winding will be the first in a series of numbers.
- A winding that may be connected delta or wye has the delta first, separated from the wye voltage with a diagonal (/).
- A transformer permanently connected in wye with the neutral brought out, has the line-to-line voltage first, separated from the line-to-neutral voltage by a diagonal (/).



### Voltage

Two winding ratings separated by an "X" indicates that either a series or a multiple connection is possible.

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#### **Basic Insulation Level (BIL)**

- Indication that the transformer can withstand the crest value of a specified voltage wave during testing.
- Often called the Basic Impulse Insulation Level or BIL.
- It is also an indication of the ability of the insulation system to withstand transient system overvoltages.



### **Bushing Designations**

- Rectangle represents the top view of the transformer or enclosure
- Cover bushings are indicated as a circle with a dot
- Tank wall bushings are indicated with a triangle
- Capacitance tap bushing is shown with a capacitor symbol within the circle



### **Bushing Designations**

- All bushings (winding terminations) available for connection are labeled
- Highest voltage winding terminals are designated by H
- Lower voltage winding terminations designated as X, Y and Z in order of decreasing voltage
- Subscripts are used with the letters to designate bushing position (usually from right to left...H1, H2, H3)



Bushing marked with a subscript "o" is usually labeled as the neutral bushing

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#### **Tap Changer Connections**

- Taps are indicated on the diagram in the winding in which they are located
- Numeral 1 or letter A is assigned to the tap which provides the maximum ration of transformation (DETC). 1-5 or A-E
- For LTC's, the normal or neutral position is designated with the letter N and raise or lower positions to change voltage taps with L or R in ascending order.



### **Tap Changer Connections**

- All taps in any winding are tabulated on the nameplate by tap changer letter, dial position number and tap connection.
- The line current equivalent to the max transformer rating is given for each tap.
- Assuming xfmr is excited from HV side, moving a DETC to a higher voltage (lower number tap), lowers the secondary voltage.



#### **Current Transformers/Arresters**

- CT's on bushings or internally are indicated on diagram. If they are multi-ratio, each tap is labeled following the X1-X2, etc. convention plus the CT number and polarity
- Lightning arresters or fuses mounted on a transformer are also typically shown.



### **Vector Diagram**

- Gives an indication of phase relationship between voltages of various windings.
- Vector diagram on a 3-phase xfmr displays the angular displacement between the high and low voltages.
- Follow phase angles when performing TTR and Leakage Reactance Tests.



#### Impedance

- Quantity given on nameplate is usually "impedance volts" in percent
- Usually indicated for the self-cooled (OA) KVA/MVA rating and nominal voltage
- Classical definition of impedance is the percent of rated high-voltage impressed on the high-voltage winding to produce rated full-load current in the short-ciruited lowvoltage winding. (i.e. short-circuit impedance test)



#### Impedance

Same holds true for low-voltage winding

On 3-winding transformers, three impedance values are given (one for each combination of 2 windings...H-X, H-Y, X-Y)

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#### **Pressure Range**

- Liquid and gas-filled transformers usually operate with positive pressure in sealed tanks.
- A statement of the range of operating pressures is typically on the nameplate
- A statement of whether a tank is rated for "full vacuum" may be indicated. If so, the unit should be vacuum filled. If not, the unit should not be placed under vacuum.



### Weights

- Broken down so that maximum weights for untanking as well as total weights are known.
- Shipping weights can be estimated from these by adding packaging weight.



### **Miscellaneous Information**

- Oil volume is given to indicate storage capacity required if oil must be drained or replaced.
- If windings are other than copper, a statement of the material typically appears on the nameplate.
- Instruction book numbers will appear also.
- Date of Mfr. and Mfr. Location may be listed.