

## CONTACTOR VA RATINGS

Contactors have something called sealed and inrush VA's. These VA ratings are requirements that the contactor has for the transformer supplying power to it. A contactor VA value is arrived at by multiplying the voltage and current requirements of the contactor coil. The user must make sure the control transformer can supply this amount of VA. The VA and voltage rating is a standard method to rate transformers and is found on the transformer nameplate. Two types of VA ratings exist for contactors; namely, inrush and sealed. Contactors act somewhat like motors with regards to the levels of current they draw. The instant a contactor is energized its current draw is at maximum. This is where the inrush VA requirement comes from. After a fraction of a second the contactor will be physically closed and the VA requirement drops to a lower level. This lower level is the sealed VA requirement. The difference in the two values is substantial. It is important for your customers to know if their transformers can supply the ratings needed by the contactors. If it cannot, the contactor may not close when it is energized. It could also result in an overheated control transformer.

