



Expertise Applied | Answers Delivered



WHITE
PAPER



SCCR

Using Current-Limiting Fuses to Increase
Short Circuit Current Rating

SCCR OVERVIEW

Using Current-Limiting Fuses to Increase SCCR

Executive Summary

All states and local electrical Authorities Having Jurisdiction (AHJ) that have adopted the 2005, 2008, or 2011 editions of the National Electrical Code® (NEC®)¹ require industrial control panels to be marked with a Short Circuit Current Rating (SCCR). Since 2006, all UL Listed industrial control panels are now marked and labeled with a Short Circuit Current Rating.

The Short Circuit Current Rating is the maximum current the control panel can safely withstand without excessive damage. If the available fault current of the electrical system where the panel is installed exceeds the SCCR of the panel and a short circuit occurs, catastrophic damage to the panel may occur and electrical workers and others are put at risk of injury. It is the responsibility of the consulting or electrical design engineer to verify that all industrial control panels are applied in a manner such that the panel's SCCR is greater than the system's available fault current. It is the responsibility of the industrial control panel manufacturer to provide accurate SCCR information to the consulting engineer and Authority Having Jurisdiction through required labels and published technical information.

According to the National Electrical Code the industrial control panel manufacturer can determine a panel's SCCR using one of two methods. One way is to test the panel at its labeled SCCR in a witnessed test by a National Recognized Testing Lab (NRTL). The alternate method for the manufacturer is to apply the standardized tables of UL 508A, standard for industrial control panels. The mechanics of performing both of these methods are covered in detail in this paper.

There are equally offsetting trade-offs between testing your panels or applying the UL508A tables. By using current-limiting devices and testing your panel, you will typically achieve a higher SCCR for your panel. However, because each unique panel design needs to be tested, for some manufacturers, this method can become prohibitively expensive and time consuming. In these cases, the UL 508A table method may be used.

Finally, short circuit current ratings of a panel can be increased with minimal costs if attention is paid to the SCCR in the design stage. By using current-limiting circuit protection devices and carefully selecting other high withstand rated components, the final SCCR of the panel can be increased to a level acceptable to consulting engineers and inspectors. This creates an opportunity for a creative manufacturer with good design capabilities to build a real competitive advantage of a high SCCR into every panel they design and manufacture.

What is a SCCR?

The Short Circuit Current Rating refers to the maximum current, usually expressed in kA at a specified voltage, that a device or system can safely withstand for a specified time (such as 0.05 seconds), or until a specified fuse or circuit breaker opens and clears the circuit. Many UL approved individual power components such as contactors, overload relays, and motor controllers are marked with a SCCR (formerly known as withstand rating). Overcurrent protective devices such as fuses and circuit breakers are generally marked with an Interrupting Rating (IR) or Ampere Interrupting Capacity (AIC).

Beginning with the 2005 edition of the NEC, Article 409 requires Industrial Control Panels (ICP) that contain power controls for compressors, pumps, fans, drive motors, air-conditioning units, resistive heating controls, lighting loads, and other assemblies of components that control power to utilization equipment to have a SCCR clearly marked on its label. These labels allow installers and inspectors to compare fault current studies at the facility where the panels are intended to be installed, to the SCCR of the control panel to minimize potential hazards in industrial or commercial facilities.

As demand for electric power continues to increase and utility companies update their equipment or system of supply, available fault currents within industrial facilities can increase dramatically. If the available fault current at the equipment exceeds the SCCR of the panel, the results can be catastrophic.

The most dangerous and common misconception by equipment manufacturers regarding the SCCR is that the interrupting capacity or interrupting rating of the main circuit protection device is also the SCCR of the panel in which it is installed. This practice can create an unsafe condition and confusion as to where the panel can be used safely. For example, before the introduction of NEC Article 409, if a panel had a main feeder circuit protective device with an interrupting rating of 22 kA, some manufacturers of unapproved panels were labeling the panel with an SCCR of 22 kA. However, each power component within the panel has a different Short Circuit Current Rating or Interrupting Rating, most of which are likely to be 5 kA or less. If a 22 kA fault were to occur, the main circuit protective device may be able to safely interrupt the fault, but one or more of the power components within the panel could violently explode or catch on fire.

Beginning in 2005, the NEC addressed this problem with the advent of required labels on equipment that clearly state the equipment's SCCR according to an approved method.

The NEC® specifically requires SCCR markings for all:

- Industrial control panels [Article 409]
- Industrial machinery electrical panels [Article 670]
- Multiple motor HVAC equipment [Article 440]
- Meter disconnect switches [Article 230]
- Multiple motor controllers [Article 430]

Although SCCR markings and labels are required by several NEC® Articles, we will examine how to determine the SCCR of Industrial Control Panels according to NEC Article 409.

The NEC® has added SCCR labeling requirements to create a safe installation and to help manufacturers, owners, and managers meet OSHA and NFPA safety regulations and requirements. More specifically, Article 409 requires analysis of panels and facilities for potential electrical hazards to establish a safe work environment. SCCR markings are especially important when industrial control panels are moved from one location to another, or when available fault currents are increased by local utility companies or by changes within a facility. For safety and reliability, it is essential to compare accurate SCCR markings on equipment with available fault currents on a regular basis to assure that the equipment is reliable, safe to use, and workers are protected from potential hazards.

Overcurrent Protective Device Interrupting Rating

Interrupting Rating (IR), sometimes referred to as Ampere Interrupting Capacity (AIC), is the maximum fault current that circuit protective devices such as fuses and circuit breakers may be required to safely open (interrupt). Although there are differences in the way fuses and circuit breakers are tested, the Interrupting Rating or Interrupting Capacity of a fuse or circuit breaker is the same as its SCCR.

Article 110.9 of the NEC requires overcurrent protective devices to have interrupting ratings sufficient for the available fault current and voltage at the equipment it is intended to protect. Article 110.10 of the NEC specifically requires that overcurrent protective devices and the components they are designed to protect are coordinated so that excessive damage does not occur to any component or circuit in the event of a short circuit fault.

Fuses and circuit breakers that are Listed or Recognized by a NRTL are tested under laboratory conditions and verified to safely interrupt certain fault currents. In order to obtain approvals, a fuse must open safely and not damage itself or anything around it, nor vent hot gases that could ignite flammable surroundings. Circuit breakers must also open safely under controlled conditions and not damage anything nearby or cause it to catch on fire. Circuit breakers however, may vent high temperature gases and can be a source of ignition in hazardous areas. It is important to keep in mind that some circuit breakers or supplementary protectors are tested and approved to safely interrupt a high level short

circuit current only one time. After interrupting a short circuit at or near their interrupting rating, some circuit breakers may not remain operable or approved for further use. Always check with the overcurrent protective device manufacturer and with UL or the applicable safety agency listing sheets to verify the maximum interrupting current and type of rating of all overcurrent protective devices being considered for use.

How do you Determine the SCCR of an Industrial Control Panel?

NEC Article 409.110 states that the Short Circuit Current Rating of an industrial control panel is based either on the Short Circuit Current Rating of a Listed and Labeled assembly, or by utilizing an approved method. UL 508A Supplement SB is given as an example of an approved method. Other approved methods are left to the discretion of the local electrical inspector and may involve a stamped engineered analysis by a licensed professional engineer in the state or local jurisdiction where the panel is installed.

Submitting a panel to UL or to another NRTL to be tested and Listed may be the preferred method for some original equipment manufacturers that are manufacturing the same panel for a specific application time and time again, or when the panel is part of a larger piece of equipment which is also Listed. Another reason to submit a panel for approval testing may be to obtain higher Short Circuit Current Ratings than other approved methods can provide.

The UL 508A Supplement SB method of assigning the SCCR to an industrial control panel does not require the panel be Listed. Supplement SB describes how to assign the SCCR to a panel based on the ratings of the individual power components and types of current-limiting power devices used within the panel. Since 2006, manufacturers of custom control panels that are certified by UL to apply the UL Listing mark must follow the construction standards and marking requirements of UL 508A Supplement SB.

Manufacturers who are building only one or a few custom panels at a time, or manufacturing panels that have several optional configurations may prefer to use the UL 508A Supplement SB method to establish the SCCR of their panel to meet NEC Article 409 requirements. The UL 508A Supplement SB method, however, may not provide an adequate SCCR for the application. In these situations, the panel must be re-engineered or Listed and approved by another method.

When panels with fuses and circuit breakers are Listed by a NRTL with a high fault SCCR, the equipment instructions and labels must indicate that overcurrent protective devices must be replaced only by a specified fuse class and rating, or by a specific make, model, and rating of circuit breaker.

Panels that are not Listed will be scrutinized by the local electrical inspector (AHJ) for the required NEC 409 SCCR markings. If requested by the local AHJ, manufacturers must keep detailed records of their bill of materials, SCCR of all components, and the method used to determine the overall SCCR of the panel.

What is Current Limitation, and How Does Current Limitation Increase Short Circuit Current Ratings?

Article 240.2 of the NEC® states that a current-limiting device is one that reduces the peak let-thru current to a value substantially less than the potential peak current that would occur if the current-limiting device were not used. When the device is operating in its current-limiting range, it opens and clears the fault in less than ½ of an AC cycle (0.0083 sec.). See **Figure 1**.

Figure 1 shows the maximum instantaneous peak current during the first ½ cycle after initiation of a fault. Depending on the power factor and when the fault occurs, the maximum possible instantaneous peak current (I_{peak}) without current limitation can be as high as 2.3 times the available RMS fault current when the fault occurs. As shown, if a current-limiting fuse is used, the maximum instantaneous peak current is limited to a small fraction of the peak current that could possibly flow if the fuse were not used. The current-limiting fuse link melts and clears the fault in less than 0.0083 second. The area under the curve is known as the I^2t let-through energy of the fuse. The lower the I^2t is, the lower the destructive thermal energy is that passes through the circuit while it is interrupted.

RMS vs. I_{peak}

It is important to point out that the SCCR of components or panels is expressed in RMS kA and not in instantaneous peak current (I_{peak}). RMS (Root-Mean-Squared) current is an expression of effective current over a period of time. As discussed above, if a short circuit occurs, the instantaneous peak current can reach 2.3 times the available RMS current at the point of the fault. In other words, if the available RMS short circuit current were 10 kA, the I_{peak} could be 23 kA. Conversely, if the I_{peak} of a current-limiting fuse is 23 kA, the equivalent or apparent RMS value is 0.435 times the I_{peak} , or 10 kA. When properly applied, current-limiting fuses will limit the I_{peak} and apparent RMS short circuit current to a level that the rest of the panel can safely handle. The effect of current-limiting fuses to reduce the apparent RMS fault current is sometimes used to determine the SCCR of industrial control panels. If acceptable to the local AHJ, this method may be used in place of UL 508A Table SB4.2 in engineered solutions to establish the SCCR of certain industrial control panels.

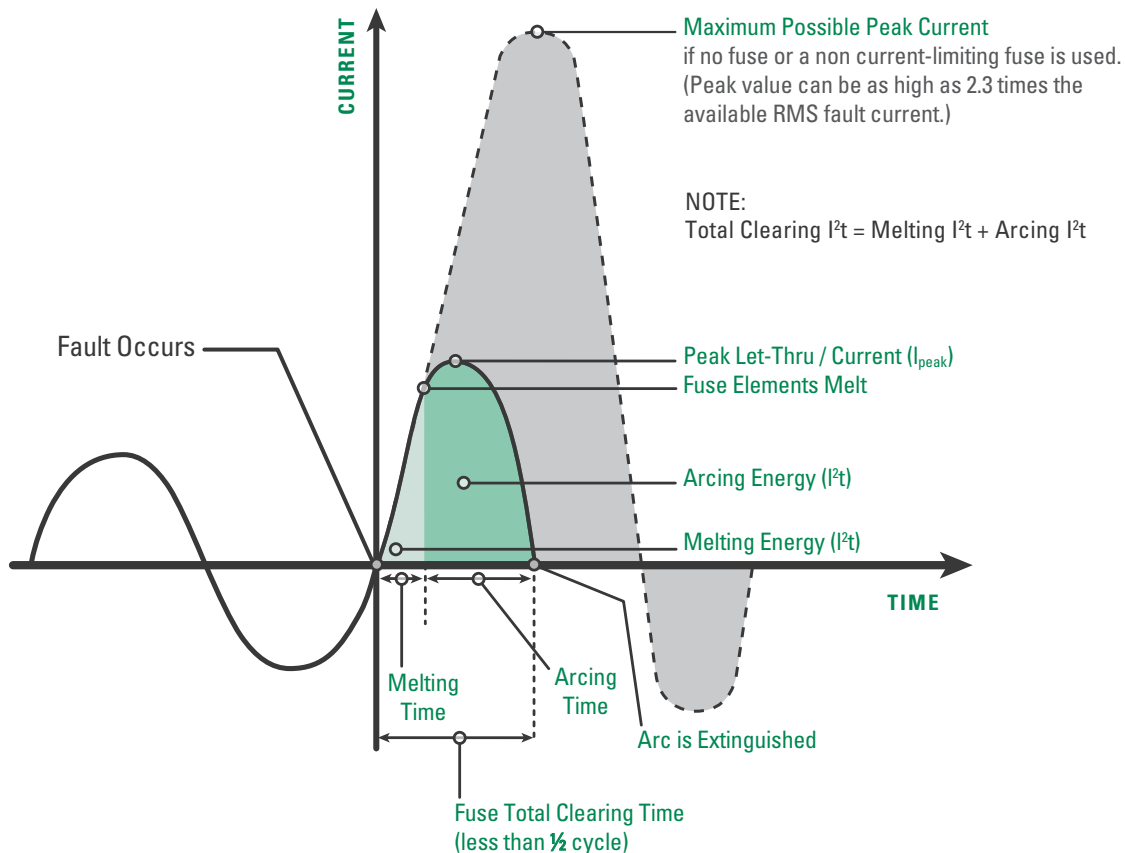


Figure 1

Current Limitation and Peak Let-through Charts

Current-limiting fuses operating in their current-limiting range will limit the maximum instantaneous peak current to a value substantially less than the peak current that could flow if the fuse were not in the circuit. **Figure 2** shows the relationship between the available symmetrical RMS fault current (horizontal axis) and the maximum instantaneous peak current (I_{peak}) (vertical axis) possible if a short circuit occurs. Line A-B represents the maximum possible instantaneous peak current under worst-case conditions (15% power factor, asymmetrical), or 2.3 times the available symmetrical RMS fault current. The other lines in **Figure 2** represent the effects of various ampere ratings of typical current-limiting fuses. For example, if the available symmetrical RMS fault current (horizontal axis) at the line side terminals of a certain panel were 100 kA, the maximum instantaneous peak current possible without current limitation would be 233,000 amperes (line A-B). However, if a 200-ampere current-limiting fuse were used, the maximum instantaneous peak current (I_{peak}) would be limited to approximately 20,000 amperes. If a 30-ampere fuse were used, the maximum instantaneous peak current (I_{peak}) would be limited to approximately 6000 amperes.

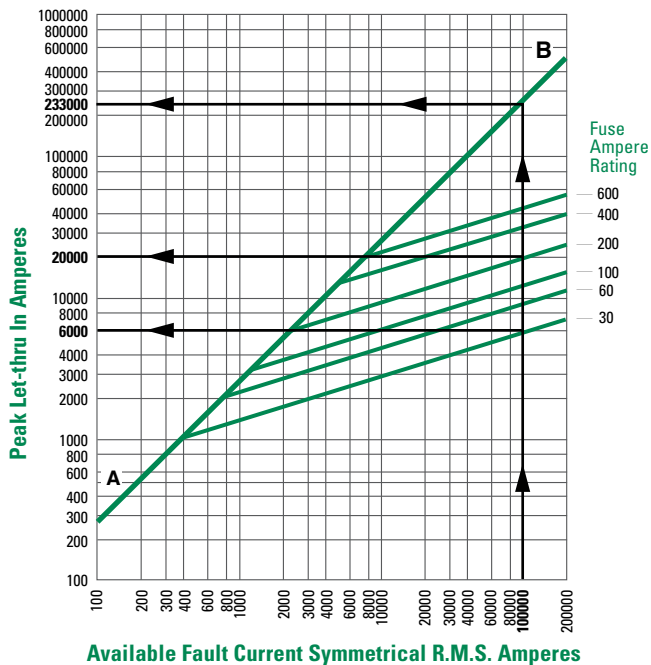


Figure 2

Tested Method

Figure 3 shows how the peak let-thru charts can be used to estimate the equivalent or apparent symmetrical RMS fault current that a system can withstand. For example, if the available symmetrical RMS fault current at the line side terminals of a 600-ampere current-limiting fuse were 100 kA (Point A), the fuse opens within the first ½ cycle and limits the maximum instantaneous peak current to no more than 45 kA (Point B). An instantaneous peak current (I_{peak}) of 45 kA (Point B) is the same maximum instantaneous peak current (Point C) that 18 kA of RMS current can generate (Point D). In other words, if the actual available fault current is 100 kA, a 600-ampere current-limiting fuse will limit the I_{peak} to an equivalent available RMS current of 18 kA. Since the highest possible equivalent RMS fault current is 18 kA, all components in series with the fuse with a SCCR of 18 kA or higher will be safely protected, making the series combination capable of surviving up to a potential 100 kA fault.

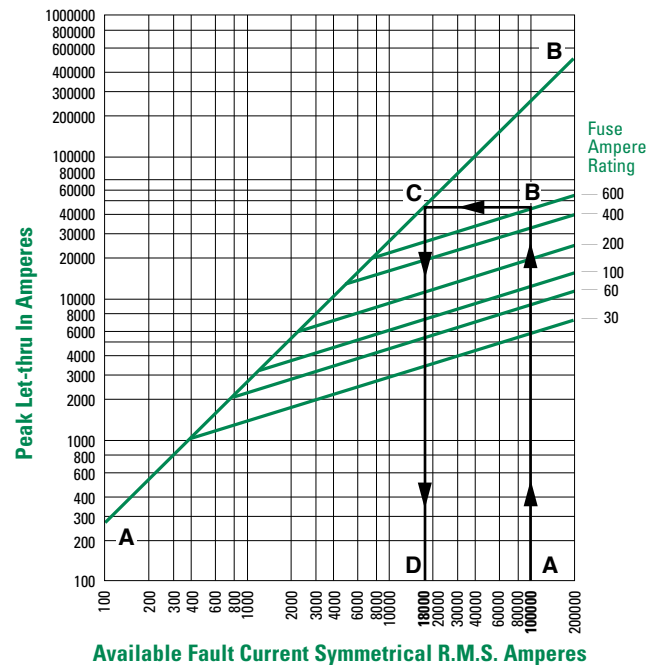


Figure 3

Using Peak Let-thru Charts to Estimate The SCCR of Industrial Control Panels

Before you submit your industrial control panel to UL or to another NRTL for approval testing, you can use the “Tested Method” to estimate the maximum prospective RMS fault current, or SCCR, that the panel will safely handle. Let’s examine an example of a typical industrial control panel. See **Figure 4**.

In this example, the panel is to be installed in a facility where the available RMS fault current is 60,000 amperes at 480 VAC. The main feeder circuit in the panel consists of a fusible disconnect switch with three Littelfuse JTD_ID 60 ampere UL Class J fuses. The least rated SCCR component in the panel has been determined to be 10 kA. Therefore, the question we need to answer is: If a prospective 60 kA symmetrical RMS fault occurs, will the 60 ampere JTD_ID fuses limit the apparent RMS symmetrical let-through current to 10 kA or less? Let’s take a look at the peak let-through curves for the family of JTD_ID fuses.

Using the Peak Let-Thru Curve **Figure 5**, we see that at a prospective available symmetrical RMS fault current of 60,000 amperes, the 60 A Class J fuses limits the maximum instantaneous peak current (I_{peak}) to approximately 7400 amperes. Moving horizontally over to the maximum instantaneous peak current line and downward back to the prospective available RMS symmetrical fault line, we see that the apparent RMS symmetrical fault current is approximately 3200 amperes.

Since the 60 Ampere Class J fuse limits the maximum equivalent RMS fault current available to the other components in the panel, it can safely protect any component in series with it that has a SCCR greater than 3200 Amperes if a prospective RMS symmetrical fault current of 60,000 Amperes would occur.

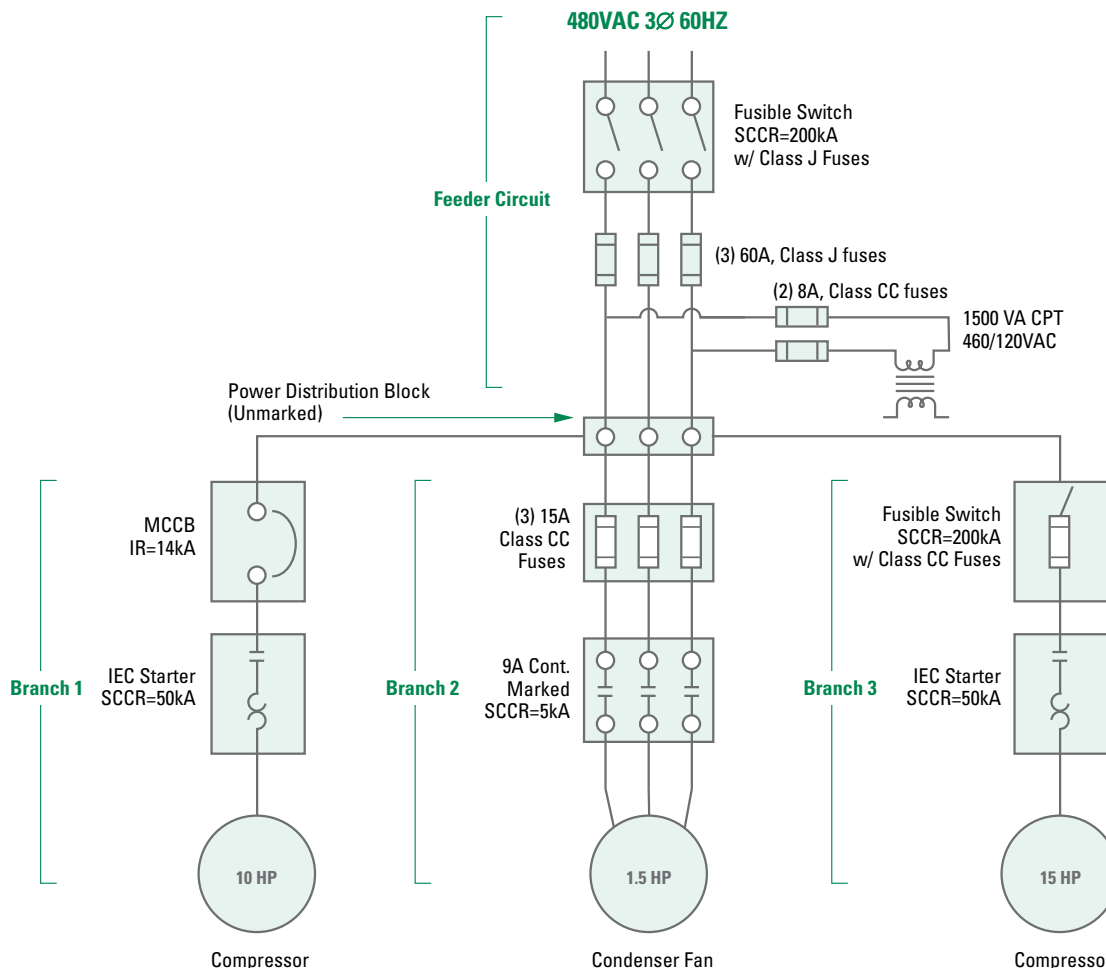


Figure 4

However, if there are circuit breakers or fuses in branch circuits that are in series with the current-limiting fuse, such as shown in **Figure 4**, care must be taken to ensure that the threshold current of the current-limiting feeder fuse is not greater than the interrupting rating of any non current-limiting branch circuit overcurrent device. In the above example, the threshold current of the 60 Ampere Class J fuse is approximately 1000 Amperes, well below the interrupting rating of the 14kA circuit breaker in Branch Circuit No. 1.

Therefore, if tested and Listed by a NRTL, the SCCR of this panel could be 60,000 Amperes or more when using 60 Ampere Littelfuse JTD_ID Class J fuses. In fact, if the prospective available symmetrical RMS fault current were 200 kA, the fuses would limit the apparent RMS fault current to only 4000 Amperes, safely protecting all components within the panel.

Using the UL 508A Supplement SB Method to Determine the SCCR of Industrial Control Panels

Manufacturers of industrial control panels that are certified by UL to affix the UL label to their equipment must follow the construction standards and requirements of UL Standard 508A. Since 2006, the SCCR labeling requirements of UL 508A Supplement SB are mandatory. Although the standard refers to Listed industrial control panels, the requirements and methods of UL 508A Supplement SB can be applied to any control panel that controls and provides power to all types of utilization equipment.

As mentioned previously, UL 508A Supplement SB provides a method of assigning the SCCR to an industrial control panel based on the types of overcurrent protective devices and the ratings of components used within the panel. According to Supplement SB, the SCCR of an industrial control panel is equal to the SCCR of:

- The lowest rated component, or
- The lowest rated UL approved series rated combination, or
- The SCCR of an approved series combination according to the standard.

For the same reason all equipment within an electrical distribution system of a facility must be rated to handle a worst-case scenario to completely protect people and equipment, every component within an industrial control panel must also be designed to perform in a worst-case scenario.

UL 508A Supplement SB currently does not utilize the apparent RMS let-through current of current-limiting over current protective devices to establish the SCCR of industrial control panels. It compares the UL maximum allowable instantaneous peak let through current (I_{peak}) during the first ½ cycle of current-limiting fuses with the RMS SCCR of the various components used within the panel.

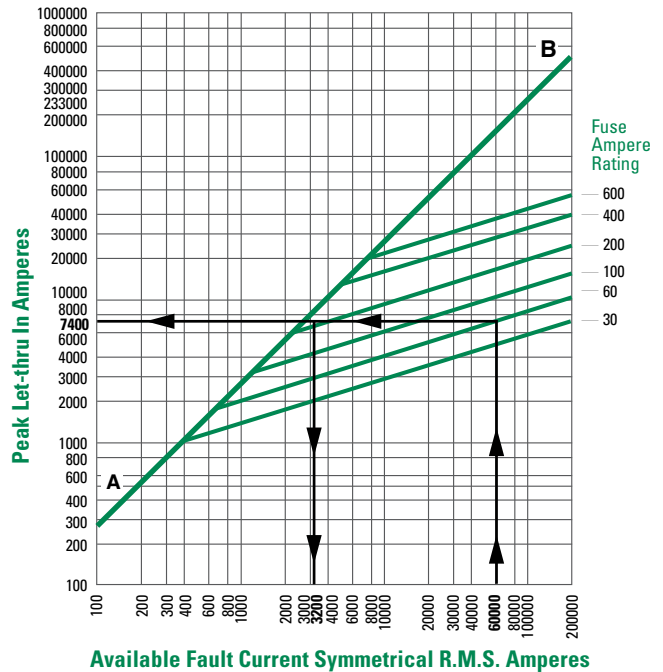


Figure 5: Peak Let-thru curve for Littelfuse JTD_ID Class J fuses

UL 508A Supplement SB4.1 describes three steps to establish the SCCR of industrial control panels:

Step 1

Determine the SCCR of all individual power components including UL certified and approved series rated combinations.

Step 2

Modify the SCCR of certain component combinations if current-limiting fuses are used in the feeder circuit.

Step 3

Apply the lowest rated SCCR of any power component, overcurrent protective device, or modified combination to the SCCR of the panel.

In order to understand each step listed above, let us look at an example of a typical industrial control panel and complete each step according to the standard.

Panel Example

Using UL 508A Supplement SB and the steps listed above, determine the SCCR of the panel shown in **Figure 6**.

Step 1

Determine the SCCR of all individual power components including UL certified and approved series rated combinations.

The first step in establishing the SCCR of the control panel assembly is to determine and record the SCCRs of all the individual power components and UL certified and approved combinations within the panel. All power components that are used to control and distribute power to individual motors, drives, and other loads outside or inside the enclosure must be analyzed. Peripheral items such as current measuring transformers and items on the secondary side of current limited control power transformers including push buttons and contactor coils that are not in the direct power circuit paths, do not have to be analyzed.

Most power components such as fuses, circuit breakers, switches, contactors, overload relays, and motor controllers are marked with an interrupting rating or SCCR. Some items may not be marked, but the manufacturer may publish the short circuit current rating in their literature or in their operating instructions. For those items that are not marked with an SCCR nor specified by the manufacturer, **Table SB4.1²** (see **Figure 7**) of UL 508A Supplement SB provides an assumed maximum short circuit current rating for the device. All power components within the panel must be documented and their short circuit current ratings recorded.

In the example shown in **Figure 6**, all power components in the power feeder circuit and branch circuits are marked with an SCCR or Interrupting Rating except for the power distribution block that distributes the power within the panel. According to UL 508A Supplement SB, the default short circuit current for unmarked terminal blocks or power distribution blocks is 10 kA (See **Table SB4.1**).

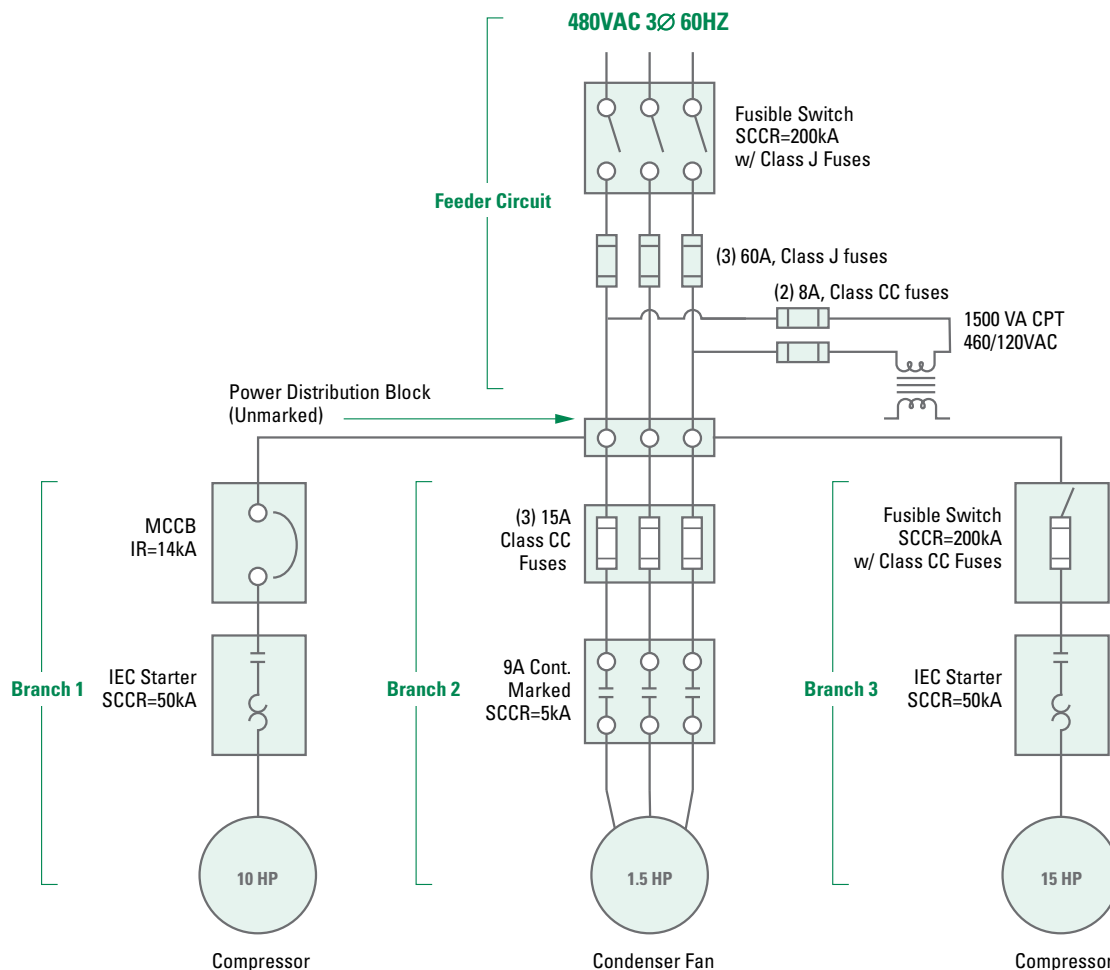


Figure 6

After recording the SCCR of each power component in the panel and assigning SCCR to unmarked components from **Table SB4.1**, it first appears that the contactor in Branch Circuit #2 with a marked SCCR of 5 kA is the lowest rated SCCR in the panel. However, certain combinations of power components with overcurrent protective devices, such as motor controllers with current-limiting fuses may be UL certified and approved with a series rated SCCR that is higher than the lowest rated SCCR of any individual component. If any combination within the control panel is UL certified and Listed as such, then the SCCR of the approved series combination can be considered when establishing the weakest link of a branch circuit. In this example, after consulting with the manufacturer of the contactor used in Branch Circuit #2 and with its UL listing documents, we learn that when the contactor is protected in series by UL

Class CC or UL Class J fuses, it is UL approved for “type 2” coordination with a series rated SCCR of 100 kA. This combination series rating not only increases the SCCR of the branch circuit, but it also provides the assurance that the contactor will remain operable after a short circuit. Always consult the equipment manufacturer to verify UL approved series combination short circuit current ratings and special circumstances that can increase the SCCR of your panel.

Figure 7: Table SB4.1.2 Assumed maximum short circuit current rating for unmarked components

| COMPONENT | SHORT CIRCUIT CURRENT RATING in kA |
|--|------------------------------------|
| Bus bars | 10 |
| Circuit breaker (including GFCI type) | 5 |
| Current meters | a |
| Current shunt | 10 |
| Fuseholder | 10 |
| Industrial control equipment: | |
| a. Auxiliary devices (overload relay) | 5 |
| b. Switches (other than mercury tube type) | 5 |
| c. Mercury tube switches | |
| Rated over 60 amperes or over 250 volts | 5 |
| Rated 250 volts or less, 60 amperes or less, and over 2kVA | 3.5 |
| Rated 250 volts or less and 2 kVA or less | 1 |
| Motor controller, rated in horsepower (kW) | |
| a. 0 - 50 (0 - 37.3) | 5 ^c |
| b. 51 - 200 (38 - 149) | 10 ^c |
| c. 201 - 400 (150 - 298) | 18 ^c |
| d. 401 - 600 (299 - 447) | 30 ^c |
| e. 601 - 900 (448 - 671) | 42 ^c |
| f. 901 - 1500 (672 - 1193) | 85 ^c |
| Meter Socket base | 10 |
| Miniature or miscellaneous fuse | 10 ^b |
| Receptacle (GFCI type) | 2 |
| Receptacle (other than GFCI type) | 10 |
| Supplementary protector | 0.2 |
| Switch unit | 5 |
| Terminal block or power distribution block | 10 |

^a A short circuit current rating is not required when connected via a current transformer or current shunt. A directly connected current meter shall have a marked short circuit current rating.

^b The use of a miniature fuse is limited to 125-volt circuits.

^c Standard fault current rating for motor controller rated within specified horsepower range.

If we were to take our panel diagram from **Figure 6** and add the SCCR of each component, approved series combinations, and feeder and branch circuits, it would look something like **Figure 8**:

At the completion of Step 1:

- The SCCR of the Feeder Circuit is 200 kA
- The minimum SCCR of Branch Circuit #1 is 14 kA due to the IR of the MCCB
- The SCCR of Branch Circuit #2 is 100 kA because of the approved series combination rating.
- The minimum SCCR of Branch Circuit #3 is 50 kA due to the IEC starter.
- The lowest rated SCCR in the panel is the power distribution block, with a SCCR of 10 kA from **Table SB4.1**

Step 2

Modify the SCCR of certain component combinations if current-limiting fuses are used in the feeder circuit.

UL 508A Supplement SB Article SB4.3 describes how feeder components such as current-limiting fuses can limit the peak let-through current within the panel. **Table SB4.2** of UL 508A Supplement SB (See **Figure 9**) is a listing of the UL maximum allowable instantaneous peak let through current (I_{peak}), and the maximum allowable clearing I^2t for UL Class current-limiting fuses at different levels of prospective available RMS fault current (50 kA, 100 kA, or 200 kA). All manufacturers of UL approved current-limiting fuses must limit the I_{peak} and I^2t to the maximum values shown in this table. UL 508A Supplement SB uses the I_{peak} values listed in **Table SB4.2** to determine the fuse's ability to limit the peak let-through current to branch circuits within the panel.

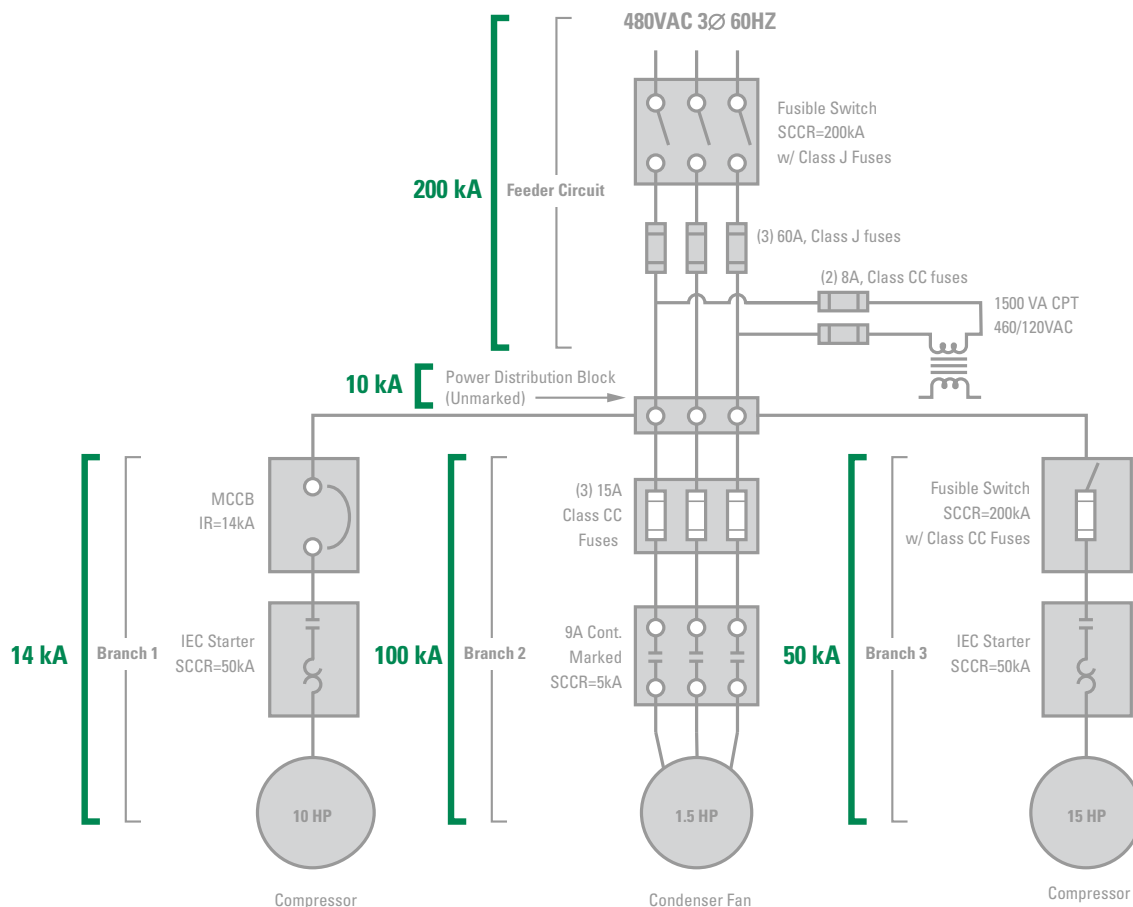


Figure 8

To determine the SCCR of a series combination within the panel, UL 508A Article SB4.3.3 states that if the I_{peak} of the feeder fuse is less than or equal to the lowest rated SCCR of any passive component in a branch circuit, then the SCCR of the combination is the available RMS current at which the fuse limits the peak current. The following example should help explain this.

Figure 8 shows that the Power Distribution Block with an assumed SCCR of 10 kA is directly in series with the UL Class J current-limiting feeder circuit fuse rated 60 amps. **Table SB4.2** shows that the maximum allowable I_{peak} of the 60 ampere Class J fuse at an available RMS fault current of 200 kA is 16 kA. This value exceeds the SCCR of the power distribution block (10 kA). However, **Table SB4.2** also shows that the maximum allowable I_{peak} of the same fuse at an available RMS fault current of 100 kA is 10 kA, which is less than or equal to the power distribution block SCCR of 10 kA. Therefore, the SCCR of the series combination is 100 kA. This process may be repeated with power components in all branch circuits to determine if the current-limiting fuse may increase the SCCR of other combinations.

It is important to point out that Step 2 modifications apply only to current-limiting devices in the feeder circuit with

passive (non-overcurrent protective) devices in branch circuits. In this example, based on **Table SB4.2**, the 60 Ampere UL Class J fuse in the feeder circuit is able to limit the I_{peak} to 10 kA or less if the available fault current were 100 kA. If there are overcurrent protective devices in branch circuits and the available fault current is less than 100 kA, but greater than the interrupting rating of the branch circuit overcurrent protective device, the branch circuit overcurrent protective device may begin to open before the feeder fuse clears the circuit, possibly causing a hazardous situation. Therefore, the SCCR of the panel cannot be greater than the lowest Interrupting Rating of any fuse or circuit breaker in the panel, unless it has been tested and listed by a NRTL.

After performing Step 2, we now have the configuration illustrated in **Figure 10**:

- The SCCR of the Feeder Circuit and power distribution block is 100 kA
- The minimum SCCR of Branch Circuit #1 is 14 kA due to the MCCB
- The SCCR of Branch Circuit #2 is 100 kA
- The minimum SCCR of Branch Circuit #3 is 50 kA due to the IEC starter

Figure 9: Table SB4.2 - UL maximum allowable I_p and peak let-through current I_{2t} , for current-limiting fuses at 600 VAC

| FUSE TYPES | FUSE RATING AMPS | BETWEEN THRESHOLD AND 50 kA | | | | 100 kA | | | | 200 kA | | | |
|---------------------------|------------------|-----------------------------|--------|-------------------|--------|--------------------|--------|-------------------|--------|--------------------|--------|-------------------|--------|
| | | $I^2t \times 10^3$ | | $I_p \times 10^3$ | | $I^2t \times 10^3$ | | $I_p \times 10^3$ | | $I^2t \times 10^3$ | | $I_p \times 10^3$ | |
| CLASS CC | 15 | 2 | | 3 | | 2 | | 3 | | 3 | | 4 | |
| | 20 | 2 | | 3 | | 3 | | 4 | | 3 | | 5 | |
| | 30 | 7 | | 6 | | 7 | | 7.5 | | 7 | | 12 | |
| CLASS G | 15 | - | | - | | 3.8 | | 4 | | - | | - | |
| | 20 | - | | - | | 5 | | 5 | | - | | - | |
| | 30 | - | | - | | 7 | | 7 | | - | | - | |
| 300 V CLASS T | 60 | - | | - | | 25 | | 10.5 | | - | | - | |
| | 30 | 3.5 | | 5 | | 3.5 | | 7 | | 3.5 | | 9 | |
| | 60 | 15 | | 7 | | 15 | | 9 | | 15 | | 12 | |
| | 100 | 40 | | 9 | | 40 | | 12 | | 40 | | 12 | |
| | 200 | 150 | | 13 | | 150 | | 16 | | 150 | | 20 | |
| | 400 | 500 | | 22 | | 550 | | 28 | | 550 | | 35 | |
| | 600 | 1000 | | 29 | | 1000 | | 37 | | 1000 | | 46 | |
| CLASS J AND 600 V CLASS T | 800 | 1500 | | 37 | | 1500 | | 50 | | 1500 | | 65 | |
| | 1200 | 3500 | | 50 | | 3500 | | 65 | | 4000 | | 80 | |
| CLASS J AND 600 V CLASS T | 30 | 7 | | 6 | | 7 | | 7.5 | | 7 | | 12 | |
| | 60 | 30 | | 8 | | 30 | | 10 | | 30 | | 16 | |
| | 100 | 60 | | 12 | | 80 | | 14 | | 80 | | 20 | |
| | 200 | 200 | | 16 | | 300 | | 20 | | 300 | | 30 | |
| | 400 | 1000 | | 25 | | 1100 | | 30 | | 1100 | | 45 | |
| | 600 | 2500 | | 35 | | 2500 | | 45 | | 2500 | | 70 | |
| CLASS L | 800* | 4000* | | 50* | | 4000* | | 55* | | 4000* | | 75* | |
| | 800 | 10000 | | 80 | | 10000 | | 80 | | 10000 | | 80 | |
| | 1200 | 12000 | | 80 | | 12000 | | 80 | | 15000 | | 120 | |
| | 1600 | 22000 | | 100 | | 22000 | | 100 | | 30000 | | 150 | |
| | 2000 | 35000 | | 110 | | 35000 | | 120 | | 40000 | | 165 | |
| | 2500 | - | | - | | 75000 | | 165 | | 75000 | | 180 | |
| | 3000 | - | | - | | 100000 | | 175 | | 100000 | | 200 | |
| | 4000 | - | | - | | 150000 | | 220 | | 150000 | | 250 | |
| 5000 | - | | - | | 350000 | | - | | 350000 | | 300 | | |
| 6000 | - | | - | | 350000 | | - | | 500000 | | 350 | | |
| CLASS R | 30 | RK1 10 | RK5 50 | RK1 6 | RK5 11 | RK1 10 | RK5 50 | RK1 10 | RK5 11 | RK1 11 | RK5 50 | RK1 12 | RK5 14 |
| | 60 | 200 | 200 | 10 | 20 | 40 | 200 | 12 | 21 | 50 | 200 | 16 | 26 |
| | 100 | 500 | 500 | 14 | 22 | 100 | 500 | 16 | 25 | 100 | 500 | 20 | 32 |
| | 200 | 1600 | 1600 | 18 | 32 | 400 | 1600 | 22 | 40 | 400 | 2000 | 30 | 50 |
| | 400 | 5000 | 5000 | 33 | 50 | 1200 | 5000 | 35 | 60 | 1600 | 6000 | 50 | 75 |
| | 600 | 10000 | 10000 | 43 | 65 | 3000 | 10000 | 50 | 80 | 4000 | 12000 | 70 | 100 |

* Value applies to Class T fuses.

It is important to note that presently, UL 508A **Table SB4.2** does not list the UL maximum allowable instantaneous peak let through currents for all UL fuse current ratings, such as Class J fuses rated less than 30 Amps, or 600 volt Class T fuses greater than 800 Amperes. In the next edition of UL 508A, UL may add other fuse values to **Table SB4.2** or possibly allow the use of manufacturers' published peak let through curves to determine the I_{peak} of specific fuse types and ratings. Please contact UL for the latest edition of UL 508A Supplement SB and for fuse values not shown in **Figure 9**.

Control Circuit Overcurrent Protection

UL 508A Article SB3.2 requires branch circuit overcurrent protection for control circuits that are tapped off the feeder circuit as shown in **Figure 6**. Furthermore, the Interrupting Rating of the branch circuit fuse or circuit breaker must be equal to or greater than the overall SCCR of the panel. In

the example given above, the 8 Ampere control circuit fuses are branch circuit UL Class CC fuses with a marked IR of 200 kA, complying with this requirement. It is important to remember that supplementary fuses or supplementary protectors are not allowed on the primary side of control circuits. The SCCR of the panel can be no greater than the IR of the branch circuit rated control circuit fuse or circuit breaker.

Step 3

Apply the lowest rated SCCR of any power component, not modified by Step 2 overcurrent protective device, or modified combination to the SCCR of the panel.

In our example, after modifying the SCCR of certain combinations based on the I_{peak} of the current-limiting feeder fuse, the SCCR of the panel is based on the lowest rated SCCR of any power component not modified by Step 2, the lowest rated SCCR in any branch circuit, or the lowest rated Interrupting Rating of any overcurrent protective device.

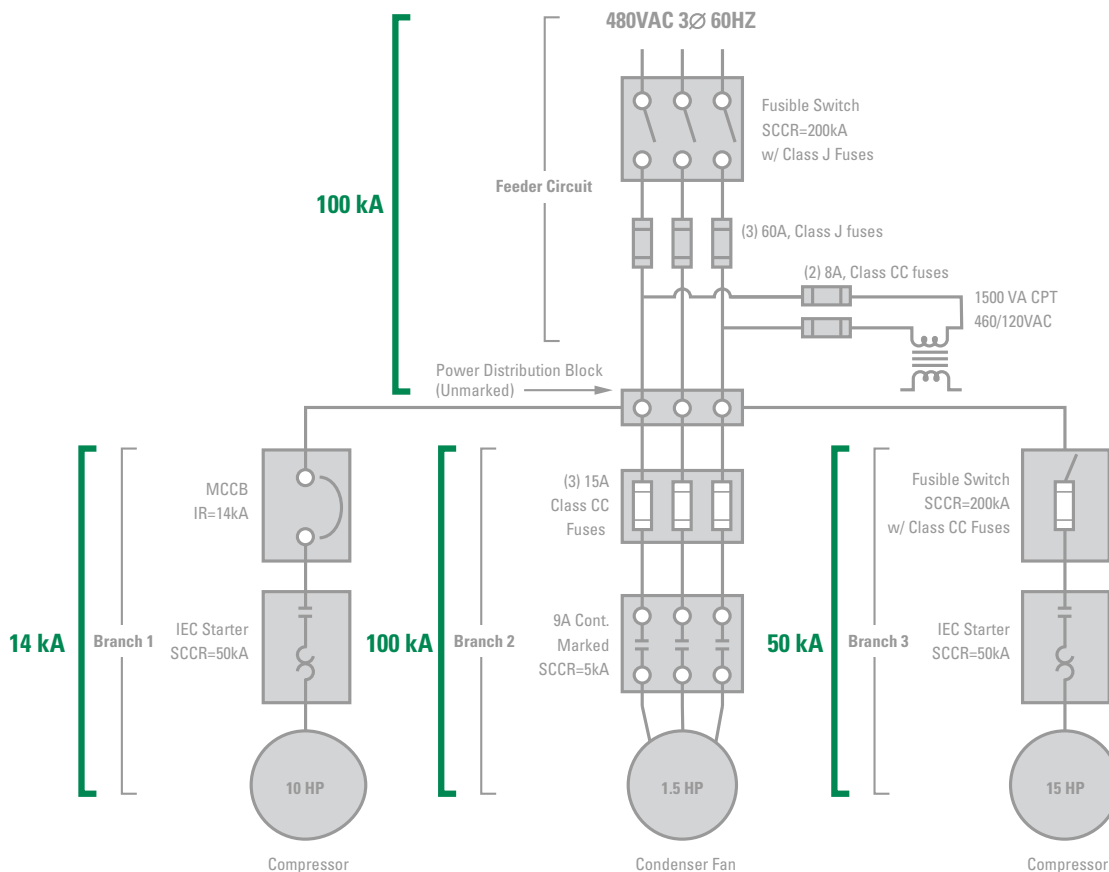


Figure 10

Since Branch Circuit #1 contains the lowest rated SCCR of 14 kA based on the interrupting rating of the Molded Case Circuit Breaker, the SCCR of the entire panel is 14 kA.

Figure 11 shows an equipment label marked with the corresponding SCCR.



Figure 11

How to Increase the SCCR of Industrial Control Panels

In the example above, we see that selecting properly rated components and protective devices can affect the SCCR of your assembly. There are several things that you can do to increase the SCCR and reliability of your industrial control panels while also increasing the safety of electrical workers.

- Use components or approved combinations with higher SCCRs.
- Use current-limiting fuses or other current-limiting components in the feeder circuit (refer to UL 508A Supplement SB for more information).
- Use overcurrent protective devices with higher interrupting ratings in branch and control circuits.
- Submit the panel to UL or another NRTL for approval testing utilizing the “Tested Method.”

Let us look again at **Figure 6**. One easy way to increase the SCCR of this panel would be to replace the 14 kA MCCB in Branch Circuit #1 with a fusible disconnect switch. For example, replacing the MCCB with Littelfuse type LFFS030CC disconnect switch and Littelfuse Class CC fuses would increase the minimum SCCR of Branch Circuit #1 to 50 kA. Therefore, the SCCR of the entire panel would be increased to 50 kA.

It is also important to keep in mind that UL 508A Supplement SB assigns a maximum SCCR of only 200 amperes to unmarked supplementary protectors (see Figure

7). UL 508A Article SB3.2 does not allow supplementary protectors in the primary of control circuits. If any supplementary protectors are used in branch circuits, simply replacing the supplementary protector with Littelfuse UL Class CC fuses in touchsafe DIN rail mounted fuseholders can dramatically increase the SCCR of an industrial control panel and increase safety.

Littelfuse, Inc. has announced that its LD and LS Power Distribution Blocks and Splicer Blocks are now UL Listed with higher SCCRs when used with current-limiting fuses that can increase the SCCR of your industrial control panel.

Please refer to our SCCR Center website at www.littelfuse.com/SCCR for more information.

Summary

- All industrial control panels must be marked with a SCCR.
- Panels can be submitted and tested by a NRTL to establish the SCCR.
- UL 508A Supplement SB may be used to establish the SCCR.
- Using current-limiting fuses is the best and easiest way to increase the SCCR of your panel.
- Current-limiting fuses increase safety and reliability.

It is important to remember that if a panel is UL Listed and Labeled, or if UL 508A Supplement SB is used to establish the high fault SCCR of the panel, all components and ratings must be identified and documented. In order to maintain the marked SCCR, warning labels and instructions must clearly indicate the requirement to replace overcurrent protective devices only with the specific components originally designed for use in this application.

Following NEC and UL 508A standards and regulations will assure manufacturers and users that their systems meet national and local installation codes and standards, are highly reliable, and are safe for workers to use and maintain.

Littelfuse, Inc. offers a complete line of current-limiting fuses and accessories to increase the SCCR of industrial control panels and reduce Arc-Flash and other electrical hazards for electrical workers. Littelfuse POWR-GARD Services also provides SCCR consultation services, Arc-Flash Hazard Assessments, and safety products that help manufacturers, building owners and managers meet all applicable OSHA and NFPA safety regulations and guidelines.

Endnotes

- 1 National Electrical Code® and NEC® are registered trademarks of the National Fire Protection Association, Quincy, MA
- 2 With the permission of Underwriters Laboratories, Inc., material is reproduced from UL Standard 508A, Standard For Industrial Control Panels, which is copyrighted by Underwriters Laboratories, Inc., 333 Pfingsten Road, Northbrook Illinois 60062. UL shall not be responsible to anyone for the use of or reliance upon a UL Standard by anyone. UL shall not incur any obligation or liability for damages, including consequential damages, arising out of or in connection with the use, interpretation of, or reliance upon a UL Standard. UL's Standards for Safety are copyrighted by UL. Neither a printed copy of a Standard, nor the file for an electronic version of a Standard may be copied, reproduced, and/or altered in any way. All of UL's Standards and all copyrights, ownerships, and rights regarding those Standards shall remain the sole and exclusive property of UL.

Revisions of UL Standards for Safety are issued from time to time. A UL Standard for Safety is current only if it incorporates the most recently adopted revisions. Copies of the current edition of UL 508A may be purchased from:

comm 2000
1418 Brook Drive
Downers Grove, IL 60515 USA
1-888-853-3503 in U.S. and Canada or
415-352-2168, outside the U.S. and Canada
Fax: 1-888-853-3512 in U.S. and Canada
Fax: 1-630-932-7387 outside the U.S. and Canada
<http://www.comm-2000.com>

Additional technical information and application data for Littelfuse POWR-GARD® protection relays, fuses and other circuit protection and safety products can be found on www.littelfuse.com. For questions, contact our Technical Support Group (800-832-3873). Definitions of terms used in this white paper can be found in the Technical Application Guide section of the POWR-GARD Catalog. To download a copy visit www.littelfuse.com/catalogs.