

THE NEMA FRAME “SECRET CODE”

There are many code letters that can be used with frame numbers. These are clues about features that may make the motor more difficult to replace. Letters before the frame number typically mean something to the manufacturer, but do not affect the standard dimensions. The letters after a frame number are very important. Some are:

- C – Mounting face concentric with shaft with threaded holes in the flange
 - D – Larger mounting flange with drilled holes through the flange
 - S – Short shaft. Shorter with smaller diameter than normal shaft.
 - Z – Modified shaft. No standard. Any type of shaft modification.
 - Y – Modified frame. No standard. Any type of frame modification
- (C and D flange and S shaft dimensions are defined by NEMA standards.)

Sometimes an equipment manufacturer or a motor dealer will make changes to a motor frame, and neglect to alter the frame number. A typical change is to install a C face “kit” to a stock motor for a face mounted application, but failing to put a C on the nameplate of the modified motor. This leads to confusion when trying to obtain a replacement motor.

More than one letter designation can be used on one motor. A frame such as 254TCZ would indicate that the motor is a 254T frame with a C- face mount and a modified shaft.



Westinghouse Submersible Stator Nearing Completion